



Casey Ray Collins

Originally from the San Francisco Bay Area, Casey first moved to Vancouver in 2005. At his grandparents' encouragement, Casey found he could pursue his interests in history, languages, religious studies, and other fields all through UBC's Department of Asian Studies. After graduating, Casey lived in Tokyo for about three years to work in a Buddhist temple. In 2013 he moved back to Vancouver to start graduate school, again at UBC. Currently he is working on his doctoral dissertation about religion and modernity, which focuses on Japanese Buddhist organizations that formed in the 1920s and '30s.

What has brought you to Or Shalom?

I am a Jew by Choice and was drawn to Or Shalom by a desire for community, ongoing study, and meaningful spiritual practice. Before, during, and after my conversion process, I encountered Rabbi Hannah Dresner at Jewish events and was consistently left with something meaningful or challenging to ponder or cultivate. When I began visiting Or Shalom last year, I discovered that I already knew several members and started to make new friends too. Or Shalom very easily began to feel like a home to me where I can continue learning and growing.