



ANDREA & MAX



WE ARE ANDREA AND MAX!

We live in Seattle, and have been together for almost 20 years. We're easy-going people with big hearts. Our relationship is centered on a strong, equal partnership, shared values of kindness and openness, and a deep care for each other.

We look forward to being parents and believe growing our family through an open adoption is right for us.

OUR RELATIONSHIP

We met at high school in Minnesota in 2001 and quickly became close friends, connecting over music, movies, marching band, and inside jokes. We fell in love the summer before college and started dating long-distance - Max went to college in Wisconsin and Andrea in Washington. Because of the distance, we figured out how to communicate well and appreciate any time spent together.

After college, we moved back to Minnesota and lived together during graduate school. We loved this time deepening our relationship, going on adventures, and spending time with our families. The absolute best part was welcoming our cat, Oliver, into our family.



On a trip to Budapest, 2005



Oliver as a kitten, 2010



At an outdoor concert, 2006



High school dance, 2002



High school graduation, 2004



We were married in Minneapolis in 2011, and had a beautiful wedding celebration with family, friends, and lots of dancing!

Fast-forward twelve years and we still have so much fun together!

Over the years, our relationship and support of each other has enabled us to pursue our dreams. It has sustained us through life's struggles and brightened life's joys.

In everyday life we both work and share responsibilities in caring for our home. Most nights are spent at home cooking dinner, cuddling with Oliver, gardening, watching new shows or reading books. On weekends we spend time with our friends and their kids, and catch up with family.

Our dreams for our family have always included having a child. In 2021, we lost our child, Felix, late in pregnancy. This was devastating for both of us. While we continue to carry this loss with us, we are grateful to have been able to grieve and gain a deeper understanding of our desire to be parents.



In front of the Eiffel Tower, 2019

Visting Glacier National Park, 2023

At a family wedding, 2023

At a Seattle Kraken NHL Game, 2022



Sailing and looking for dolphins in Hawaii, 2022

A FEW VALUES WE TRY TO LIVE BY:

BE CURIOUS

explore and learn as much as possible. have fun and even get uncomfortable while you do it.

GIVE SUPPORT

we do better when we are all doing better - help each other out. there is no prize for doing things alone.

CREATE JOY

life is short and often difficult. we all deserve joy and a sense of play no matter how big or small it is.

ABOUT ANDREA

I grew up outside of Minneapolis, Minnesota. I have two older sisters, who are still my best friends. My parents have been married for 45 years and raised us to be hard-working, adventurous, and kind. My mom was at home with us and a philanthropist, while my dad worked as an orthopedic surgeon. We have a large extended family with lots of cousins, and spent our summers exploring the US on road trips and visiting family.

As a kid I enjoyed singing, taking care of our pets, playing games and swimming. I didn't love school, but loved making friends and was always curious. I also learned how to speak Chinese. My parents say I was joyful, silly and usually "in charge" from a young age.



My preschool photo



I love birthday parties!



For Christmas. Mom loved us in matching outfits



Hanging with my sisters and parents in the '90s



I moved to Seattle for college, studying sociology and Chinese. I returned to Minnesota in 2008, started working, and got my master's degree in Business. In 2015 I took a job in Seattle and we moved back, making it our forever home! I work at a large tech company in a senior management role. It's challenging, and I enjoy having new problems to solve everyday. My work has also taken me all over the world exploring and meeting people.

My favorite things to do are cooking, gardening, reading, spending time on the water, going on walks, hosting dinners, and being with my friends. I also love being an auntie to my niece and nephew, and my friends' kids - what a joy! My friends would say that I have a huge heart, a bubbly laugh, and a deep compassion for everyone in my life. Paired with my take-no-nonsense attitude, I'd say I'm a real momma bear.

In the past few years, I've spent a lot of time developing my understanding of myself, and my relationship with my body, which I've struggled with most of my life. This work, which included getting treatment for my eating disorder, has led me to feel stronger, more free, and given me a new respect for what I'm capable of. Mental health care and reducing the stigma around it is incredibly important to Max and me. I believe the more we talk about and share our experiences, the more we understand ourselves and each other.



Living in China, 2003



Stonehenge, 2018



Sailing in Maui



Toasting in B.C.

ABOUT MAX

I grew up in a suburb of Minneapolis, Minnesota with my parents and two younger brothers. We were raised to value education, enjoy playtime, and come together every night for family dinner. My dad was a stay-at-home parent, while my mom pursued her career as a lawyer and a judge. Growing up with my dad at home gave me a unique appreciation for fatherhood that I still hold today. Unfortunately after a long struggle with depression, my dad died by suicide when I was 17. I miss his presence in my life, but his passing has led me to be more open about mental health.

As a kid I enjoyed playing outside with friends in the neighborhood, building with Lego and erector sets, and reading science fiction books. I grew to love playing the piano, with some encouragement by my parents to practice. Together with my family we enjoyed taking vacations across the country, skiing in the wintertime, and playing board games. Turns out, I love doing all of these things as an adult too, and I hope to share these joys with my child someday!



