



**Getting to Know You**  
**Aviva Rathbone**

I'm one of those somewhat rare born-and-raised Vancouverites, having grown up in Vancouver's Chabad community. My sister and I both attended Vancouver Hebrew Academy and later Richmond Jewish Day School, with most of our free time spent outside pretending to be Harriet the Spy or building houses for fairies in our "Secret Garden". After leaving the Chabad community, we switched to public school and I spent my teenage years roaming around UBC campus while I attended University Hill Secondary School.

After high school, I went into post-secondary with no set career path but quickly discovered archaeology. I went on to SFU and completed my BA in the discipline. While at SFU my sister and I participated in Birthright/Taglit and stayed in Israel to work on a Biblical-era archaeological site in the Galilee region.

After graduation, I spent time working at a First Nations art and gift shop until I was shoulder tapped to take part in an archaeological excavation in the Broughton Archipelago. In the 10+ years since I took that first job I've worked in some of BC's remotest landscapes. I've lived in logging camps and taken helicopters to get to work, been stalked by cougars, excavated thousand-year old cedar baskets, and have made life-long friends. I also spent several months working with the White Mountain Apache in Arizona - a very different experience from working on the Northwest Coast!

I now work for Musqueam Indian Band as the Senior Archaeologist and, along with a team of archaeologists, manage and protect the many archaeological sites in Musqueam's territory.

In my spare time, I volunteer for Jewish Queer and Trans Vancouver and Qmunity. When I'm not working or volunteering I can usually be found outdoors with my spouse Kim, watching (a lot) of Star Trek and reading sci-fi, and singing off-key to our 10-year-old basset hound Rufus.

After struggling to find a Jewish community that felt like a good fit, I feel so fortunate to have found Or Shalom. I've found a connection to myself, my culture, and my community in the meditation retreats, Zusias, holiday events, and especially in the Friday night Shabbat candle lighting. It has very much felt like coming home and the Or Shalom community has welcomed both me and Kim with open arms and an enthusiastic "welcome home!"