

# 2022 Year in Review

looking back at the year

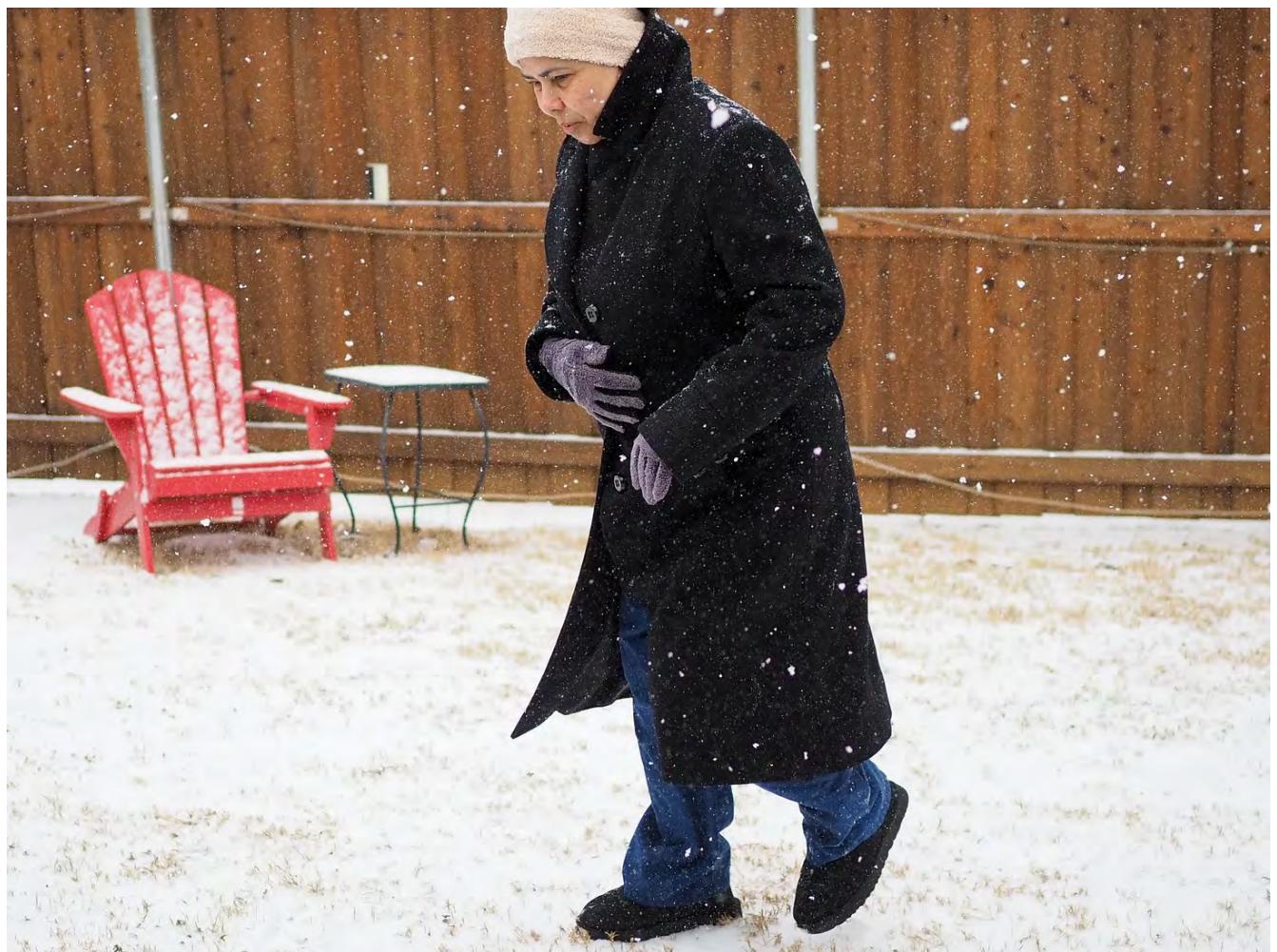
*I look back on 2022, reporting what I did and where I went.*

*In the first half of the year, we took two board exams, studying a lot but still finding time to have fun. Then from June to December, we lived semi-nomadically, mostly having fun but still finding time to do research.*

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# Early Winter in Texas

I spent the first two months of the year at home, studying for my first board exam and closing out a massive research project. I enjoyed the time with family, but the combination of intense exam prep and research workload stretched me thin.



