



Interviewed: Shane Teper

Oral History Clip Title: Seeing Ourselves as Jewish

Theme: Jewish Identity

Interviewer: Gail Freeman

Date: 3 Nov. 2015

Oral History Number: AC 421

(Shane)

We see ourselves as Jewish. My wife's family came to Canada and they're Holocaust survivors and so there's that history on her side. I think... I mean, everything about us is Jewish. We landed up in places because we were Jewish. They had to leave Lithuania; we had to leave Europe. Because we were Jewish. Coming here to Canada, it's a, you know, great place to be Jewish. You feel... You don't feel persecuted or unwelcome. You have every opportunity and you feel safe... for the most part. More safe than most other places in the world as a Jew. So because we identify ourselves [sic] we identify as Jewish. We look Jewish, whatever that is. My... Even though I am not very religious, I go to shul with some regularity. I enjoy reading, you know, the stories from the Bible. I wanted my kids to have a love of Israel and to understand and know their Jewish heritage, which I think that they did get from their family, from our friends, and from their schooling. And I'm proud to be Jewish and I feel like I was... I mean, it was interesting. In South Africa we were in a very sort of insular area. Coming here, being in the public school system, it was less so, but most of my friends ended up being Jewish, and we were involved with the synagogue and stayed within a Jewish milieu. I went to the "Y," which is no longer in existence, but I used to go work out at the "Y." I went to work at day camps, at Forest Valley Day Camp, which was very Jewish. Went to work as a counselor at a sleepover camp, Wahonawin, for one year, which was also sort of secular-Jewish. So it's definitely a big part of my life for sure.

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