

I was born and raised in Hamilton Township, NJ. Graduated from Steinert High School in 1971, along with my husband, Chris. I graduated from Glassboro College(now Rowan University) and taught Romance languages for about 13 years. I am fluent in French, Spanish and Italian. I then returned to graduate school at Villanova and got my MS in counseling. I worked as a school counselor for 7 years before retiring.

I have a daughter, Sarah, who is a culinary supervisor at Princeton House, and she has a son, Jesse, who is adored. Chris and I will be married 48 years in June. I'm blessed with a loving and supportive family who are here today.

Most of you know that I am a "Jew by choice" and lots of people have asked me why I chose to convert. My whole life I've been drawn to Judaism; I had Jewish friends in school and I followed closely their Bar and Bat Mitzvahs. I taught middle school at a small school in Vineland and for about 3 years I went to their ceremonies. I was very moved by the entire service: the children speaking Hebrew, the families being up on the bimah with them, and a very happy and joyous atmosphere. Of course, the parties after were amazing!

So I started reading about Judaism, watching every documentary and movie that pertained to Jews, and I drew closer and closer to taking that step. I said I have a daughter, but we also had a son who we lost. This is when I really believe God stepped in; I needed to make my life worth living. Everything I had learned about Judaism told me that God put us on this earth to make it a better place however we can. I decided to embrace the Jewish way of life and help anyone when I have the opportunity. As I said, I have a very supportive family and they have been with me on this journey. They're more than happy to celebrate my holidays- as long as we EAT! Italians also place food very high on the priority list!!

I'm in the process of studying for my own Bat Mitzvah and TRYING to learn Hebrew and trope. My ego has taken a hit- I can NOT learn Hebrew as easily as I learned other languages, but I keep plugging- I'm very proud and happy to finally be Jewish.