

Chevrah Torah Member Bios

Lori Altman

Grew up in Norfolk, Virginia with two siblings. Graduated from Pharmacy School at UGA and received PharmD at Mercer University. Have three kids, two live here and one is hopefully getting engaged soon. My husband is on the Board here at Temple Emanuel. My passions are integrative health (alternative), energy medicine, gardening, hiking, and like Eileen....anything that furthers my Jewish Neshama!

George Fox

Grew up in Manhattan, then came to Atlanta for Emory College and Law School. Adjunct Professor in Emory's Law School. Past President of Temple Emanu-El. With wife Michele, four children and ten grandchildren. Directs musicals.

Nora Floersheim

I grew up in Jacksonville, Florida, and attended a conservative synagogue. I attended the University of Georgia where I met my husband, Steve Floersheim, and we recently celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. Our family includes our children, Amy and Philip Rubin and Jodi and Jeff Rosenberg, and our 5 grandchildren, Jake (20), Hailey (17), Zach (14), Tyler (16), and Maya (14). I have been a member of Temple Emanu-El for over 40 years. I have a deep commitment to Temple Emanu-El and served on the board in the temple's early years. Currently, I am co-president of Temple Emanu-El's Sisterhood and have served on several committees, such as the renovation of the temple's lobby. As an active participant in Shabbat services, adult learning classes, and Torah Study, I love all of the diverse opportunities that Temple Emanu-El offers its congregants. I received both my bachelor's and master's degrees in Spanish from the University of Georgia. I taught high school Spanish in the DeKalb County School System for 30 years and was honored twice as a DeKalb County Teacher of the year. I finished my teaching career at Chamblee Charter High School in 2010.

Gloria Lapin

I grew up in Atlanta and have seen it grow. I met Rich at Washington University in St Louis. I taught elementary school for over 30 years and wrote 12 books for beginning readers published by various publishers. In my retirement I did a lot of teacher training and became principal of Temple Emanuel's religious school. Now I enjoy the grandkids and painting with watercolor.

Rich Lapin

Raised in America's oldest Reform synagogue in Charleston, SC, I lived there with my parents and two younger sisters until I left for college. Graduated from Washington University in St. Louis where I met my wife Gloria who was a class year behind me. We married and moved to Atlanta in 1970 where we raised two wonderful daughters. One lives in DC and the other here with her husband and two young sons. Enjoy time with my Chevra Torah haverim (friends), cycling with the Bad Boys, and collecting/ writing about pens and writing instruments.

Burt Lesnick

Grew up in Allentown, PA, active in NFTY, attended UAHC (URJ) summer camps, including Kutz, where I learned song-leading. Like Eileen, I went to college and medical school at Boston University. I did my pediatric residency in Dallas, TX then a fellowship in Pulmonology at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. There, I met my wife, Lisa Kobrynski, who was then in training in Immunology. We were co-recruited to Emory in 1994, where she eventually became a full professor. I left for private practice in 1999, eventually taking on leadership positions. These ranged from managing partner of my practice to president of the Childrens medical staff to service on the boards of various medical professional societies. We have two daughters: Brianna is a law student and Olivia is finishing her engineering studies. Hobbies include writing fiction, travel and trying to pair wine with food.

Erika Lupuloff

I am the youngest of 4 kids all raised in Peachtree Corners, attending Temple Emanu-el since long before I was born. I now have 3 nieces/nephews with 1 on the way, and I LOVE being the fun Aunt! I'm currently a 5th year Biomedical Engineering student at Georgia Tech (graduating this May), and I've loved coming back to Temple Emanu-el throughout my college years as I've continued to grow my Judaism. I believe my purpose in this world is to help as many people as I possibly can and am especially passionate about helping those experiencing homelessness. I love anything outdoors in nature, cooking, engaging in meaningful/thought-provoking conversation, and watching sports!

