Peter & Lee-Anne
SFLY051114-347

Lee-Anne & Peter

Welcome.
We're glad you're here!

About Us

We met while studying education, back east where Lee-Anne grew up. Peter admired Lee-Anne's no-nonsense approach to communication. Lee-Anne liked Peter's inquisitiveness and empathy. Our relationship got a jump start when Peter's dad, meeting Lee-Anne for the first time, asked her if she was going to be the mother of his red-headed grandchildren! After dating and then living together for a couple of years, we got married in a Celtic ceremony surrounded by family and friends. After a few years, we moved to Oregon, where Peter grew up.

We love the performing arts! We've done community theatre, with Peter acting and directing, and Lee-Anne stage-managing and producing. We still attend many plays and musicals throughout the year. Peter also sings with a local choir, and Lee-Anne helps out at the box office. We love to sing together on long drives, and dance together at weddings and parties.

We're best friends! We rely on each other every day, sharing chores and responsibilities. Lee-Anne does the laundry, pays the bills, and plans home projects. Peter cooks, keeps house, and gardens. Out in the world, Lee-Anne is the advocate and Peter is the diplomat.

When we go out, we eat with friends and family, visit gardens and local parks, or look at interesting architecture.

When we stay in, we play games like Bridge or Settlers of Catan. We watch too many shows: lots of scifi, historical dramas, and documentaries. Public radio is the soundtrack of our lives.

- I'm left-handed.
- My friends say I'm a cat whisperer.
- In college, I played the role of Janet in the Rocky Horror Picture Show.
- I enjoy designing interior spaces; I created my first floor plan when I was five.
- Two of my favorite foods are asparagus and chocolate. Separately, not together.
- I am energized by thunderstorms, autumn woods, babbling brooks, and campfires.
- I love the sounds of ringing church bells and passing trains.
- I'm afraid of spiders, but Peter rescues them rather than letting me squish them.

Lee-Anne

I was born in Virginia in 1972. When I was 2 1/2, we moved into the house where my parents still live in upstate New York. My neighborhood had dairy cows, cornfields, a big sky with gorgeous sunsets, acres of grass, trees, woods, and a stream. My parents read to my sister and me every night before bed for many years. Dad played with us every day when he got home from work. He would sometimes record imaginary radio shows with us. In one of my favorites, Dad begins in his best news anchor voice, "Today, we're going to talk about barrettes." Both Mom and Dad sang along to popular and theatrical music that we girls heard in the car and at the dinner table every night.

Dance has been a huge part of my life. I studied ballet, tap, jazz, modern, and other styles of dance almost continuously from the time I was six years old until I finished college. I did have to stop dancing for a while when I broke my back in a tobogganing accident. For four months I had to wear a back brace whenever I was not lying flat. Dancing was always on my mind, though -- I even tried to audition for a show wearing my brace right over my leotard!

I have lived with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome since I was 14 years old. It was hard at first, because no one could figure out what was wrong. Once I was diagnosed, I began to learn how to thrive in spite of my condition. Understanding myself and accepting help when I need it enables me to live a joyful and active life.

...more about Lee-Anne

Doing well in school and going to college were both expected in my family; my parents and all four of my grandparents graduated from college. When I was 16, I begged my parents to let me go to a college for high school aged students in Massachusetts. They reluctantly let me go, and I spent two years there studying dance and education.

While working at my university's library, I realized that I wanted to become a librarian. When we moved to Oregon, I started library school to get my masters degree. Being a librarian allows me to offer education for everyone.

While I was raised United Methodist and I studied at a Lutheran college, my spiritual beliefs now include Pagan traditions. I belong to a circle of women who honor nature together. Several of the festivals overlap with holidays such as Christmas, Easter, and Halloween. This makes it easy for me to celebrate throughout the year with Peter and the rest of my family.

I have been interested in adoption since childhood because my mother was adopted in a closed adoption. When we were kids, my grandparents often told the story of bringing my mother home overnight on the train. We didn't know many details of my mom's birth family until recently, when DNA testing and family tree research connected us to her birth mother's family. We have now met and are staying in touch with several of my mother's birth family members. We also learned that my mother's birth father was an Eastern European Jew, but we haven't found him yet...we're still looking! Researching my mom's birth family has strengthened my commitment to keeping our adoption as open as possible.

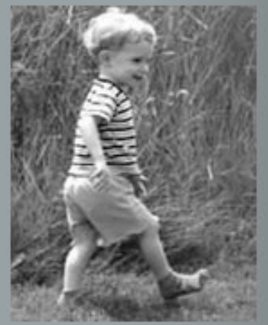
- As a kid I sold jars of Mt. St. Helens ash to earn money while travelling cross-country with my grandparents.
- I have a passion for genealogy. I've been tracing the history of both our families back to our immigrant ancestors.
- The salty ocean air is one of my favorite smells.
- My dream job would be working in a musical theatre archive, preserving old recordings.
- Two of my favorite foods are cheese and peanut butter. Separately. And together.
- Spiderman is my favorite superhero.

Peter

I was born in 1970 in Maine when my dad was finishing his service in the Air Force. We moved when I was still little, first to Philadelphia where my parents went to grad school and then a couple years later to my mother's hometown in Oregon. My parents divorced when I was five, and though I didn't have a traditional two-parent family, there were many adults who played a part in my upbringing. I grew up with my mom near her job at a local college library, in the home where she still lives today. My dad moved to a nearby suburb and and I saw him on weekends and holidays until his job took him to Florida when I was a teenager. My dad's parents were a big part of my childhood, coming to stay with us at Mom's a couple of times a year, and taking me on extended cross-country trips. Growing up, I tagged along with my friends and their families, getting to see all kinds of homelives. All of these people were, and still are, my family. Open adoption appeals to me personally because I know from experience that a broader sense of family has a huge impact on the life of a child.