# U.S. Virgin Islands

By March, I needed a break from the monotony of exam prep. Before returning to New Haven for the last bit of winter, Ellelan and I went on a weeklong trip to St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands.







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# Spring in New Haven

The tropical trip did the trick, and I returned to New Haven feeling refreshed, ready to tackle the next bit of exam prep and research. At the end of March, we celebrated Ellelan's birthday with Aysha (who happened to be visiting New York around the time).



By April, both Ellelan and I had taken our first board exam. We settled into a regular studying routine for Step 2, this time with a nicer work-life balance. I got myself a standing desk to shake things up a bit.



In New Haven, we spent most of our time off with Gabe and Jamieson. For Gabe's birthday in May, I cooked a day-long bolognese sauce and tagliatelle (he requested it).



# Spring Getaways

## New York in April and May

We left New Haven to visit New York a few different times, to celebrate Deven's birthday, visit friends, and cheer Ellelan on during the Brooklyn Half-Marathon.





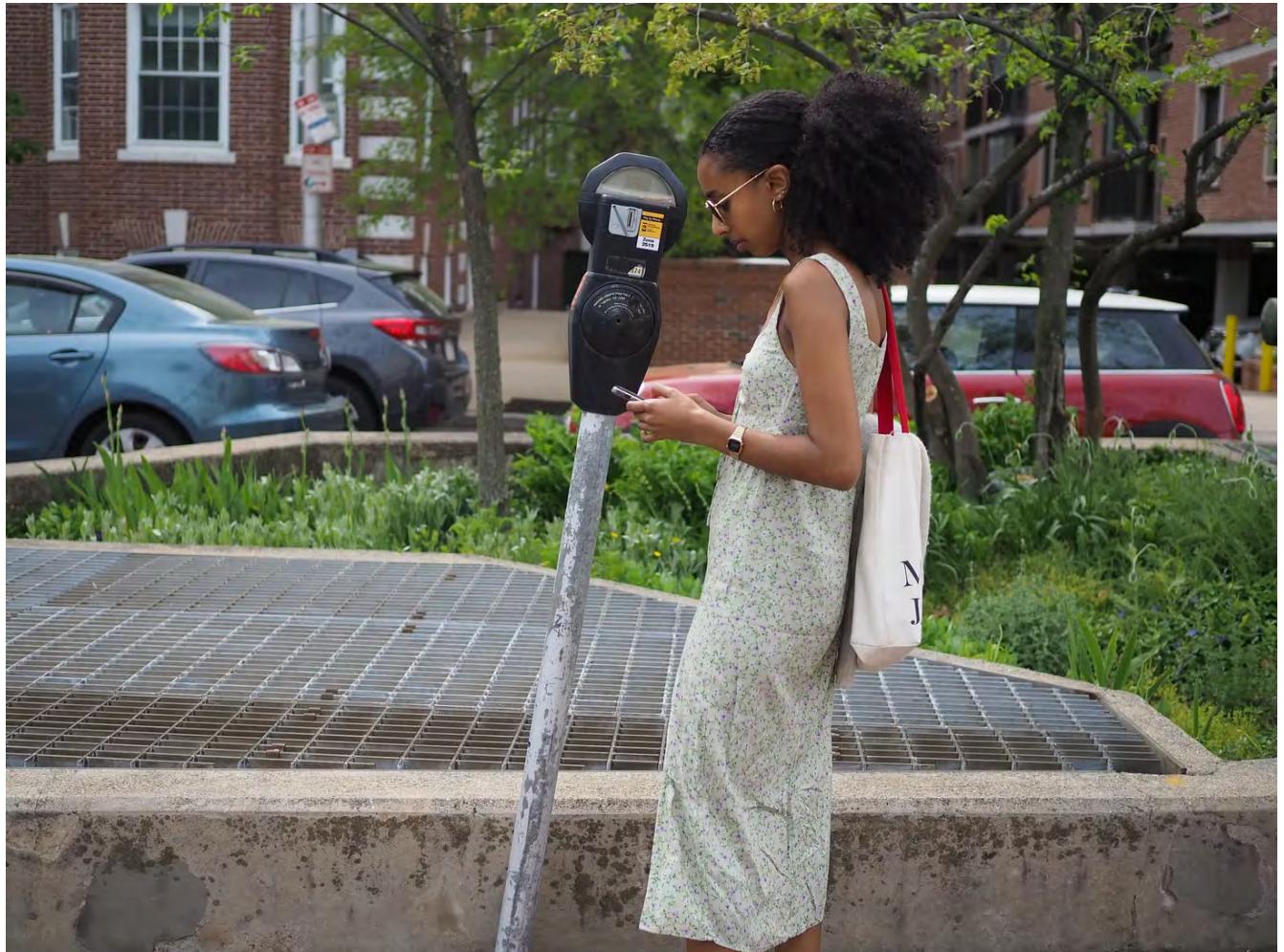
## Texas in May

I flew down to Texas for a week to catch the end of Ramadan and spend Eid with family.



## Boston in May

Ellelan presented her research at a cardiac surgery conference in Boston. I tagged along, and we made a weekend trip out of it.



## Philadelphia in June

In June, Edo graduated from Penn with his PhD in computer science. He gave an hourlong talk summarizing his work over the past five years; we listened politely.



# Leaving Dwight, Moving to Edgewood

In June, I moved out of the apartment building I had been living in for the previous three years. Our movers canceled on us last minute. Instead of rescheduling, we rented a 26-foot moving truck and did it ourselves (not a good day, but still a nice outcome).



The move, coupled with the end of board exams, marked a turning point in our med school journey. After three years of common, shared experiences, we would now design our own schedules with unique rotations and research projects.

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# Summer, a Tone-Shift

Summer signaled the start of a new academic year, with a drastically different setup. Instead of taking classes or studying for exams, our main academic commitment would be research. We took advantage of working remotely and spent extended periods of time away from New Haven.

## New York in June

At the end of June, we began our summer tour with a brief trip to New York.





## Texas in July

After New York, we flew to Dallas, spending two weeks at home and celebrating Eid Al-Adha with family.



## Vancouver in July and August

We went directly from Texas to Vancouver, where we stayed for a month with Ellelan's family. A lot happened in that time. I proposed, and Ellelan said yes. We explored Vancouver, went up to the Sunshine Coast, and visited Vancouver Island.













