SFLY051114-347

Hanako and Marko

We have been happily married since 2007, and we are very hopeful about starting a family together and excited to be pursuing open adoption to help us along that path. Thanks for taking time to read a bit about us.

A bit about us...

We live in a small town on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State where we own and operate a successful thirty acre organic vegetable farm. Our home is on the farm and we're grateful that our commute to work every day is just a short walk out to the fields. We care deeply for each other and for those around us, we take our responsibilities seriously and we also love to goof around and make each other laugh.

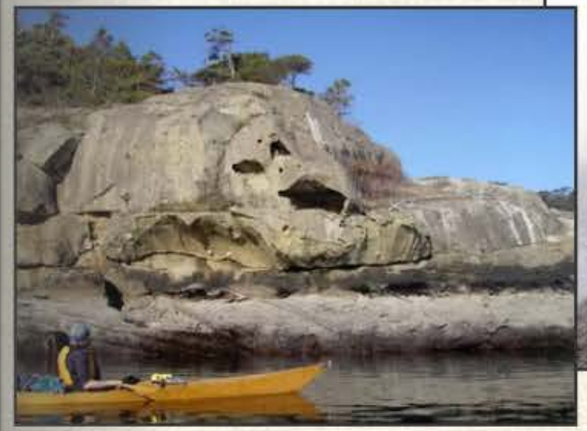
Lollo and Franny, farm dogs extraordinaire, are a very big part of our lives. They provide us endless companionship, humor and snuggles.

What Hanako appreciates most about Marko... his ability to fix, build, grow and problem-solve almost anything. He is truly a person of many skills!

What Marko appreciates most about Hanako... she is the most loving, honest and trustworthy person I know.

Hanako loves...

-Knitting and sewing gifts for people, especially surprise gifts!
-Caring for animals
-Growing plants and working in our greenhouses
-Cooking, baking and preserving food from the farm, tomatoes in particular
-Dark, early mornings when everyone else is sleeping
-Getting into deep conversations with friends
-Going walking with the dogs



Marko loves...

-Sea kayaking trips in the winter
-Growing and eating almost every vegetable, especially radicchio
-Snuggling with the dogs
-Playing electric bass in a metal band
- Eating Hanako's Japanese cooking
- Reading Science Fiction
-Using hand tools to build things, building our barn was an especially gratifying project
-Swimming in the pond

Our marriage

Our friends and family all joined their incredible efforts together to make our wedding day amazing. Many people said it was the best day of the year, as the two of us exchanged vows and wondered how our life together would unfold. All these years later...

...it has only gotten better.

My childhood was wonderful. Life was filled with loving family, big adventures and lots of magical moments. It wasn't until I was older that I truly appreciated the experience my brother and I had growing up in a bi-cultural and bilingual family. We would spend part of our summers living in Japan with my grandparents and cousins, and these are some of my favorite memories. My family on my father's side also had a big influence on me, we lived close to them and spent all of our holidays gathered together. I have experienced my whole life with a foot in two very different worlds, while having the great fortune of feeling at home in both... that was a gift that my family gave me and I feel so lucky!

Hanako

I've led a fulfilling life thus far, and am grateful to be heading into a new chapter of my story. I've had the opportunity to travel, do all different kinds of work and build relationships with people from so many places and cultures. I turned twenty-one during a half-year stay in northern India, where I spent a month working at a rural school for children who were hard of hearing. This was a pivotal time in my life, and I believe it helped shape me into a grounded, responsible, and appreciative person.

I take pride in my work as a farmer, and there is so much about my life that I love and there is so much that I look forward to. Above all, my dreams of welcoming a child into my life fill me with such joy and hope. My heart is open and I have so much love to give!

Hanako's family

My family history spans two very different cultures and countries, which means that family gatherings are filled with a mix of different languages, foods and traditions. I am close with my parents and with my brother and his family, and they all live in the same town in Wisconsin so it's easy to visit them. Getting to watch my nieces and nephews be born (most recent nephew born in 2018) and grow has been one of the highlights of my life. If we are so lucky to become parents there will be loving grandparents, aunts, uncles and a solid crew of spectacular cousins eagerly waiting to welcome a new child and their birth family with very open arms.

