

Introduce Yourself

What's Your Story?

Hi, I'm Pete Siegel. I've been a member of Temple Emanuel for over three years.



Pete Siegel

I was born in Tampa, Florida and— the way *I* tell it— at age one, I decided to head to Westchester County, near New York City, with my family in tow. Actually, my father got a cool job building simulations of Martian environments, while my mother worked on her PhD, the first woman in her program. When I was around age twelve, my Mom completed her PhD, and it was time for her to find a suitable job. So off we went—parents, three siblings, dog, cat, and me—to Honolulu, where Mom and Dad became professors, and off I went to a dreadful public school, except for one thing: at age 15, I met my spouse!

Spouse? Age **15** ? Surely, Hawaii, the 50th state, doesn't sanction such things! Hope (Stevens) and I had our first official date 48 years ago—Hope's dad let me drive "The Bomb," his Buick Oldsmobile—and the rest is history.

Many years later, we headed off to Upstate New York for graduate school, got married, and had two wonderful kids, Seth and Sarah. At Cornell, I had the opportunity to be a part of a newly funded National Science Foundation Supercomputer Center, which Cornell got because my physicist boss just "happened" to win a Nobel Prize. I was just standing there contemplating my navel, when everything Ken touched began to turn not into gold, but into computer hardware! This amazing opportunity set the course for my entire work life at universities—like my parents, Hope's parents, and our kids.

After a few decades, it was time for us to go west! By a circuitous route, we finally ended up in California and made it to the West Side (no, not *that* West Side): Beverly Hills. While, lucky for us, our kids ended up in graduate school in California, where our daughter still lives. Our son, Seth, is now a physicist at Imperial College in London, where he lives with Polly, his spouse, a curator at Historic Royal Palaces. Daughter Sarah just this summer ***finally*** married Paresh, her boyfriend of twelve years. Paresh is a chemist, who works for an innovative startup in the Bay area; Sarah is finishing her PhD in Epidemiology at UCSF this Fall.

Hope and I live within walking distance of Temple Emanuel, where we volunteer as much as we can to assist refugee families—we'd love to tell you more! And when Rabbi Geller shared her vision for ChaiVillageLA, we joined up, inspired by the idea that all of us together could help create something not only essential to us, but something that will change the world.