

I Will Be

I will be the sun in the sky
To brighten up your day,
I will be the moon shining above,
So in the dark you can find your way.

I will be the listening ears
When you need someone to talk to.
I will be the advice that you need
When you don't know what to do.
I will be those stars you wish upon
To help you realize your dreams.
I will be the needle and the thread
If it all falls apart at the seams.

I will be the blanket when you're cold.
You will feel my warmth around you,
I will be the shoulder for you to cry on
When you're upset or feeling blue.

I will always be there for you.
You will never be alone.
I will be that candle in the window,
So you can always find your way back home.





We're Amos and John, and we are so grateful that you are taking the time to get to know us. You must have many questions about us, and we hope that our story will give you a better picture of who we are and the kind of family we hope to create. After you read this, we hope we will have the opportunity to get to know you too and hear about your hopes for your child!



Welcome to our beautiful home in New Jersey

We are in awe that you are considering an adoptive plan for your child. We understand that this is a big decision, for you and we don't take that lightly. It takes a very special and courageous person to commit to bringing a life into this world and help two men's dreams of becoming fathers come true. Without your kindness we would never get to become fathers together as we have been hoping for since we first met. We love children and always dreamed about becoming fathers. And as the eldest in our families, our parents are equally as excited to become first-time grandparents – and our younger siblings to spoil him or her as first time aunts and uncles. We hope you will see that family is a very important part of our lives and everyone is so excited to embrace the newest addition. Thank you for considering to help us make our hopes become a reality.



Amos holding our good friend's son Max with John



Amos and John visiting with longtime friends Karen and Matt and their boys Trevor and Nathan



John playing leapfrog with dear friend's son Nathan



Amos with our friend's son Jacob (both sleepy) 🥱

To help you in making such a big decision, we thought you might like to know us, how we came to fall in love and marry, what our extended families are like, how we grew up, and the life that we would provide for your child, should you so generously choose us.



We met through a friend at a Fourth of July party on the ocean. We spent that evening watching the fireworks together holding hands. Several years later, Amos proposed by the New York Harbor. While we stood by the river, the waves crashed against the shore while the sun was starting to set. Amos got on one knee and proposed. It felt like we walked on air as we strolled through a beautiful night in moonlit Central Park, with the street lamps turning on as we passed.

Amos proposing to John
by the NYC harbor



Our wedding party (L to R): Amos's father Daniel, brother Lorenzo and mother Marta laughing with John's mother Jeanne, sister Becca and father David, Hattie Mae front and center!



This photo was taken right after we got married!

We felt drawn to have our parents and siblings gather near our family home on the water to have a small intimate wedding, the joining of two families. John's sister Becca and Amos' brother Lorenzo officiated the ceremony. Each member of our family gathered and shared touching, personal blessings for the newlyweds.





Uncle John driving us on a loop through Boston after our wedding celebration



Longtime friend Kathy and Amos' Aunt Maggie help us cut cake



Yummy food at sea!



John is the captain!

We both have big extended families, so while only our immediate families were present on the day of our wedding, each side of our families threw us wonderful celebrations with extended family, friends and people we grew up with. Amos' mother Marta threw us a great party with a delicious trés-leches cake, and John's mother Jeanne hosted an amazing boat party for us, on the Boston Harbor with family coming as far as Alaska for a joyous reunion complete with family traditions like riding into the night on Uncle John's putt-putt.



Amos grew up outside of New York City, and was always a very dramatic child. Amos' family is very creative - Amos' father Daniel is a poet, author and documentary producer, and Amos' mother Marta is a choreographer and filmmaker. As a kid, Amos's parents always found ways to keep their sons, Amos and Lorenzo curious and occupied, whether that was long walks in nature or cultural opportunities like exploring the Metropolitan Museum of Art, or seeing a Broadway show or the ballet with Amos' Nana. They are very eager to be grandparents and do many of these creative and outdoorsy activities with your child.



Amos at 5-years-old



Young Amos dancing with his Nonnie



Teenage Amos (yikes that hair!) with mother Marta, brother Lorenzo and father Daniel



Amos being dramatic on Broadway



Amos backstage of CHICAGO with cast meeting Mariska Hargitay from Law & Order!

Amos' theatrical tendencies continued to push him to train and build his skills, eventually fulfilling his lifelong dream of performing on Broadway in several shows, including the long running hit musical CHICAGO. After traveling the world as a performer, Amos decided that he wanted to help people who were having difficulty connecting to their families and loved ones. He went to graduate school to get a Masters degree in Marriage and Family Therapy. He now has an established career working with couples, individuals and families (many of them actors) to help them reconnect and remember that even with their differences, there is always the opportunity for love and support.



