



JOHN & DAVID



Hi there, we are David and John. On our second date, we talked openly about wanting to meet someone and start a family one day. That conversation continued while we dated and now, as husbands, we are ready to adopt a child.

We are happiest when we're able to be creative. Whether it's projects in our home, new traditions in our neighborhood, or our annual holiday card, we love to build and grow.

We hope you enjoy learning more about us and the life we've made together in Seattle.



Our story began in 2017 at a tea shop in Los Angeles. We connected over similar upbringings in sleepy suburban communities and laughed readily as we swapped stories about our jobs, families and daily lives. Our fondness for one another grew over time as we explored the city and met each other's friends. Just a couple of months into dating, things got serious when David offered to join John on a one-day roadtrip to San Francisco and back. Fourteen hours on the road meant many important conversations that flowed naturally into comfortable silences. The simple ease we discovered in John's truck has carried us through the ups and downs of our relationship: travel and adventure, death and loss, job changes and home renovations, and our move to Seattle.



## Our Relationship

David loves John's silly sense of humor, his warmth and compassion, his curiosity, his openness to new experiences, and his generosity.

John loves David's fun nature, his genius mind, his loyalty to friends and family, and his ability to move mountains for those he cares about.





John's parents and three brothers and their families live in Seattle. We spend many weekends enjoying meals together and playing games outdoors.



Joshua Tree trip with niece and nephew



Lake Washington



Birthday party



Badminton in the backyard



Holidays in the Cotswolds

We love traveling and have enjoyed trips to the backwoods of Northern California, sailing in Seattle, weekend getaways on Lake Michigan and family get-togethers in the Cotswolds.



Lake Michigan

John's birthday at WDW



Sailing trip for John's dad's birthday



Our wedding plans changed during the pandemic. An unsafe time for family to travel, we decided to get married in May of 2020 in our front yard with David's mom, John's old boss and our good friend Micah.



David's birthday



Micah and two dog bridesmaids presiding over our wedding



New Years at Stevens Pass



John loved riding his motorcycle. David didn't like how dangerous it was. John finally agreed to sell it if David would go for one ride on the bike. This is the only photo from that ride.





Whidbey Island



Hiking trip to Joshua Tree



Birthday trip to Yosemite



David's brother-in-law's 40th

Numi is an important part of our family. She's an eager adventurer, a constant companion, and a striking model with a prolific range of poses and expressions.



Farewell to LA Party



First Christmas dinner in Seattle



Going away party invite



SO LONG LOS ANGELES



## All About David

Occupation: Professional fundraiser for nonprofits. Currently raising money for a conservation organization focused on ensuring that all Americans have access to the outdoors.

Interests: Being physically active (tennis, beach volleyball, running, pickleball); games/puzzles/trivia; hiking/long walks throughout Seattle; pop culture (TV, movies); participating in neighborhood events.

### Fun Facts About David

- I once competed on Jeopardy!
- I lived in London for a year after college
- I've lived in 9 different cities



### More Fun...

- Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday
- I don't know how to drive a manual transmission car
- I loved the Olive Garden so much in college that I flew to Italy to visit their "culinary institute"

## David's Story



David, David's dad, Kyle



Family picture at 6 years old



Maternal grandparents

I grew up in Marin County, California as the eldest of three children. My sister, Lauren, is the middle child and my brother, Kyle is the youngest. My mother is third-generation Japanese and my father was a Jewish man of Austrian descent who grew up in New York City. My parents were very social and had a large friend group, so every weekend we would have various birthday parties, playdates, and outings to attend. I was lucky to grow up in a place like Marin which was very safe for children and filled with parks and large, wooded, hilly landscapes so we spent lots of time in the outdoors, free to explore and enjoy nature. When I was in middle school, my parents separated and eventually divorced. My siblings and I found comfort and solace in being together and with friends outdoors when things were difficult at home.

I was an avid reader and a very curious child. My parents used to limit the number of questions I was allowed to ask each day so I'd stop bugging them. I enjoyed school and graduated with a degree in Psychology with an emphasis in Child Psychology.

After college, I moved to London where I worked as a research analyst at a magazine. I had always wanted to live abroad and enjoyed figuring out how to start a life in a foreign place. I eventually moved to the Midwest where I fell into a career in nonprofit fundraising and earned an MBA. I think my work in fundraising for conservation and the outdoors draws on my interests and my coursework in school. I'm fascinated by people and how they work/think and I enjoy seeing the impact we make on communities across the country each day.

Sibling Thanksgiving



A favorite memory is when my siblings, dad, and I celebrated Thanksgiving in Hawaii in 2017. We had drifted apart a bit as we were living in different states at the time. We decided to go zip-lining through the rainforest as a bonding adventure. It was as if no time had passed. We were immediately teasing each other in between competing to see who could finish the lined courses the fastest. And we also were able to talk about many other things, some serious, throughout the experience. We ended the day at a small noodle restaurant overlooking the Pacific, enjoying a meal and vowing to make Thanksgiving our annual sibling tradition.

