

Vicki K. Wimpfheimer (1913–2003) grew up in New York City. She taught nursery school at Hudson Guild Settlement House and married Dr. Seymour Wimpfheimer in 1936. Inspired by Park Avenue Synagogue's Rabbi Milton Steinberg, the couple was dedicated and active in all aspects of synagogue life, which also involved their five children.

Vicki's work in early childhood education and her interest in developing enriching Jewish education made her an invaluable leader in establishing Penn Family Early Childhood Center at Park Avenue Synagogue in 1965. She was also Chairman of the PAS Parents' Association and helped to establish the PAS high school.

For family and friends of all ages, Vicki was a role model: caring, supporting, and encouraging. She was always thinking of others who had less, and quickly stepped in with an idea, project, or program to help. Her enthusiasm was infectious and mobilized others.

The V.K.W. Mitzvah Day began with a small group of congregants helping to paint a community room in East Harlem in 1995. Today, Vicki would be thrilled to see its growth, the participation of so many generations, and the impact of the many projects, such as students decorating cards for Israeli soldiers and wrapping Hanukkah presents for children in need. Vicki was passionate about making the world a better place for all, and Mitzvah Day continues to reflect her values of hesed and tikkun olam.