

## Introduce Yourself: Mark Lipschutz

### What's Your Story?



Hello, my name is Mark Lipschutz. My grandparents came from Russia and Lithuania and settled in Wisconsin. I grew up in Manitowoc, north of Milwaukee. My dad was a dentist; my mom had been a lab technician at Wisconsin General Hospital but stopped working when she got married, as was customary.

Manitowoc, on the shores of Lake Michigan, has a population of about 25,000 people. At the time there were about 60 Jewish families and one Orthodox shul. There were five Jews in my high school graduating class—a record number. Manitowoc was a working-class city with its share of anti-Semitism.

I met Jan at the University of Wisconsin. We had both joined the ski club for a spring break bus trip to Colorado. We skied together—and fell in love. We married in 1966. A month later, we joined the Peace Corps and flew to Senegal, where we did public health work for two years in a town on the edge of the Sahara. It was the best experience of our lives, both giving and receiving. We learned from a culture which was different, and we had to confront our own value systems. We left with wonderful memories.

We came to Los Angeles in 1968 and have lived in Mar Vista ever since. Jan got an MA in Social Work from USC, and I received a PhD in African history from UCLA. I wrote a historical dictionary of famous Africans, published by the UC press while launching my career in university administration at UCLA. Our children, Matt and Suzi, have given us four wonderful grandchildren and we are all very close.

We joined Isaiah in 1997. But we got really involved in the temple with the arrival of ChaiVillageLA. We both devote lots of time to the village, participating in many of the offerings, which I compare to a yummy box of See's dark chocolates—rich and satisfying. Most recently we have joined Operation Mend.

I tutor adults at Venice High night school, and first graders at Richland Ave. Elementary School. I co-launched a book group about eight years ago with help from Isaiah. I also take extension classes at UCLA.

Jan and I love travel and have done many home exchanges in Europe and elsewhere. We have a condo overlooking the ocean in Baja, where we are members of the local "Bajavurah."