



Avi Yan, Gladys Zuniga and family

I grew up in Nepean, a suburb just south of Ottawa. The house where I grew up was in the National Capital Commission greenbelt, so there were woods all around. In the winter I enjoyed cross-country skiing and in the summer running and playing in the woods with my siblings and friends. My brother Joshua is 2 years older, and my sister Meira is 3 years younger, so I am a middle child! Growing up, my parents Joel and Toby were very involved in Adath Shalom Congregation, a conservative lay-led synagogue. Naturally, I was involved as well.

Upon graduating high school, I moved to Montreal where I did a degree in environmental science at McGill University, then a bachelor of education at The University of Ottawa. Before moving to Vancouver, I taught abroad for a few years. One year as a science teacher at a private school near Bogota, Colombia and two years as an English teacher in northern Japan. It was a great opportunity to travel and explore! I moved to Vancouver in 2009 and I got a job with the Francophone School District, where I have worked for the past 10 years. Time flies! These days I'm teaching grades 8-12 English and coaching extra-curricular wrestling, among other sports.

I met Gladys in Vancouver in 2012. Gladys grew up in Villa Rica, Peru, the youngest of 6. Villa Rica is in a coffee-growing region of Peru and much of her family works in coffee farming. Upon moving to Canada in 2009, Gladys worked in child care and then elder care.

Gladys and I were married in July 2016 and our big boy Max Ezra was born in December 2017. Our little sweetheart Ruby Willow followed in March 2020. Additionally, we are thrilled that Gladys' sixteen - year old daughter Aixa has come to live with us since February, she is in grade 11 at Vancouver Technical high school.

Generally we like to stay active. I play on a rugby team and as a family we enjoy walks, hikes and camping trips. However, during these COVID times, my hobby at home has been baking, especially cakes and cookies! Please talk to me at shul about your favourite recipes. I like anything that is easy and yummy 😊