



Garret & Elisabeth ❤️





Welcome to our  
family book!

We hope that you  
will get a glimpse  
of who we are  
and what is  
important to us.







## ♥ Our Relationship

Elisabeth's younger brother Brandon introduced us in 2012 and then arranged a couple of social events designed for us to "run into" each other. Soon enough, we started dating!



We fell in love with each other while dancing, listening to music, traveling the world, and going to live sporting events. We're looking forward to doing all these activities with our child!

This page clockwise: with Elisabeth's brother Brandon; with friends at a Sounders game; kissing in NYC.

Opposite page clockwise: with Elisabeth's dad in Bali; at a Mariners game; with work friends at a Mariners game.





## Our Wedding

We got married in 2015 in a small ceremony in Garret's dad's backyard, where Elisabeth's brother officiated. The next day, we held a reception to celebrate with lots more friends & family at the brewery where we first met. Garret's mom arranged all the flowers, Elisabeth's sister brewed a special cider, it was a wonderful day.



Clockwise from top left: dancing at the reception; walking down the aisle; Garret's best friend giving a toast at our reception; Elisabeth's brother Brandon officiating the wedding while Garret reads his vows. ❤️





This page top: my origami elephant; below L->R: hike to a waterfall; tea time; kindergarten photo. Opposite page top: with dearest cousin Angela dressed up at another cousin's wedding; below L->R: playing the trumpet; with a work friend- Elisabeth works with such incredible people.



## ELISABETH

Top favs:

- ♥ \* being an auntie x 8 & a godmother x 2
- \* origami & paper crafts
- \* travel
- \* making jewelry
- \* tea of all kinds
- \* cooking & baking
- \* tennis & bicycling

I love my work as a nurse practitioner for older adults with memory loss. I'm grateful for the daily connection with my patients, for the supportive team I work with, & that my job is union- I get to go home at a reasonable hour & be with the other people that I love.







## Elisabeth's Story


Elisabeth grew up in Oregon, then Montana, ending up in WA state. She has 3 siblings: Chris, Heather & Brandon. Our loving parents raised us to be caring and responsible, and connected to our goofy side.

Elisabeth's mom & dad live in Tacoma WA, and are well practiced grandparents of 6 and counting. Our child will have lots of cousins to play with!



Top left: Elisabeth's family photo circa 1984; top right: mom & dad; bottom left: with brothers Brandon, Chris & sister Heather pretending to be fierce; right: nephew Jamesy & Elisabeth's mom aka "Little Grams".



We've shared many a good meal with foodies Heather & our brother-in-law Matt who also live in Seattle. They have two kids, Ellie & Jamesy, who  we couldn't love more.

Elisabeth had the honor to officiate at Brandon's wedding in 2018 when our delightful sister-in-law Melissa officially became part of our family. Brandon & Melissa live nearby in Seattle.



Clockwise from top left: Brandon and Melissa's wedding; family dinner with Heather, Matt, mom, dad & Ellie; Ellie showing Uncle Garret her game; supervising Jamesy on the tractor; with Ellie picking out a pumpkin.



## Indonesia Family ❤️

Elisabeth's adventurous older brother Chris & sister-in-law Yong have four kids, all of whom we adore: Esther, Ayden, Jacob & Evie. They live in Indonesia, but thankfully we get to see them in person yearly, and more often than that virtually.



Left L-> R: Chris, Esther, Garret, Elisabeth, dad next to Jacob, Yong with sleeping Evie, Ayden, Melissa, Brandon; below: at the zoo with Ayden (Chris & Jacob peeking from behind).



Annual visits include lots of ice cream, hiking, playing, great conversations and hugs. Chris and family inspire us with their energy and joy for life.

On the fold left: eating ice cream with Jacob, Esther & Chris; right: holding baby Evie; below: hiking with Jacob, Chris & Yong; below left: exploring Joshua Tree with Esther.







This page top: surfing in New Zealand; below L->R: photographing clouds; aviation interest started young; out for a sail on a friend's boat.

Opposite page are photographs by Garret; Top: Evergreen Museum in Oregon; sunrise in Seattle; crashing waves in New Zealand.



# GARRET

Top favs:

- \* surfing, sailing, snowboarding
- \* swimming & bicycling \* travel
- \* photography
- \* ramen & coffee
- \* computers & gadgets
- \* all things aviation 

I enjoy my work as an air traffic controller. Though it's a lot of responsibility, it is fulfilling to work hard and to know that I'm helping to keep people safe in the skies. My job is also union which allows me a healthy work/life balance.







