

# Lydia & Robert

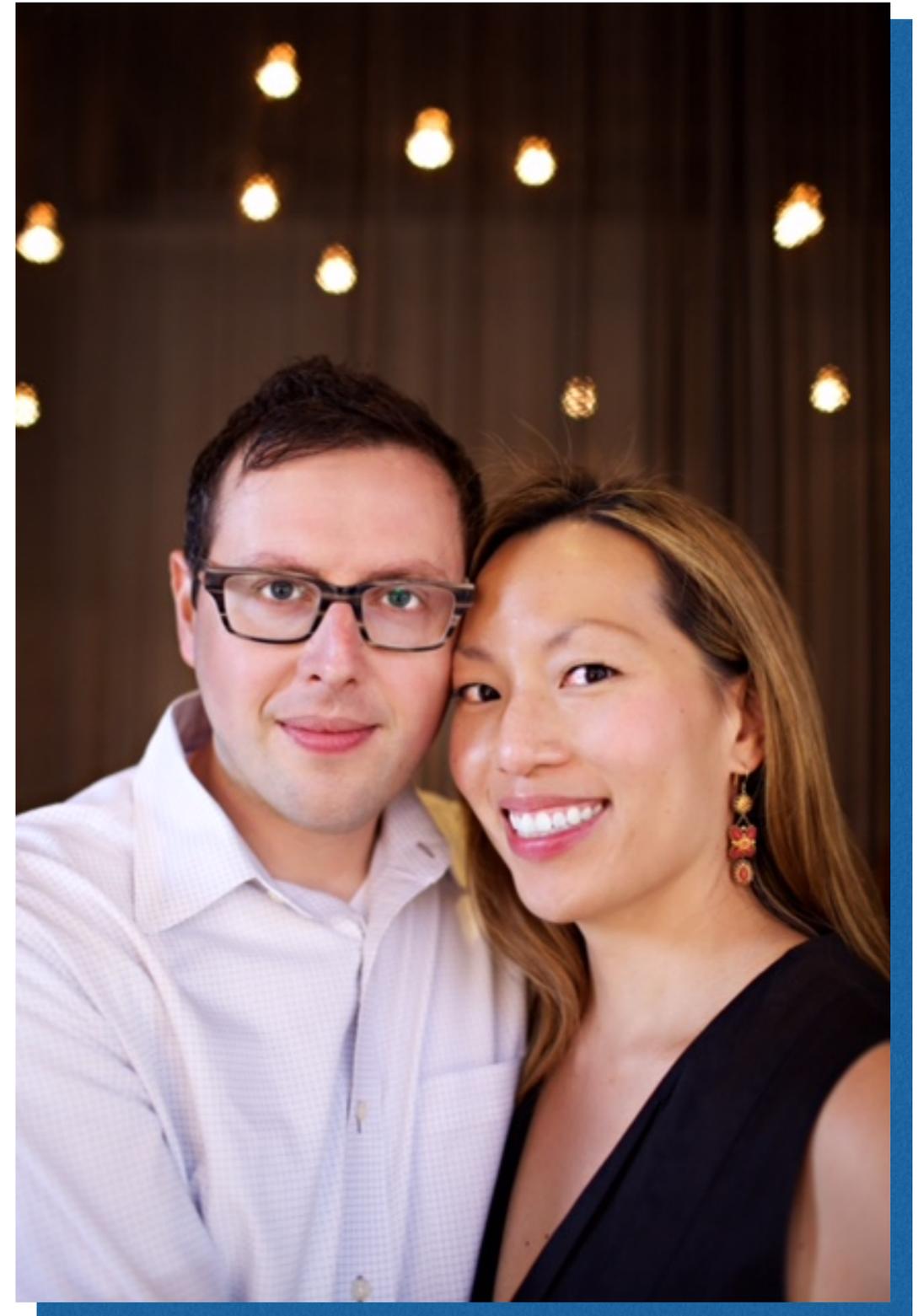


# Dear Birth Parents,

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. We imagine this may be an incredibly difficult decision for you to make and we admire you. If you feel a connection to us, we will do everything we can to make the adoption process as easy as possible.

We would consider it an enormous honor and responsibility to bring your child into our family, where good times are plentiful and love is unlimited. While we have had many highlights throughout our relationship, growing our family has been something we have discussed since we first met. Unfortunately, we are unable to have a baby on our own, but we are thrilled to bring home our first child through adoption and complete our family.

We have so much to give and look forward to opening our hearts and home to a child.



