

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Marlene Chautin

Many people make lists. You know, “To Do” lists; it’s an easy way to arrange everyday chores and errands. Marlene told me of a “To Do” list she compiled when she and husband Peter Griffith became full time residents in the spring of 2000: 1) get the kitchen stuff put away and 2) join Temple Anshe Amunim. How fortunate for us that she kept this list.

Marlene was born in Brooklyn and her family relocated to Miami Beach in 1955 as she was entering Junior High School. She said it was like a “Happy Days” environment, with the added benefits of great schools/teachers, the Atlantic Ocean in your backyard and events at gorgeous hotels (senior prom at theFontainebleu).

Starting out as a secretary for a large advertising agency, Marlene built a career in broadcast media buying, retiring as Senior Vice President – Director of Local Broadcast. Before returning to New York in 1981, she lived in Atlanta for 16 years where her daughter Nicole was born. Nicole lives in Austin, Texas.

She is married to Raul Trevino and is a loving step-mom to teenagers Jaime and Taylor. Nicole and Raul work for computer software companies. Marlene recently visited and said, “It was a joy to be around this energetic bunch.”

As always, I was curious to understand her connection to the Berkshires. She and Peter (a retired copywriter) loved to “get away” and they found the peace and serenity that this area offered was so important to them. They bought a cottage in the hill town of Peru and for many years traveled to the Berkshires on weekends and holidays. She told me, “I loved it. We could relax and unwind.”

Marlene has been active in many aspects of Temple life. She was WRJ president for a year and said, “I really enjoyed the WRJ experience; I feel it is a valued component of the Temple.” She and Barry Wesson were Temple co-presidents in2005-2006.

Marlene is a life member of Hadassah and volunteers at OLLI and Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic.

Currently, Marlene attends Torah study almost every Saturday morning with Rabbi Josh. “I am a learner,” she commented, “and I feel it is such an enriching experience.” As for the future of Temple Anshe Amunim, Marlene feels that, “We will survive and prosper. We are a congregation that is invested in the future.” These words, to me, were so special to hear. She continued,

“Under Rabbi Josh’s leadership we keep moving forward in accomplishing our mission as a Temple community: a place of learning and a spiritual home.”

There is a proverb that states, “Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere.” I believe that Marlene has discovered that treasure.

Alyce Bernstein