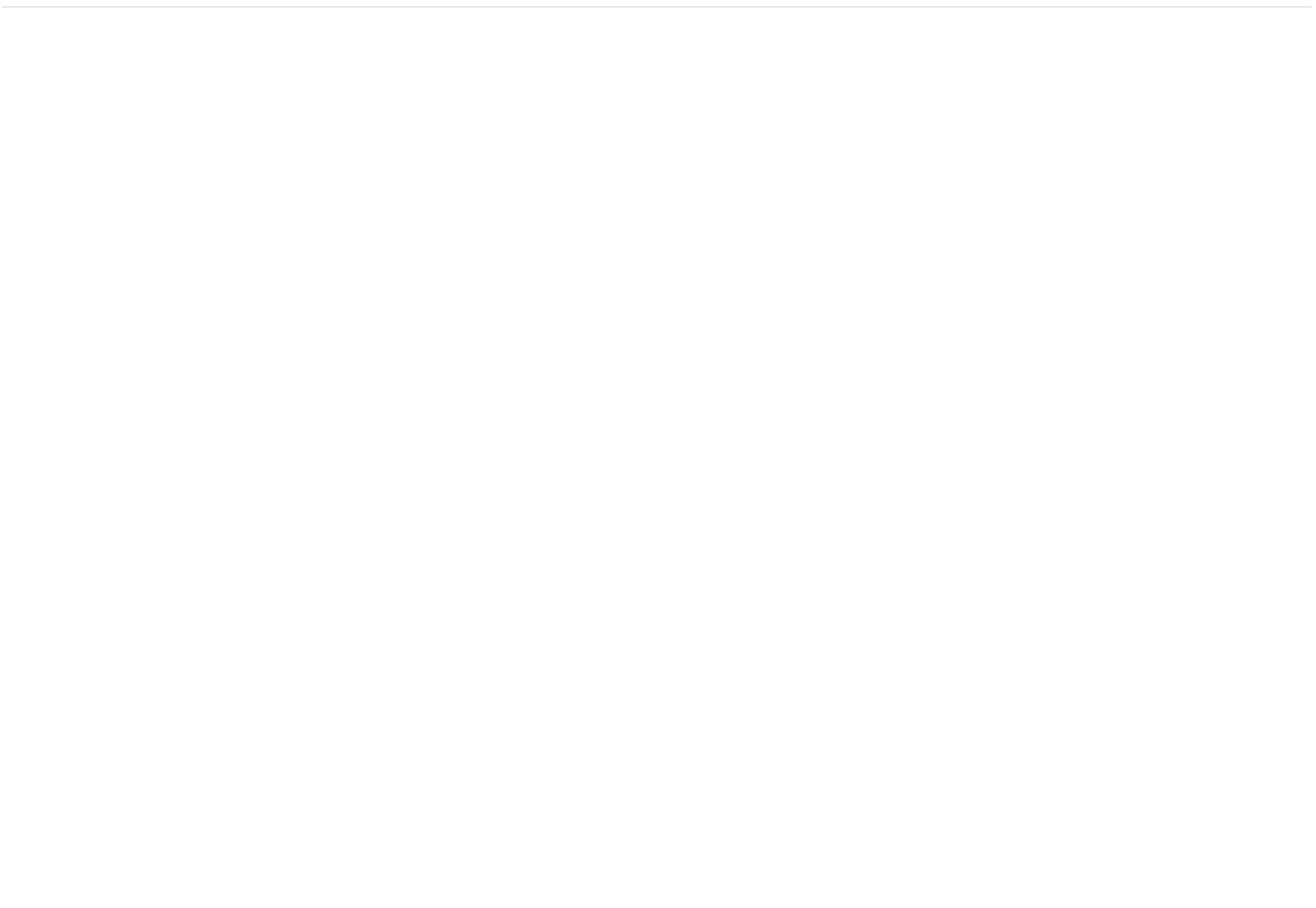
## New Haven in August and September

We rounded out the summer in New Haven. We set up our house, went camping for my birthday in August, and threw an engagement party to celebrate with our friends.