Gui Nebel

I was born in the US but raised from a very early age in Brazil, where I lived until my mid-20's. My roots go back to Portugal, Germany and Bessarabia (now Moldova), but I grew up as a secular Jew observing very little religion. I moved to the US to pursue an MBA at the University of Chicago and relocated post-graduation to Cleveland, OH in 2002. There I learned about Reform Judaism and had the opportunity to become part of a wonderful and welcoming Jewish community. I met my wife, Lakshmi Nebel, through work and we've been married since 2005. We eventually moved to Atlanta in 2017 so I could pursue a career opportunity working in Finance for a large corporation. Although my wife is not Jewish, we committed to raising our kids Jewish and she has done a great job learning about our culture and religion, many times knowing more than I do. Her non-profit career also led her, somewhat by chance, to working many years with the Jewish Federation of Cleveland and eventually the Jewish Federation of Atlanta, although currently she is on sabbatical. My son Avi is 14 and graduating from Davis Academy and ready to start North Springs High School after the summer. My daughter Maya is 11 and excited to move up to Middle School at Davis Academy. As part of Avi's Bar Mitzvah studies, we were invited to participate in a few Torah study sessions and I haven't left since!

Eileen Niren

Grew up in NJ, child of Polish Holocaust survivors in a Yiddish speaking (parents, that is) household. College and medical school at Boston University and after Dermatology residency at Emory became an Atlantan. Met my husband, Philip Hayet, at a Jewish singles event downtown, raised 2 kids, one married, and they all live in Buckhead. When our son was born I vowed to study and have my Bat Mitzvah before he had his Bar Mitzvah, and I was able to do that at age 43 to fulfill that dream. Love hiking, electric biking, choir, musicals and everything related to furthering my Jewish Neshama (soul).

Marilyn Richin

We have been members since 1980! I have been on the sisterhood board, temple board, etc. I converted before we married.. Little did I know that I would find a home both physical and religious. I was the first adult Bat Mitzvah back in 1987. Another woman and I did the whole service! Paul and I have been married for 50 years and were 17 and 18 when we met at Bucknell University in Pennsylvania. We have 3 kids all married and 5 grandchildren. Paul went to med school at Georgetown Univ and did his residency at Georgetown in orthopedics. He retired the end of August and decided to go back to work. He and our son have set up a new office on Mt Vernon Rd here in Dunwoody. Should you need a second opinion or a cortisone shot, let him know!!

Linda Rickles

I was born in Massachusetts to a reformed Jewish family. Both my mother and grandmother were interior designers, which had a great influence on my career. My greatest passion is my work which is being an interior designer. I enjoy oil painting, walking on the river, hiking and kayaking. I love the ocean. More than anything, I love my dogs!

Claudia Rolan

Grew up in Montevideo, Uruguay. Went to Ga Tech, got a degree in Industrial Engineering and a masters in Operations Research. And I have been in Atlanta ever since. My husband is from Argentina, son of Polish immigrants, and we have 3 sons, 2 in college and a 13 year old in middle school. I recently took an early retirement from Delta after working for them for 25 years. I'm now in the process of converting. Even though we raised our kids Jewish and I've pretty much been living a Jewish life I never went through the process of converting.

George Rishfeld

Born in Warsaw, Poland. Came to USA in 1949. After years of adapting to a very new life (after the Holocaust) I joined the US military service for 2 years. I wanted to be sure that I could defend us so that it could not happen again. Then graduated from CCNY and started my career in sales and marketing. I am still working in the electronics/communications industry, now over 50 years. I have been married to Pamela for 49 years, 2 daughters and six grandkids. Very passionate and speak frequently to Church groups, schools, Government Agencies and Synagogues about my personal holocaust experience. I love photography and horses.

Pamela Kaplan Rishfeld

Born in Queens, NY. After high school studied at The fashion Institute of Technology . I am now a Fiber Artist, as well as a weaver and every textile art that uses needle & thread. I had my Bat Mitzvah as an adult in California. As a child we belonged to a Conservative/Orthodox Temple and the Bat Mitzvah they preformed was a joke. Couldn't go up to the bema or touch the Torah. Met My Husband George in NYC, and we lived in the Village, then Westchester, California and Now here to be with our 2 daughters & 6 grandchildren. Sold my Needlepoint company, Rishfeld Designs, so I could concentrate on own needlework designs.