Dad's sister hosting the siblings at home



Parents at graduation





My outlook in life is informed by my parents. From my mom, I developed a love for travel and an interest in other people. From my dad, I learned the importance of lifelong learning and to persist in seeking out the best in others.



One of my father's greatest lessons that he shared with us was to invest in our relationships with our siblings. When he died in 2019, that lesson was put to the test. The three of us supported each other as we battled creditors, insurance companies and a hostile real estate market. This was the toughest thing I've ever experienced and I'm grateful that we were able to emerge stronger because of it.



## All About John

Occupation: Administrator (division head) for an independent school. I've worked in schools in Washington and California as a teacher, counselor, assistant principal and principal.

Interests: Gardening, baking, painting, biking, anything science fiction related, hiking, camping and backyard movies!

### Fun Facts About John:

- I was born in Texas but moved to Seattle when I was four and grew up in the house my mom grew up in.
- I'm bilingual (Spanish)
- My first car was an old beetle that had no engine. Since then I've fixed up 2 more old beetles.



with my newborn niece

### (Fun Facts, continued)

- I once biked from the Canadian border to the Mexican border, most of it with a friend who didn't know how to ride a bike so we rode a (2-person) tandem bicycle.
- I tell terrible dad jokes and I won a dad-joke showdown at the school I work for.

## John's Story



me at 5 with my first dog, Todo

I was born in Dallas, Texas to a Mexican American father and a Norwegian American mother. I'm the second born of four boys in my family. My older brother Cisco has always looked out for me, and I in turn have always looked out for my younger brothers Andy and Richie. When I was four years old my family moved from Dallas where my Mexican grandparents lived, as well as aunts, uncles, and many cousins. We moved to Seattle where my mother's side of the family lived. My parents are hard working, and have always been very loving towards us. As a family we've always weathered challenges together and have remained close throughout the years. My parents celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this year and my brothers and I meet frequently for "brother breakfasts" in addition to larger family gatherings.



My family before the birth of my youngest brother, Richie

Growing up, I was influenced by my maternal grandparents, who lived in the house next door. My grandmother was a skilled baker and my grandfather was a kind and hardworking man who loved to spend time with his grandchildren. As my father was a musician, my brothers and I inherited his creativity and we would spend hours drawing, painting and building forts and models - we always made up our own fun.

I loved high school and was very involved in activities before and after school, from choir, orchestra and marching band to drama and sports.

I was lucky enough to go to college and was fascinated by the history and culture of Latin America. I was even able to study in Central America my Junior year. I lived with families in Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Guatemala while attending classes and doing service projects.

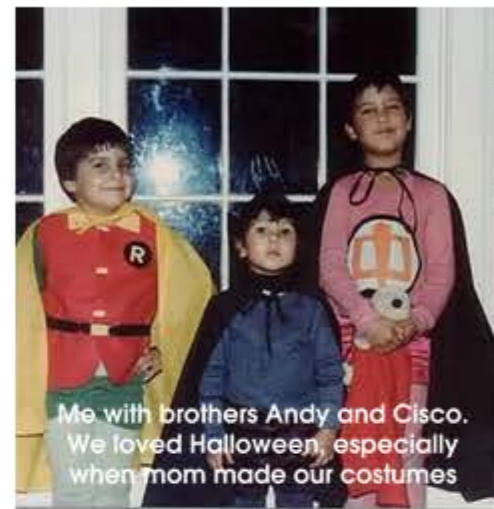
After college I joined Teach For America, and taught in Los Angeles. I spent the next 20 years in L.A. working as a teacher, school counselor and school leader, going back to school twice for Masters degrees in counseling and school leadership.