Marko

I grew up in central Michigan with a supportive and caring family. Most of my early memories involve family camping trips, playing in the field behind my house with friends and working in my family bakery business. I have always been curious about the world and my place in it.

As a teenager I became an avid reader of books and to this day I love how a book can teach me anything and take me on an adventure anywhere, anytime. Exploring new things and new places brings me great joy. At different times in my life I have lived in Asia and Central America and I have also traveled to almost all 50 states.

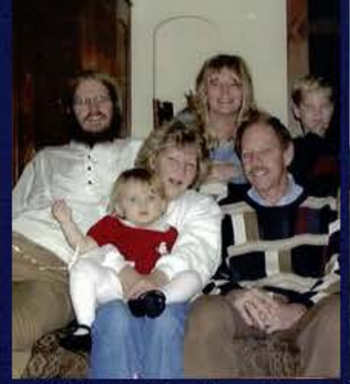
As an adult I have come to love getting to know the Olympic Peninsula. I enjoy knowing the people in our community that we do business with, the wild birds that nest on the farm and all of the trees that grow in our area. Perhaps the most important lesson I have learned in life is this: If I am paying attention, every moment presents itself as an opportunity to learn something new.

A moment of laughter with Hanako's mom and niece.

Grandma, Mom and me.

Napping with Lollo.

Camping with my dad in Florida.



With my family at the holidays.

My siblings and me.

Marko: Family and Friends

Age five, with my brother and cousins.

Taking a break from planting garlic with Hanako and our friend Julie.

Long time friends are the best.

Building with my friend Scott.

Playing music with Hanako and friends at the local talent show.

Hanging out with buddies.

Our home.

We love cozy nights.

Winter morning on the farm.

A view of the barn.

Our farm & home

Our home is a cozy house on thirty acres of beautiful farmland. We are surrounded by mountains, trees, rivers, beaches, supportive neighbors and we live less than a mile from our town and local school. Our farm is a safe and endlessly interesting place, where stability and adventure co-exist at all times.

There are a lot of spots in this world that we truly love, but none as much as we love our home. All the singing birds that we wake to early in the mornings, our house, our animals, our fields, our community, and the starry night sky... these are the things that remind us every day that we are in the right place!

We have worked very hard to build a thriving, successful farm from which we are able to make our full livelihood. Our farm is well established in our community and sometimes it still takes us by surprise when we realize how many people we are helping to feed! Above all, we are grateful that we get to be together almost everyday, and work at our home, and that we will both really get to be present with our child as they grow up.

Life on the farm is always interesting. Every day we cycle through periods of buzzing activity and peaceful quiet. We never have to look far for a source of wonder.

We give thanks for the abundance!

Our favorite traditions

All seasons have their charm but we love Winter... it means we get to romp in the snow, which is usually a quick drive from our home into the mountains. It also means we get to invite friends over for a traditional Japanese New Year's meal. And we always attend our nearby annual Mochi-fest, where we get to take part in pounding rice into traditional sweet cakes.

Many of our traditions revolve around food! One of our favorites is our annual Autumn trip to hunt for edible mushrooms. Bringing our produce to sell at farmer's markets is a big part of our lives and our family culture. And community pizza nights on the farm is one that our friends and farm crew love... the record to date for number of pizzas made in our wood-fired oven in one day is fifty!

Our hopes and dreams for our child

We hope for our child to lead a joyful, interesting and fulfilling life and to move through the world with the confidence of knowing that love and support from family and community are strong and present at all times. Our own values center around kindness, equality, gratitude and respect for the world around us and we hope to pass these along to our child.

We feel very strongly that the relationship between the child and their birth family is at the core of everyone's well-being. We are committed to keeping our doors and our hearts open to our child's birth family. We believe in the importance of our child knowing their roots and keeping a connection with their birth family and their culture, and we will work hard to keep those ties strong. Above all, we commit to being the best parents that we can possibly be, and to embrace the open adoption and everyone involved in our open adoption with kindness, courage and grace.

What open adoption means to us