

السلام عليكم

amanda + alia

Greetings!



Amanda and Alia in the Olympic Peninsula



Amanda, Alia and Kiki, our first love

Dear Expectant Parent(s)

Thank you so much for taking the time to read our profile. We know you are in the process of making a significant decision and we appreciate you considering our family. We believe strongly in open adoption because we want our child to have a strong knowledge of self and to understand where they come from. We hope this profile offers you a glimpse into our lives and gives you an idea of who we are.

meet us

We met in Oakland in 2013 and connected around our shared values of family and social justice. We moved in together in 2014. We are passionate educators and have a deep commitment to young people and strengthening and supporting the communities we live in. We bought a house together in 2017 and currently live there with our dog, Shuri and two cats, Sita and Naeem. We officially tied the knot in 2018, in the presence of friends, family, and our favorite Redwoods.



Alia and Amanda at their wedding in October, 2018



Amanda and twin brother, Jeremy, with their cousins



Amanda with some of her elementary school students

About Amanda: by Alia

Amanda is a powerhouse - she is extremely passionate about education and social justice, which is only one of the many reasons why I fell for her. She is incredibly creative in the ways that she creates home. She loves to reuse recycled materials and turn them into beautiful garden decorations. Amanda is the anchor of our relationship; she is constantly holding space for healing and healthy ways of being - whether it's with myself, community, or family. We have both always wanted children and I know that we are going to make an awesome parenting team.

About Alia: by Amanda

I love coming home to Alia every day. Her creativity, intellect, openness and loving heart are a continuous joy and inspiration to me. Alia is incredibly dedicated - after teaching middle school for 10 years, she courageously embraced a new career path working with other educators in Oakland middle schools. She always amazes me with the projects she has created, from handmade garden beds and chicken coops to homemade Halloween costumes. Alia has a range of interests - from studying Arabic and building, to home repair, art, music, and reading. I can't wait to parent with Alia.



Our home in Oakland, California



Alia and Avi, a friend's son, at Halloween, 2018

We Love Our Animals!

Shuri, a 6 year old rescue, is incredibly gentle around kids, friendly to any dog, and even wants to be friends with cats! It's a good thing too - because she lives with two of them.

After the loss of their beloved 18 year old cat Kiki, Amanda and Alia were devastated. Eventually, they fostered a cat from the Oakland Animal Shelter and fell in love - Sita had joined the family. Lastly, after meowing for 5 months outside of their home, Naeem had chosen to join the family as well.



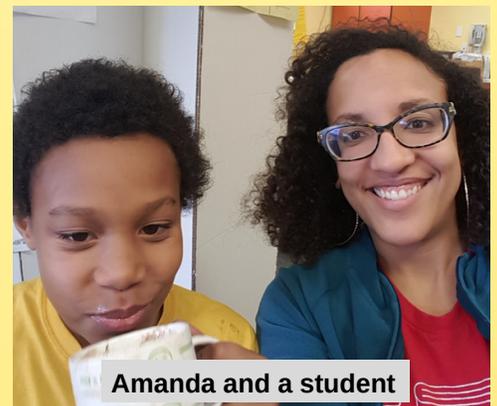
Shuri, Naeem, and Sita begging for treats

Our Commitments: Childcare Plans & Parenting Approach

With a combined 20+ years of teaching experience we both see the importance of providing children with unconditional love and strong, stable structures. We hope to create a family where our child has the confidence and love to pursue their dreams and feel held and happy. We know that having an open adoption that teaches our child where they come from is key. We hope to build a respectful and strong relationship that always honors you. We would love to build a plan together that feels comfortable, supportive and puts the child first. This could include phone calls, emails, sharing photos, and in-person visits. We will take a combined 6 months or more off of work to stay at home with our child. After that, we hope to utilize childcare from a trusted and trained nanny share or a close friend or family member.



Amanda and Alia with their moms, 2018



Amanda and a student



Celebrating summer in Oakland, 2022



Alia and Amanda with Razi, a good friend's little one



Alia meeting a friend's baby, who is also adopted

Lifestyle and Health

Both Amanda and Alia have strong commitments to living healthy lifestyles - from exercise, preparing meals at home using whole grains, reading and studying what we are passionate about, and working in our garden or with our fruit trees. We are both homebodies and love to spend quality time together at home over family meals or relaxing. We both have a deep appreciation for nature and enjoy being outdoors and exploring new places, cultures, and cuisines.

