



AJ & Marielle



DEAR EXPECTANT PARENTS,

Hello! We are AJ and Marielle and we want to thank you for taking the time to learn more about our family. We appreciate that you are considering your choices. We are so excited to be adopting and to finally become parents. We hope our story will help you in making your extremely difficult and selfless decision. Please know that no matter what you choose, we wish you and your child all the best. We hope this book gives you a glimpse into our lives and our amazing family, that we would be honored to share with your child.

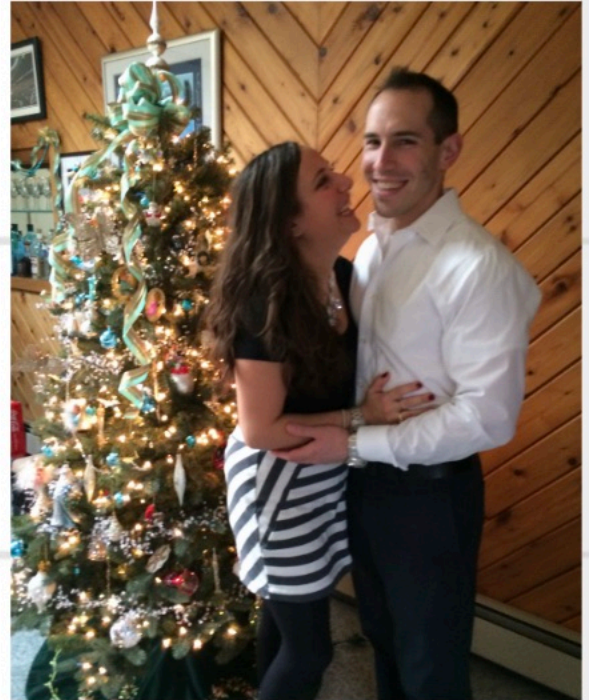
Love,
AJ and Marielle



2013, in Marielle's apartment
in Long Beach



The night we officially started
dating, August 2013



Our first Christmas together,
December 2013

about us

HOW WE MET & THE EARLY YEARS

We were introduced by mutual friends in 2012 at Citifield for a Mets game. Considering, we are both big Yankee fans, we spent very little time paying attention to the game, and most of the time talking to each other. From there, a great friendship grew, and almost exactly a year later we went on our first date - this time to a Yankee game. We quickly knew we had met the person we wanted to be with forever. What followed was a year of dating, and introducing our families to each other.

We moved in together, in the summer of 2014. That August, AJ proposed at one of my favorite places while we were on a picnic he had planned - Marielle was completely and totally caught off guard! Of course, she said yes, and we married a year later in October of 2015.

We also appreciate the small things about each other. We like being silly together and making each other laugh frequently. We are each other's biggest supporter and are there to help each other through all of life's challenges, including a years long battle with infertility. We love and respect each other unconditionally, and are more than ready to share that love with your child. We are ready to grow our family through adoption, and we cannot wait to be parents.



One of our many trips to Yankee Stadium



Celebrating our niece Gabby's Bat Mitzvah, in April 2024



Ian, AJ, Rocco (top row), Mary, Marielle and Katelynn posing in front of the Christmas tree on Christmas Eve - which is always hosted at our house!

a little about **ALFIERO (AJ)**

AJ grew up in a small town, just north of New York City. He is the youngest of his siblings, with an older brother and older sister. He is also an uncle to two nephews and four nieces on his side of the family. AJ's parents have always shown him the importance of family. Growing up, his mom would turn their home into a Winter Wonderland every Christmas season. AJ graduated high school in 2002 and went to college at Northeastern University, where he studied Finance and Marketing. He even graduated early! Later, AJ eventually went to graduate school at Northeastern to get his MBA. AJ works in accounting now, and loves his job. (He really likes math!) AJ loves running and exercising, kayaking, watching sports, and all things Marvel. He has a huge comic book collection!



Our nieces and nephews posing after spending the day swimming and playing wiffle ball. They're all grown up now, but we still love to play wiffle ball together.

Our two nephews are amazing athletes. One is a nationally ranked power lifter, and the other plays Division 3 Football in college.



My mom and I dancing at our wedding.



My brother and me at a Yankee game



My sister and brother-in-law at a family party



Taking Rocco and Ian to their first Yankee game with my Dad.



AJ and me with some of the nieces and nephews at a family BBQ.