Robert and Lydia in San Diego, CA,

# About us

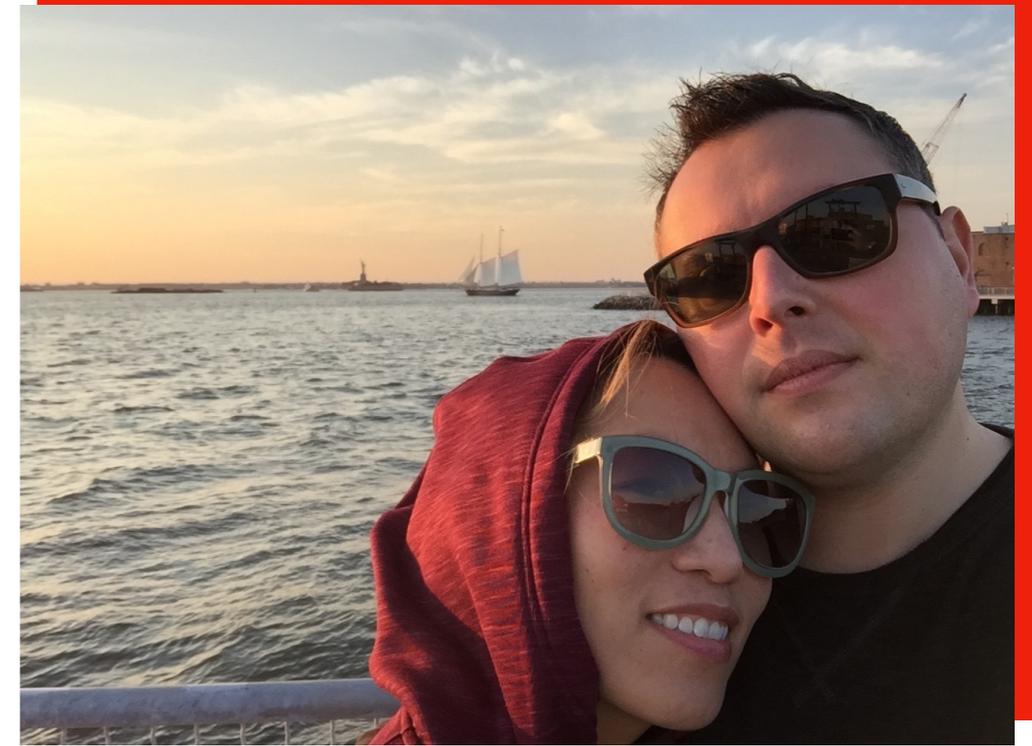
We are Lydia and Robert. We live in New York City, in a diverse, safe, and vibrant neighborhood.

We met in 2011, through an online dating site, and we pretty much knew we were meant for each other by the third date. We both love to laugh and dance and sing out loud, we both have

We consider ourselves to be incredibly lucky to have met each other and live wonderful, full lives with fulfilling and fun careers, lots of hilarious and interesting friends, and a huge, supportive extended family. Our family cannot wait for us to become parents.

**What we do:** Lydia is the vice president of legal and business affairs at a media company that creates movies, TV shows, digital videos, cartoons, and podcasts – all of which are focused on raising awareness on important social issues. Robert is a design director at a highly respected digital agency. He leads teams that build websites and apps for a wide variety of big companies, government agencies, and nonprofits. We are very lucky to enjoy our careers, which are secure and flexible. This security and flexibility will allow us to have lots of time to enjoy family time.

While our work is important to us, we make fun, family, and friends a HUGE priority. We often spend our vacation time traveling with family. We have siblings and cousins we love to spend time with, and they all have children we adore. Everyone looks forward to vacationing with another little one.



Red Hook, Brooklyn. That's the Statue of Liberty and a clipper ship in the background!



We met in New York, but we both grew up in metro Detroit. This is us at the World Series. Everyone else is rooting for the other team, but we're cool with that.



On a bike tour in Lake Atitlán, Guatemala.

