

**Anita Wizel** was born on December 4, 1932 in Guatemala City. Her parents, who had emigrated from Poland to Central America during the war, owned a shoe store where Anita often worked during the hours when she was not attending school.

Anita married at age seventeen, became a mother at age eighteen, and by the time she was twenty-three, she had four children. Anita was widowed at age thirty-four. Her children are Shana, Janet and then twins Aaron and Stacy. In 1974, when Anita's children were grown, she moved from Guatemala City to Israel. The move from Guatemala, where Jews were not considered to be citizens, to Israel brought a sense of freedom and belonging for Anita. In Israel, she felt free to walk in the street and come home at 2:00 in the morning—to go out with whomever you chose. Israel was a happy place. It was here that Anita discovered the pleasures of celebrating Jewish holidays with other Jews and enjoying a spiritual and vibrant social life complete with music and dancing.

In 1985 Anita came to the United States to visit her daughter Stacy and never moved back. She settled in Larchmont and lived at the Manor Inn. Anita also took a job in the office at Larchmont Temple, befriending Rabbi Sirkman and many Temple members. Anita is an integral part of the LT community, and she attends Shabbat services every week.

Anita describes Larchmont Temple as a very friendly place with wonderful people, and she is happy to be a part of this inclusive and welcoming Jewish community.