

Meet John and Jennifer



Dear Birthmother,

Thanks for taking the time to get to know us. We know how difficult this decision must be for you. We respect and admire the decision you have made and have so much compassion for you.

You probably have many questions. Through this letter and portfolio we hope to share our lives with you. More than just general information, we'd like you to know what's in our hearts and souls so you can see what kind of parents we would be for your child.

Like many couples wishing to adopt, we have not been able to have a child, even though we have tried for many years. Actually, we've spent the past six years getting ready for the day where we bring home our first child.

We once watched a show that really hit home. A couple on the show said, "We are, in our hearts, already parents. We just don't have a child yet." This sums up exactly how we feel.

We are confident that with our encouragement, love, support, family, friends, and community we will not let your child down, but rather, lift him or her up to live a happy life.

*Yours truly with love and respect,
Jennifer and John Leonard*



About Us

We were both born and raised in California where we also attended college.

I went to Santa Clara University. My love for writing, literature, and poetry led me to seek a bachelor's degree in English. My creative spirit also led me to seek certification in graphic design. I use these talents in a fulfilling career in marketing and e-commerce in the Silicon Valley.

John has a bachelor's degree from U.C. Irvine where he minored in Film and majored in Political Science. He has a master's degree in Education from San Jose State University. He teaches 6th grade and coaches basketball. He has a great rapport with his students and loves being in the classroom.

We feel that our education has given us a happy life. We'd give your child the best education possible because we strongly believe that an education leads to a life rich with opportunities and great experiences.





Our Marriage



We have been married for over 9 years and are looking forward to the 10th and every year after that.

We met rollerblading in the park on a Sunday afternoon 12 years ago. From the first day we had great conversation and a lot of fun. That has never changed, whether we're enjoying a quiet evening at home, spending time with family and friends, or traveling.

What keeps our marriage strong is our deep love for each other, and knowing how to work together to achieve our goals and address every decision, issue, and obstacle we face. We talk things through. We communicate openly and with respect. We never disrespect one another, which we feel is the most important rule.

A few other practices we take to heart are to show affection and attention, and to always express appreciation (no matter how big or small the favor or gesture). We also love to laugh and be silly.

This is what keeps us together.





Our first Christmas together.



Our 7th year anniversary dinner.



With Charlie the Horse in Central Park, New York.



A beautiful summer together in Idaho.



Jennifer says, "Congratulations John, you are an ironman!"



Enjoying dinner on a Mexican cruise ship.



A Close-knit Family



Both of our families are loving and supportive.

*Best of all, they all live close by! Weekends and
holidays are filled with family gatherings. There
are many children to play with and bond with
for life. Family, and the children in our
families, always comes first.*





Future grandparents
who can't wait to meet
their grandchild.

Jennifer and her sister are inseparable,



and John and his brother are best friends.

Our cousins make holidays
and special events wonderful.





And we can't forget our best friend, Dexter.



A Fun Life Filled with Children



Being silly with little cousin Julianna.



Our amazing nephew, Ryan.



Having fun with friends Angela and Andrea, and their daughters Kiara and Sofia.

Holding little cousin Logan for the first time,
and then bonding as she gets older.



Taking care of little cousins,
Nikko and Zane



A Super Support Network of Friends

*We are fortunate to have wonderful friends who
have given us a fun-filled social life. Many have
been life-long friends since grammar school.
We've formed a lot of close friendships
through our work and hobbies, too.*



John with his brother and his closest friends,
most of which he's known since middle school.



Jennifer and her closest friends always
know how to enjoy themselves.





Welcome to Our Home

Our neighborhood is a great place for kids! We live in the Evergreen Valley in San Jose surrounded by rolling hills and trees. The area is filled with nearby parks and trails where we love to bike and run.

There are several sports centers and community centers with plenty of activities. We have kid-friendly restaurants, shops, and ice cream parlors within walking distance, so there's always a place to celebrate special days.

The Evergreen School district is full of California Distinguished Award-winning schools. Because John works for the district, we get first priority of which school our children get to attend.

We live in a 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom suburban condo with a loft and a playground just outside our front door. Our style is cozy and warm, never pretentious. We feel that a home should be inviting, not pristine and made of glass.



The playground outside our front door where our family and friends' kids play.