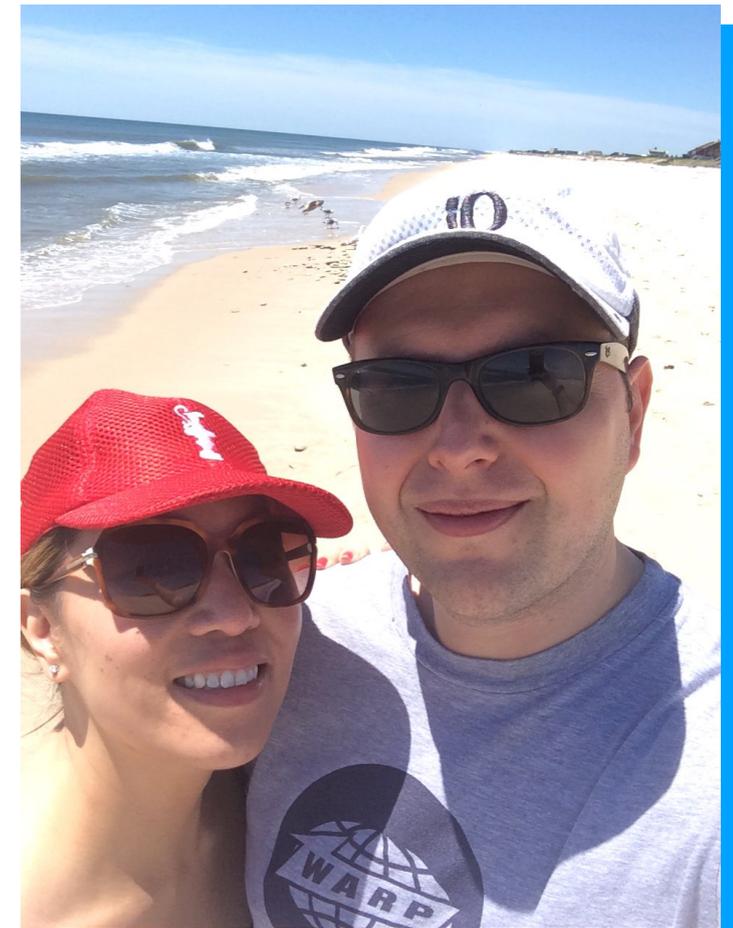
In the time we have known each other, we have been lucky enough to travel to many beautiful, exotic, and historically significant places. We have been to Hawaii, Spain, St. John, Australia, Guatemala, and Portugal on our own, and we recently went on a two-week trip to Italy and France with Lydia's entire family – there were 15 of us traveling together! Lots of wonderful memories were made.



Having so much fun in Sevilla, Spain.



Lydia with our nieces and nephews at Lake Como, Italy. That's Owen and Zach on the left and Rachel and Emily on the right. We spend a lot of time on boats together!



On the beach in Lizard Island in the Great Barrier Reef in Australia.

If we want a break from the city, sometimes we will plan a weekend trip. We went to Charleston on a long weekend getaway, and last year we visited New Orleans to attend a friend's wedding – so much fun! We also like to do quick road trips. Last October, we rented a mountain house in upstate New York for a weekend, packed up the car, and went hiking.

We also love to ski and snowboard. (Lydia's a really good snowboarder and Robert can *almost* keep up with her when he's on skis.) This past winter, we spent a week in Utah over Christmas with Lydia's brother's family, and we even snuck in a long weekend in Colorado in early March to ski with one of Lydia's friends. We especially love to take our nieces and nephews out on the mountain. They're just learning to ski and it's so fun to watch them challenge themselves!



On a hike near Woodstock, NY. Lydia's t-shirt says "I would love you if you were pizza".



This is us on a snowmobile adventure near Vail, CO



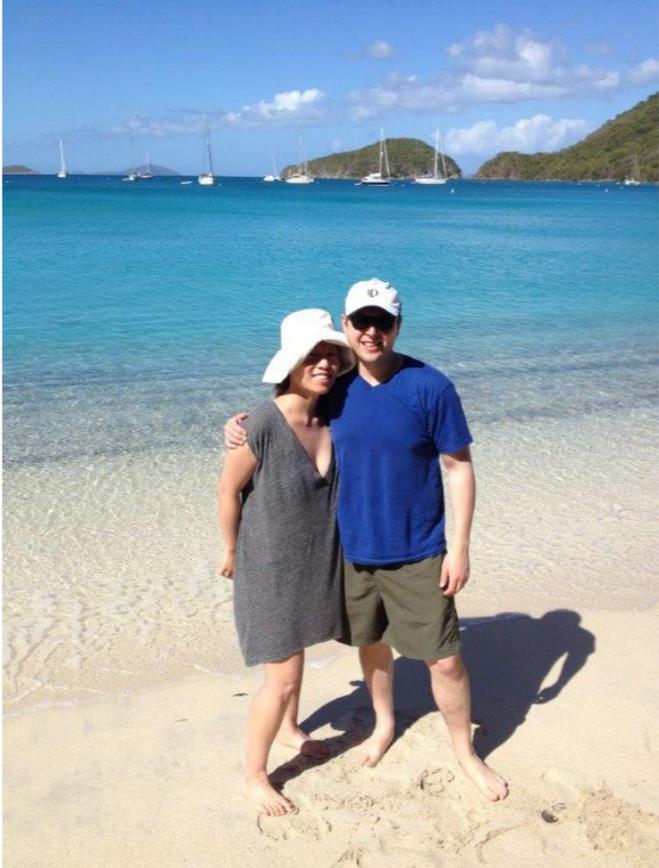
Owen, Lydia, and Emily hitting the slopes



Lydia & Emily, making snow angels in tons of fresh powder with Lydia's brother, Derek, in the background.

