Getting to Know You
Kim Rathbone

I was born and raised in Prince George, B.C., and was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints until I left the Church at 14. A tomboy from birth, my childhood centered on perpetually trying to keep up with my older brother and going camping at every opportunity. My family didn't have a lot of extra money when I was growing up, but my summers were always full of road tripping adventures. By the time I hit high school, I had been camping in Alaska, the Yukon, across B.C., and through the entire northwestern U.S.

Looking for a city more accepting of the LGBTQ+ community, I moved to Vancouver when I was 25 and never looked back. After very much enjoying my 20s, I was looking for more fulfillment in life and quit my career in telecommunications in my early 30s. I spent the summer on a soul-searching drive around the continent with my basset hound Rufus, and got back to Vancouver in time for my new life as a full-time student at BCIT. I graduated last year with my BA in business administration, and have spent the last couple of years working in the IT department at Langara College. During this time, I also had the good fortune to meet a beautiful Star Trek commander at a Halloween party; we celebrated that good fortune with a wedding in August 2018.

My wife Aviva has been my introduction to Judaism, and we have regular holiday traditions with her family. With the pandemic, however, we both wanted to explore more spirituality and a colleague had previously recommended Exploring Judaism at Or Shalom. It was exactly what we were looking for! We started taking the class last year, and Aviva and I have both attended different Zusias and love going to Friday night Zoom candle lightings. While being online is understandably difficult, the entire community has been incredibly warm and welcoming. It feels like we have found the home we didn't know we were looking for.

When we meet in person, please ask me about our dog Rufus (he's almost 10 now!), how brilliant my wife is, or my real opinion of Ben Affleck's back tattoo.