

Every week on Thursday or Friday I make a point to visit homes in the area, some of whom I've met before and some new.

On this particular week, I found a very Jewish sounding last name in Larkspur who I hadn't met, so I went over on a Thursday afternoon with a freshly baked Challa, before I got to the door, a man walked up behind me.

And that's how I met Steve (name changed for privacy).

He was shocked by my appearance and soon expressed how happy he was to see me.

This turned out to be in his words "a life-changing moment".

His grandmother was born to a big Jewish family but early on converted to Christianity. For 3 generations this family has been disassociated from Judaism.

Steve confided to me that he always wanted to reconnect with his Jewish heritage, but was never given the opportunity.

At last, the opportunity had come.

We started with putting on Tefilin for the very first time in his life, a visibly emotional Steve could not express his gratitude enough and asked "can we stay in touch, will I see you again?".

Of course, we would.

A while later on Shavuot, Steve joined us for the reading of the 10 commandments and delicious brunch.

More than anything he was so happy to have an opportunity to celebrate a Jewish holiday with fellow Jews.

Since then he has become a regular at services and events and his involvement in Jewish life is growing steadily.

Thank you for helping Steve reclaim his identity, heritage, and community!

Warmly,

Rabbi Mendel

Executive Director Chabad of Corte Madera