

Introduce Yourself: Barry Korn

What's Your Story?



Hi, my name is Barry Korn. When I was two years old my father died. After moving from Cleveland to Detroit to live for a while with my grandmother, my mom moved us to Los Angeles. Mom remarried a few years later and we moved from the city to the valley. I attended Van Nuys high School and then went on to UCLA. I transferred to Berkeley, graduating with a BA in political science.

Not having the most practical degree, I set out on one of several careers. I worked for an engineering company where we did site location studies for places such as banks. No matter what the project I always seemed to use a camera to take photos as part of the job. So in my next career I became a professional photographer. That morphed into bath and kitchen design. For

more than nineteen years I got to tell people how to tear their kitchens and bathrooms apart to make them really functional and beautiful at the same time. My motto was “All my kitchens cook”. I’m retired now but design was great fun.

I’m married to Helene Korn. My wife is my life. We have two incredible children, a son and a daughter, and we have five grandchildren. Our son and his family live just in the valley so fortunately we see them often. Our daughter and her family live and work overseas so it gives us a good reason to travel to wherever they are posted.

We have neighbors to thank for introducing us to Temple Isaiah more than forty years ago. We are also long-time members of our temple chavurah. Temple Isaiah has been a big part of our lives. We try not to miss Friday night worship services and Saturday Torah study and we sing in the choir. I’ve served as temple president and have been a board member for many years. We also mentor high school students twice a month at Santee High School.

I’m also active with the Boy Scouts having been the troop scout master and now am one of several assistant scout masters. Helene and I enjoy camping and traveling. We’ve gone with the temple group to Israel, Eastern Europe and Morocco. Recently we visited South Africa with a group of temple friends. We’re leaving shortly for a European river cruise. It’s fun to be retired.