

My Jewish Journey  
Revised Notes from Kol Nidre Speech  
by Sherrie Rosenberg  
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I am going to mention several people who are beloved to me who have passed away. May their memories be for blessings.

My Jewish journey began when I was born 72 years ago this week to two Jewish parents in Detroit, Michigan. We moved to the suburb of Oak Park when I was 3 1/2. There was a big Jewish community so our public schools were closed on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

My family did not belong to a synagogue but I attended Sholem Aleichem School on Sundays and some afternoons after school. I loved it! It was secular. We learned Yiddish and studied the holidays, songs, history, Israel, and conversational Hebrew. We learned no prayer. In fact, I learned the shema when I was in BBG, B'nai Brith Girls, in high school.

One of my favorite memories is of my Grandpa Joe sitting in his chair and singing Oyfen Pripechuk, a Yiddish song.

When I was 13 I had my first Bas Mitzvah. I purposely said Bas not Bat because that is how we say it in Yiddish. My research that I presented was on the Warsaw Ghetto.

In high school I was very active in and loved BBG and co-lead Havdalah at a retreat.

I went to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and taught elementary special education for four years.

I moved to San Francisco in 1976 and I found the area of the City where I wanted to live by seeing the old Beth Shalom synagogue. The neighborhood felt like home.

I met my husband, Paul, in 1982. My first High Holy Days at BIJ were in 1983 with Paul and his beloved father, Irving. Paul and I joined the following year when we married. It was the first time I was a shul member.

We were the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation in Paul's family to be married thru Beth Israel. One year, Cantor Henry Greenberg, honored me by asking me to do an Aliyah on the second day of Rosh Hashanah. It was one of the most spiritual experiences of my life.

Our son, Coleman, was born in October of 1989 and at the next high holy days, we met Karen Kerner and Sandi Berger and their kids who were the same age. Deep lifelong friendships began.

I got personally involved when I was interested in joining a book club and Barbara Hammel had put a notice in the shul's bulletin about starting one. We can't remember how many years ago that was but our latest meeting was last night.

In 2011 eight women, who consider ourselves sisters, had a Nashot Mitzvah. We were taught by Rabbi Rosalind Glazer and Cantoral Soloist David Morgenstern. That was a wonderful learning experience. Our portion was Shelach Lecha and my d'var torah asked why the Israelites didn't go exploring new areas expecting peace.

I got involved in Sisterhood as co-president, following in my mother-in-law, Ruth Rosenberg's footsteps. She was active at the shul and was a National Vice President of Women's League for Conservative Judaism.

I've kept on getting more and more involved on the board and on lots of committees, including rabbi search, name committee, preserving our history, and tikkun olam.

I love learning and have taken lots of classes at shul and other places. I love the joy of being with multi-generational friends, love watching the kids grow up, and love working with people who share social justice passions.

These past few years have represented many challenges and lots of hard work but it is such a joy working with wonderful people in our journey together. Through Zoom and hopefully more and more chances to be safe together in person, I have made new lifelong friendships. I am very grateful.