



*Adam and Maureen*





Hi! We're Adam and Maureen.  
Thank you for taking the time to learn about us.

# OUR RELATIONSHIP



Reading Together in College



High School Prom



Just Hanging Out

We first met in high school, and became best friends a couple years before we started dating. From the start, it was clear our bond was built to last. Together, we went to college at UC Berkeley, moved across the country to Philadelphia, went to grad school and law school in Washington, DC, and then lived abroad in Colombia and Costa Rica. We got married in 2014, and in 2016 we bought our house in the Pacific Northwest.

# OUR WEDDING



We had our wedding in the beautiful mountains near Lake Arrowhead, CA. It was incredibly meaningful to celebrate with all the friends and family who have become so close both to us and to one another during the time we've been together.





# MAUREEN



Occupation: Immigration Attorney

Interests & Hobbies: Swimming, camping, board games, traveling, cooking, music, arts + crafts, gardening, going to the beach

Who I Am: I find happiness in the small, silly, whimsical things in life, like fun socks, the smell of rain, the sound of train whistles, funny fridge magnets, and soft hoodies. Nothing beats swimming in the ocean -- it's by far my favorite thing in the world to do. But I also get ridiculously excited about things like Ferris wheels, roller coasters, and fireworks. I love celebrating for almost any reason.

Fun Facts:

- Lived in 5 different states and 4 different countries, and traveled to 14 different countries
- Youngest of 7 kids
- Childhood & adult obsession with dinosaurs



## GROWING UP



As the youngest of seven children in an Irish-Catholic family, I grew up in an active and loving home in the Los Angeles area. With just 14 years separating me from my oldest sibling, there was never a shortage of kids around the house. I remember countless sleepovers and endless hours spent swimming in the pool in our backyard. During summers, we would all pile into the station wagon and go to the beach. Each and every holiday, however seemingly insignificant, was a time for celebration and togetherness. Today, my family (which now includes 8 nieces and nephews) continues to get together for holidays and family vacations.

From a young age, I was active in sports. I started playing soccer when I was 5, and continued until college. Throughout elementary school, middle school, and the start of high school, I was also involved in many other sports, including track, cross country, volleyball, basketball, and horseback riding.



# COLLEGE AND CAREER

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I went to college at UC Berkeley, where I studied International Human Rights Law, and then went to law school at American University in Washington, D.C., graduating in the top 5% of my class.

During law school, I started working in immigration law. I quickly became passionate about the work, and knew that it was what I wanted to do.

After becoming an attorney, I spent eight years specializing in refugee and asylum law and deportation defense. My practice now includes a wider range of clients and cases, including working with famous people in the arts, music and entertainment industries.

My work is incredibly fulfilling, and my dedication to working with immigrants continues to be one of my greatest satisfactions.



With Adam in College



Law School Graduation Party

# MAUREEN'S FAMILY

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Maureen's Immediate Family at a Family Reunion in Lake Tahoe, CA





Our Niece Avi



Our Nephew Conor



Nieces Ashley and Caleigh

# OVER THE YEARS



# ADAM

Occupation: Dual Language Teacher

Interests & Hobbies: Reading, music, arts & crafts, cooking, bowling, travel, word games, long drives, and trivia (anything from Jeopardy to Family Feud)

About Me: I am equal parts silly and serious: I enjoy long, philosophical conversations, but get just as much a kick out of making people laugh. My closest relationships are with people who are caring and supportive, but who also push me to take new risks or think about things from a different perspective. It is also important for me to be a good listener and someone people can confide in and trust, especially the students I work with.

Other:

- Fluent in Spanish
- Hiked the Grand Canyon
- Lived on a kibbutz in Israel
- Collect fortune cookie fortunes



# GROWING UP

I grew up in Southern California with my parents and younger brother Daniel. None of my aunts and uncles had kids of their own, so Daniel and I spent a lot of time hanging out together as well as watching games and playing cards or sports with the adults.



My summer highlights included sports camps and visits to my aunts and uncles in Northern California. I also had a yearly 1-2 week visit with my best friend, Brian -- first, at his grandparents' beach condo in San Clemente, CA, and then in his hometown of Santa Fe, NM.

My dad died when I was eleven, but I was lucky to have the support of my mom, brother, and extended family. In the summers right after my dad's passing, my mom, brother, and I went on cross-country road trips that included visiting everywhere from Mt. Rushmore to the Mall of America (just as importantly, I set out on a quest to find the perfect cinnamon roll). My uncle Don and cousin Sol also stepped in as important male figures, taking me camping, going to games, introducing me to new music, and giving important life advice.

Sports play a big role in my family. My favorite has always been basketball, but I also like watching NFL games with Maureen and baseball with my mom and uncle. I played Little League baseball until middle school, and basketball almost every day until high school.

Watching sports with my family was always a raucous event, complete with superstitious 'curses' on the opposing team, screams of celebration, and cries of indignation at the refs. I am still a Lakers fan, and am an assistant basketball coach at my school.



In high school, I started getting more interested in music, and learned to play guitar and bass. My guitar, which I still play a little, was bought about 50 years ago by my grandfather as a gift for my dad. Like Maureen, I want music to be a big part of our child's life.



From as young as I can remember, I was taught the importance of being informed, thoughtful, and passionate about global issues, while at the same time respecting and listening to others' opinions with an open mind.

