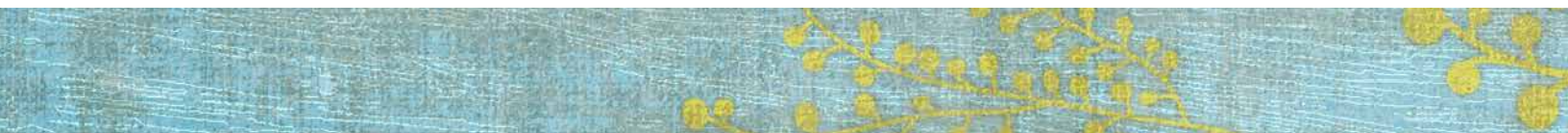


Katja



Hello, I am **KATJA** from Berkeley, California!

MY FRIENDS SAY...

Katja is...
creative, loving,
devoted and
family-oriented

SOME OF MY
FAVORITES

HOBBIES
Pottery,
gardening
and knitting

SAN FRANCISCO TRADITION
The annual Chinese New Year's parade and scavenger hunt

MOVIE
Up!

HOLIDAY TRADITION
Everything Christmas—decorating the tree, baking cookies, making Advent calendars for my godson and his sister

CHILDREN'S BOOK

Where the Wild Things Are

PLACE TO TAKE A CHILD
The zoo

WEEKEND ACTIVITIES
Gardening, hiking with friends, browsing flea markets

FAVORITE FOOD
I'm a fanatic about iced coffee

PLACE TO GO
Any beach! Nothing better than sand in my toes

WAY TO RELAX
Getting lost in a book

GUILTY PLEASURE
Binge watching Netflix

THANK YOU
SO MUCH FOR
TAKING THE
TIME TO GET
TO KNOW ME.



"TELL ME, WHAT IS IT YOU
PLAN TO DO WITH YOUR ONE
WILD AND PRECIOUS LIFE?"

- A FAVORITE QUOTE, FROM
A MARY OLIVER POEM

I PROMISE TO YOU THAT I WILL RAISE
THIS CHILD IN AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE
THEY CAN BLOSSOM AND BLOOM AND
GROW UP TO BE THE TRULY AMAZING
PERSON THAT THEY WERE MEANT TO BE.

» Visiting with
my close friend
Julia's twins



I can only imagine the many thoughts and emotions going through your mind right now, and *I hope you are able to find the support you deserve during this challenging time.* Although we don't know one another personally, you are in my thoughts. I want you to know that I truly respect the fact that you are considering adoption and I wish you well as you make your decision.

» Blocks with my friend Eleanor



A LITTLE ABOUT ME AND WHY I WANT TO ADOPT

I HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN THAT I WANTED TO BE A MOM but somehow the how and when have been less clear. Life has a way of happening and for me, motherhood didn't come to be via the traditional route. As I have learned more about adoption, I've become certain that this is the path that I was meant to follow to bring a child into my life. *My parents gave me a great childhood and foundation. I am lucky and grateful to have a happy and blessed life, with wonderful family and friends, a lovely home in a place I love and a fulfilling career.* While I have had my share of struggles too, I know I live a fortunate life, and I hope to pay it forward, be a great parent and give whoever becomes my child a wonderful life, with boundless love, support and opportunities. I hope as you get to know more about me and my values, that you will feel I could be a good Mother to your child.

My Hobbies

I HAVE A GREAT GROUP OF FRIENDS and love hanging out with them— hiking nearby trails, going to plays, having dinners together and taking weekend road trips. *One of my favorite activities with friends is the annual Chinese New Year's Scavenger Hunt. A group of close friends from grad school have been doing "The Hunt" for over 15 years now. We're getting slower on our feet but it's still a lot of fun!*



» A wet canoe trip with Sabine and Matthias



» Chinese New Year's Scavenger Hunt

I LOVE ART AND GETTING CRAFTY. My home is filled with art, both my own and from friends and family. I have been doing pottery for many years, and gardening is another creative outlet. I also like to knit and more recently, I've been having fun with photography. I can't wait to break out the crayons and finger-paints with my future son or daughter and proudly display their art on the walls.



» Getting crafty with my friend Eva

READING AND BOOKS ARE ANOTHER PASSION. As a kid I loved the library and reading too, and as a grown up bookstores are still one of my favorite places to spend an afternoon. Reading with my friends' children is also a lot of fun and am looking forward to sharing some of their favorites with my kids.

» Road trip with friends to Nevada



MY MAGNET COLLECTION!

