

May 26, 2017

Interestingly, just this morning a friend was asking me about my background because , to him, I seem so different from other New Yorkers. I was able to tell him about my loving family background and how we gather every two years in family love.

I have always felt that having such a large, loving, accepting Fienning family has been very important in my development as a person. Growing up, my vision for love and acceptance was expanded beyond the nuclear family of Bob, Rosamond, David and Robbie to a very broad, global acceptance of the meaning of family.

This, in turn, lead to an acceptance and interest in all the persons that I meet on a daily basis. I live in a small village-like community (6 multistory buildings of 950 apartments) in Manhattan. My New York City community knows that I accept them as family and that I am very interested in and intrigued by what I have to learn from their lives, culture, faith, ethnicity, sexual orientation, struggles, etc.

Thanks to the Fiennings for all of their unconditional love that molded me into a person who tries to see family in all persons. And, from what I know of my cousins, they have the same mindset and thankfulness.