

Author Bio – Mitchell Weitzman



As an author, my goal is to provide content that will inform, provoke thought, right wrongs, illuminate, and—on occasion—entertain, on these topics and themes:

- Jewish themes/Israel
- Empathy
- Character vs. intellect
- History as it informs the present
- Magical realism/mysticism
- Popular culture
- Healthcare
- Sports
- Humor

As a child of Holocaust survivors, I have long grappled with questions of faith, identity, justice, and empathy. I sought writing as an outlet throughout my formative years in the suburbs of Detroit while attending Akiva, an Orthodox Jewish Day School (despite not being raised strictly Orthodox). The conflicts, questions, and overall angst of my childhood were good indicators that I'd have a lot to write about.

From the comforts of Farmington Hills, Michigan, my parents traveled to New York, put me on the uptown “A” train, and sent me off to Yeshiva University in Upper Manhattan. This was an attempt, on their part, to shelter and transform me into a doctor. Once I stopped shivering about a year later, not quite sure how a rough neighborhood and subway muggings equated to sheltering, my doctor dreams and enrollment at Yeshiva came to an end.

Again, more to write about.

Things settled down after that. I transferred to New York University, majored in political science, and went on to law school at George Washington University. My former medical ambitions morphed into a concentration on healthcare law. I worked on Capitol Hill with a Congressional healthcare commission, went back to school for a Master's in Health Law from Loyola University of Chicago, joined a healthcare consulting firm, and finally landed as a regulatory counsel at the Food and Drug Administration.

In the interim, the writing never stopped.

I wrote some of the first "identity cards" published by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, including one of my aunt, Paula Wajcman, who sadly perished as a young teen. I wrote poetry and short stories, and was a longtime columnist for the *Washington Jewish Week*.

For the last twenty years, I've worked with my mother, Lucia Weitzman, to write *The Rose Temple: A Child Holocaust Survivor's Vision of Faith, Hope and Our Collective Future*, to be released in May of 2016.

When not working at FDA or writing, I enjoy the company of my wife, Beverly, and teen children, Paula and Joshua. When possible, I try to squeeze in a game of tennis, or go for a walk by the nearest lake or river.

Currently in the works creatively are:

- A middle grade/young adult allegorical story, set on a remote island, harkening the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- A middle grade/young adult story about baseball, mysticism, Judaism, and music.