In school, I was both brainy and a little scrawny, and some of the other kids picked on me. I tried to play it safe by taking up a lot of different interests so that I had friends in different social groups to stick up for me. In high school, I discovered the magic of musical theatre, and I stopped being on the defensive -- I made many new friends, discovered I had a talent for singing and performing, and developed a new confidence in myself. To this day, I'm still happiest singing in a choir or when I'm onstage or even backstage doing theatre.

My multiple interests meant it took me a while to figure out what I wanted to do "when I grew up." In college, I sampled science and history and music. I worked in both the computer lab and the college archives. I had a really well-rounded education. In the end, I made plans to become a high school science teacher. After getting my teaching degree, I realized that maybe classroom teaching wasn't right for me, even though I still wanted an educational career. I took a job running a computer lab at my university.



...more about Peter

When Lee-Anne and I moved back to Oregon, I spent several years doing computer support for a suburban school district, followed by a challenging and rewarding job managing classroom technology support at an extension office of a large university.

Computers are my job, but my hobbies are diverse. I love singing. I regularly play board games with friends. I enjoy puttering around the garden. I dream of having a thoroughly green home. And I love genealogy -- making family trees. Each and every one of us is the result of thousands of people who came before us -- not just their genetics, but a blending of all their stories, the different families meeting and merging and then moving out on their own, each story in its own unique place in history, and each person a product of their family, their surroundings, and their time. It's amazing!

I'm excited to become a parent. I can't wait to do things with our child that I enjoyed doing as a kid, like playing catch, camping in the back yard, or going to the zoo. I love the thought of being there as my kid experiences life's milestones for the first time, from walking and talking, to the first day of school, to discovering a great book or piece of music or TV show.

our home and neighborhood

We own a duplex with Peter's oldest friends from grade school, Heather and Fillard, who are married to each other. They and their son live in one unit and we live in the other. We're looking forward to our child having a playmate right next door. It's great to be able to share time and resources with Heather and Fillard on projects large and small, like cooking for potlucks, working on our shared yard, and even putting solar panels on the roof.

Our home is in a neighborhood near where Peter grew up and his mother still lives. It's a very walkable urban neighborhood that has recently become popular. There are grocery stores, interesting restaurants, movie theatres, and a weekly farmers' market. Very close by is a park with a playground, and the wider spaces of the middle school ball fields are a short walk away.

Elementary, middle, and high schools are all within walking distance. Neighborhood education options include a year-round elementary school that focuses on the arts and eats from its own garden, Chinese and Spanish language immersion school programs, and music programs through both the public schools and a community music center.

We have been making our cozy home a little more spacious and preparing it for family life. We've already completely remodeled our kitchen and bathroom. Our next big project is to finish our attic to create an additional bedroom and bathroom.

Our family is a broad circle of supportive friends and relatives living far and near.

our nephew

our niece

Lee-Anne's sister

Lee-Anne's grandma

Peter's dad

Peter's mom

Lee-Anne's mom

Lee-Anne's dad

Lee-Anne's uncle

Peter's uncles and aunt

Peter's aunt

Lee-Anne's aunt

Our Traditions

We share holiday meals
with family and friends.

Peter's family is always up for
a game of Bridge.

We embrace our shared
Celtic heritage at
Scottish highland games.

We light candles in the darkness
every year at Winter Solstice.

Lee-Anne's favorite
holiday is Thanksgiving.
Please pass the butter and salt!

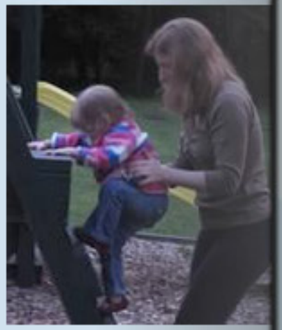
We celebrate Twelve Days of Christmas
with Peter's mom's artwork.

We treasure the big summer gatherings
of Lee-Anne's extended family.

We love to carve
pumpkins at Halloween.

Peter's mom bakes his favorite
birthday cake every year!

We love to see fireworks on
July 4th or anytime!



Dreams for our child

We want our child to be able to pursue her or his own dreams as she or he grows into adulthood.

We believe in the importance of fun and creative play.

We look forward to reading stories and books with our child daily.

We will encourage our child to experience wonder in the world and to respect nature.

We will share the importance of education and learning by engaging our child's imagination in many areas, including those close to our hearts.

We will provide our child with supportive and flexible boundaries as she or he encounters new ideas, experiences, and possibilities.

We will nurture our child's growing sense of self by balancing opportunities for group interaction and alone time.

We will encourage our child to develop friendships among both children and adults in our sphere. We recognize and embrace that we are just one part of a circle of people who will nurture our child.

We want our child to grow into a joyful adult, engaged with the world and equipped to help make it a better place.

Growing our Family through Open Adoption

A child deserves All The Love! We'd like to make lasting connections with you and other members of your family and hope to welcome you into our extended family circle. We'd love for you and other members of your family to be part of the group of caring adults whose unique perspectives contribute to our child's view of the world.

We'd like to get together often to enjoy food, fun, and good company. We're eager to keep in touch in any and all ways: text, social media, email, phone, videochat, and even old-fashioned cards and letters!

Thank you for spending time with us!
We wish you the best on your journey.