Neal and Alisa

About Us

Our love story is faceted but persistent, based on deep love and respect. We met through our careers and despite living in different cities; we were committed and married a year later. 16 years later and we love spending time together but also have independent lives and interests. We love trying new restaurants and recipes (basically eating!), exploring our city, Jeopardy, The Simpsons and staying active and curious about life. We are attuned to current culture and events, knowing the impact of decisions and actions on our lives and future generations. Altruism is a major component of our life experience.

Our childhoods were similar; our parents attentive, yet challenging and showed us how to be good, successful, trustworthy people. We are Jewish; our religion is a part of us both culturally and historically. Our collective history has influenced our lives in a meaningful way; we understand prejudice and oppression and push against it for ourselves and others.

Alisa built a successful career in the fashion industry and has traveled all over Asia and Europe. She owns a couple of small, innovative businesses and does retail consulting for top brands. She's currently building homes and running social media for several companies. Neal is in sales and works with retailers all over the country. He has been with the same family-owned business based out of Chicago for over 20 years. We both have very flexible schedules allowing us time as a family.

About Alisa

Alisa is the most creative person I've ever met. She is always trying new things from business ideas to painting to expanding her education when she gets curious. She is constantly learning new skills, this is something I admire about her. Although Alisa loves watching documentaries and reading, she definitely indulges in the occasional reality show. She is diligent, smart, organized and tenacious. And she's goofy at times: dancing and making me laugh. Seeing her nurture Louie was pretty special. She's captivating, the kind of person you are glad to know.

Occupation
Entrepreneur/Merchant
Education
Bachelor's Degree - Fashion
Fun Facts
Has traveled to nearly 30 countries – for both work and leisure. Speaks Spanish & little Mandarin. Plays Piano.
Loves/Interests
Podcasts, Fried Rice, Running, Veggies, Fashion, Music, Travel, Decorating, Art Exhibits, Planning Events, The Simpsons, Harry Potter, Jeopardy, Plant Lady

About Neal

Neal is fiercely loyal. He goes above and beyond to advocate for people. He is very well read and can speak on nearly any topic with anyone. He enjoys learning about current events and history (once he was taking a bath reading the history of Europe?!). He loves sports, both watching and playing, and exercise is his stress reliever. Neal cares very deeply about animals and our environment. He is a very sentimental person, which reveals the capacity of his emotions. He loves all types of music. Neal is seriously funny as well, always a running commentary on life.

Occupation
Sales
Education
Bachelor's Degree - Business
Fun Facts
Amazing Ping Pong Player, great 3-pt shooter and his eyes change color
Loves/Interests
Tennis, Music, Chocolate, Sneakers, Sports, Animals, History, Canoeing, Bubble Baths (true!), The Simpsons, Seinfeld, Art, Reading

About Louie

Together we have lived through the greatest love and loss. Our son, Louie, was diagnosed with brain cancer at age 9. Everything went on hold to focus on his life, treatments, recovery and devastatingly, at age 11 he died. This has a profound impact on our lives but we feel he would want us to share our love and continue to live. Adoption was important to Louie, he saw it in his future. Together with family and friends, we've raised over $100,000 for various cancer organizations (St. Jude, Pelotonia & more). We donate to food banks and organizations standing up for human rights, social justice, the environment, equity. Everything we do is to make our son proud and believe we have so much more to give.

Louie celebrating his 11th Birthday with Friends

Louie lighting the menorah during Hanukkah

Louie on a Lego shopping spree in Rockefeller Center

Fundraising

Left to Right;

Alisa at Pelotonia

Habitat for Humanity

Pelotonia

Left to Righ:

Neal presenting OSU a check with Fry Out Cancer

Run for the Rainbow

Right:
St. Jude -
Family & Friends:

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Family & Friends

The majority of our friends and family live locally, but many live throughout the country. Most vacations focus on visiting them. Alisa has a very large extended family that gets together several times a year and is incredibly diverse and supportive. It's a family of creatives (scientists, photographers, chefs, architects, teachers, engineers, dancers, publishers, etc..) and we love experiencing their new ventures. Alisa has a younger brother living in Miami. Alisa's dad lives nearby, but her mom died in 2002, we miss her presence. Her parents were married 28 years. We have several cousins that are adopted. Neal's family is smaller but we are very close. His parents have been married 65 years. He has three older sisters, two of whom are twins. They live in different cities: Chicago, Tucson & Denver. His family consists of teachers, architects, editors and award winning journalists/authors.

As maybe you can imagine, it's often a challenge to maintain friendships when your life experience is so different. Many of Alisa's closest friends are from elementary school which speaks to how she prioritizes relationships. Neal moved to a new city only knowing Alisa and now has a strong group of friends. Both of us place an importance on an expanded friend group with broad histories of experiences, this is in our consciousness.

Summer Family Reunion

Left to Right:
Family in Ohio

Family in Chicago

Alisa & Yenny at a Launch Party

Left to Right:
Alisa with friends at work

Alisa, Neal & friends launching a business

Our Home

Having both lived in some of the largest cities in the US (NYC, LA & Chicago), we have happily landed in a suburb of an incredibly diverse city. Our home sits in a safe and peaceful neighborhood, close to museums, gardens, parks, culture, shopping and restaurants. We have a comfortable 4 bedroom home with space to work, rest, create, relax and spend time together. Our neighborhood has a large pond, a swimming pool, movie nights, food trucks, fundraisers, bicycle parades and more. We have access to highly rated schools and many options for summer activities (day camps, sailing, etc..). We have two pets; a very goofy miniature pinscher named Monty and a fluffy, independent (sometimes cranky) cat named Levi.

Hello Letter

Your love for your child and yourself is apparent, and we will honor you and your child with stories, love, memories and traditions. Decisions as parents can sometimes break us. Every one of us is healing, on our own timelines, from our own grief. Life can be both ridiculously painful and joyful. We hope you see we do our best to seek out moments of collective joy and that is what we wish for you. We are grateful for you.

Why Adoption?

After the devastating loss of our son Louie at age 11 to cancer, we knew we loved being his parents and that we also loved being parents. Caring for others is a critical component to our entire family and it was so important to Louie. We know adoption is a space we can share our love. Science and time weren't on our side to conceive naturally and our hearts are truly with adoption. We are an inclusive family and welcome a healthy baby, regardless of gender or race or ethnic background. We want to make this an important experience for all of us and will go at your pace, your needs are central in this journey.