

Spotlight On



New Members Judy & Barry Shereck

Get to know new members Judy & Barry Shereck

Rabbi Paskind (RP): Please introduce us to your family.

Judy & Barry: We have two adult children and 4 grandchildren. Our son's family lives in Greenwich and our daughter's family are in Portland, Oregon. Our grandson will become a Bar Mitzvah in Portland on May 6!

RP: When did you join CBE and what brought you to us?

Judy & Barry: We joined last August, right before High Holidays. We've been committed to synagogues for more than 50 years when we lived in Northern NJ, and we're very comfortable in liberal Conservative shuls. We moved to Norwalk in the middle of covid and didn't know anybody. It was isolating. We met Rabbi Paskind last year at the Yom Ha'Atzma'ut celebration at the Stamford JCC and felt an immediate connection. We ran to join and have found a home and many new friends at Beth El. We've been at Shabbat services more in the last year than collectively over the last 40 years! Our lives have been totally changed around by coming to Beth El.

RP: What is your most memorable moment at CBE?

Barry: The first time I was called for an aliyah on Shabbat.

Judy: Definitely coming on Shabbat. We were welcomed so quickly, and we were both called for aliyot to the Torah.

RP: What is the one thing you'd like our other congregants to know about you?

Barry: You might not know it from my current practice, but I'd been turned off to Judaism for many years until I met Judy and raised kids in a Jewish community. Still, I haven't felt at home in a shul until coming here. Shabbat services are relaxing and peaceful, and I think more people should attend!

Judy: I've been part of the senior leadership of Hadassah for over 25 years and have held various roles. I currently serve as the Hadassah liaison to the World Zionist Organization and the American Zionist Movement, which has brought me to Israel 3-4 times a year (except during Covid). In fact, I just returned last week from the World Zionist Congress and the Jewish Agency meetings in Israel!

RP: Do you have any special talents?

Barry: *I'll share two. I play the banjo. And second, I've worked as a senior financial executive for more than 50 years, and now that I'm retired, I'm starting a term as the financial officer of our congregation. I'm happy to contribute however I can.*

Judy: *I'm retired now, but I was a Spanish teacher, first in public school and then in a yeshiva in Northern New Jersey. Many of my former students have made aliyah and I run into them whenever I'm in Israel. If I don't recognize them, I know it's a student when I hear someone call me "senora"!*

RP: What's your favorite tradition?

Judy: *Getting together with our family for Pesach is very special to me. We're in a smaller place now that we live in Norwalk, so we meet at our son's home, but I did all the cooking and brought it. Purim is also special to me because it's the anniversary of the founding of Hadassah, which is named for the heroine of the Megillah, Esther, whose given name was Hadassah!*

RP: What's your favorite movie/food/book?

Barry: *My favorite book is Treasure Island, both because I love the story and because it reminds me of the way my dad used to buy me a book every Saturday afternoon, and I love that.*

Judy: *My favorite foods are sushi and Israeli food (especially in Israel!). Bonus info: Israel now has fabulous sushi!*