

Introduce Yourself: Bobbie Allen

What's Your Story?



Hello, I'm Bobbie Allen and I'm a ChaiVillage wonder, as in wonder-ING what I would do without this great community!

Certainly, I had a life prior to this organization (affectionately referred to as *Chai V*). So I wonder, did my husband Ben and I find the Village or did it find us? I know this for sure: Events have blurred into fulfillment. We are immersed in learning, dancing, art classes, movies, and the three Fs: fun, frolic, and of course, food.

I have been a member of marvelous Temple Isaiah for 50 years. My original claim to fame was chairing a social action weekend way back with rabbis Lewis and Gan.

I have also chaired an Isaiah Women's installation tea. On that very afternoon, Ben called to say he was bringing home a dog I am going to love. "Not to worry" he said, "it doesn't shed." That is the biggest lie he ever told. You can look at me and see Max, and now Buster, somewhere on my person. I love those two doggies, so all is forgiven.

Singing in the HaSharim for 35 years has been a joy. The music is always moving. Some of it is downright fun. Ben is in the choir too and we sing around the house. One of our favorites is "Chanukah in Santa Monica" and it doesn't have to be Chanukah time.

Adding to my repertoire are Daughters of Torah and the temple book group. I'm thrilled with the books and studying the parashah of the week. I can't ask for better Jewish backup. I seem to spend a lot of time in our library as it is definitely a growing and glowing place.

What do I do when I'm not at temple? I have been a home, kitchen, and bathroom designer for about 34 years. I help people take what's in their mind's eye and together we create a beautiful space. My friends have been my clients several times, all ending well. I have even assisted my kids with their kitchens and they still talk to me.

My daughter and my son and his wife, and Ben's two daughters with their significant others, are all part of the brood. However, my grandchildren are the frosting on the cake. They are the adorable and loving Vinnie, the quiet

and amiable Esai, and of course, the beauty and every-bit-a-queen, Maya.

We have traveled around the globe to more places than I can count. We are hooked on adventures and hope to never give them up. We are off to Croatia, Bulgaria, Macedonia and Northern Greece in June.

Wonder no more I am hooked on the amazingly stupendous ChaiVillage and our splendid Temple. I love it all.