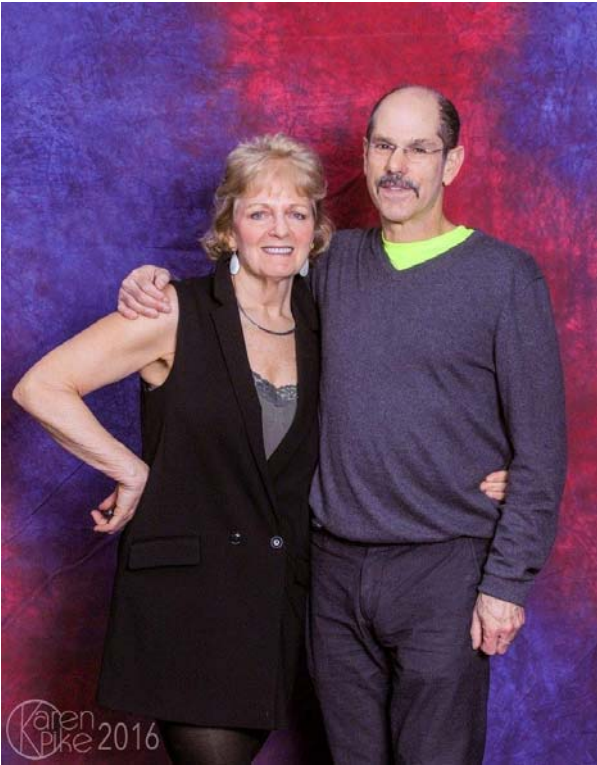


Linda Retchin & Jeff Solomon interviewed by Jan Zatzman Orlansky



You do NOT want to mess with this guy! He is a certified Black Belt; that is, a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt, one of the most sought-after business credentials today. Lean Six Sigma Black Belts are trained to solve business problems by asking the right questions and using data and analysis to get the right answers. Jeff earned his LSS Black Belt certification 8 years ago. Had you there for a minute, didn't I?

Jeff Solomon and Linda Retchin are a powerful duo, each with their own style and independent careers. If harnessed, their energy combined could power a small country! They have run over one hundred 5Ks and now they are very active with the local Dragonheart Vermont Dragon Boating team, which requires year-round training and commitment. Linda paddled with Team USA in 2015 at the World Championships in Welland, Ontario. In 2016, both Linda and Jeff paddled at the Club Championships in Ravenna, Italy and they both are going with their local team to the 2018 Club Championships in Szeged, Hungary later this year. Linda has also paddled and raced in Hong Kong, in the South China Sea. Once the ice on Lake Champlain melts, you can see them practicing with their club three evenings a week.

Linda started pre-Dental at Kent State University and then obtained her Dental Hygiene degree in 1985 from Howard University's College of Dentistry in Washington DC. Her first professional position was working in Bern, Switzerland for two years. While in Switzerland, Linda traveled extensively throughout Europe, Scandinavia, and the Middle East.

Linda is a Registered Dental Hygienist who actively practices in Chittenden County. In 2015 she was given the Outstanding Dental Hygienist of the year award by the Vermont Dental Hygiene Association. She served ten years on the Vermont Board of Dental Examiners after being appointed by Governor Howard Dean. She now sits on the Vermont Board of Radiologic Technologists as a Public Member and was recently reappointed to this position by Governor Phil Scott. In addition she is a national Dental Hygiene Examiner for CDCA, a national credentialing agency.



For Temple Sinai, Linda has been a Trustee and also has been President and Treasurer of the Sisterhood. She served for four years as the Oneg Coordinator. She often remarks that she cast the deciding vote to install air conditioning in the synagogue years ago. Linda and Jeff have been members of Temple Sinai for 30 years.

Jeff graduated from Bowdoin College in Maine (he was Phi Beta Kappa) and then went to Cornell University for graduate school in Mathematics and Statistics. He quipped and quoted that "If I had only one day left to live, I would live it in my statistics class... It would seem so much longer!"

Jeff said that everyone in his family has a first name that begins with "J": Judy, Jerry, Jeffrey, Joel, Jon and Jane. Then Jane married Jim and Joel married Janet! You just can't make this stuff up! Jeff is the eldest of 4. His parents had 3 boys and then a girl and his mother was pregnant with his sister at Jeff's Bar Mitzvah. As you can see, Jeff has a terrific sense of humor.

There is a serious side to Jeff too, when it comes to his professional life. He works at Simmonds Precision in Vergennes VT as a Quality Manager and Statistician and he is also an adjunct professor of Math and Statistics at the University of Vermont. At Temple Sinai, he taught in the Hebrew School, was VP of Education, Co-Chair of the Spiritual Committee, created and led the High Holiday Children's Services for 10 years, and was a member of the Rabbinic Search Survey and Assessment committee. Jeff has lived in the Burlington area since July 1986.

Linda grew up in Babylon NY on Long Island's south shore. She is the middle of three sisters: Judy, the eldest is a Superior Court Judge in Washington DC, and Nancy is an actress, art dealer and artist living in NYC. She enjoys playing Mah Jongg at least once a week. Somehow, she finds time to be a mentor in the Shelburne Community School.

Linda and Jeff recently became new pet owners of an Australian Labradoodle puppy named Copper. They can be found weekends hiking, XC skiing, and snowshoeing at Shelburne Farms.

Jeff was born in Boston and grew up in Marblehead MA. He is the only one in his family who lives outside of Route 128. His brother Jon lives in his family home in Marblehead and is a retired Tampa FL policeman who now works for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. His brother Joel is a doctor and lives in Lexington MA, and his sister Jane lives in Winchester MA and works at an insurance company.

The person who was the biggest influence in Linda's young life was a neighbor, who happened to be a dentist. The person of greatest influence in Jeff's life was his grandmother who was also left-handed and was the only one who could teach him how to tie his shoes. She lived in Brookline MA.

Linda and Jeff have two children, Hannah (27) and Ian (24) who both are UVM graduates and both now work at [Dealer.com](#). They remind their parents from time to time, that they are native Vermonters while their parents are "Flatlanders"!

Jeff and Linda met at a wine and cheese mixer, and at the end of the evening, Linda asked Jeff for his phone number. Their first date was skiing at Bolton Valley and then going out for Asian food in Winooski. They dated for one year and were married by Rabbi Jim Glazier on a cold winter night in February 1989 in their Woolen Mill apartment #528. They had a small dinner celebration at Pauline's restaurant afterwards and honeymooned in Europe.

For the past 28 summers they have a family tradition of meeting at Linda's family summer beach house in Lewes, Delaware. Jeff and Linda love the ocean and salt air. Linda's Mom and stepfather are both living in Boynton Beach FL.



Both Linda and Jeff love to travel. In addition to their travel abroad for Dragonboat racing, Jeff has been to Canada, England, Denmark, Sweden, Ireland, Spain, Portugal, France, the Netherlands, Italy, Czech Republic, Switzerland, Germany, and India.

While Jeff enjoys reading Stephen King, recognizing some of the scenes took place near Bowdoin, where he attended college, Linda prefers reading mostly non-fiction, because it is direct and straight to the point. Jeff's favorite music is from the 60's and 70's, while Linda enjoys the Beatles and Sirius XM.

Thank you Linda and Jeff, our dynamic duo, for your

willingness to be part of the *Getting To Know You* series