Marielle's family at their annual end of summer BBQ at her sister's house.



Marielle, her uncle, and her sister at a family wedding, June 2019



Celebrating at my nephew Nate's Bar Mitzvah



Eric, Mom, Me and Ilyssa posing at Mom's 70th birthday!



Me, my Aunt Ilene, sister-in-law Danielle, cousin Lori, my Mom, Aunt Laurie and my sister, Ilyssa seeing a Broadway show - our yearly tradition.

a little about
MARIELLE

Marielle grew up in a small town, not far from the beach. She is also the youngest of her siblings, with an older sister and an older brother. Marielle has two nephews and two nieces. She graduated high school in 2004, and went on to study English Literature and Spanish in college. After finishing college in 2008, Marielle went to graduate school to fulfill her dream of becoming a teacher. Marielle has taught elementary school for over a decade, and loves her job. Marielle loves cooking, reading, taking our dog Blanche for walks, playing with her nieces and nephews, and making people laugh. Marielle can often be found watching the Food Network, or her favorite TV show, Parks and Recreation. But, she always dreamed of becoming a mother and hopes you will be the answer to our prayers.



Me, Eric, Ilyssa and my mom and dad at my fourth birthday party. My mom always makes the most amazing birthday cakes, and I can't wait for the day when she gets to make one for your child..



One of our two guest bedrooms, which will make for a beautiful nursery. It's filled with lots of natural light, and is just off our primary bedroom. Currently, it's home to one of Marielle's favorite things: decorative pillows.

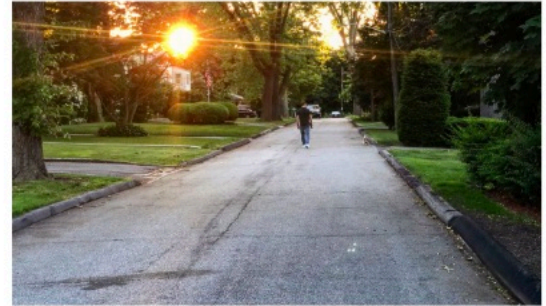
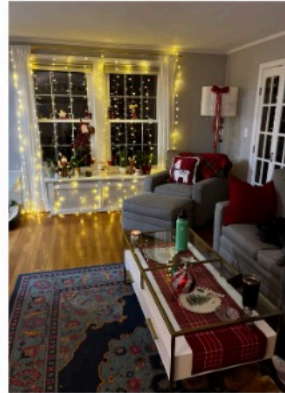


Some of our friends hanging out in the heart of our house: our kitchen. Often, you can find us dancing around and singing (terribly off key)!



Marielle making homemade pasta in our kitchen - cooking is one of her favorite activities and a major passion of hers!

OUR *home* AND NEIGHBORHOOD



HOME



Marielle and her siblings posing in the living room on when we hosted her entire extended family for Thanksgiving!

We live in a family-oriented neighborhood, with wide, flat streets perfect for riding bikes, with many parks nearby, and friendly neighbors. Our neighborhood is very diverse, which was important to us when purchasing our home. We also have a large, grassy backyard - perfect for playing games or, one day, having a swingset. In the winter, we decorate our home with lights, and in the summer we plant flowers and hanging baskets bursting with color!



Marielle's cousins, Josh and Lori and her niece, Gabby

Marielle and her mom



such fun
MEMORIES



Funny faces, and smiles on our way to take our nieces and nephews (Eloise, Theo, Gabby and Nathan) for ice cream on vacation in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. We like to call this photo a perfect "personality pic".



Marielle, her mom and older sister, Ilyssa posing at a family Chanukah party.



MARIELLE'S
EXTENDED
family



Marielle's family all live within an hour of us. We get together often, and are a very fun bunch! We've gone on vacations together to Rehoboth Beach, Vermont and Aruba to name a few. We spend holidays together. My family is both Jewish and Catholic, so we celebrate a LOT of holidays. We are a close-knit family, who spend a lot of time laughing when we all get together. My parents have been married over 40 years, and are great role models. They can't wait to be grandparents to your little one!



AJ'S EXTENDED

family

AJ's family mostly lives within 20 minutes of each other, with his older brother Joe, living the furthest away at about an hour. AJ is a proud godfather to his best friend Rich's daughter, Piper. We love going on vacations, celebrating milestones like weddings, communions, and host Christmas Eve with AJ's extended family. AJ's large, Italian family love to get together for Sunday dinners, usually over a giant bowl of Grandma's homemade pasta and meatballs.