Phyllis Rosenthal

My family—I have been married to Mark for over 45 years. We are blessed with 2 daughters who are both married, and each have 2 children. One daughter and her family live in Atlanta and our other daughter and her family live in Oxford, England. Our 4 grandchildren range in ages from 18 months to 8 years old and are the joys of our life.

Career-I was the founding director of M'silot , a program for children who learn differently, located at Atlanta Jewish Academy (AJA) and was a director at AJA for over 20 years. After I resigned from that position, I began working at Parkaire Consultants, Inc as a specialized reading tutor, working with students who have dyslexia and as an Educational Consultant, helping families find the best school for their child. Fortunately, I have been able to set up my business and work from home during the pandemic. For me, Chevra Torah provides a community and a way to connect with my innate need to grow spiritually and increase my Judaic knowledge.

Quentin Schander

I will start by explaining why I attend Chevrah Torah at Temple Emmanuel even though I am a Christian. Christians and Jews share the Tanakh and when I learned from Al Finfer about Chevrah Torah at Temple Emanu-El, I decided to attend through one cycle which at the time took three years. Long before the three years were over I had made many friends and had come to appreciate the thoughtfulness with which Chevrah Torah members pursue their study. I continue to attend Chevrah Torah because I value the opportunity to learn how another faith community deals with challenges and joys that are common to all communities. To name a few. How do we relate to God? What support can be offered to the grieving? What responsibility do we have for others? I am the grandson of immigrants whose ancestors left Germany, at the invitation of Catherine the Great, to go to Russia in the 1760's. By 1910 my grandparents had left Russia and were living as farmers in North Dakota; drawn by the promise of Homestead Land and the hope of a better future. I have been married to April Stollings Schander for nearly 50 years. We have two children and three grandchildren. I am retired but I trained and worked as a chemist before transitioning to computer programming and networking. One of my retirement projects has been to try to locate, by DNA matching, and then connect with cousins whose families chose to remain in Russia rather than emigrating. Their stories are very different than my story.

Eric Seidel

Born in Washington, DC, raised in Silver Spring, MD, youngest of three brothers. Mother a first generation American, first child of Polish immigrants. Father, born in Lithuania, came to the US when he was just 2 years old. I attended the University of Missouri School of Journalism, working in broadcast news and programming (mainly radio) in DC, NYC, Philadelphia, Baltimore and here in Atlanta. Inducted into the GA Radio Hall of Fame in 2018. Married to college sweetheart Marlene Schwartz Seidel (aka Curly) for 51 years, so far. Have two gorgeous, wonderful daughters and two beautiful grandchildren.

Phil Singer

I grew up in the suburbs of Boston, mostly in Sharon and Newton. I got my undergraduate degree at University of New Hampshire and my MBA from Babson College in Wellesley. I met my wife, Karen, after moving to Columbus, Ohio to work for Wendy's in their marketing department. Our two sons are both married (one living in Sandy Springs and the other in Delray Beach, FL) and each has two children. Still a fan of Boston professional sports teams, enjoy swimming, biking and walking AND always look forward each week to our Torah Study Class - for the social interaction and to both learn and acknowledge how much I don't know in this space.

Norman Zoller

Born and raised in Cincinnati, I met and in 1965 married Harriet; two sons: one living in Seattle with his wife and daughter; and another who lives with his wife in Grant Park. After college, served seven years as field artillery officer with two duty tours in Vietnam and later served 15 more years as a JAG in Army National Guard and Army Reserves. Served nine years as court administrator for two state courts in Cincinnati before appointment as first Clerk of Court and then Circuit Executive for the Federal appeals court headquartered in Atlanta; later worked for the State Bar of Georgia coordinating a volunteer lawyer program for service members and veterans needing legal help. Served as president of The Breman Museum (2009-2011) and president of Temple Emanu-El (2007-09), choir member for about 30 years, and have been enriched for decades by Chevra Torah fellow learners who along with clergy, teach one another; and by playing viola in a community orchestra. BA and MA from Univ. of Cincinnati; JD from Northern Kentucky Univ.