

DANIEL & JOEL



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HI THERE! WE'RE DANIEL & JOEL



Daniel (left) and Joel (right)

We're excited to build a loving, fun, adventure-filled family.
Join us as we share more about ourselves with you!

STARTING OUT

We met in 2017 in Seattle and had the best first date of our lives. Joel had just moved from the Netherlands; Daniel, from the Midwest. We ended up laughing and talking for hours. We immediately discovered our mutual love for the outdoors, dogs, doughnuts, and walks.



The early days were full of butterflies! We were so excited to see each other, so we'd leave work early and make dinner together or go out for the night. Daniel joined Joel's family for Thanksgiving and dinners and games of Yahtzee, and Joel joined Daniel's family for hikes and backyard campouts.

Like most memorable events in our relationship, our engagement happened outdoors. We were on day two of a long backpacking trip in the north Cascades wilderness, when Daniel proposed. Joel said yes! And because of the remoteness, we couldn't tell anyone for two more days!



Officially engaged!



Rocking out to Taylor Swift

Our backyard wedding was a mere 10 weeks later (thankfully Joel is a project manager). Dinner was Thai food from our favorite restaurant, and the playlist was all of our fave hot tracks. It rained so hard that most everyone took off their shoes to dance in the mud.

Our nephew & Daniel



We share a sweet tooth and specifically a love of baked goods. Every Thursday morning for the past 3 years, Joel has walked to one of the many nearby bakeries to procure us a sweet treat to jumpstart our day. Our Sunday morning routine includes a cinnamon roll before we head to our neighborhood church for service.



Both of us grew up participating in music programs. We love attending local performances of the Seattle Symphony & Seattle Repertory Theatre, as well as catching touring shows that come through the area.



What Daniel appreciates about Joel: He's generous, fun, thinks of others, finds little ways to make a house a home, and sings like a beautiful bird in the shower.



What Joel appreciates about Daniel: He's enthusiastic, passionate, immensely intelligent, a reluctant but wonderful baker, and his ability to transform any gathering into a party.



During the summer and early fall, you'll find us exploring the beautiful mountains and forests of Washington. We love a long weekend spent backpacking in the North Cascades, or enjoying day hikes close to home.

Sometimes we look like pros Other times, we look like this



Meet Turkey!



Turkey (Turk) is our sweet lab-mix pup. Daniel rescued Turk 8 years ago when he was still in Indiana completing grad school. The two of them spent long hours exploring the state parks of Indiana and the nearby shores of Lake Michigan.



Turkey enjoys a life of leisure, alternating between taking long naps on either his bed or his bigger bed (the couch). He loves going for hikes, or long walks. His favorite foods are peanut butter, sweet potatoes, or cheese sticks from Daniel's mom. His favorite animal is a tough call, but he'd have to say it's a tie between squirrels and rabbits. It may be hard to tell ;-) but his dads love him very much!

MEET DANIEL



Aloha! I'm Daniel. I'm the youngest of 6 kids and was born and raised in Hawaii. On my side of the family, I have 12 nieces and nephews, plus two more from Joel's side. I'm also godparent to a couple of friends' children.

I love books, biking, and backpacking. I've been able to hike all sorts of places with Joel, our dog, and my brother John. We've summited Mt. Rainier, Baker, Adams, and Hood! With my dad, I've done the Seattle To Portland bike ride several times. We're a pretty outdoorsy family - the photo on the left is from a Thanksgiving Turkey Trot at my sister's house.



Daniel & our niece

I attended University of Washington for college, majoring in Spanish and International Studies. I then earned a PhD in sociology from University of Notre Dame. Now, I lead customer research for a company in Seattle. We provide financial services for immigrants and their families, so I get to talk to all sorts of interesting people on a regular basis - sometimes even in Spanish.



With friends at a Husky game

Visiting friends in the Bay area



Daniel & our nephew



Daniel's best friends & their fam



Being from such a large family, even an Easter breakfast like this feels a little...quiet.



A family Easter, with 2 of Daniel's siblings & their families



Campfire at Camp Orkila with our neighbors



I'm a solidly average skier, and I'm OK with it! No backcountry stuff for me.

I worked a summer in the Dominican Republic and studied for a semester in Spain. I speak Spanish pretty well and love learning new words and phrases. Getting to talk to customers at work in Spanish is a treat for me.

I love s'mores and watching a campfire but don't like the smell of smoke - go figure :)



I've visited all 50 states. New Mexico was my last one (and hard to get to!)



I worked 7 summers at camp, including two in southeast Alaska, which is one of my favorite places on earth.

