

JOHN *and* JEANNA



#368518

Thank you

FOR LEARNING
ABOUT OUR FAMILY.



We know this is a difficult time for you as you consider what the best option is for your child. We have great respect and admiration for you as you explore whether adoption is the right choice for you and your baby. We appreciate you taking the time to get to know us a little better and, no matter the outcome, we hope and pray the best for both of you.

OUR *Story*



We both grew up in Northern California and then migrated to Southern California for school and work. We met through mutual friends at church in 2013 and immediately hit it off. We found that we could talk to each other easily - nothing was forced.

We discovered that we share a love of trying new restaurants, serving in our communities, watching Star Wars and Marvel movies, and cooking together.

We got married in 2014 just shy of two years of being together. Jeanna broke her ankle five weeks before our wedding, so John built her a chair to be carried down the aisle.

Currently our days are filled with jobs we love, an active daughter, a house we enjoy working on. We love to learn and have fun together whatever we're doing. **Infertility brought us to adoption, but we wouldn't change anything since adoption gave us our daughter, Elijah, in 2018.**

ANYONE WANT A TASTY DOLE WHIP PINEAPPLE TREAT?



WE LOVE TO BE IN THE KITCHEN COOKING AND BAKING TOGETHER



Jeanna

FROM JOHN



WHETHER IT'S MAKING COOKIES TOGETHER OR BEING SILLY, MOMMA AND ELIYAH ARE TWO PEAS IN A POD



Jeanna is so kind and considerate. She doesn't talk behind people's backs and is up front and honest. Jeanna speaks fluent Spanish and I love watching her communicate with Spanish-speaking families in our community. Jeanna also enjoys photography and when we are out in public, she offers to take pictures of a family so that everyone can be in the picture. Jeanna truly loves children and even before becoming a mom herself, she was always volunteering to hang out with and help other moms, including watching their children. She is an engaged aunt, developing a close relationship with her niece and nephews. **Jeanna adores our daughter Eliyah. I enjoy watching them snuggle or play.** Jeanna is a very creative person and models that for Eliyah every day. While we are partners in raising Eliyah, Jeanna is the one who remembers to bring the snacks and makes sure we are all prepared to go on a trip. Jeanna is also constantly learning about different approaches to child rearing to ensure that our kids are kind, curious, considerate, and polite. She is very patient with Eliyah and tries to get on her level to understand how she might be feeling.

JEANNA LOVES BEING A
high school teacher
& HOW SHE GETS TO SPEND
HER TIME OFF WITH ELIYAH.

AS A HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER
FOR TWO DECADES, JEANNA
IS PASSIONATE ABOUT
LEARNING



TRIPS TO THE LIBRARY OR THE
BOOKSTORE FEED JEANNA'S
INSATIABLE LOVE OF READING

JEANNA IS SUCH A CRAFTY PERSON
AND LOVES TO MAKE CRAFTS FOR FUN
AND FOR GIFTS



JEANNA'S *favorites*

VACATION
SPOT

Barcelona

MUSICAL
ARTIST

James Taylor

HOBBY

Photography
/ family
documentarian

DESSERT

Homemade brownies

FAVORITE ICE
CREAM FLAVOR

Mint chip (especially
from Thrifty)

SPORTS TEAM

49ers, SF Giants,
Golden State
Warriors

AUTHOR

Madeleine L'Engle

CAN'T LIVE
WITHOUT ...

a good book

PLACE TO
TAKE A
CHILD

Balboa Island

John

FROM JEANNA



John is an incredibly intelligent man on a wide variety of topics ranging from science to history to current events to the Bible. He has an insatiable curiosity, always striving to learn something new. John is also quite talented with his hands. He has remodeled major portions of our home, tackling everything from tiling to building to landscaping. John also has a servant's heart, showing his love for me through acts of service like building me a sedan chair for our wedding when I broke my ankle or doing all the chores and grocery shopping when we were newlyweds and I was on crutches thanks to said broken ankle. John is beloved by all children who meet him. When we had been dating about nine months, I took John to meet my sister and her family. Even though this was the first time he had been around my nephews, he was immediately down on the floor with them, playing with Legos.

He shares his love of building and fixing things with Eliyah, who loves to help her Daddo.