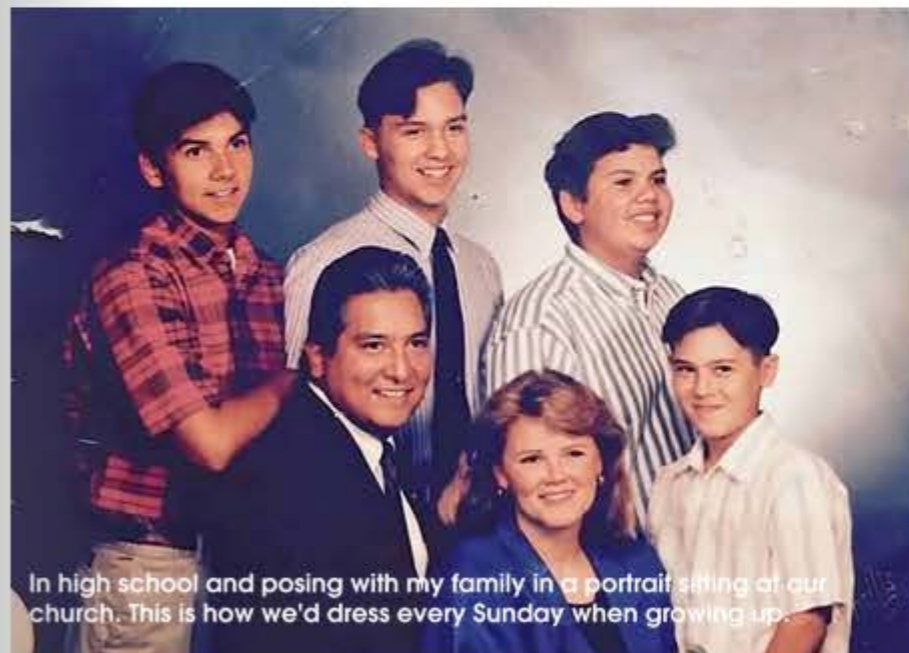
Me and my oldest brother Cisco posing with our dad in Dallas, TX



My brothers and I loved snow!



Me with brothers Andy and Cisco. We loved Halloween, especially when mom made our costumes



In high school and posing with my family in a portrait sitting at our church. This is how we'd dress every Sunday when growing up.

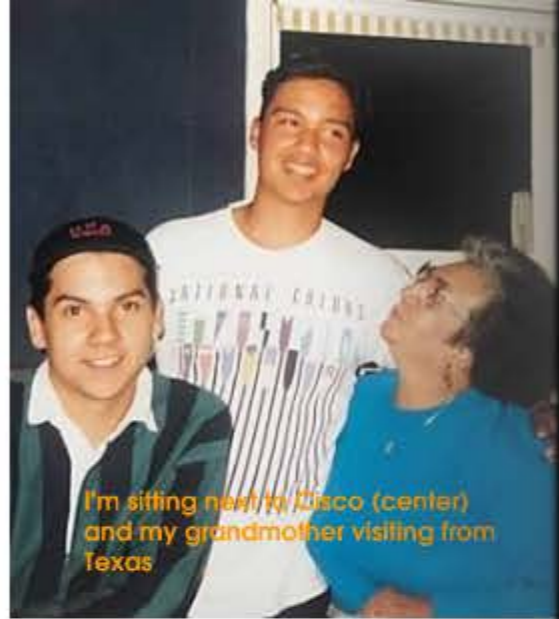


The school picture from my freshman year in high school. I still love rugby!

One of my favorite memories of growing up is how my dad would find creative ways for us to have fun. We would spend hours rolling rocks down a steep wooded hill near our house attempting to knock down pieces of logs and bark at the bottom, or as my dad called it "rock bowling."

The greatest challenge in my life has been telling the truth about myself and coming out as someone who is gay. Although my parents were loving and accepting towards me, I worried I would lose their support if I told them who I really was, and I always tried to make my family proud of me. It took great courage to see that living authentically was the proudest way I could live my life.

My outlook on life was most influenced by my father, who is the most passionate person I know, my mother, who is the kindest and most loving person I've ever known, and finally my brother Cisco, who is smart, fearless, and tremendously loyal. The greatest lessons I've learned in life are through the lives of my parents and grandparents who have greatly sacrificed for me and my brothers. As an individual I've always been guided by a sense of gratitude for the things I have, an awareness that nothing can be taken for granted. I feel responsible for giving back to my family and to my community, and protecting and taking care of those in need.



I'm sitting next to Cisco (center) and my grandmother visiting from Texas



Family with grandma & aunt at Richie's wedding in Mazama

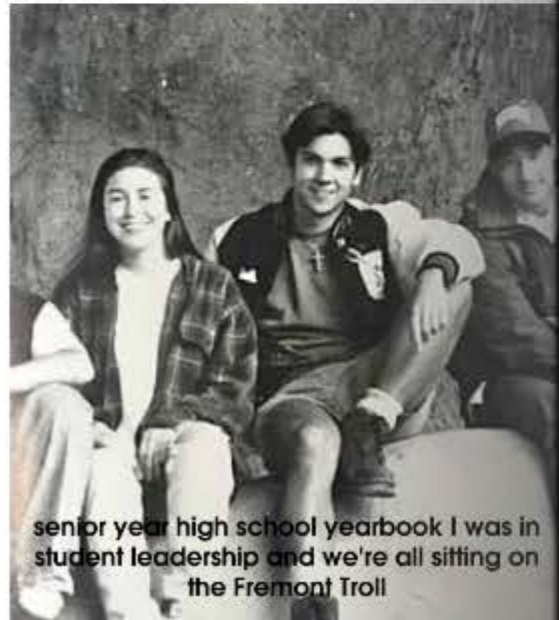
My 4th year as a middle school principal, at graduation



Me in high school playing the lead (in a wig) in the school play.



me, standing in my front yard wearing my marching band uniform



senior year high school yearbook I was in student leadership and we're all sitting on the Fremont Troll



My brothers and I shared a dance with our 89 year-old grandmother at Richie's wedding



Me in my 9th year as a principal, making waffles for teachers

## Our Home & Neighborhood



We live in a quiet tree-lined neighborhood filled with young families and longtime residents.