John grew up outside of Boston, his cousins lived down the street and all of his grandparents lived in the town next door. John was the first grandchild, and was doted on by his aunts and uncles and grandparents. Even though he was the center of all the adults' attention, it was even more fun when new siblings and cousins came along.

John always wanted to experience a different country and language, and was very interested in his French classes. He did a couple exchanges with families in France before he went to college, and then lived in France for a couple years during and after college. John followed his love of reading and books to work in publishing, and now has a successful career in advertising where he helps people write, speak in public and be interviewed for TV, radio and print publications. He loves being in the mix with creative people and helping them to express themselves.

This mixture of small-town activities, appreciation for the playing in nature and the exciting, busy city life, travel, music, art, literature are all things we hope to share with your child.



John has always loved chocolate!



John backpacking in France



John giving cousin Cecilia a manicure



John being a goof at a work party

John is one of the most thoughtful people I have met. His friends are like his family, and they range from childhood friends he grew up with to work colleagues that he has maintained relationships with for the past 15 years in NYC and beyond. He is “Tonton” (a nickname for “Uncle” in French) to many of his friends’ children, finding goofy and meaningful ways to connect with them on their level, no matter the distance: whether that is making silly faces and pretending to steal their Halloween candy via FaceTime with kids in Quebec or braiding every one of the 17 My Pretty Pony’s hair on a weekend visit with a coworker and her kids.

John has taught me how to be playful, while still getting the job done. I think this is why he has been so successful at his job. He is a true connector and loves to mentor the people he believes in and encourages them to advance further in their careers.

As a partner, John makes me feel my best. He is very complimentary of aspects of my personality big and small and shows his love openly and often. I know that he will be an amazing father, building your child up to make him or her feel that they can do anything they put their minds to, while teaching him or her responsibility in English and in French!

Amos is someone who always takes a look at the situation and isn't afraid to stand up for what's fair. He has a strong sense of right and wrong, and fights for people who are not able to advocate for themselves. He has a special way of making people feel like they are special, and that he sees them. When he first met my aunts, uncles and cousins - he jumped right into playing games, cooking, and swimming in the lake. Even if he's the new person, or the guest – he tunes into how people feel and makes sure they are ok and having fun.

Amos is very focused and disciplined - he sets goals for himself, and makes them happen. He is a great partner and always chooses the kind yet effective way of approaching a challenge or difficult situation. When we babysit our little cousins or friends' kids, I am always surprised with how patient he is and the fun, creative ways he engages kids to play a game or explore their imagination. And along the way they've had dinner, diapers are changed and they are in bed on time after reading their favorite books.

I'm excited to become a father with Amos, I am so lucky that my partner is going to be a great father to whoever we are lucky enough to meet as a new part of our family.



Amos with cousins Jessie, Rachel, Juliana and Marco and brother Lorenzo



Amos taking a silly selfie with cousin Cecilia



Amos and brother Lorenzo cooking



Amos and John taking Hattie for a walk with John's best friend's son Nathan



Annual New Years Day Brunch with our group of friends the "Sneakers:"
Front Row L to R: Max, Jillian, Maggie, Yeon, Ingrid, Graham, Alex, John
Back Row: R to L: Brandon, Amos, Matt, Michael, Peter

We both take work seriously, and take a lot of pride in our careers. Being a hard worker is one thing that drew us to each other when we first met. We both like what we do, and have worked towards careers that can provide for a family, while having a flexible schedule to be very involved and present fathers. Spending time together is very important to us and we both plan to share in parenting schedules.

For fun we like to cook, and have friends and family over for dinners and parties. Being surrounded by people we love and sharing a meal and an experience is one of our favorite ways to create new memories. We regularly go on long walks with our sweet and gentle dog Hattie Mae, around the city where we live and on hikes in the woods. Hattie is great with kids. Traveling, going to movies, theater, and out to dinner are fun ways we like to explore new experiences and spend time together. Our "happy place" is definitely being by water, and we love going to the beach or the pool with an iced coffee and getting some sand and sun.