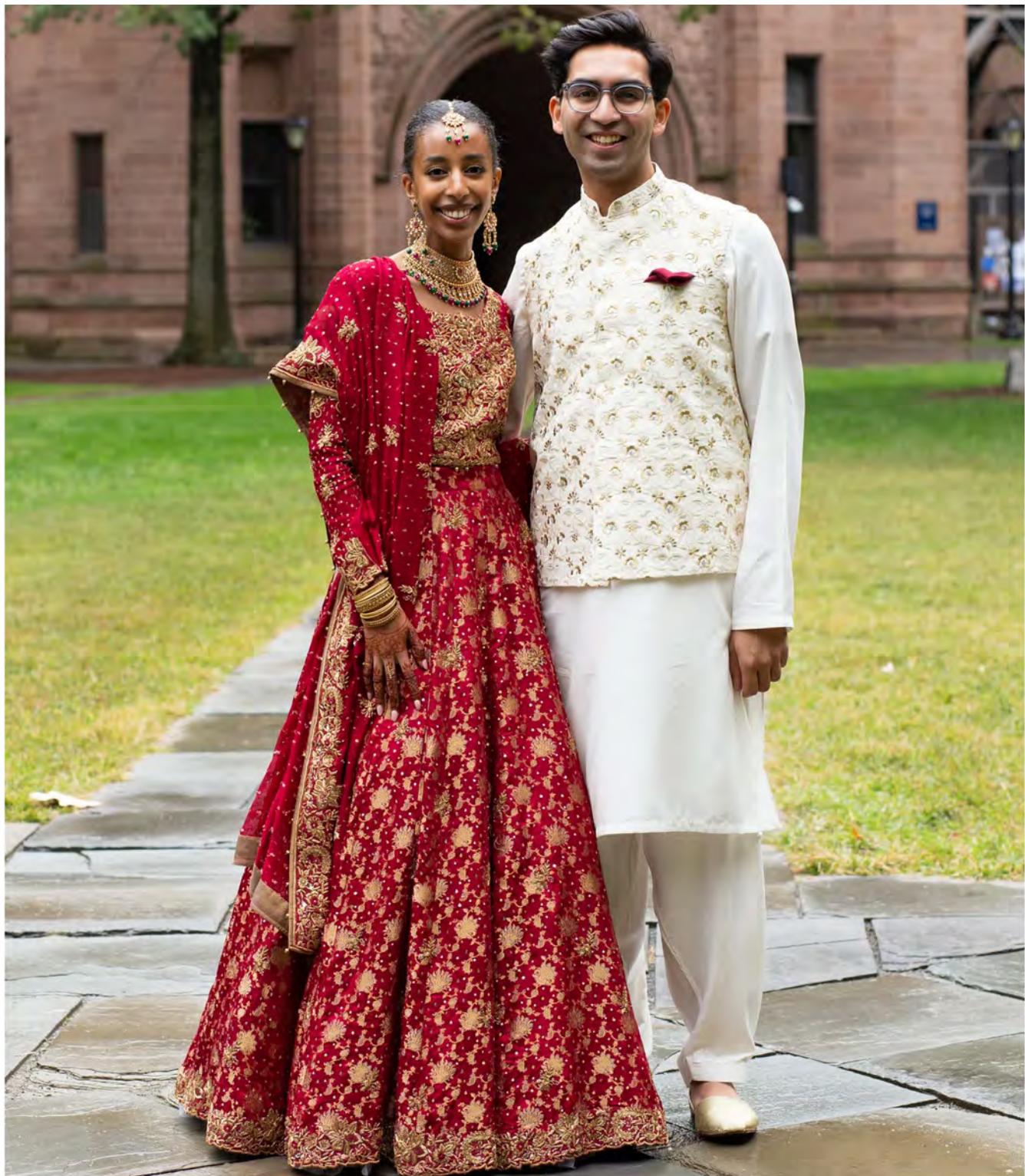




# Our Nikkah

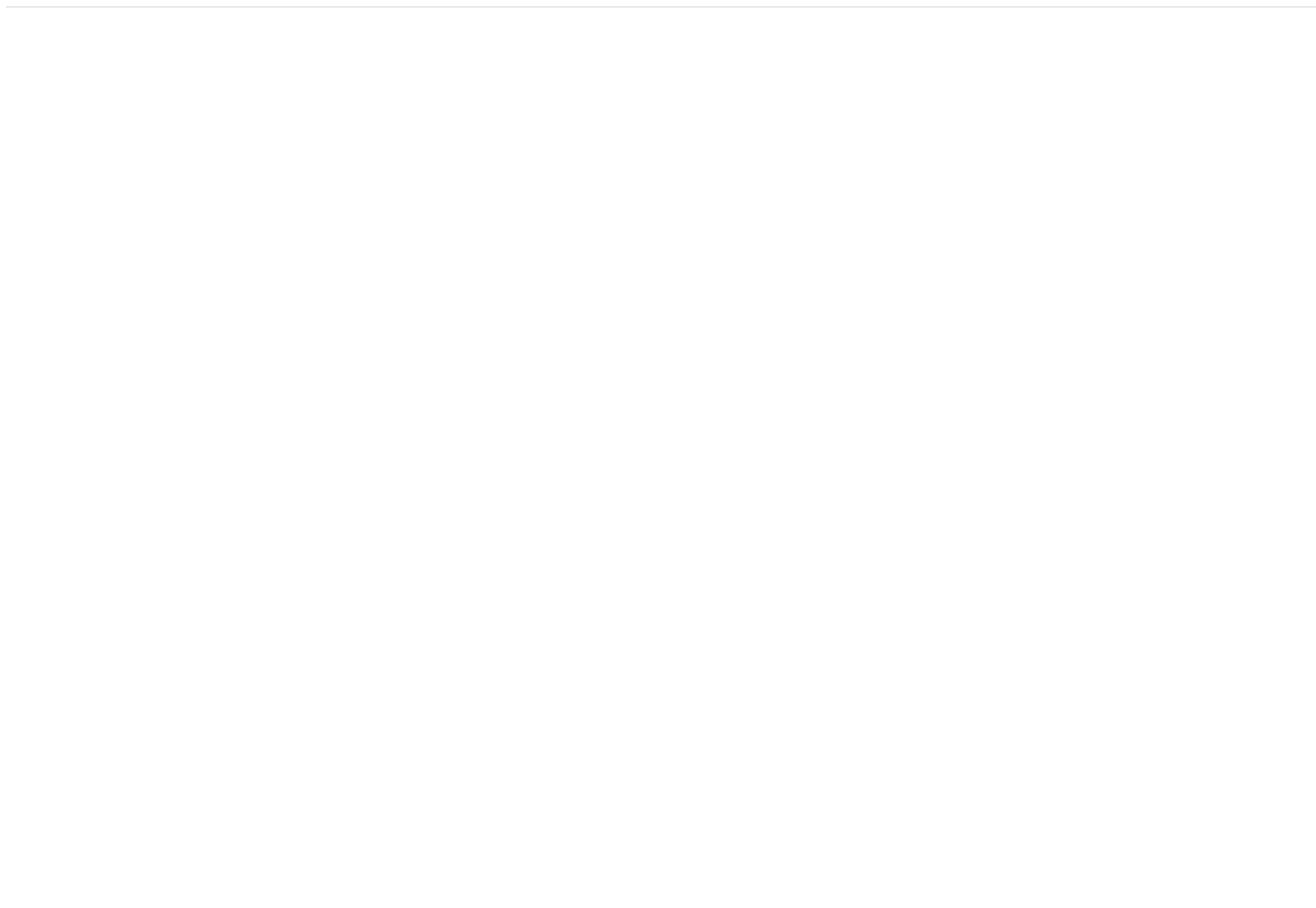
Ellelan and I got married on October 1st in a *nikkah* ceremony on Yale's campus attended by just our immediate family members.

We took photos afterward, then drove to Vermont, where we spent the weekend in an old Victorian estate with our two families. Don't worry — we still plan on throwing a reception after we graduate in a few years (date tbd).









# Post-wedding wedding tour

After our own wedding, we hopped around a few cities to visit family/friends and attend two other weddings.

## Adam's wedding in Dallas

On October 8, my cousin Adam got married in Dallas.



## Tiger's wedding in Baltimore

The following weekend, we went to Baltimore to attend the wedding of Ellelan's high school friend Tiger. Yes, I'm wearing the same tie...