Dining nook



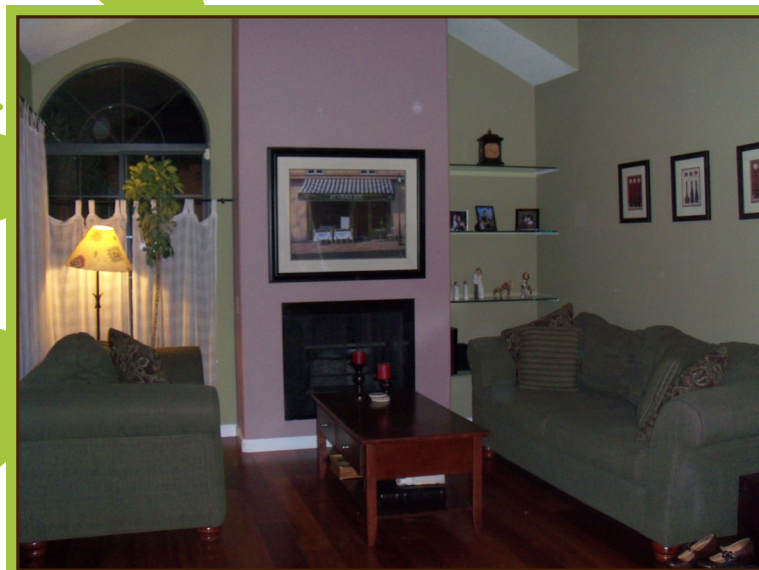
Cozy loft



Master bedroom



Guest room



Living room



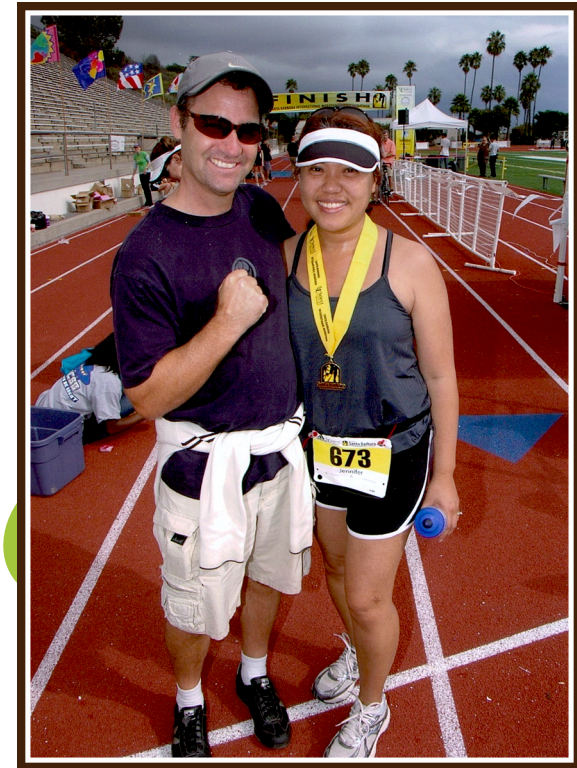
Guest room
(view #2)



Our Hobbies



Music: Jennifer enjoys the John Legend concert, while John teaches Ryan how to play guitar.



Running: Jennifer completes her first marathon with the help of Coach John.



Art: Enjoying the San Jose Art Festival.



Our Favorite Vacations

Japan



Israel



New York





Vancouver, B.C.



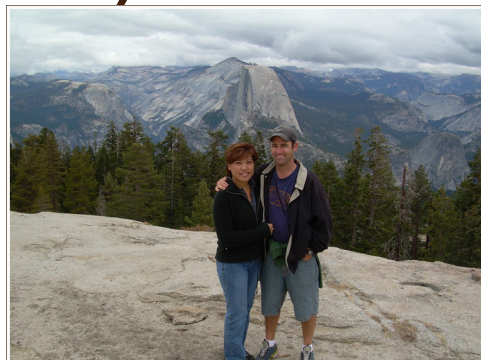
Boston



Coeur d'Alene, Idaho



Yosemite



Notes from Our Family and Friends

"John and Jennifer both love children and interact with them in such a loving way. They have a natural way of dealing with children, and kids love them."

Cathy Fraser, John's mom

"John and Jennifer are the godparents of my child. I entrust them to care for my child if anything were to happen to us. They would make excellent parents."

Liz Sepulveda, Jennifer's sister

"John and Jennifer would make wonderful adoptive parents...Any child would be very lucky to have John and Jennifer as their parents."

Danny Wang, John's friend

"John and Jennifer have values, principles, perspective in life, humor, flexibility, and loyalty to their family, friends, community, and their relationship as a couple."

Tess Chin, Jennifer's friend

"John and Jennifer are both really wonderful people and have nothing but love for their family and friends. They always manage to make me laugh and have always been a positive influence on me."

Johannah Portacio, Jennifer's friend

"I strongly believe John and Jennifer have the ability to positively influence, nurture, and love a child."

Sal Lopez, John's friend

