

Introduce Yourself: Bonnie Schneider-Priever

What's Your Story?



Bonnie's Needlepoint

Hi, I'm Bonnie Schneider-Priever. I have been a member of Temple Isaiah since my son, Saul, was 5. He is now 28 and my love and joy. Together we have faced and overcome many emotional challenges, such as losing his dad (my ex-husband) four years ago.

Two years ago, I joined ChaiVillageLA after being invited as a guest to the Seder. My first impression was what a lively, energetic, upbeat cohesive group! My favorite activities are the film discussion group and volunteering with 826LA. Both involve my natural talents and passions: theatre (film) and writing. I have my own blog, "Curtain Up," where I review film fests and theatre opening in Los Angeles, North Hollywood's NOHO Arts District and in Hollywood. You're welcome to google my name and Curtain Up and follow my online reviews! I took many a cinema course in college, but truly it all started while on a date about 10 years ago and we went to a private screening. There was a long line for public ticket holders and no line for the press. So when my date suggested I tell them I'm a writer for a blog, I

created the name, Curtain Up. They gave me a press pass and my first review was born! The rest is history.

I am a native of Los Angeles, growing up in the Fairfax area. I went to Temple Beth Am as a child, attended John Burroughs Jr High, Fairfax High, and then UCLA with a major in communications. I was quite active in Hillel (mostly the weekly Israeli dancing) and took Judaic studies courses and even a year of Yiddish. After college I studied for three years at Reconstructionist Rabbinical School (RRC) and became assistant director of the Israel Levin Senior Center in Venice. I worked there part-time for five years while Saul was a baby and toddler. When he was in elementary school at Overland, I began working at an on-site market research company (Field Management) at Westside Pavilion Mall. My mom had been in market research all her life, so I grew up understanding product placement, consumer callbacks, and focus groups. Most recently, I've been a Census crew leader and election coordinator.

My hobby is needlepoint and I've made more than two-dozen pillows and pictures. These are designs ranging from florals to butterflies to puppies. I mostly love giving them as gifts, as a heartfelt homemade labor of love. Also, I love to travel. In the last five years, I have been to London, Israel and Moscow and in the U.S., to Cape Cod, Philly, New York and San Francisco.

I live in Koreatown so although getting to ChaiVillageLA events is a commute, the programs are wonderful and worth it. I found a sublet when I returned from two years living in Chicago (too cold for me, and just not 'home'). I lived in Pico-Robertson most of my adult years, so the eastside was a culture shock at first. But it's a thriving up-and-coming neighborhood. Although I don't yet eat Korean food, I find the vibes of the area 'big-city like,' an urban jungle per se. I'm only three blocks from the historic famed Wilshire Blvd Temple so there is a Jewish community east of La Brea after all!