When it's warm out, we like to go on long bike rides, play tennis, or go get a nice meal and walk around the parks in the city. We already have plans to spend a week at a lake house in Michigan with our extended family this summer, even though we just got back from spending a week on the beach in Mexico with these guys. They are super fun to spend time with!

We usually do Christmas at Lydia's brother Derek's house in Indiana. That's a special time for us, because we get together with Lydia's whole family and often spend a whole week or two together.



On the beach in St. John, Caribbean



Zach, Evan, Lydia, Rachel, and Emily in Mexico



Christmas at Derek and Amy's house! Clockwise from top-left: Derek, Silas (Lydia's dad), Toby, Christine, Lydia, Robert, Lydia, Amy, Owen, Emily, Mary, Evan, Rachel, and Zach



Hiking the Sleeping Bear Dunes on Lake Michigan! That's Robert, Emily, Zach, Evan, and Owen.

# More about my husband...

Robert has a big heart and is incredibly loving and generous. Everyone who meets Robert thinks he's hilarious and smart. All of our nieces and nephews adore Robert because of his joyful combination of kindness, patience, and fun.

Robert also loves music (he used to be a music journalist and DJ) and is one of the craziest dancers I know.

Robert will be a wonderful father and I can't wait to share this experience with him.



Robert and Sophie, walking near Detroit's Eastern Market



Robert and Sophie at Belle Isle Park in Detroit

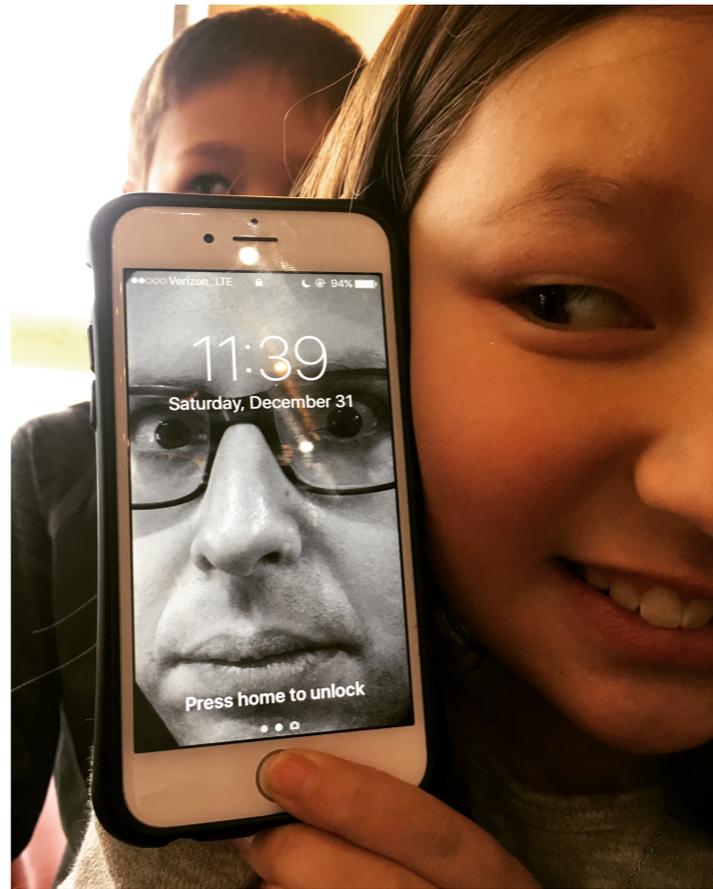


Robert, drinking fresh coconut water in Guatemala

Robert is super fun-loving and always makes time to play with our nieces and nephews. We love to see them several times throughout the year, and I love knowing how much they love him and how much he cares about them. They're always goofing around.



Robert and our niece, Emily, being dorks. So excited to be flying to Park City, Utah, to go skiing over Christmas break.



Owen and Emily thought it was funny that Robert made his own photo the wallpaper on their mom's phone



Emily, Evan, Zach, and Rachel, tackling Uncle Robert in a pile after he chased them around Lydia's parents' house on Christmas morning.