I once rode my bike from Seattle to Bellingham, turned around, and rode back.



Daniel & one of his brothers

I am happiest at an alpine lake (this is Joel's and my favorite - secret! - spot in the Cascades).



MEET JOEL



Pictures left to right: Joel & nephew, Joel & his sister Sarah, Joel & nephew hiking in Mazama

Hello! I'm Joel, and I think the best way to start my introduction is by saying I'm a Midwesterner. I was born and raised in Wisconsin - and yes, I LOVE cheese (and brats!). I'm a people person and can't help myself from saying "Hi!" to everyone I pass on the street. I also can't fight the feeling that I should be feeding everyone a casserole or jello salad. I'm a program manager for a digital health company in Seattle where my organization skills are put to the test daily. In my free-time I love to cook, discover new music, have dance parties, exercise, sing, bake/eat bakery treats, read, laugh, keep up on the latest celeb gossip, catch up with friends/family, and take long walks/hikes with Daniel and our pup (Turkey).



Joel's family: Mom, Dad, Sarah (sister), Cody (brother in-law), & our nephews



I've always been close with my family. My parents are kind, hard-working, consistent, and lovely people. We talk regularly on the phone and we see each other frequently for visits despite them not living in the Seattle area.



The best gift my parents ever gave me is a best friend, my older sister Sarah! We've both wound up in the Seattle area and live less than 2 miles from each other. We both love terrible tv, our mom's snickerdoodle cookies, and audio books. She's a wonderful friend and a great mom to our nephews, whom we love to pieces.





Joel & 2 of his favorite people



Joel with 2 of his oldest friends (they met in middle school)



Brunch with a co-worker



Summer picnic with the fam!



Joel & bestie, Margaret

5 FUN FACTS ABOUT JOEL



1. My first job after college was as a singer/dancer for a Motown musical review show.



2. I was my sister's 'Man of Honor' and she was my 'Best Lady'



3. I lived and worked in the Netherlands for just over 2 years. I also speak a little Dutch.



5. I learned how to make sourdough, cinnamon rolls, and biscuits over the COVID-19 pandemic.



4. Harry Potter is my favorite book and movie series! Here I'm pictured as Fred Weasley with my 'identical twin' George (Alyssa, who is 12 inches shorter than me)

OUR FAMILY

Our parents & us



Visiting one of Daniel's older brothers & his family in San Francisco



In our Turkey Trot best for Thanksgiving with Joel's family



With Daniel's sister & part of her fam



A rainy hike with Daniel's brother, his family & Dad



Group photo with Joel's family



Daniel's family is, for the most part, all located within the Seattle area. This means a lot of get togethers throughout the year, dinners, campouts, hikes, and all with the background music of the ukulele (played by his dad). With a total of a dozen nieces/nephews, there's always a fun game going on and we hope to add another kiddo into the mix.

Joel's family is a bit more spread out. His sister and her family are also based in Seattle, and we see them frequently for dinners or play dates with their two little boys. The rest of his family is still based in his home state of Wisconsin. His parents come to visit multiple times throughout the year, sometimes driving to make stops in the national parks in the Dakotas and Montana.

OUR HOME



We bought our home in 2018, right before we were married. It was originally built in 1921, but has been fully updated in the past 5 years. We have a great diverse neighborhood, with families we periodically exchange baked goods with, or have over for dinner. There are elementary, middle, and high schools within a few blocks of our home, so there are plenty of kids passing by for Turkey to make friends with. We also love that within a few blocks there are great restaurants / bakeries we can take a quick stroll to for tasty treats.

Over the past 3 years, we've removed all the grass from the yard and replaced it with native PNW plants and others that attract honeybees and hummingbirds. We've also planted 18 blueberry bushes, which we hope to use in Sunday morning pancakes with a kiddo some day!



DREAMS FOR A CHILD & OPEN ADOPTION



As we continue down this path toward adoption, we have many hopes for our future family. We want to create a close-knit family, similar to the ones we grew up with, where we are open and communicate about everything going on in our lives. We want to raise a child who is kind, empathetic, curious, and maybe just a bit wacky/wild. We hope to create traditions, both small (daily and weekly things) and large (around holidays and other times of the year) for us and also for our extended family. We hope that extended family includes our child's birth family in the ways they want to be included.



We believe an open adoption will allow our future kiddo to have a fuller understanding of themselves. We hope for meaningful relationships with our child's birth family where we can become friends and develop a mutual respect and admiration for each other. We're excited to become Dads and intend to take on that role with grace and compassion.