Our Connection to Adoption

Both Amanda and Alia have extended relatives who have adopted, and cousins who are adoptees. In Oakland, we are building our community of people with connections to adoption and currently have two friends who have adopted.



Alia with a watermelon from the garden, 2021

Spirituality

Amanda was raised culturally Christian and Alia was raised in a mixed Christian and Muslim household. We still practice, and would instill in our child, a sense of our religious/cultural traditions. We would also support our child in discovering spirituality for themselves when they feel so moved.



Amanda tending to squashes, 2019

Our Commitments: Race and Adoption

Amanda and Alia both have a strong commitment to racial and social justice. As a child, Amanda was raised with a strong sense of the accomplishments and history of Black people. Amanda's mother is a creative writer and playwright who writes about the Black community. Alia grew up mixed, with an Arab dad and White mom.

Since her parents divorced at the age of 9, it took intentional effort to maintain Arab and Muslim cultural traditions, as well as speaking Arabic. Because of these experiences, we understand how important it is to know about who you are and we want our child to have a strong sense of self.



Alia and friend's daughter, Kamania



Amanda with high school intern and family



Celebrating Alia's 30th birthday in 2014 with close friends and family.

Our Home, Community and Work

Amanda has been an elementary school special education teacher in Oakland since 2009 and before that she tutored students in foster care and worked as a housing community organizer. Amanda has worked with students with a range of disabilities including children with learning disabilities, autism, ADHD and PTSD/ emotional challenges. Alia has worked in East Oakland schools since 2010 . She has taught elementary school as a bilingual Spanish teacher, and all subjects in middle school including computer science. We have both always chosen to work in Black and brown communities. We are part of a strong diverse community of caring and passionate people.

Alia grew up in California and has lived in Oakland since 2007 and has family in the Bay Area and Southern California who are all excited about supporting our expanding family. Amanda is originally from Michigan, and has lived in Oakland since 2009. She has family in the Bay Area, as well as Michigan and New York, that are excited and supportive of us as well. As two women, we will make sure that our close male friends, brothers and cousins are an integral part of our child's life.



Our wedding and our families, October, 2018



Our community, 2018



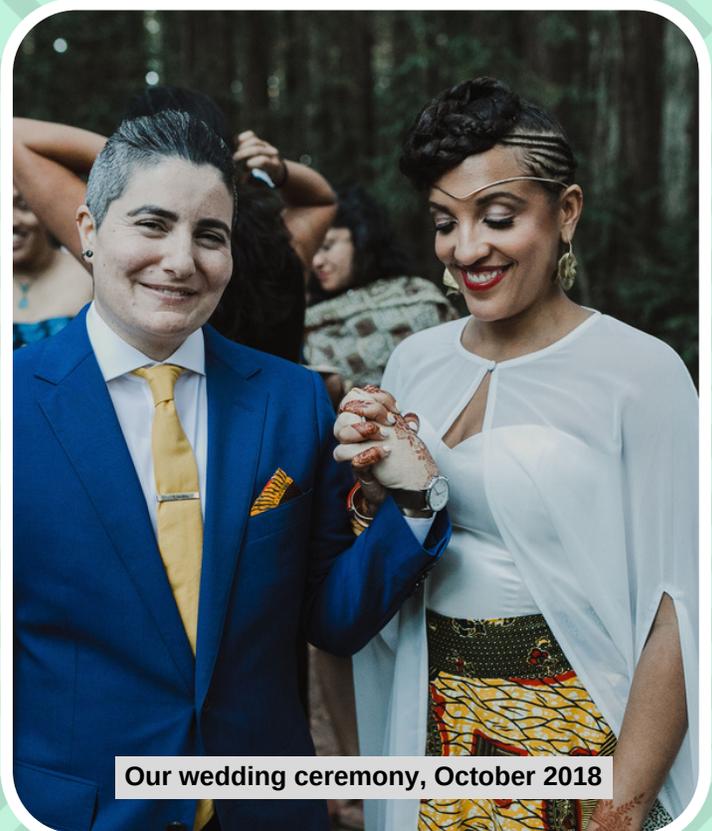
Close friends helping us move in together, 2015

Thank You!

Thank you so much for taking the time to read our profile. Whatever you decide to do we wish you the best. If you choose to place with us we look forward to building a trusting, honest and open relationship.



Oakland City Hall signing with community, May 2018



Our wedding ceremony, October 2018