# More about my wife...

Lydia is one of the most energetic, organized, thoughtful, and entertaining people I've ever met. There's no such thing as running out of conversation with Lydia. Most people love her immediately because she's funny, has a great attitude, and is genuinely interested in getting to know people.

I know that Lydia will make a great mother, because she's incredibly capable and has a solid moral foundation. Lydia was raised in a home with lots of love, support, and consistency, and she's ready and able to provide the same sort of environment for a child.



Lydia in Paris, France. We are taking a break during a bike ride around the city.

Lydia loves the arts and always knows what's going on in theater and film. But more than anything else, she loves cute, fluffy animals – especially dogs and pandas.

She also has a thing for taking pictures with mascots and basically anyone dressed up in a ridiculous, furry costume.

Here are a few of her finer moments.



Panda attack in Union Square, NYC



Giant chipmunk in San Francisco. Or maybe that's an otter?



Giant bear in Heathrow Airport, London.



Okay, so pandas are her favorite. This is a panda in San Francisco,

# Lydia's family

My parents were happily married for 52 years. I was very close to both of them, until they each recently passed away. I have two brothers, Derek and Toby – both of whom have been happily married for many years. Derek and his wife, Amy, have two children, Owen and Emily. Toby, my oldest brother and his wife, Christine, have three children, Rachel, Zach, and Evan. We spend a lot of time with both families, including lots of vacations and Christmas. It's been a joy to watch our nephews and nieces grow up. They're so much fun, and growing up to be such wonderful people!



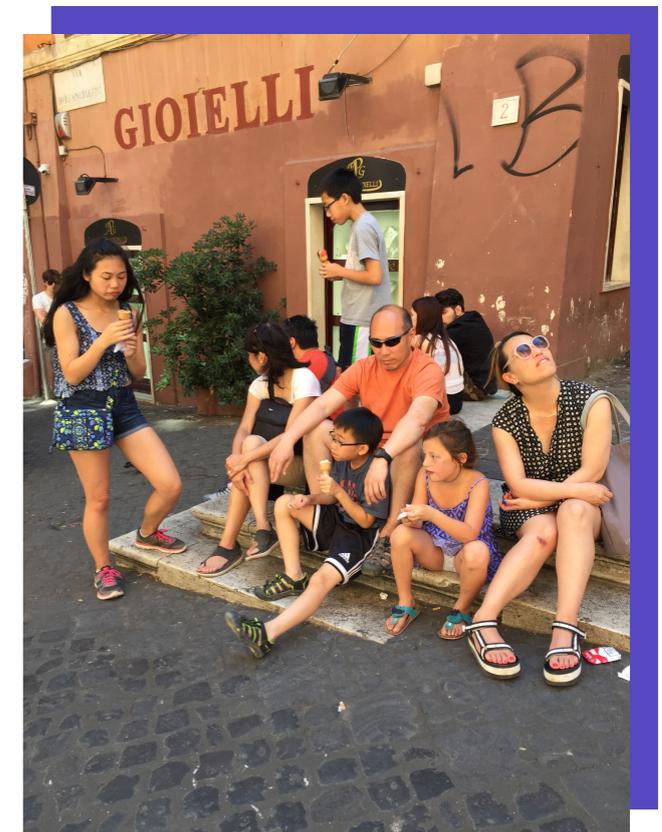
Lydia with her mom, Helen, and sisters-in-law Amy (Derek's wife) and Christine (Toby's wife) on the beach in Carlsbad, CA, on Christmas Day.



Lydia's mother, Helen, and father, Silas, celebrating Silas's birthday.



The whole family in Chicago (except for Owen, who wasn't born yet)!



Gelato time! Rachel, Christine, Derek, even, Zach, Toby, Emily, and Lydia in Rome, Italy.

# Robert's family

I grew up with parents who encouraged me to be intellectually curious, kind, politically aware and active, and to live a meaningful life. My mother, Diane, was a nurse and my father, Jay, was a doctor – and they both passed away several years ago. My grandmother, meanwhile, only recently passed away at the age of 104.