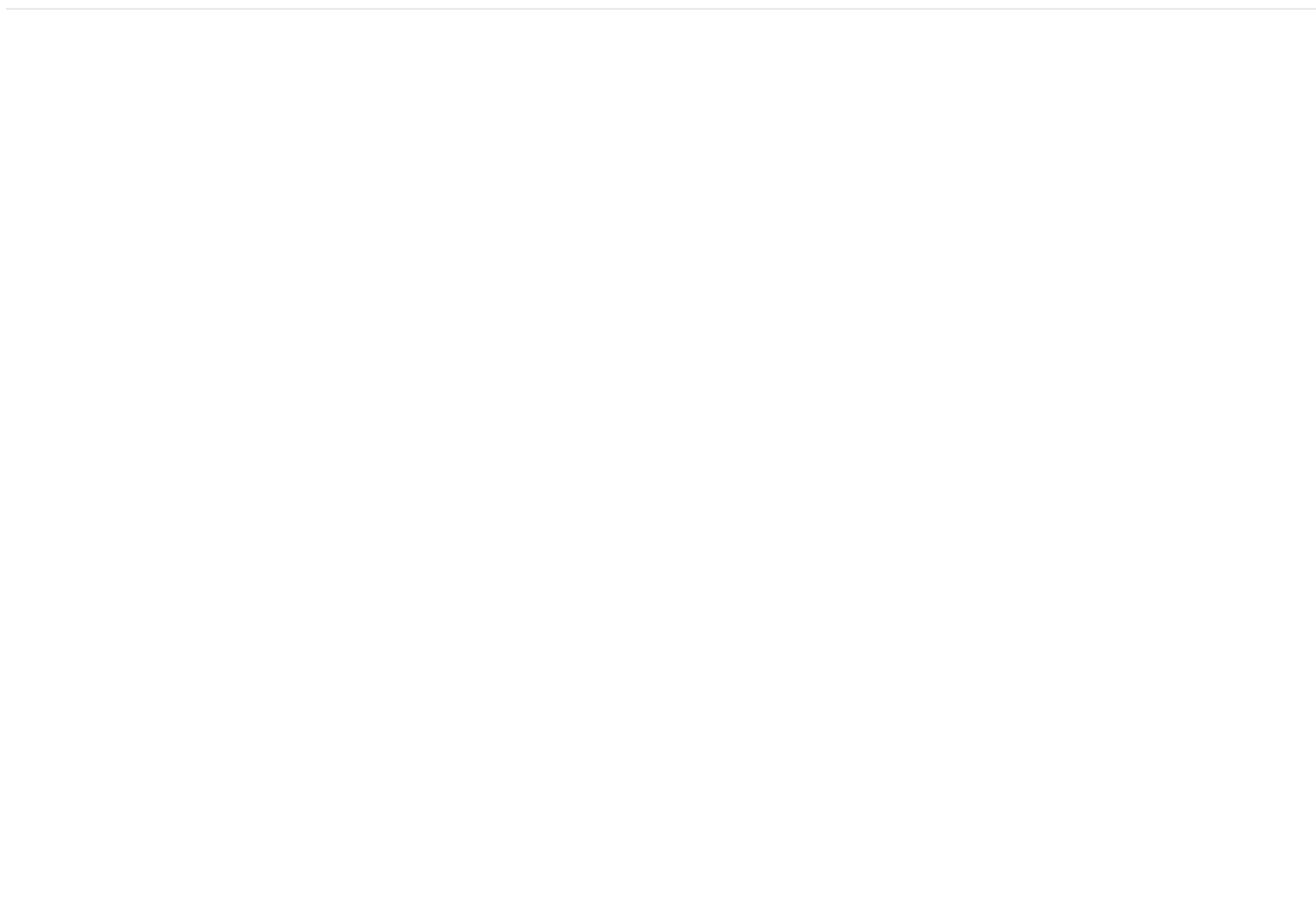
# Paris

In late October, [we traveled to Paris](#), renting an AirBnB for a month in the 10th arrondissement. We tried to get a feel for the city by immersing ourselves in just one place. Though most of our time was in Paris, we still left the city for some nearby day trips and two weekend trips away to Amsterdam and Bruges.









