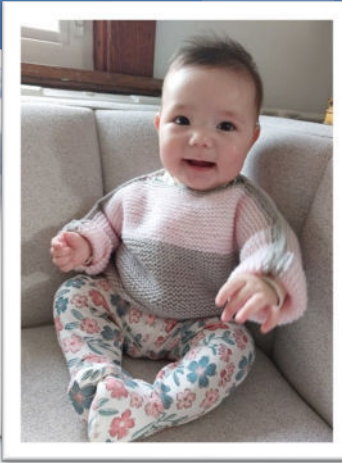


Andrew & Geoff

On the way to making our family



Snapshots

Geoff Rawle: 43 years old, attorney, coder and tech maven, avid skier, Toronto native, English/Scottish heritage, third of three brothers, goofy and young at heart, tall and lanky



Andrew Park: 45, lawyer-trained, but not a lawyer, working in charity (African development), concert-level classical pianist, Chicago native, Korean heritage, comfortable in the kitchen, generally on time



Can't wait for a sibling journey

We don't always know where the desire to become parents comes from, but it is one of the core aspirations that brought the two of us together. Our wish is to find that special person who might gift us the privilege of continuing a most profound journey to making the family we've always dreamed of. We've had the awe inspiring privilege of welcoming our first, a daughter named Ellie, into our family, and we are beyond eager to pursue a sibling journey so that Ellie can enjoy the companionship of a younger sister or brother!

Andrew is the son of Korean immigrants and grew up steeped in high expectations, as reflected in his schooling and early career as a concert pianist. He is a mission-driven person whose day job is about creating work opportunities for the youth of indigenous Canada and on the African continent. At heart, he is a deeply empathetic person who is rewarded by thoughtful conversation.

Geoff learned to be scrappy and resilient by surviving as the youngest of three brothers. He *goes* for things – moving to New York City, to Cameroon, conquering some of the toughest terrain in the Canadian Rockies on skis. By day, he's a lawyer, but secretly he wants to be a ski instructor, camp counselor, or barista.

We met in New York City through mutual friends and quickly discovered a kindred spirit in music and art, living open emotional lives, bonding over shared commitment to family, and our shared desire to have a family. It is this unshakeable imperative that brings us to you – our hopes of connecting with someone who is excited to help us complete our family. We'll let the pictures do the talking as we share a bit about ourselves!

Geoff's journey...

Geoff's sunny can-do personality was evident from Day 1 – the radiant joy in the crib photo is what Andrew found so endearing. We would love to build a joyful household for our kids!



Skiiing was a family affair from the very beginning



The broken leg doesn't diminish his spirits



Being the youngest of three brothers was challenging but it meant Geoff never lost the intuitive sense of how kids navigate sibling dynamics



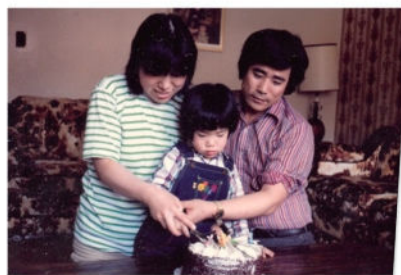
Water skiing at the cottage is a deep past time

Andrew grew up between cultures — something he would love to impart on his kids



Andrew's journey...

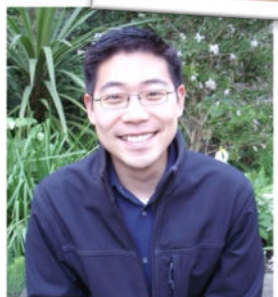
Andrew's Korean name is "Dae-han," or the "Great Folk" of the Korean people. His artistic sensibilities manifested most clearly in his pianistic pursuits.



Andrew's parents arrived in Chicago with very little, but managed to build a solid family foundation



Andrew was raised by his grandmother; we are also creating a multi-generational household with Andrew's mom planning to live with us in our Toronto home



In recital

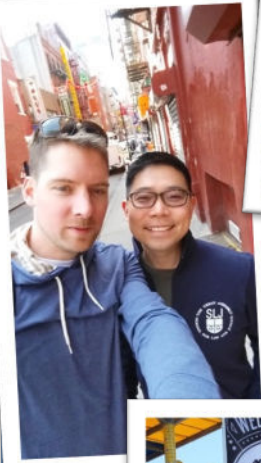


Receiving his PhD from Oxford

Performing the Rachmaninoff Second Concerto



Building our life together...