JOHN AND ELIYAH WORK ON ALL KINDS OF BUILDING AND ENGINEERING PROJECTS TOGETHER



JOHN IS A SCIENCE NERD, BUT HE HAS THIS WAY OF EXPLAINING SCIENCE TO THOSE OF US WHO AREN'T THAT IS SO RELATEABLE AND EASY TO UNDERSTAND



HE LOVES TO SHARE HIS KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE AS AN *aerospace engineer* FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS WITH ALL WHO WILL LEND AN EAR.

His work is flexible with him working from home when needed, which has been helpful when Eliyah has gotten sick or daycare is closed.



JOHN IS A SUPER HANDY GUY AND LOVES TO PUT HIS SKILLS TO USE ON ALL KINDS OF HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

JOHN'S *favorites*

VACATION SPOT
Hawaii

PLACE TO TAKE A CHILD
Park

HOBBY
Painting

DESSERT
Brownies with salted caramel

CHILDREN'S BOOK
"Are You My Mommy?"

SPORTS TEAM
49ers and SF Giants

AUTHOR
Tom Clancy
HISTORICAL FIGURE
Abraham Lincoln

ICE CREAM FLAVOR
Salted caramel

SOMETIMES IT'S HARD TO GET A LOT OF WORK DONE WITH A SUPERHERO ON YOUR SHOULDERS



our home

WE LIVE IN SUNNY
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
(except for those pesky cloudy
months in May and June!)



We purchased our current 1920s Spanish-style home in 2021. We have thoroughly enjoyed DIYing all kinds of projects from tiling to landscaping to decorating. John is a talented craftsman who worked with Jeanna's uncle to build four large gates on our property. Jeanna has filled our house with decorative items from our travels and made it a cozy, fun space. **Our neighborhood is a vibrant, community-oriented place with some of the friendliest and most welcoming neighbors we've ever encountered.** As a family we have jumped into the community events for grown-ups and children like movie night and the annual visit from Santa. **We are less than 30 minutes from the beach in one direction and Disneyland in the other.**

ANY DAY WE CAN BE DOWN BY THE
OCEAN IS A GOOD DAY!



From day one our neighbors have made us feel a part of this community. We love seeing folks out on family walks or at neighborhood events like family movie night, Oktoberfest, car shows, and even a visit from Santa Claus.

WE CAN'T WAIT FOR ANOTHER CHILD TO JOIN THIS VIBRANT COMMUNITY THAT HAS FELT LIKE HOME FROM DAY ONE!

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD IS AN AWESOME PLACE FOR FAMILY WALKS!



WHAT GIRL WOULDN'T WANT TO WEAR A DRESS OF A PARACHUTE HER DAD HELPED DESIGN?

THE POOL IS ELIJAH'S FAVORITE PLACE TO BE AT HOME

MEET *Elijah*



Elijah Rose Grace is a spunky, curious, energetic little girl. Her favorite places to be are in our hot tub or at the park. She loves to spend time at home with us. Elijah enjoys snuggling on the couch, playing make-believe with her stuffies, and reading books. She is always singing songs to herself throughout her day. She is looking forward to starting "little kids school" next year so she can learn to read and write like her cousins.

OUR

Loved ones

We enjoy a close relationship with both of our families. They both live in different parts of Northern CA, but we are in contact with them on a consistent basis. Jeanna's parents have recently moved back to the States and are down to visit Elijah (and us too!) on an almost monthly basis. **They are super hands-on grandparents who are always game to play and hang out with their grandkids of all ages.** Jeanna's Uncle Tom also lives nearby and can be found at our house helping us with a project or enjoying a meal. Both of our siblings have children of their own and we love to have Cousin Time in-person during school breaks and over FaceTime in between. **Our families and friends have all been incredibly welcoming of our daughter, whom we adopted at birth. We have loved how each of them has treated her with the same love and affection as the biological kids in our family.**



JEANNA HAS A CLOSE BOND WITH HER NIECE AND NEPHEWS

ELIJAH ADORES SPENDING TIME WITH JEANNA'S PARENTS, HER AVI AND YAYA



WITH JEANNA'S SISTER'S FAMILY & PARENTS



HANGING OUT WITH JOHN'S SISTER AND HER FAMILY



family TRADITIONS

OUR FAMILY TRADITIONS
CENTER AROUND
CELEBRATING THE BIG AND
LITTLE MOMENTS IN LIFE.

