

## Introduce Yourself

### What's Your Story?

Hello, my name is Susan Fisher and I was born in Philadelphia. After graduating from Philadelphia High School for Girls, a wonderful all-girls public high school, I went to Ohio and graduated from Case Western Reserve with a BA in social sciences (sociology and a minor in psychology). The day after graduation I flew out to California where I started an MA/credentialing program in education at Claremont Graduate School. I loved California from the moment I landed. I was taken with the beauty of my surroundings and the wonderful weather.



While I was at Claremont, I met my future husband, a Japanese national. After I finished my first year of teaching and the course work for my MA and credential, we married and moved to Japan where we lived for the next 3 1/2 years. I taught at an international school and it was all quite the adventure. We returned to Claremont where my husband finished his dissertation and I continued to teach.

My Jewish education began when I was 7 and we joined Keneseth Israel, now located in Elkins Park, PA. It is one of the oldest Reform congregations in the USA. I was confirmed, attended post-confirmation classes, and at the end of my high school program, went to Gratz College in Philadelphia where I received a teaching certificate. I taught religious school during college in Cleveland. Later, when I landed in Los Angeles after getting divorced, I taught at several synagogues as I was pursuing an acting career.

While I taught in K-adult classes for a total of 39 years, I also became an actor, got an MA in drama and added child drama expert to my teaching resume. I brought theatre into my academic classes and later taught other teachers how to do the same.

I became a stage actress and later added film acting. I'm a proud member of SAG-AFTRA and Equity. One short film I made, Lieland, went to Cannes in the Short Film Corner section. The last play I did was Collected Stories by Donald Margulies. I co-produced it and played the role of Ruth. I love the play and would like to revisit it someday.

I'm retired from teaching, but I still act and look forward to the end of this pandemic when I can get back on a stage and/or become part of the ensemble of a film or TV production once more.

I love to travel and have spent many wonderful vacations discovering countries in Europe, Asia and Central America. The best perk I ever got as a teacher was a free trip to China where besides the usual tourist attractions, I got to visit a number of schools and meet with professors from several universities. Learning about other cultures has been a favorite pastime of mine. I currently work part-time as a storyteller/docent for Connecting Cultures Mobile Museum. We take our museum into schools with anywhere from 400-750 artifacts which I refer to as I tell stories and provide context for the exhibit.

While I never remarried, I do have a chosen family in Los Angeles. I've known my two youngsters since before they were born and I see them weekly and sometimes more often. They are a constant source of joy and laughter in my life.

I'm a life-long learner, and I have been looking for new sources of community. I recently joined Temple Isaiah and ChaiVillageLA. I'm looking forward to new friendships and new adventures with the synagogue and this vibrant community. I'm an avid theatre and filmgoer, and I love to visit museums. I also love being out of doors whether it's a neighborhood walk or a hike in Yosemite. So many experiences yet to come....

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Did you enjoy Susan's story? If so, let her know at [sfisher939@yahoo.com](mailto:sfisher939@yahoo.com).

Introduce yourself to the Village. Email [IdelleDavidson@gmail.com](mailto:IdelleDavidson@gmail.com).