These values are closely connected to my Jewish identity. I am not particularly religious, but I do see working towards a fairer and more peaceful world as part of my heritage and responsibility.

At the same time, everyone in my family has a great sense of humor. This keeps our conversations animated and unpredictable, and often sends us into fits of uncontrollable laughter.



# COLLEGE & CAREER

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After college, I worked for two years in a nonprofit, and then a few more at a Smithsonian Institution museum in Washington, D.C., before starting my teaching career at a dual immersion international school in Costa Rica in 2013.

As a teacher, I have worked with students ages 8-18 from a wide range of backgrounds. Since 2018, I have taught 5th graders in English and Spanish as part of a public school dual language immersion program.

One of my favorite parts about my work is that it allows me to help students build self-confidence and pride in their personal abilities, cultures, and experiences, while at the same time learn from those who are different.

I also keep a large collection of my students' art and doodles, including this recent portrait.



# ADAM'S FAMILY

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Left to right: Brother-in-law Stefano, my brother Daniel, Omi (RIP), mom Susan, me, Maureen, Auntie Jaine, Uncle Don, Aunt Jennifer



Left to right: Grandma Cathy, Grandpa Stan, me, Maureen, Aunt Barbara, Uncle Milo, Grandma Selma

# ACTIVITIES

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No matter where we are or what we're doing, our most important activities center on spending time together and with loved ones.

Some of our favorite things to do include seeing live music and sports, exploring new places, playing cards and board games, and preparing meals for visiting family and friends.



Hamilton in Portland



Hiking in  
Costa Rica



Portland Pickles  
Summer Baseball

# CAMPING & OUTDOORS

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We also love spending time outdoors and traveling, and we've camped or taken trips to many different state and national parks.

Still on our bucket list is a month-long RV tour of the national parks of the American Southwest, including Zion, Bryce, and Yosemite.



Shenandoah National Park, VA



Lake Tahoe, CA



West Coast Road Trip



Meteor Crater, AZ



# TRAVEL

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We have traveled to or lived in several different countries in Latin America and Western Europe. Adam has also been to Israel and Japan, and Maureen studied abroad in Ireland during college.



Guatemala



Costa Rica



Nicaragua

# TRADITIONS

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The fall and winter holidays are our favorite times of year. We especially love Thanksgiving, and have hosted or visited the same close friends every year for over a decade. Adam's mom, brother, and brother-in-law also started coming to our Thanksgiving feast after recently moving to the Pacific Northwest.



## WITH ADAM'S FAMILY



Hanukkah is an important holiday for spending time with loved ones, with potato latkes as the centerpiece of the action. When possible, we go to Southern California to celebrate holidays like Rosh Hashanah with Adam's extended family.



## WITH MAUREEN'S FAMILY

Every December, Maureen's parents welcome family from across the country for a Christmas Eve dinner of toasts and gratitude. Christmas morning begins with an all-family photo, followed by a frenzy of opening presents, a quiche-and-coffee breakfast, and a day of playing cards and games before ending with a Christmas feast full of more toasts and expressions of love and appreciation for one another.



# HOME & NEIGHBORHOOD

We live in a three-bedroom ranch-style house with a large finished basement. Making our house feel like home for anyone who visits is a must for us, and you will find sentimental connections almost anywhere you look, from the first piece of furniture Maureen's parents bought together to our friends' original artwork.



We have a big backyard with a large deck, and a spacious lawn that has garden boxes, tall evergreens, and lots of fruit trees (including a mature cherry tree that's great for climbing). Maureen is always planting new flowers, shrubs, trees, fruits, and vegetables!





We live on a quiet block in a diverse neighborhood full of exciting activities for both kids and adults. The closest elementary school and library are each two blocks away, and we're walking distance from three different parks, a farmers market, a movie theater, food carts, and a Latin American market. We live only a few miles from downtown museums, restaurants, and theaters, and it's a quick drive to beautiful lakes, mountains, and great camping and hiking spots.

## PHOENIX & PHELAN

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These are our dogs. Phelan (on the right) is three, and Phoenix (on the left) is still playing fetch at fifteen! They are sweet and affectionate, and love being around people of all ages.

# DREAMS FOR OUR CHILD

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We will do everything we can to raise a child who knows at their core that our love and support are unconditional. We will provide a home filled with love, laughter, and caring, meaningful relationships with family and friends.

We also know that a child needs as many learning opportunities as possible, as well as the activities that reinforce that learning: reading together on the couch, playing games, travel, art, museums, music, sports, exploring nature, and more. Helping our child grow also means nurturing their passions and helping them develop the self-awareness and confidence to discover and pursue the things that matter most to them.

We envision our child maturing into someone who is proud of who they are, is curious about the world, is accepting, and who understands the importance of being there for others and letting others be there for them.

We are excited for every stage of this journey, from first words and first steps all the way through the transitions, challenges, and celebrations of adolescence and adulthood.

# WHY OPEN ADOPTION

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For us, open adoption is essential to making sure our child has access to the traditions, culture, stories, and personalities that give each of us a more complete sense of ourselves and our place in the world.

It is our deepest hope that birth families know that their child will be loved and cared for, and that our bonds will be rooted in trust, respect, honesty, and placing our child's well-being above everything else.

We envision a relationship in which every member of our child's family is able to be present and involved not only in the early years, but in the decades to come.