We love to decorate our home for all the holidays like Halloween, Christmas, Easter, and the 4th of July. We also try to do crafts and activities related to each of those days. We have continued a tradition from Jeanna's childhood of going out for ice cream on the first and last days of school. Our family friends come over for family dinners and to celebrate birthdays with us too with the birthday boy/girl's favorite takeout and dessert.



WE LOVE TO SPEND
TIME WITH OUR
FAMILY-FRIENDS



VISITING JOHN'S UNCLE FRED

LIVING IN ORANGE COUNTY MEANS WE DO OUR PUMPKIN
PATCHES IN SHORTS AND T-SHIRTS!



JOHN'S FAMILY HAS AN ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARTY THAT IS
GOING STRONG FOR 20 YEARS NOW





WE MAKE IT A POINT TO GO ON DATES AT LEAST TWICE A MONTH JUST THE TWO OF US TO HAVE FUN AND RECONNECT



WE ARE BAY AREA SPORTS FANS AND LOVE ATTENDING GAMES OF ANY OF OUR TEAMS

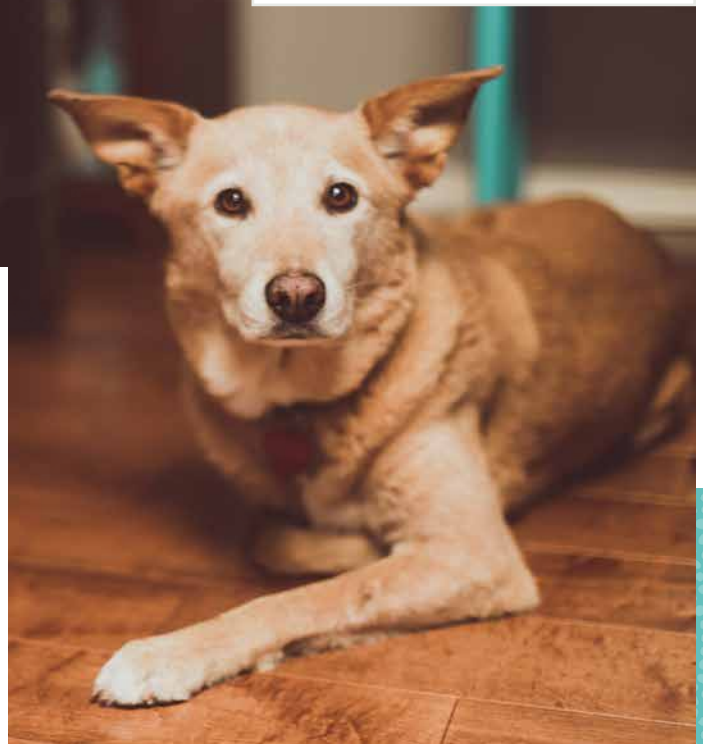


Ruby has been a part of the family since 2011, before the two of us even got together as a couple. She is such an easy-going, good-natured dog. Ruby is a medium-sized dog, a lab and Basenji mix. This gives her a golden color. **Ruby loves kids of all shapes and sizes and they love her right back.** She is always game to go for a walk, chase after balls, or whatever other silliness Eliyah comes up with for them to do. We have no doubt she will welcome and embrace the next child to join our family.

OUR hobbies

We both have hobbies we love to pursue in our free time. We try to be very intentional about supporting one another in these pursuits so we can each fill our tanks back up. John loves to work in the garage on everything from woodworking to his 1968 Firebird. It is so fun to see him light up when he is building something and he loves to share this passion with our child. Jeanna is the family documentarian, taking pictures and videos of our adventures near and far. She can often be found editing and compiling them into family videos and family yearbooks for all to enjoy.

OUR MUCH LOVED DOG, RUBY MAE, LOVES CHILDREN!



we promise ...



WE TRY TO READ BOOKS TOGETHER MOST EVENINGS

TO LOVE your child unconditionally ...



TO FOSTER THEIR CREATIVITY in whatever form it may take ...



TO SUPPORT their interests and passions ...



TO SURROUND THEM with people who love them ...

TO TEACH THEM the importance of working hard and doing their best ...



TO MODEL BEING KIND to all people ...



TO LIVE OUT OUR CORE BELIEF that we all belong to each other ...



