



Mark Welch

Meet Mark Welch, current Board Member and Cemetery Committee Liaison.

Mark, along with his wife Tiferet, has been attending Or Shalom since 2012, and is continuously nourished by the community, the davenen, and the opportunities for learning, expanding and exploring his spiritual life.

He was born in Singapore - his parents moved there after deciding that a rubber plantation in the jungle was no place to bring up a young family.

The family then moved to England, and on to Australia, and back to England once more, and it was in England that he completed his early education.

He studied Social Sciences at University of York (the English one) believing he would become a Health Economist until he realised why they call it the dismal science. Changing direction he trained as Psychiatric Nurse and worked clinically until emigrating to Australia to become a founding member of its first university School of Nursing.

He completed his PhD looking at "The Representation of Madness in Film" and shortly afterwards met Tiferet through their mutual work with political torture survivors. And then life changed.

They left Australia for Edmonton (please don't ask what he was thinking) and work at the University of Alberta and the WHO Collaborating Centre for Mental Health Nursing for the Americas, where he became convinced that the climate was out to kill him.

Finally washing up on the lower mainland, via the Okanagan, they began to attend Or Shalom in January 2012, and have attended almost every Shabbat since, becoming active members of the Showing Up Committee.

His first meaningful encounter with Judaism was through Mussar, and then he learned that Alan Morinis was connected to OS - talk about coincidence!

He looks forward to enjoying and contributing to the rich life of OS.

Don't say, "You must miss Edmonton."

Do say, "Attending OS might be the second best decision you ever made."