



Michael & Elizabeth





Our Story

Hi! We are Elizabeth and Michael and our journey began in Portland back in 2011. Although our initial relationship ended in 2013, we remained close friends. It wasn't until 2022 that we realized we were meant to be together.

We share a passion for travel, thrifting, trying new cuisines, and cozying up for movie nights.

Game nights with friends, taking leisurely walks with our beloved 14-year old labradoodle, Traveler, and watching NBA and WNBA basketball are three of our favorite activities.

Go Rip City!





I appreciate Elizabeth's ability to have fun, make people laugh, and be silly! I also appreciate her compassion and advocacy for people and animals.

Elizabeth is strong and confident and doesn't back down from difficult situations. She likes to try new things and go on adventures. Elizabeth, also, has a keen eye for art, a good ear for music, and has an uncanny knack to be right in her first impressions.



I admire Michael's dedication for helping animals, which reflects his compassionate nature. Additionally I appreciate how Michael approaches teaching others with patience and kindness, embodying emotional maturity in his interactions.

Michael's sense of humor never fails to brighten my day. His thoughtfulness and care shines through in everything he does.

Above all, I value Michael's genuine desire to learn and grow alongside me on our journey together.

How We Spend Time Together



We love hanging out together, whether it is fixing up our house or hitting the road for adventure. The above photos show some of our recent trips from 2022 and 2023. We took trips to Europe, Arizona, New Mexico, and Canada.

On the weekends you can find Michael in the basement working on music and Elizabeth building/painting/DIYing something elsewhere in the house!

We also enjoy getting lost in the woods. In the next year, we are planning to hike into and stay in one of Oregon's fire look out stations and Elizabeth is going to take Michael on her favorite backpacking trail, Siouxon Creek Falls Creek.

Adventures await with Michael's truck and camper combination that will allow for easy weekend getaways into the woods and beyond.



Michael



About Me

I am a Data & Reporting Specialist for a local nonprofit

I love,

Hiking, Cooking, Traveling, Playing Music, and Reading

Five Facts About Me

1. I have toured the country playing drums in a band
2. My favorite food is pizza
3. I worked at Powell's City of Books during college
4. I have been vegan since 2011
5. I can build a mean spreadsheet!

I was born and raised in the Portland Metro area. I am the second child to my parents Michael and Valerie. My mom stayed home with my sister Sara and I for the first nine years of my life before she went back to work as the IT Manager for the City of Tigard.



Sara was born with serious learning disabilities. As a child, I was given a good amount of responsibility for her care. These early instances of accountability helped me develop a sense of purpose and gain an understanding of the importance of family.



At 18, I began both playing drums and studying photography. These new interests inspired the love of music and art that I still have today. I'm not the best musician or photographer, but I've been able to play sold out 1000 seat concert venues and have had photographs published. (So I can't be too bad!)



Hiking in the wilderness is one of my favorite things to do! For six years I was lucky enough to live in Tucson, AZ: the Sonora Desert and the nearby Chiricahua National Monument provide amazing hiking. The rock formations and the towering saguaro cacti are astounding! In Oregon, I enjoy hiking among the soaring evergreens of the Columbia Gorge with my friend Eric and his family.

When I spend time inside, I really enjoy cooking! I challenge myself to combine flavors in new and inspiring ways with the ultimate goal of understanding complex flavor in a way that does not require looking at recipes.



One of my passions is fostering senior dogs. About seven years ago, I started my fostering journey and soon became devoted to it. Most of the dogs I foster are elderly or have medical needs. It is extremely rewarding to see these dogs shed their hard pasts, and blossom into happy, friendly, and loving animals.



Elizabeth



About Me

I'm a UX Designer & Researcher

I Love,

Backpacking, Camping,
Gardening, Painting, Traveling,
and Volunteering

Five Facts About Me

1. I have been vegetarian since 14
2. I do not like socks!
3. I adopted my dog, Traveler, from next door when his human passed away in 2015
4. I lived in New York City during 9/11
5. I'm pretty good at tiling floors!

My Story

I'm an only child and because of this I am close to my parents. Since I do not have any siblings, it is important to me to bring people together in friendship and community.

Friends, family, and community are one of the most amazing, beautiful gifts from life.



I spent a lot of my childhood visiting my grandmother, Margaret. We were very close. She was always so good to me. She taught me the Southern requirement to put mayo in mashed potatoes, how to make Kool Aid pie, how to garden, and how to say a few, choice curse words.

She passed in 2020, just shy of 100. I am saddened to this day that she died during the pandemic and I could not be by her side. 🍷



I love, love, love traveling, backpacking, trying new things, and adventuring to new places. I didn't grow up spending time in nature or traveling, so this is something I have learned to love as an adult. Mexico City is my absolute favorite city: it is full of so much amazing history, art, and culture. I am so lucky to have visited twice!

I am also not spontaneous. And, I can procrastinate. That proves to be an interesting combination of an excited planner with a too long to do list.



Our Home & Neighborhood

Our Portland neighborhood is full of small, 1940s and 1950s houses. We have a park 2 blocks from our house that is connected to an Elementary school. I take our dog to the park almost everyday. On our block, around 75% of our neighbors have dogs. We have gotten to know them (and their humans).

We have a great group of neighbors that check in on each other.

This May, we are planning to host our first neighborhood cheese and wine happy hour!



Our house has 2 bedrooms and a basement that we would like to convert into a movie, art, and game room. Elizabeth's mom has a tiny house in our backyard where she lives part time.

We grow vegetables and flowers in the front and back gardens.

Our Fur Family

(we sometimes have fosters, too!)

IZZY



NICO JONES



TRAVELER





Our Traditions

Our family traditions are a tapestry of holidays, new customs, and yearly celebrations that bring us closer together. From decorating our Christmas tree to celebrating our pets' birthdays with blueberry pancakes, each tradition adds a special touch to our family bond.



Each winter we hand make our Christmas gifts for friends and family, while each summer we go on camping adventures to fuel our wanderlust and exploration.

Looking ahead, we have already begun to talk about the traditions we'll establish once we welcome a child into our lives: volunteering at animal sanctuaries and backyard summer movie nights under the stars are two traditions that will create cherished memories that last a lifetime. With each tradition, our family grows stronger, united by love and shared experiences.



Dreams for Our Child

We are excited for the opportunity to welcome a child into our family. Our home is vibrant and filled with joy: dancing, art, music, and the companionship of our fur family! We are looking forward to creating lasting memories together, whether it's through camping adventures under the stars, cooking up delicious meals in the kitchen, tending to our vegetable garden, or embarking on exciting holiday trips to visit family. Above all, we aspire for our home to be a space of kindness and laughter, where our child will thrive and find unconditional love.



The Painted Hills, Oregon, photo by Elizabeth



Blooming Saguaro Cactus, photo by Michael

Our Open Adoption Aspirations

To us, open adoption embodies the essence of family. In our journey to adoption, we've come to understand the importance of providing a child with not only the love of their adopted family but also a connection to their heritage and biological family. Our hope for our child is to feel a deep sense of belonging, surrounded by a community of people who adore them.

We see open adoption as the surest path to creating the most nurturing and loving environment for our child. Thank you for reading our book!