



GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Dina-Hasida Mercy

Meet Rabbi Dina-Hasida Mercy, an Or Shalom member since 1984 who wonders where the time has flown! She is originally from San Fernando, California, and made her way to Vancouver in 1977 after five years on Kibbutz Urim in Israel's northern Negev region. Her family includes her two sons, Asaf and Aaron; daughter-in-law, Cate; as well as grandchildren, Ivy, Seth, Sadie, and Y.I. Otter (the last two are of the furry variety).

She was the principal of Or Shalom's religious school in the 1990s when there were 70 students in the school – the largest enrolment ever. She was associated with the L'Chaim Adult Day Centre for 21 years, retiring as administrator in 2009. She then learned that she is not good at retiring, since she accepted the position of Jewish Chaplain in the Pacific Region for Correctional Service Canada in 2012. She held that position until 2019 and now is a 'relief chaplain' in the federal prisons.

She was ordained through the Jewish Seminary International in 1998 and has devoted much of her rabbinate to serving interfaith families through weddings and other life-cycle events. She continues in this work and is particularly pleased to officiate weddings for folks she has known since they were her students. She is also on Or Shalom's team of back-door greeters and is the relief Pastoral Care Rabbi.

Ask her about having lunch in Mexico.