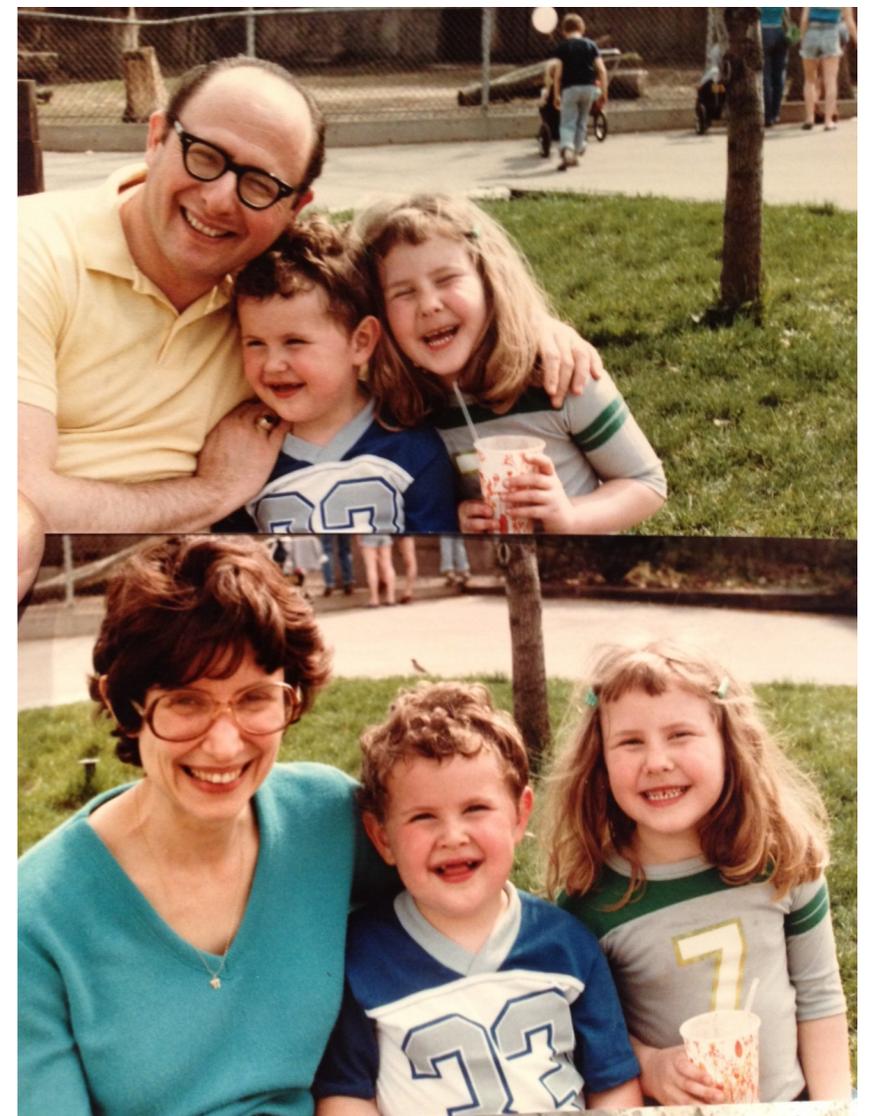
I'm very close with my sister, Katie, who has a beautiful 4 year-old daughter, Sophie, and wonderful husband, Andrés. They live in Portland, but we visit each other at least a few times a year.



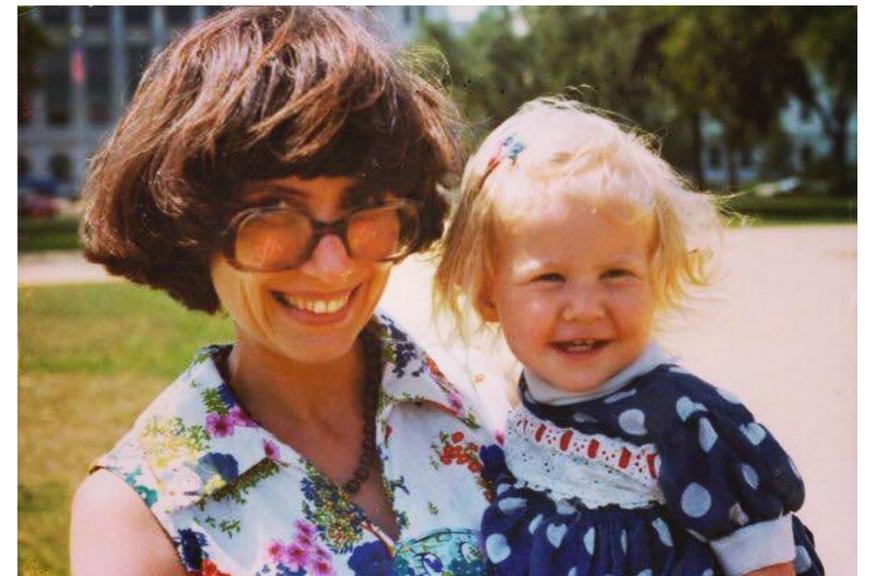
Sophie, Andrés, and Katie celebrating at a birthday party with Robert's family in Miami.



