



Tiferet Welch

For those of you who already know me, it's no surprise to you that my stories can be long and involved.

Here, for all our sakes, I will try to be succinct. :)

I grew up in small town rural Alberta, with all the limitations that can imply. There was no way I, or anyone around me, would have guessed that life would have, could have, brought me here to be with you.

The greatest single event that impacted my life-journey, has to be my relationship with my husband, Mark. What brought him and I together was our separate work with political torture survivors: He in Australia, Copenhagen and Gaza; me in Edmonton. Love and trust took me to be with him in Canberra, ACT, Australia in 1998. There we married each other (for the first time), in 2000.

We wanted to live a life of synergistic meaning and purpose and with that aim, we have done a few things: research in our shared profession as mental health nurses; co-authored a professionally staged play; twice volunteer taught in a refugee camp; sponsored two students from the camp to live with us in Canada; briefly sojourned with a non-partisan, non-violent peace organization to the West Bank; studied non-violence in a Yeshiva in Jerusalem.

Yet, as a couple, and as individuals, our single most life-altering and profound experience was converting to Judaism on May 27, 2014. And yes, we did convert together!

It was Rabbi Laura Duhan Kaplan who converted us. (When I met with her to discuss conversion, having cried for the first 45 minutes of our one hour meeting, she said, "I guess crying for you is a good thing!") And it was Rabbi Hannah Dresner who married us, for a second time, but this time as Jews on March 18, 2018. (Yes! That was the exact day of our 18th wedding anniversary. Our wedding was, in fact, our "Triple Chai!")

I write this during the Days of Covid.

Although I would not wish this pandemic on anyone, it has served us; is serving us.

Mark and I are growing as Jews and as people; as a couple and as individuals.

Covid can be a time of healing.

We are, I am, also growing further into what it means to be in community.

I am grateful for my husband, for Or Shalom, for the wider Jewish world, for our tradition and for HaShem.

May I continue to learn and grow and to strive to become a better person even though it isn't always easy.

Yours in community,
Tiferet Welch

Please feel free to ask me whatever you like that was stimulated or made you curious from what I have shared here.