Our very-'90s family portrait



Snowboarding with Dad



Taking it easy on the lake



Baby Max likes snacks



My brothers and me as kids



I designed this building structure



Baking croissants, easy!



Ready for skiing



I love hiking in the Cascades



After high school I went to college for physics and engineering, and then got my graduate degree in structural engineering. I am currently a structural engineer at a firm in Seattle. I love the work that I do, and being able to see the buildings that I design.

My friends would say that I am a good listener, dependable, and always ready with a funny remark. I tend to be quiet in a large group or when meeting new people, but I am unreservedly my full self in my close relationships.

I have coped with depression throughout my adulthood. Understanding and addressing my own mental health has enabled me to lead a better life. I believe it is important to be open about mental health in our relationships.

Since I was 10 years old and my youngest brother was born, babies and children have been a fundamentally important part of my life. Today, I love being an uncle to my niece, my nephew, and all of our friends' kids.

MEET OLIVER!



Oliver is our personable and photogenic orange tabby cat. We rescued Oliver in 2010 when he was just six weeks old and he has been our furry companion ever since. Oliver is extraordinarily sweet and affectionate with us and loves to chat and lay in the sun. His absolute favorite thing to do is cuddle with Max. As you can see, we think he is the best!



OUR HOME & NEIGHBORHOOD

We live in our townhome in a comfortable and lively neighborhood of Seattle. Our home was built in 2017 and has an open, spacious design. Our home is bright, sunny and cozy. We have lots of space for family time and a rooftop patio where we can see the whole city. We also have a kid's room ready to go with all the things necessary to welcome a baby home.



We love living in the city with access to neighborhood restaurants, public transit, and city-wide events. We are walking distance from the Woodland Park Zoo, Greenlake, and several other wonderful Seattle parks. There are many daycares and schools within walking distance of our home.



Max's rose garden in our front yard



Oliver doing his best gardening



Our nephew watering our rooftop garden

OUR FRIENDS

We have many longstanding friendships in Seattle. Our friends have become our extended family. We get to see them and their kids every week, spending time having picnics, going to concerts, and taking trips together.



Ski trip to Oregon, 2021

Ladies trip to Mexico City, 2018



Sounders MLS championship game



Girlfriend retreat in California, 2023



Visiting friends in Bellingham, 2020



Seattle Storm WNBA game, 2023



Friend ski trip to Colorado, 2016

OUR FAMILY

We have close relationships with each of our families. We love our parents, siblings and their partners, and of course our our niece and nephew. It is a blessing that they are also all friends! We get to see everyone a few times a year when they visit Seattle or we travel to see them. It's always so much fun!



Andrea with her two older sisters who live in Richmond and Minneapolis



With Max's family visiting for Christmas in Seattle, 2019



Combined family dinner in Minneapolis



Andrea with her parents who split their time between Minnesota and Arizona.



With Andrea's family at Disney World, 2019



Max with his two younger brothers who live in Minneapolis and Boston



We held a giant Field Day with games for the kids this summer in Minnesota



Max with his mom who lives in Minnesota and loves to visit Seattle!

OUR TRADITIONS



Every Christmas, we get dressed up and co-host a big holiday party for all of our friends



our homemade Lego costumes



We love taking trips to visit the National Parks. We hope to visit all 63!



We cook all the time, and spend more time on the weekends trying new recipes



We camp every summer and fall, and are great campfire cooks



Birthdays are a big deal in our house - just ask Oliver!



We grew up going to the MN State Fair - we love festivals!



Andrea goes berry picking with girlfriends every August

DREAMS FOR OUR CHILD

We will raise our child with unconditional love, consistent support, and a celebration of fun. From a basis of stability and safety we want to encourage growth, education, curiosity, and play. We have a strong local network of close friends, many of whom have young children, who will love and support our child as their family. Our large family will expand to include them, surrounding them with love. We both loved having siblings growing up so we also hope to adopt more than one child in the coming years.

FROM ANDREA

As a mom I will support my child to become their whole self. I am excited to raise them with values of curiosity, kindness, adventure, and self-worth. With my support, I hope they know they deserve to take up space and express themselves however they chose. I will raise them with the aim that they know the world is available to them, but they are not obligated to anyone or anything.

FROM MAX

As a dad, I hope for my child to feel safe, to feel free to express their thoughts and feelings, and to be their full self. I hope my child will know that I love them, probably to their annoyance, and they will know that I am a steady hand and a protector. I hope that my child will feel comfortable to challenge me with their problems and to turn to me as their biggest cheerleader.



Photos from over the years in the best role we've had so far: being Auntie and Uncle to our niece and nephew.

They are excited to be cousins!



OPEN ADOPTION ASPIRATIONS

Open adoption would create an opportunity for our child to be connected with their birth parents and family. This connection means knowing history, creating relationships, and perhaps deepening their understanding of their own identity. We hope that our child's birth parents are an active part of the adoption process, and feel supported. Coming together with our child's birth family with openness and trust will help keep us all child-centered.

We want our child to have the space to express themselves about their adoption throughout their life. We hope our child's birth parents love and support their child openly. We expect these things can change over time as well, and desire to navigate this together, over the years.



Thank you for taking the
time to learn about us!

Andrea & Max