



Kathy Brandon was born in New Mexico, USA, the youngest of three girls, and moved to Canada at age 18. Following her high school graduation in Moscow, Idaho, she drove her little VW Beetle to Vancouver and immediately knew she was home. Her first career was in retail management and buying, followed by six years at UBC as a student in the School of Social Work where she earned her Masters Degree in Social Work. Kathy was privileged to work for 23 years as a Clinical Social Worker in community mental health and at the BC Cancer Agency as well as having a private counselling practice.

While doing this work, Kathy started silversmithing and found this artisan craft to be wonderfully creative and mindful. After many years, silversmithing became her business, and Kathy opened a storefront and teaching studio in New Westminster called Workingsilver.com, Inc. After several years, she chose to restructure her business to online ecommerce only, which gave her more time for other things she enjoys. Kathy sold Workingsilver in February, 2023 and started a small jewellery company called Ohr Jewellery. Kathy sells her jewellery at local markets and online. Kathy is the mother of two adult daughters and grandmother to four. Kathy's greatest pleasures are spending time with her family and her wonderful long-term friends, being creative, being connected to her holy community at Or Shalom, and walking amongst the tall trees, all of which feed her soul. Her favourite Jewish food is latkes made by her daughter's beloved and enjoyed while celebrating Hanukkah together.

Kathy began attending Or Shalom in August 2018. She feels blessed to have found a Jewish Renewal Synagogue and a congregation who welcomes and educates her in the Jewish faith and culture. Kathy's conversion to Judaism and call to the Torah was in August 2020, which included an ocean Mikvah. Kathy is on a lifelong journey in Judaism of Believing (faith), Behaving (study and practice), and Belonging (community).

Kathy's vow: To see the God spark in all things, to be the best me that I can be and to witness and support others in being their best authentic selves – each new day in our human process of becoming.