

# My Maccabi Legacy

## Steve and Meryl Berliner



**Hometown:** Queens, NY

**Profession:** Commercial Real Estate  
Broker

**Involvement:** 4 Maccabiah Games, 1 Pan  
Am Games, Maccabi USA Board,  
Endowment Board, Legend of Maccabiah

**Sports:** Tennis & Squash

The concept of leaving a Jewish legacy resonates deeply within me. As the child of Holocaust Survivors who came to the US in 1947, I have never taken for granted the miracle of my life and my good fortune of being raised in this great country. Growing up in Queens, New York, my life revolved around family, friends and athletics, but I had no interest in Judaism and I had never been to Israel until after I graduated college. But my parents dreamt that one day I might represent the US in Israel at the Maccabiah Games...

My life changed dramatically after I competed in the Pan American Maccabi Games in Uruguay in 1991 and then in the Maccabiah Games in Israel in 1993. Meeting Jewish athletes from around the world and touring Israel opened my eyes and provided me with perspective that I never imagined. My sense of Jewish Pride and the miracle of the State of Israel grew immeasurably. Since then, I have been on the Board of Maccabi USA and continued to compete in Israel in 1997, 2005, and with my son in 2017, which was the shared experience of a lifetime for my entire family. Now that I am a grandfather, I want my legacy to help Maccabi USA continue to grow and prosper so that my grandchildren also have the opportunity to compete in and connect with Israel someday too.



**LEGACY SOCIETY**