Fourth of July

We love going to visit John's parents in Massachusetts in the summer. At the end of the hill they live on is a small neighborhood beach, which is great for kids. At high tide there is a big rock in the water that the older kids climb up on to jump off into the cool, clear water. When we visit Massachusetts we always make sure to add on a few days to visit John's childhood friend Karen, her husband Matt and their high energy and fun boys, Nathan and Trevor for baking, wrestling in the backyard and reading "just one more book" before bedtime. We can't wait to have your child join in these activities.



John with cousin
Porter on the beach



Amos playing in the
water with cousins
Porter and Josephine

Summer Reunions



John, Amos and cousins Cecilia and Amelia playing on the beach



Amos doing interpretive dance after dinner with cousins Amelia and Cecilia



Cousins Cecilia and Amelia modeling the mermaid costumes we brought for them

Every year Amos' family gathers from around the world (California, Chicago, North Carolina and Portugal) to enjoy time together at Aunt Maggie and Uncle John's house on the Connecticut coastline; dancing with sparklers, playing charades, paddle boarding and digging for clams which we later eat! His cousins Cecilia (8) and Amelia (5) (cousin Rachel's kids) are free spirited little ladies, very excited to one day have a new cousin to play mermaids and fairies.



Labor Day



Cousins Josephine and Porter ready for a trip around the lake!



Cousin Tim with his daughter Josephine, John and Amos



John and Amos taking a (short) break in Maine to read the news!

John's grandfather, Grandpa M, had a house on a lake in Maine for the past fifty years, and John remembers being so excited to drive up to visit for weekends in the summer with an aunt or smushed in the front seat of his dad's truck with his sister. The family now has a few different houses around the lake, and so we hop in boats to have snacks at various locations throughout the weekend, with John's cousin Timmy's daughter Josephine leading the parade and cousin Carolina's son Porter marching at the back. Everyone brings a dish for dinner and we play music, have Cornhole competitions on the lawn and laugh and tell stories around the campfire. All the family is eager for us to become fathers together and will welcome your child in the fun.

Halloween

We love getting into the fun of Halloween, and we both grew up loving putting together costumes for Halloween and running around the neighborhood for candy with our friends and siblings. We like to decorate our house and front steps for Halloween, and dress up to give out candy to all the trick or treaters. The neighborhood gets really excited about celebrating – and it’s a fun night for the adults and the kids alike. We’re excited to dress up as a family and continue the fun!



Amos and John are lumberjacks!



Amos and John are rockers!

Thanksgiving



Amos getting the turkey ready



John visiting his Grandpa



John's mom Jeanne's traditional jello mould

Turkey day is both of our favorite holidays, ever since we were both little boys. It means family, delicious food – and the turning of the seasons. For the past several years we have taken over this tradition ourselves, cooking a traditional Thanksgiving dinner for our families at our parent's house – everyone at a long table up to 30 people gathered together to enjoy a huge feast. The best part is cooking together, with everyone helping out – from the little kids to adults working together decorating and baking, mixing and setting up. The turkey starts to get brined and some side dishes prepared the day before, and all day on thanksgiving it smells amazing with the cooking smells filling the house while we catch up with each other. Amos' dad Daniel is on oyster shucking duty, John's favorite dish is his mom Jeanne's famous Jell-O mold and potato casserole. Marta is a whiz with flower preparation and fills the house with arrangements and makes the table look amazing and inviting, with candles and leaves. She always makes sure to make extra of her delicious oatmeal-raisin cookies.

Christmas

Christmas is a time when we make an effort to spend time with both sides of our families, it's a special time to celebrate traditions and create new memories. Usually we drive to both Massachusetts and New York to try to see as much family as possible. John's Aunt Anita throws a family Christmas Party the weekend before the big day, which always falls on the same night as the live nativity downtown, with a procession of all those in the manger (including real horses and sheep walking through the town). We love seeing the excitement in our little cousin's eyes when we walk by the sea through the little town, and the streets are filled with people singing and holding candles to light the way. John's dad Dave makes enough ham to feed a small army! We can't wait for your child to experience moments like this, surrounded by family in the salty air after a big get together and delicious food.



John's Aunt Anita's Christmas Tree



John's cousin Jayna with cousin Asher



Cousins Ian and Bea drawing while cousin Graham and Jay open more presents



From L to R Cousins Willa, Graham, Ian with Jed, Levi with Bea and Jay up front modeling Christmas pj's

When we land in upstate New York to see Amos' family, we are greeted by many cousins and even more of their kids excited to begin unwrapping presents. The best part is decorating the tree together, with ornaments from when Amos' dad was a little kid. The cousins (even the ones with kids) all put on a funny outfit or pajamas, and walk down the staircase together trying to sing – but usually laughing too hard to really get all the words. After lunch we might go ice-skating together (some people prefer taking naps), or bowling. But the most fun tradition is to pick a blockbuster movie the day it comes out in the theaters. Usually the youngest cousin chooses! We love this tradition – but we are also excited for the day when we will experience these traditions as fathers, focusing on your child.