AJ's father, Bernard was born in Italy and immigrated to America in 1955. He married Madelynn (Lynn) in 1971 and have been married for over 50 years! They had three children Joe, Maria, and AJ.



AJ & Marielle,, Joe & Julie, and Maria & Pete (AJ's siblings and their spouses) posing at our house on Christmas Eve.

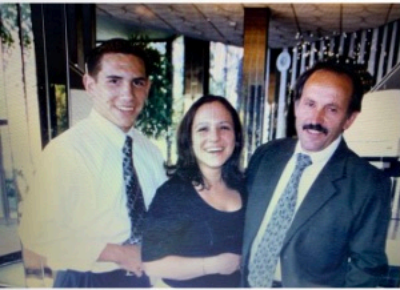


AJ is the godfather to his best friend Rich's daughter... Here they are at her christening.

AJ and his Nonno (Grandfather) posing together at a family party.



AJ and Rich fishing together... Rich has been AJ's friend since Kindergarten!



AJ, and some of his family members at different family events over the years



Pete, Maria, Marielle and AJ in the kitchen on Christmas Eve.



AJ and his cousins at a family wedding.

FAMILY TRADITIONS



We have so many family traditions, and look forward to them every year, and many of these traditions have been happening for years! Some go as far back as our great-grandparents. We look forward to introducing your child to these traditions, as well as creating new ones together.

Thanksgiving with Marielle's family always includes two turkeys - one that's smoked by her brother, Eric and one that's fried by her dad. Then we vote for which is the best.



It's not a holiday until Jon, Marielle's brother-in-law takes a giant bite of turkey! (It cracks us up every year!)



Christmas time is a big deal in both families. Marielle's family has "Cookiepalooza" every year, where they bake DOZENS of cookies.

Right: AJ's parents and nieces and nephews pose in front of our Christmas tree. Left: AJ, Marielle's brother and his son are extremely tough during a highly contested cornhole tournament, a 4th of July tradition.

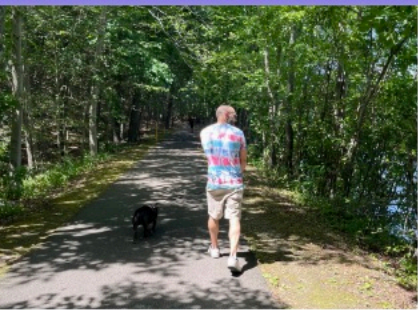




Pictured here is one of those vacations, in Aruba. We went on an ATV ride. Clearly, Marielle's dad was really into wearing the face covering!

Adventures

We love to travel - both locally and abroad, and love to go on family vacations. Just recently, we traveled to the beaches of Delaware and Maryland. We also go on trips with friends and family each summer as well. Every year. Marielle's friends from college (and their ever growing families) get together for a weekend. AJ's friends enjoy hiking and kayaking during the summer months as well. We are always excited for an adventure, regardless if it's 5 minutes or 5 hours from home. The people we love cannot wait to include your child in these wonderful experiences.



AJ and Blanche on a hike at a nearby park.



At the top of Pikes Peak, in Colorado with Marielle's family, on vacation.



We go apple picking every fall, it's one of our favorite traditions.



AJ and one of our friend, Brian at a Buffalo Bills game, Go Bills!



Marielle and her friends from college posing in Vermont.

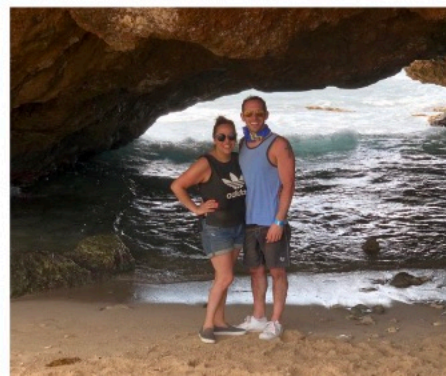


AJ testing out a porch swing, while we're on vacation... Clearly very excited about it!

In Saratoga with our friends for a long weekend getaway!



Exploring caves in Aruba, one of the coolest experiences we've had!



A group photo of all our friends in Vermont, a yearly tradition we can't wait to share!