Our house is located across the street from a park and playground. When designing our home, we thought about creating spaces where we could welcome and entertain family, neighbors and friends.

During warmer months, we spend time in our backyard working on the garden or playing games like badminton. Our neighborhood offers events like Food Truck Fridays and community cleanups.

## Favorite Traditions



We enjoy holidays and traditions because they are special opportunities for us to spend quality time with family and friends.

We celebrate Thanksgiving each year with David's siblings. The location changes but they've agreed to always come together for this holiday.

Halloween is a big deal in our neighborhood and we love to do our part to make our street spooky and festive.



We go big on birthdays, believing that no milestone should go uncelebrated!



John's favorite holiday is Christmas so we go all out and host a Christmas eve dinner and a neighbor brunch. Each year he builds a miniature Xmas village with mountains and a toy train that travels around the town.

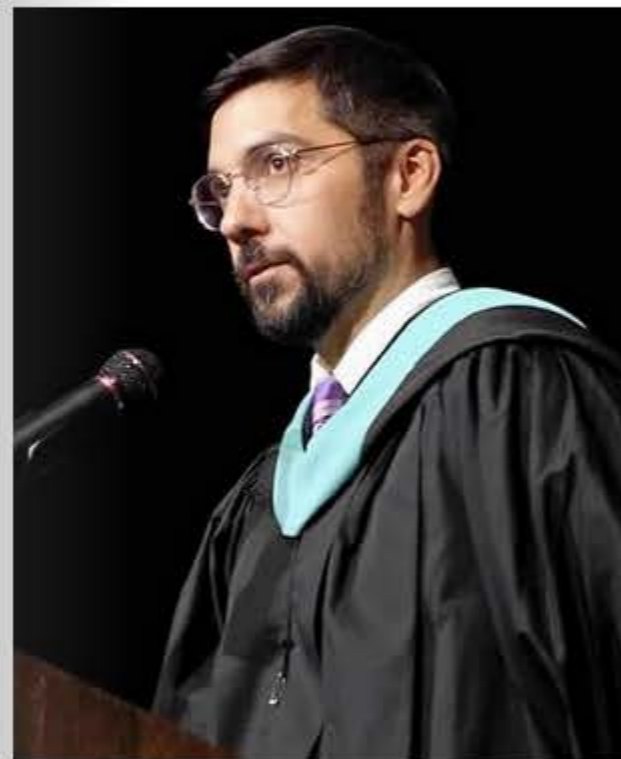
## Hopes for our Child



We like to think of parents as gardeners: it is our role to provide an unconditionally loving and stimulating upbringing with plenty of autonomy for our child to explore and grow.

We're focused on instilling values around self-awareness, authenticity, self-worth, humility and respect for others. We also believe it is important for our child to learn how to be a contributing member of their community and to understand the role they can play in combating challenges like social and racial justice and climate change.

We have both been fortunate to earn advanced degrees in subjects we care about. We hope our child will love learning and discovery and be able to pursue a career aligned with their passions and interests.



We hope to introduce our child to new places and cultures to expand their view of the world and of humanity. And as parents, if our top responsibility is to ensure the health and well-being of our child, we would prioritize nutrition, physical activity and mental health.





## Looking Ahead

We chose open adoption because it centers the interests and well-being of the child and offers the opportunity to heal the trauma and loss experienced by all involved.

Throughout our adult lives, we've enjoyed the process of finding and forming community in new places. We look forward to welcoming our child's birth family into ours and including them in traditions and celebrations. We want them to feel valued and to understand that our child's life is better with them in it, as is ours. We are prepared to make ourselves available to the birth family and support the level of involvement that works best for them.

We will work to create an authentic and supportive relationship with our child so that they will feel comfortable talking to us about their adoption and that it will eventually feel like a natural part of their identity. By accepting them without conditions, we hope they'll feel safe expressing their true self and not feel pressured to conform to a rigid definition of proper behavior. We want our child to look back on their life and feel that it was richer and fuller with the love and support of both families.

We know that we can't be everything to our child and will commit to finding other resources and connections to help them on their journey. We will strive to be the parents that our child needs --- loving, patient, dependable and non-judgmental in the moments that truly matter.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about us.

-- David & John