We met in New York City, and living in Brooklyn was the perfect way to spend our late 20s and early 30s

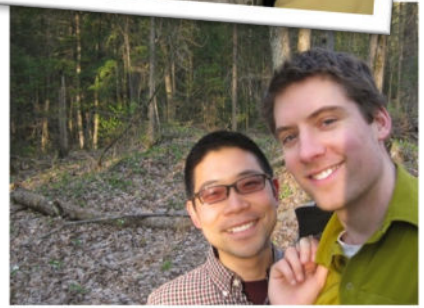
Our apartment in Brooklyn Heights became a happy hub for the extended family



We challenge each other – in this case, Geoff got us to the Brooklyn Half Marathon



The family gets together regularly at the cottage in the Kawarthas



Our travel is often centered on family – here we visit Andrew's sister in Seoul, South Korea



We traveled with Geoff's family to Tierra del Fuego in Argentina to trace the family's history and hike "Grandpa's Trail" through the mountains in this wild and beautiful landscape



*In South Africa for a niece's Christening
Beach walk while visiting Geoff's brother and wife in Barbados*



Formative volunteer experiences

We discovered we both had important early experiences in Africa. Geoff volunteered at an AIDS hospital in Cameroon for a year; Andrew helped build the first public library in Kigali, Rwanda.



Gettin' hitched

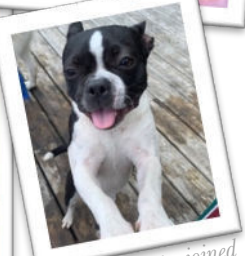
We returned to NYC to get married, first in a court house ceremony, then with our friends at a church, which is the largest soup kitchen in the city; Andrew also played a Schubert impromptu for his new husband



Learning how to make "mandu," traditional Korean dumplings with Andrew's mother



Ceremony in the round



New puppy joined our family recently!

Family time

Both of us remain deeply tied to our families, and they to each other. We are excited to raise kids in a tight-knit, multi-cultural environment where Andrew's mother lives with us in a multi-generational household and Geoff's family is less than a 10 minute drive away.



Nice moment with our niece



Family snowball fight!

Horsing around with Uncle Geoff



Andrew with god-daughter Zoe

Welcome Ellie!!!

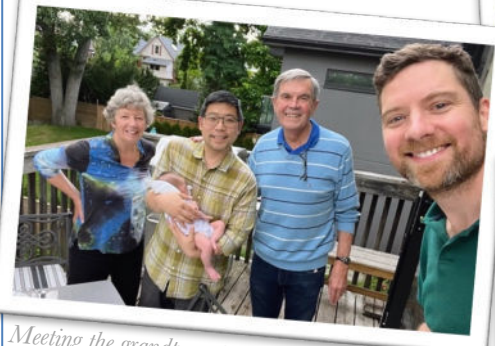
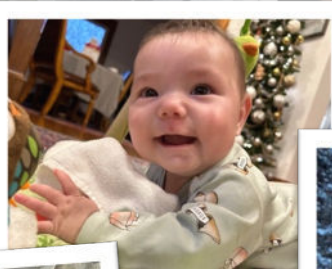
After matching with our wonderful surrogate in early 2023, we completed a successful transfer later that fall. By next July, we were delighted to welcome the arrival of our daughter, Ellie, who is the culmination of a long-gestating dream of starting our family. It's been humbling to observe Ellie growing and changing day by day, and our surrogate has been a source of wisdom and good advice as we learn our way through being first-time dads. We are so grateful to our surrogate for our first journey and can't wait to pursue the next so that Ellie can have a younger sibling and we can complete our family. We hope you can be part of our story too!



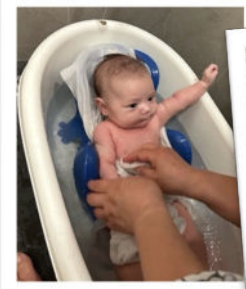
Welcome to the world...!



The grandmothers couldn't wait to hold Ellie



Meeting the grandparents



Thankfully Ellie enjoys bath time!



The entire extended family has been enthusiastic and supportive throughout. They anchor the 360-degree support system we are lucky to lean on in caring for Ellie. It really does take a village!





Best together

In the end, we are so fortunate have to Ellie in our lives and to be able to provide richness of connection and belonging. We can't wait to share even more of ourselves with Ellie's sibling one day. And when that day finally arrives, there's a whole family and community waiting to roll out the red carpet again!



What a joy it's been to bring Ellie into the family! We look forward to welcoming her younger sibling when the time comes!