Blanche

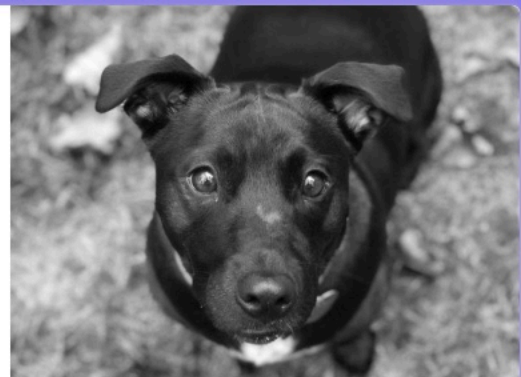
Our dog Blanche is an important member of our family. She was rescued from Puerto Rico, after Hurricane Maria, and is currently 6 years old. Blanche has joined us on countless family vacations, and holidays. She was also an amazing emotional support dog during our difficult IVF process and offered steadfast comfort during difficult days. She is an incredibly sweet dog, who loves all people! Many of our friends' children are obsessed with Blanche. She has a goofy personality, and loves to run around our yard, go on walks, and most importantly loves to snuggle up on the couch with a pillow!



Snuggled up with a pillow on the couch... Her favorite place to be!



Staring at AJ, in the hammock in our yard, and snuggling with Marielle on the couch.

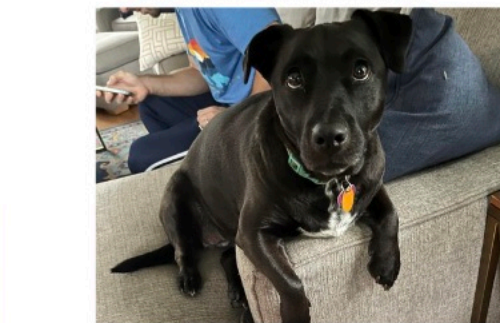
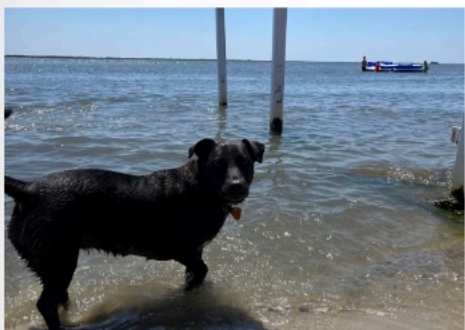


Dirt smudge on her nose from running and playing in the yard.

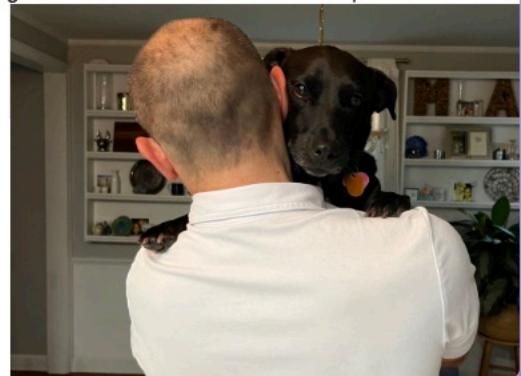


Helping to hand out Halloween candy to all the trick-or-treaters.

A day at the beach swimming, this summer



Giving puppy dog eyes and being held by AJ - her other two favorite pass times.



Our promise to you...

For as long as we can remember, being parents has always been something we've wanted. We have always felt that our family wasn't complete,, that something was missing. We promise to provide a supportive, loving, and safe home for your child. We promise to honor your role in our road to becoming a family, and never take for granted the sacrifice you are making. We promise to be open and honest with your child about how you loved them so very much, and that you ultimately were the reason why we were able to become a family.

We have an inclusive and caring family around us to help us care for your child, as well as many many friends who are ready to repay the favor of babysitting!

Our respective jobs work out well for us to be able to start a family, I work in the education field, with summers off and many vacations, and AJ's job affords him the flexibility to work from home frequently.

AJ and I have so much love to give, and we'd love to be able to share that with your child. With each holiday that passes, we think of the old traditions we can share and the new ones we can make. We think about the birthdays and milestones that we could celebrate. The chance to share our lives with your child is an opportunity we take very seriously, and we have the utmost respect for you. Whatever you decide, thank you for considering us; we are so grateful and appreciative.

Love,
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