Amos nabbing a kiss at sunset



Cousin Porter sniffing a rose with his grandmother, John's Aunt Anita

Vacations

As you can tell, we both have big families and like spending time with our aunts and uncles, cousins, and our cousins' little kids playing at the beach, the lake, and in mountains in Vermont.

It's even more fun now that there is a new generation to experience things like learning to swim, sailing, picking blueberries, making sand-castles, fishing, and toasting marshmallows.

We try to balance exploring new places and things with friends, and also spending time in special places with family. We are so excited to share these experiences with your child.

Some of our favorite recent trips were visiting John's sister, Becca, in France when she worked there for a couple years. We had equally as much fun, our first winter together when we went to New Orleans with Amos' father and visited some of the people who he befriended when he was filming a documentary there. We took a bayou tour and ate **MORE** delicious food. Can you tell we really like food?

Wherever we go, whether it is close to home or further away, we discover new things about one another and are reminded of what initially drew us together: a passion for life and curiosity to try new things. And we hope to pass this curiosity and passion on to a child one day. We look forward to learning from a child also...if we find that he or she has interested and talents that are different than ours, we intend to learn about their interests and encourage that they pursue them.



John and Amos on the streetcar in New Orleans



Amos in Paris



John, Amos and Hattie safely visit with our friends son Max



Our neighborhood park



Cousins Sandra, Kate and Lizzie with Amos and John

We love having friends nearby – and even though Covid has made it more difficult to do all of the things that we enjoy, it has been nice to have neighbors we’ve gotten to know and find safe ways to see older friends. We are lucky to have a range of friends nearby – from traditional family arrangements to a mix of gay and straight, and diverse international backgrounds. It’s nice to have a community.

One of the silver linings of the many changes in the past year has been the opportunity to move out of New York City and to New Jersey where we have more space now to build our family and a backyard to get fresh air. We live on a quiet, tree-lined street just a few blocks from a harbor with a Moroccan-French restaurant on one corner that plays live jazz music on the weekends. It is a very kid friendly neighborhood with many other families and lots of parks and public spaces for play. We chose our home with the idea that we would hope to share it with a child as part of our family. We are ready!

John being
silly with
godson Jacob



Amos reading
with our friends
son Trevor



We are both very familiar with adoption, and it is close to our hearts. John's grandfather, Francis, was adopted back in the 1920's because his mother felt she was not in a position to give him the life that he deserved, and through being nurtured in another family he became a father himself to 7 children, and a leader in his community as a police officer, fireman and sports coach. After having four children, Amos' Aunt Paula and Uncle Wayne adopted their fifth child, Daniel, when he was a teenager after their eldest daughter, Amanda, met him in an after-school program. Having grown up with these experiences we want to provide opportunities for a child. As two men, we recognize that family is not "traditional," nor just biological, and is a combination of different cultures and communities of people that help shape children's lives.





John's cousin David, Great Aunt Ellie her namesake
Great-Granddaughter, Eleanor



Celebrating in Vermont for our anniversary

We look forward to welcoming a child into a loving, positive environment where they can grow creatively and feel safe and nurtured. We are lucky to have great parenting examples in our own parents, who found a balance of encouraging creativity, imagination, and a healthy lifestyle with reasonable rules and boundaries to keep us safe and secure. We want your child to have exposure to experiences that will help them grow as a person and experience a well-rounded education. We both have big families, and are excited for your child to grow up with cousins and aunts and uncles, to share holidays, play at the beach, in the woods and become a part of our lives together in every way.



We can't wait to meet you!



We hope that this book has helped you get to know us a bit better, and we would be happy if you would call or text us at: 917-994-0835 so that we can get to know you better and learn what you hope for the future of your child. You may also feel free to email us at: **amosandjohnfamily@gmail.com**

If you choose us, we look forward to welcoming your baby into our family with open arms and are so excited to see the amazing person they grow up to be.

If you have any legal questions about us or the adoption process, please contact our attorney, Suzanne Nichols at 1-800-255-1415.

We wish you happiness and peace no matter what decision you make.
We excitedly look forward to hearing from you!

With love, John and Amos