TO HELP THEM know that family is a team ...

to build a STRONG FOUNDATION IN FAITH ...



TO EXPOSE THEM TO OTHER CULTURES through travel and learning other languages ...



to model for them that we are MADE TO BE CREATORS ...



TO REMIND THEM THAT FAILURE SHOULD BE CELEBRATED not scorned.



ON adoption

We are very hopeful that we will get to have an open adoption this second time. We enjoy a great relationship with our daughter's birth mom and our desire is to have the same with our second child's birth family as well. Conversations about adoption happen often and openly in our home. It's not something we try to hide, but instead celebrate and answer any and all questions Elijah may have about her family of origin in an age-appropriate way. **Our family and friends have been so open and willing to learn about inclusive adoption language and narratives right along with us.**

If we are blessed with a transracial adoption, we will do everything in our power to celebrate and include their culture of origin in their upbringing and in our family. Jeanna is a world language teacher, so she has a lot of education and experience with learning and teaching about other cultures. Her school district also has a transracial adoption support group in place, which we would join in order to learn and find support in this area.

WE BELIEVE IN TRYING OUT NEW FOODS AND VISITING RESTAURANTS AS A FAMILY



FAMILY

information



FATHER'S NAME: John
OCCUPATION:
Aerospace engineer
EDUCATION: M.S.
Astronautics
RELIGION: Christian
DATE OF BIRTH:
2/5/74
HAIR COLOR: Grey
EYE COLOR: Hazel
HEIGHT: 6'4"

MOTHER'S NAME: Jeanna
OCCUPATION: High School
Teacher
EDUCATION: M.A. Spanish
Language And Culture, Teaching
Credential
RELIGION: Christian
DATE OF BIRTH: 7/10/77
HAIR COLOR: Blonde
EYE COLOR: Hazel
HEIGHT: 5'7"

Date of marriage: 12/28/14

Children: Elijah 9/17/18, adopted. Silly, creative, make believe, loves swimming, going to the park, and playing with the dog.

Interests and hobbies: John: Wood working, home improvements, working on a classic car, science; Jeanna: crafts, reading, photography; Together: Tom Clancy audio books, swimming, travel, movies.

Home: A 100-year-old white stucco Spanish Colonial home with a pool. The neighborhood consists of vintage homes on tree lined streets. The neighbors watch out for each other and there is a strong neighborhood organization that holds events throughout the year including a cul-de-sac movie night, progressive dinner, car show, a visit from Santa Claus, and a tradition of holiday decorations.

Pets: Ruby is a 12-year-old Lab-Basenji mix. She is friendly and well-behaved who gets along with all children and other animals.

Why are you interested in building your family through adoption? After trying to get pregnant for more than a year, we discovered that infertility would make having biological children a near impossibility. We had several friends who had adopted themselves and were a source of hope and information. We then began the process of adoption which led us to adopt our first child, Elijah Rose Grace. We would like to grow our family again through adoption.

Openness to birthparent(s): We believe that maintaining a relationship with the birth mother as a key to healthy development of the child. We have been in regular contact with Elijah's birth mother before Elijah was born and on

an ongoing (weekly) basis since her birth. We communicate primarily through text messages with semi regular phone calls. She lives on the other side of the country from us requiring more coordination for phone calls. We send her pictures and updates about Elijah's growth and development. The pandemic has prevented us from going to visit her birth mother - although we have plans to do that in the near future. We hope to enjoy a similar relationship with our future child's birth parent(s).

Childcare plans:

We both have full time jobs and have worked at them for the entire time we have been parents. Elijah has been at an in-home daycare facility since she was an infant and has thrived in this environment. Our child care plans for our second child are very similar given our positive experience.

OUR

promises

TO YOUR
CHILD:

NIGHTLIGHT CHRISTIAN ADOPTIONS

• (502) 423-5780 • impregnant@nightlight.org

- Our goals as their parents is to provide an environment that is **full of love, support, creativity, adventure, and diversity** so that they can become whomever God made them to be.
- **We will be strong, loving role models.** We promise to love them for the rest of our lives. Our love and support has no boundary or age limit.
- Our intention is to parent in such a way that **inspires our children to be kind, brave, creative, curious, and responsible** to and about the world around them.
- **We promise to honor your role in their life.** We will share with them our deepest respect for you, your love, and your courage in seeking adoption.