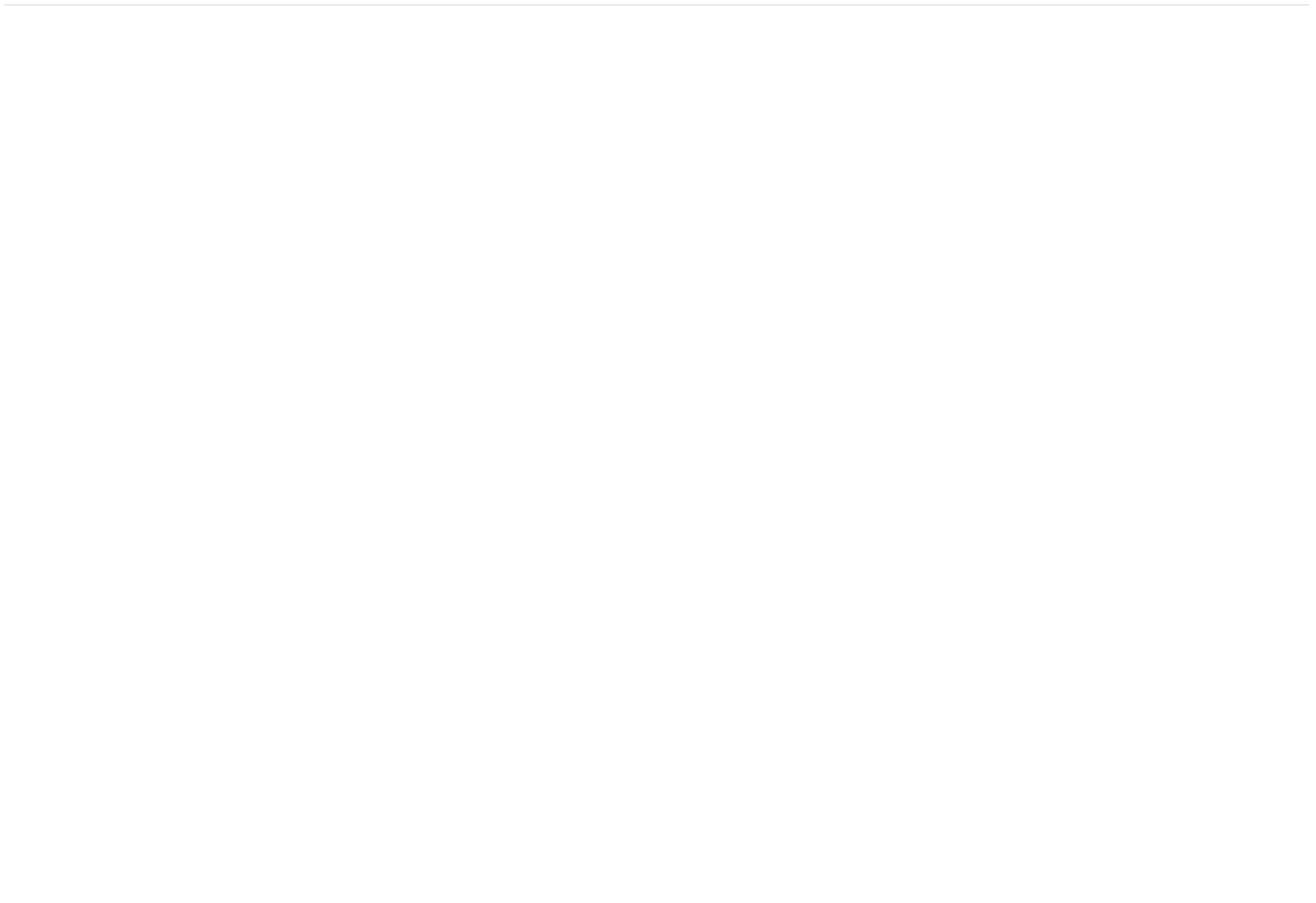
## Texas

We got to Texas at the end of November, a week before Thanksgiving. Aysha brought her cat Milo from Davis and decided to leave him at home until she returned for the holidays a few weeks later. When we weren't fawning over Milo, we watched a lot of soccer (and played some).









# Vancouver

We came up to Vancouver in mid-December to close out the year with the Degifes. Before Christmas, we caught up with friends and visited Whistler (for my first time) during the arctic chill. Ellelan and I cooked dinner on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day for the family, our second year in a row. Over the last week of the year, we saw a lot of family friends and finished a Harry Potter movie marathon with Naoll.









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## Conclusion

I built a lot of great memories in 2022, maximizing time with the people I love. Looking forward to 2023.

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