



GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Gloria Levi

Meet Gloria Levi! Gloria has formerly held many administrative positions on the Board and Chair, and presently considers herself an Elder seeking wisdom. She grew up in Brooklyn, New York, in an orthodox family, raised primarily by a grandmother who spoke only Yiddish – Gloria's first tongue. As a teenage rebel, she was active in Habonim through her adolescence. She did her undergraduate degree from State University of Iowa in Iowa City. She later decided to obtain a Master's degree in Public Administration and a graduate certificate at age 59 in Eugene, Oregon.

Gloria met Norman Levi sailing from Marseille to Haifa, Israel in 1950; married him in Toronto in 1951; made aliya with him and two of their children, David and Tamar, to Israel from 1957-1959 (See *Kissing An Old Dream Goodbye*), and returned to Deep Cove, B.C. Gloria bore two more children, Dani and Alisa, and then took in a foster son, Wayne. Their Jewish identity was closer to secular Israeli, and socialism was their religion. In August 1972, the New Democratic Party (NDP) won the election for the first time. Norman became cabinet Minister of Human Resources, and the family moved to Victoria. It was a hectic, difficult, and exhilarating time.

When her children were very young, Gloria worked part-time with older adults. Gradually she worked full time in gerontology as a recreation worker, coordinator of volunteers, registered social worker, consultant, and trainer. Her book, co-authored with Kathleen Gose, *Dealing With Memory Changes As You Grow Older*, published by Bantam Books, was translated into five other languages.

Gloria came into Or Shalom in 1983, when Norman was about to undergo surgery for a brain tumour. The operation was a success. Gloria was deeply moved by Daniel Siegel's teachings and never left. The *chavurah* of young professionals was compassionate, erudite, idealistic, and dedicated. She began years of Judaic studies and never looked back. She taught each of her 11 grandchildren for their Bat or Bar Mitzvah.

Gloria spends her summers on Gabriola Island, studying and writing, seeking knowledge, understanding, and wisdom.