With grandma Marilyn at her 104th birthday, in the Bronx, NY.



Robert, as a child, surrounded by his father, Jay, and sister, Katie up top, and with his mother, Diane, and Katie below.



Diane and Katie, one year before Robert was born

My parents got divorced when I was quite young, but my father married my wonderful stepmom Robyn, when I was young, expanding our family to include two step-sisters, Emma and Sonya, who each have beautiful families with five children – Zack, Lilly, and Mia (Sonya’s kids), and Ian and Leah (Emma’s kids).

Robyn passed away a few years ago, but me and Lydia remain very close with my step-family.

Lydia and I are also very close with my aunt and uncle, Susan and Roger, who live in New York and are already grandparents four times over. They can’t wait to meet our new little one!



Aunt Susan and Uncle Roger take on grandparent duty with Sophie at Leah’s birthday party in Southfield, Michigan.



Ian, Michael (Emma’s husband), Emma, Robyn, and Leah in front, at our wedding in La Jolla, CA.



Clockwise from left: Zack, Lilly, Mia, Sonya, Mia, Chad (Sonya’s husband), Zack, Lilly, Zack, Lilly, and Mia!

# Our home

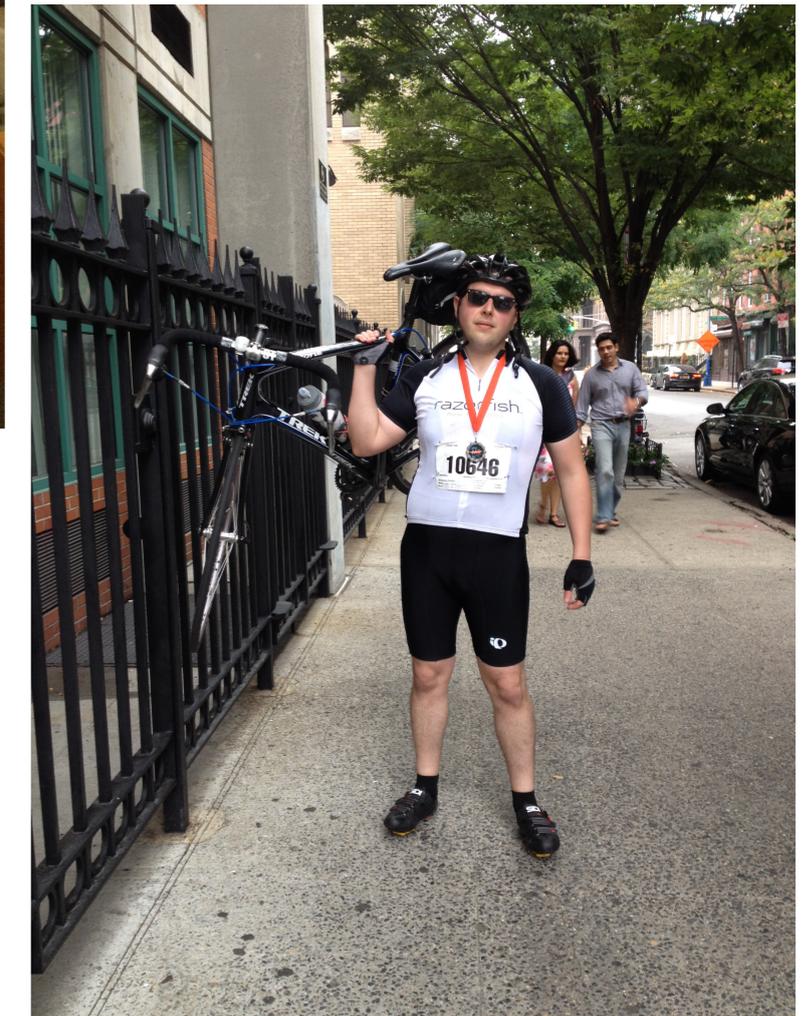
We live in a lovely apartment in New York City. Our street is peaceful and lined with trees. It's usually very quiet – except for when a movie or TV show is filming on our block, which happens about once a month. We are lucky to live in a vibrant neighborhood that is walking distance from several parks and kid-friendly restaurants.



Our lovely tree-lined block in New York City.



Andrés, Katie, and Lydia, relaxing in our apartment on a recent visit. Andrés is a better guitar player than Robert!



Robert, outside of our apartment, after finishing a 100-mile bike race to raise money for people struggling with MS.

