



*Martin Gotfrit*

*Or Shalom Co-Chair 2018-*

*Professor Emeritus Simon Fraser University (Music)*

*Married to writer and filmmaker Patricia Gruben. Has two grown sons: Noah and Jesse. Born in Montreal, Martin has lived in Vancouver since 1977.*

*1. What is the trait that best describes you?*

Although it's difficult to know what others perceive, I'd hazard that I'm generally quite calm and I also believe most people find me dependable.

*2. What is your idea of happiness?*

Improvising music with others. I have been expressing myself through free improvisation for most of my life. Being able to have a musical conversation with one or more souls is one of my most cherished blessings.

*3. From where do you seek inspiration?*

My dear friends and wonderful family. They sustain me.

*4. What is something most people don't know about you?*

I occasionally perform in contemporary dance shows.

*5. What's your favourite Jewish food?*

What is Jewish food? Eastern European? Middle Eastern? North American replicas of the latter? Good food, lovingly prepared, is a sacrament. A slice of *challah*?

*6. If you could invite anyone to your home for Shabbat who would you invite?*

All my out-of-town family members.

*7. Of what accomplishment are you most proud?*

Chairing the Contemporary Arts School at SFU for 10 years, during which time we fundraised and built the new downtown building.

*8. If you had a wish, prayer or favour granted by God, what would it be?*

A little more compassion in the world.

*9. What mitzvah have you done recently? Or... What mitzvah has somebody done for you recently? Or... What mitzvah will you do in the coming weeks?*

I think of mitzvahs as those things one needs to, and should do. That one is compelled to do through love, compassion, and our belief in *Tikkun Olam*. We receive them and give them. Hopefully daily.