

## Introduce Yourself

### What's Your Story?

Hi, I'm Rabbi Joel Levine.



*Rabbi Joel Levine*

I was born in Brooklyn and raised in Laurelton, New York. I am a graduate of University of Michigan with a BA in history. I knew early on I wanted to be a rabbi and in 1973 I was ordained by the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. I interned, was Assistant Rabbi and then Associate Rabbi at Temple De Hirsch-Sinai, in Seattle. I then served as Associate Rabbi and then Rabbi of Temple Israel in West Palm Beach, Florida. In 1981, a small group of congregants got together and helped me found Temple Judea of Palm Beach Gardens in Florida. As they say, the rest is history! I served for 34 years. I am now Rabbi Emeritus.

In addition to my unwavering support and commitment to Temple Judea, I have conducted special workshops in synagogue transformation and renewal. I was President of Palm Beach County Board of Rabbis; Chair of the Jewish Community Relations Council; Chair of the Soviet Jewry Task Force; Rabbinic Cabinet Member for the United Jewish Appeal; and Board Member of Alpert Jewish Family & Children's Service. I have led many congregational and communal trips, including a mission to the Soviet Union to aid Refuseniks.

While my professional accomplishments are plentiful, one of my greatest achievements is my 37-year marriage to Susan. We have tremendous pride in our wonderful daughter, Rachel, who lives here in Los Angeles.

Susan and I moved to L.A. in 2015. Now that I'm retired, I volunteer twice weekly at Beit T'Shuvah, the residential addiction treatment center. I provide spiritual counseling and use Jewish teachings to help support my clients' recovery. Also, I lead Torah study from time to time at Sinai Temple. We are members of Temple Emanuel, Temple Isaiah and Beit T'Shuvah. At Emanuel, I occasionally lead groups in Wise Aging, a program developed by the Institute for Jewish Spirituality. I also co-lead annual Wise Aging Shabbat services with Temple Emanuel's Rabbi Jonathan Aaron.