# Parenting

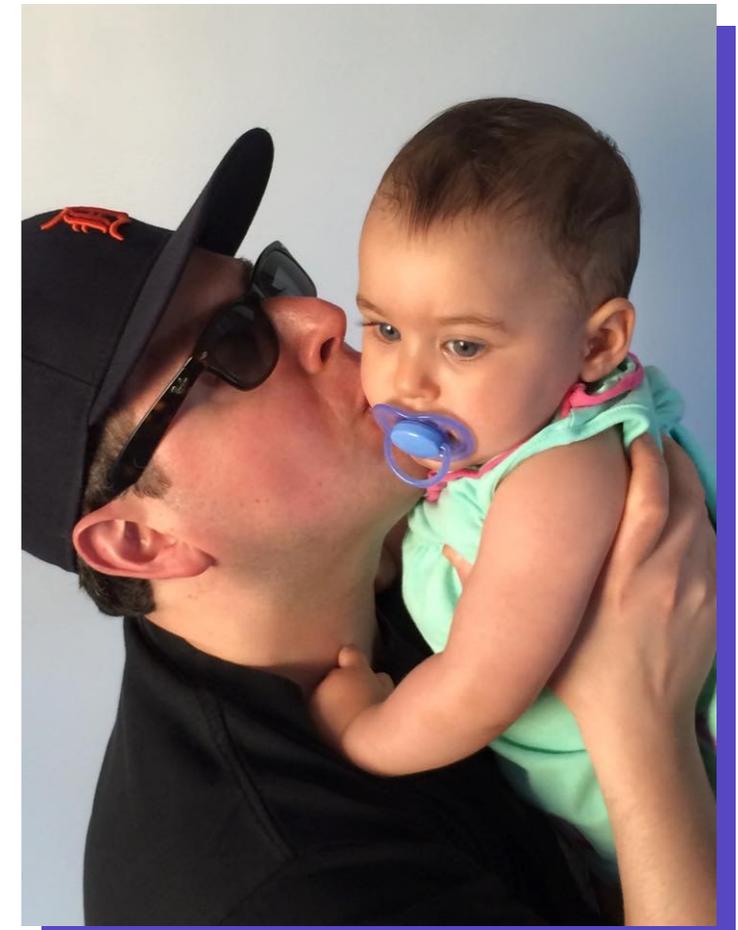
Our goal is for our child to be happy, curious, kind, empathetic, and self-confident. We will encourage our child to explore his or her natural passions and talents. We believe that a great education is the foundation for a child's future and our plan is to provide the best possible education. We will provide a secure and stable home for your child. We will be supportive and have enough structure so that he or she can learn to be a generous and kind person, friend, and citizen.

We both plan on taking time off once the baby is born. Lydia's job is very flexible and she is able to work from home a lot. We also plan on hiring a nanny to help out during the day once Lydia eventually returns to work.

Our home is already filled with fun and laughter, and we know that a child would love to be a part of our family! We have so much love to give and are ready to share our loving home with a child. We also have so many family members and friends who are ready to love and welcome your child.



Robert holding niece Sophie at three days old! In Miami, where Sophie was born.



Robert holding Sophie at three months old, in Detroit. We were in Detroit another niece's birthday party.



Lydia, Sophie, and Katie at lunch in Detroit.



Pumpkin patch fun with Owen, Zach, Evan, Rachel, Lydia, and Emily.

# Our promise

We can't wait to start a family and share our home and lives with a little one. We are committed to being the best parents we can be. If you choose us as the adoptive parents of your baby, he or she will be surrounded by loving aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends. Your child will always know who his or her parents are, and know about their adoption story and the difficult choice you had to make to him/her a bright future. If you want us to, we will be happy to share photos and letters, to assure you of your child's health and happiness. If that seems too difficult, we will respect your choices.

More than anything, we want you to know that we will love your child unconditionally. We both believe that whatever else we do in our lives, raising children will be our priority. We plan to approach parenting as a team by sharing our love and using our complementary skills. Although Robert was raised Jewish and Lydia was raised Christian, we are not particularly religious people; however, your child will be exposed to both Jewish and Christian traditions and culture. We will raise your child to respect cultures and traditions that are different from our own, and they will grow up to be loving, kind, strong, and educated, and able to chart their own path without limits.



Robert and Lydia on a bike tour in Lisbon, Portugal. We love bike tours!

# Contact Us

Please reach out to us at any time! We look forward to hearing from you.

**RobertAndLydiaNYC@gmail.com**

Toll free: **1-888 26ADOPT** (262-3678)

...or you can reach out to our adoption attorney,  
Michael Goldstein, at 1-800-58ADOPT (582-3678)