I LIKE TO SPEND TIME OUTDOORS IN MY GARDEN AND HIKING NEARBY TRAILS WITH FRIENDS



EDUCATION AND WORK

I BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF EDUCATION TO CHANGE LIVES and I think curiosity and a love of learning are amongst the most important things one can teach a child. I was the first child in my family to go to college. By the time I got to graduate school working on my PhD in neuroscience, while much of what I was studying was a mystery to my Mom and Dad, they were my biggest supporters and hugely proud when I earned my PhD. *I am committed make sure that this child gets a great, well-rounded education and also activities like art, music, science and sports that fit their passions, whatever they turn out to be.*

I WORK AS THE EDITOR OF A RESEARCH JOURNAL/MAGAZINE THAT PUBLISHES RESEARCH ON THE BRAIN. I love science and the work I do. I am also proud that the research we publish may someday help people with brain diseases, like autism, schizophrenia, Alzheimer's disease, and other difficult conditions. *My company is family friendly and my job affords me the financial stability and flexibility to be a devoted single parent.*



I HAVE BEEN LUCKY TO HAVE TRAVELED ALL OVER THE WORLD. Traveling has taught me a lot about other people and cultures and about myself. *I hope to share the fun and excitement of travel with my children, exploring the world together, near and far.*

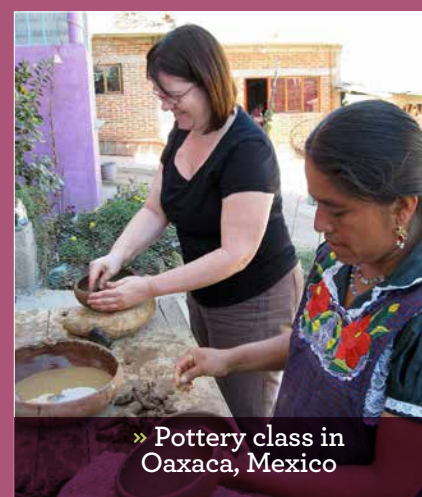
ONE OF MY OTHER PASSIONS IS COLLECTING, whether it's hunting for finds at the local flea markets, collecting sea shells on the beach or souvenirs from my travels, I just love treasure hunting and discovering something unexpected and fun. Lately I've been collecting old birdhouses for my yard and I've become quite the property magnate for the bird set! *One silly collection I*

have is a fridge magnet collection from all my travels. My fridge is now completely covered and it's become a favorite place for my friends' kids to explore while they are visiting.

HOLIDAYS ARE A BIG PART OF MY CHILDHOOD MEMORIES AND I TRY TO MAKE THEM SPECIAL OCCASIONS. Baking Christmas cookies and making Advent calendars for my friends' kids. Easter egg hunts in my garden. And birthdays are occasions meant to be fully celebrated! I love planning birthday surprises for friends and look forward to birthday parties and holidays with my child.



» Flea Market foraging



» Pottery class in Oaxaca, Mexico



» Berlin adventure with my friend Beth and her kids



» Climbing a tree with my cousins' kids, Matthias and Sebastian

The People I Love FAMILY AND FRIENDS

I HAD A WONDERFUL CHILDHOOD AND WANT TO PASS ALONG THIS GIFT TO MY CHILDREN.

I was born in Germany and moved to the US when I was five with my parents, sister, and brother.

My parents surrounded us with love and attention and gave us a very secure and stable childhood.

My Mom and Dad taught me about integrity and compassion, about working hard and achieving, and always doing right by others. I aspire to be as great a mom as my Mom and Dad were parents for me.

Today, my brother and sister still live on the east coast, where I grew up, and my extended family lives in Germany. My brother Philip and sister-in-law Evan live in Connecticut and have a new baby, Otto. I was there for Otto's birth and could not be a more proud and doting Aunt! I am also close to my cousins in Germany and we try to plan a summer vacation together every year, meeting up here in California, on Cape Cod, and in Europe for vacations. It's been really fun watching my cousin's sons, Matthias and Sebastian, grow up.