Top left: with work friends at a Mariners game; top right: a fierce snowboarder; bottom left: Garret's photograph of surfers in San Diego; right: exploring Costa Rica on our honeymoon.

## Garret's Story

Garret grew up in the Bay Area of CA and still loves the Giants.

He'll root for the Mariners as long as the Giants aren't playing! Garret learned to surf when he was 12, we have planned many of our travels around surfing destinations. He feels at home in the Pacific Northwest after living here for 25 years.



Clockwise from top left: with Garret's dad & stepmom; group photo with family; dad giving a toast at our wedding reception; Husky basketball game with dad; stepbrother's wedding - where Garret was the photographer.



Garret has one sister, Cynthia, and several step-siblings. His parents divorced when he was very young, and both remarried. His dad & stepmom live nearby in Seattle.



Garret's dad is an important influence on him, helping to guide him throughout his life, and always supporting his passions. Garret hopes to be the kind of father that his dad is: caring, encouraging and nurturing. ❤️



# Olympia Family

Garret's mom & stepdad live in Olympia WA, as does his sister Cynthia, our brother-in-law Anthony, & our two nephews, Leopold & Remy. Garret's mom is a quilter and has already made us a darling baby blanket quilt!



Left: with mom at Cirque De Soleil; above on the fold: with Leopold riding the Great Wheel in Seattle; below: Remy & Leopold at soccer practice.



Cynthia & family are very active and outdoorsy. We love our nephews! Leopold is easygoing and a loyal big brother. Remy is creative and has quite the entrepreneurial spirit. We can't wait for our child to meet them!

Right: with Cynthia in high school; below right: Remy, Anthony, Cynthia & Leopold bicycling; below left: Auntie Elisabeth making art with Remy.





# Our Home

We love our quaint 2 bedroom house with a big kitchen and backyard on a quiet street in Seattle.



We love hosting dinner parties and family meals, and are total homebodies. Between prep, cooking and cleaning up afterward, our kitchen is the room we spend the most time in.

Two blocks away is an elementary school where the diverse mix of students mirrors our neighborhood. We often take the 10 min walk to the nearest park which has tennis courts, a bike path and a playground where we imagine visiting even more often with our child.

In the next couple of years, we hope to build a "tiny home" in our backyard with Elisabeth's parents for them to move into.

We have our living room arranged so that guests can comfortably talk or relax. In our finished basement, we have space for Elisabeth to do her crafts, and a big soft couch where we have movie nights. Garret is a music lover and so we often have music filling our home.





## Godson & Goddaughter

We are so proud of both of our godchildren. Elizabeth is in college in N. Carolina; we miss her and are crossing our fingers she'll move back to Seattle. Darling Noah notices everything and is talking up a storm these days. Being godparents has been meaningful to us- it is an honor and privilege to be a part of our godkids' lives, to nurture them as they grow and to be adults that they can always depend on.

Clockwise from top left: Noah glowing; Elizabeth, the comic, picking apples; Elizabeth at our wedding; with our dear friends at Noah's baby shower; Noah and his fabulous mom. ❤️



## Traditions

We take every chance to celebrate! New Year's, birthdays, weddings, baby showers, summertime, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas! Elisabeth loves to dress up, and Garret doesn't love to dress up... but obliges her at times and we always have fun. Since our close friends and family share our love for good food, we spend a lot of time visiting together and sharing in the prep work before the feasting begins.

Clockwise on opposite page from top left: at the pumpkin patch with our late sweet dog- someday when we're ready, we'll get a puppy again; our homemade Christmas tree topper; Super Nurse to the rescue!; at a friend's baby dedication ceremony.







## DREAMS FOR OUR CHILD

to feel loved by many- birth family, adoptive family, friends and  
community

to feel secure in their identity and to know their story  
from day one

to develop their personality in an environment of kindness, support and  
generosity

to learn resilience in the face of stress, loss and sadness, and to know  
joy, gratitude and compassion



## OPEN ADOPTION ASPIRATIONS

We hope for a relationship with our child's birth family that is caring and free from judgment, one that is centered in compassion, respect and celebration. We want our family to feel safe with each other, and to be grounded in grace, honesty and love.