I am lucky to have a group of amazing friends, here and around the world. I consider my friends my "chosen family" and they mean everything to me! My circle of friends extends from the many different chapters of my life, from childhood pals to college and graduate school classmates, work colleagues and beyond and I know they will be a big support for helping me raise my child as a solo-Mom. There is a big circle of "Aunties," "Uncles," and "adopted grandparents" eagerly awaiting the new addition to the family. Many of my friends also have children and I feel lucky to be the special aunt and friend to so many of them. *I am Godmother to my close friend Noelle's son Aidan and it's been amazing to watch him grow up from this little peanut of a baby to a now sports-obsessed ten year old.*



» Hanging out with friends' daughter



» Best buds Noelle & Phil in San Francisco



Hiking with Willy & Judy



» Family vacation on Cape Cod



» Otto's first Christmas



» Snowshoeing in Tahoe with friends



» Meeting my nephew for the first time



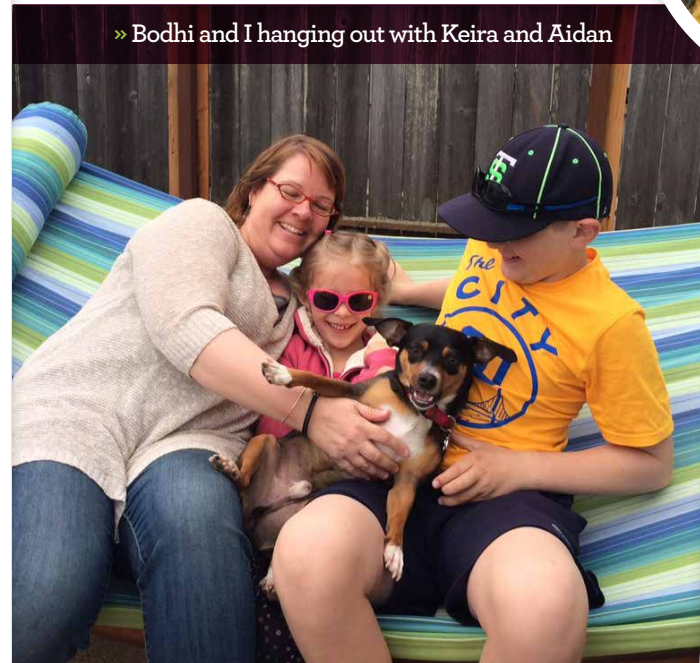
» Buried in the sand by Matthias & Sebastian



» Easter egg hunt



» Bodhi and I hanging out with Keira and Aidan



My Home and community

I live in a cozy neighborhood in Berkeley, California, just across the bay from San Francisco. My community is very family oriented, with many parks and playgrounds and great schools within walking distance. In the summers, there are block parties with bouncy houses, movies in the park, and Little League games.

My house is warm and bright, with a big yard and garden. I fell in love with the Bay Area while I was in graduate school. I love the great weather, the natural beauty, and all of the interesting things to do, from hiking trails to museums and cultural events.

Aside from all the cool things to do, one of the reasons I choose to make my life here in the Bay Area is that it is very diverse, with people from different backgrounds, ethnicities and different types of families. I don't know how my life will end up, and perhaps one day, we may have a "Dad" in the family, but right now I appreciate that living here, my children will be surrounded by many different types of families.



SAY HELLO TO BODHI!

I SHARE MY HOME WITH MY DOG, BODHI, WHOM I BROUGHT HOME FROM A LOCAL RESCUE A FEW YEARS AGO. He is an active, goofy pup with a lot of spunk who makes me laugh every day. For an introvert like me, he is the perfect extrovert side-kick. Bodhi is a total attention magnet and knows and loves everyone in my neighborhood, from his many pals at our local dog park to the owners of our neighborhood bagel shop. He's less a fan of mailmen and squirrels but he especially loves kids and is always ready for a belly rub and giving big sloppy kisses.

My Wish For This Child and my commitment to you

CHILDHOOD SHOULD BE A VERY SPECIAL TIME.

There should be a lot of fun and laughter, opportunities to play, explore and dream. My wish for this child is that they always feel safe, loved and supported unconditionally. I will be there to wipe their tears when they are down, laugh with them when they are being silly, hug and reassure them when they are afraid, and be their biggest cheerleader when they succeed.

Above all, I will love your child with all that is in my heart. They will always know who they are, where they came from, and how grateful I am for the opportunity to be their mom.



ONE LAST THANK YOU TO YOU. *Thank you so much for taking the time to learn more about me and for considering adoption. If you have any questions for me, please don't hesitate to reach out. Should you choose me to be the adoptive parent of your child, I will be more than happy to communicate with you, share updates or meet to the extent that you feel*

comfortable. And whatever your next step and decision, whether adoption or another path, I truly hope you find a way forward that is right for you and your child. If you stay true to your heart, you can't go wrong!

WISHING YOU THE VERY BEST,

Katja

Contact Me!

EMAIL:

katja.adopts@gmail.com

CALL TOLL-FREE:

1-855-333-4264