



Rune & Jeff



Friends came from around the world to help us celebrate our wedding in Norway in May of 1999.



We got married at Rune's family summer home in Norway. Rune is in the foreground with his dad on the right. In the top picture, the big moment, Rune is putting the ring on Jeff's finger at the City Clerks Office. Behind it is our own wedding invitations that we made by hand.

Dear Birth Parent,

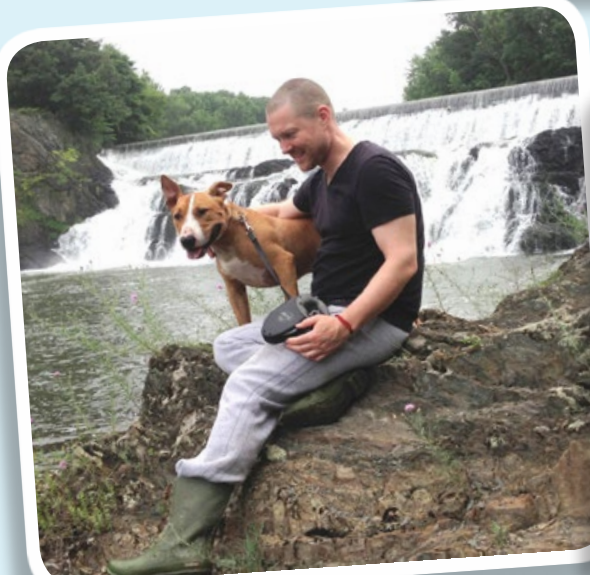
Thank you for taking the time to read about us and our journey to build a family. We are a loving, spiritual, creative and kind couple who have been together for 17 years and married for 16 years. Rune is originally from Norway and Jeffrey is Native American and grew up moving all around the world. It was love at first sight when we met through friends while students in London. We have been together literally since the first five minutes of meeting each other. In fact we told each other that we loved each other and talked about children on the first day of meeting. We truly believe that the universe has a perfect plan for us and that plan has always included having children. We cannot wait to become parents!



1999



2015



Here are pictures of Rune. He is playful and feels equally at home in the sandbox with Jeff's nieces, bowling or blowing bubbles, taking Stein for a walk or traveling to Hong Kong. The picture in the middle is Rune as a toddler with his brother, Johnny and sister, Torill.



Jeff describes Rune

Rune is absolutely my soulmate. We have been together literally since we first met and I miss him when we are not together. He is a kind, courageous and loving person. His mind works creatively all of the time and he does not give up until he achieves whatever he sets his sights on. Everyone who knows him acknowledges the positive energy he carries with him and is drawn to his honesty and humble strength. He loves children and they love him and his playful humor. He is always able to make me laugh and continues to surprise me after nearly 17 years together. I have no doubt that he will be a fantastic father to the special child that will call him "Pappa".



Here are pictures of Jeff. He loves adventure and new experiences from hiking a snowy trail to visiting the Grand Canyon. Jeff loves to have fun. This is him in an oversized chair made by an artist friend and with Stein pretending to drive our boat. Jeff loves to make things with his hands, from making art to gardening to knitting. He also loves fashion and attending fabulous events at places like the Metropolitan Museum in New York. Here with our best friend Kristen.

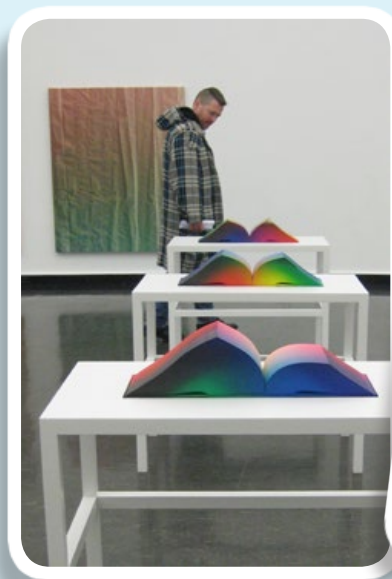


Rune describes Jeff

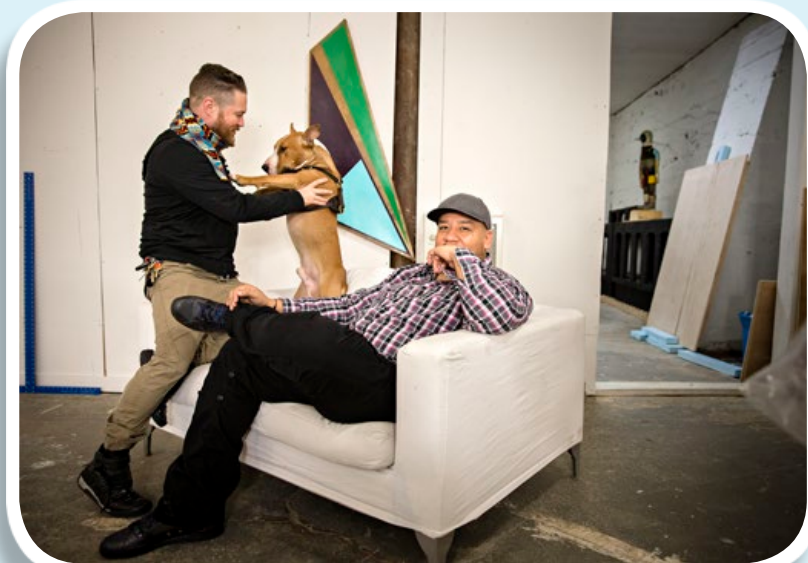
Jeff is my soulmate and since the first moment I looked into his beautiful brown eyes, I knew I wanted to spend my life with him. Jeff is an inspiration every day - he is endlessly optimistic and curious, direct and affectionate. He knows when to be goofy and when to be serious. Jeff makes me feel safe and is not afraid to be vulnerable and give freely of himself. He is genuinely interested in everyone he meets - believing that everybody can teach us something if we listen carefully. In life, Jeff has faced challenges with generosity and openness, avoiding judging others. His amazing beauty is reflected in the art he makes. I always say Jeff can see more colors than anyone else, and he has shown me more beautiful colors than I could ever have imagined. I can't wait to raise a child with Jeff and with the love I experience everyday.



We are both artists and professors whose lives are filled with creativity and imagination. Rune is a sculptor and works with many different materials. Here is a picture of him with his sculptures in 2010 while he was a visiting artist in San Francisco. Here you see Jeff selecting colors for a recent stained glass commission.



Jeff's artwork includes painting, sculpture and public art commissions. Here is a picture of a ceiling mural he designed for an elementary school. The other pictures include Rune looking at art in a museum in Norway, dressed to attend the graduation of his students, and a picture of both of us in Jeff's art studio.





Three years ago we made the decision to settle down in beautiful upstate New York, purchase a home and establish roots in a semi-rural artistic community where there are many young families and to begin the adoption process. It is a small progressive community close to great schools, and surrounded by lots of nature, creative community, active farms, seasonal weather and near the water. We still love to go into the city, sometimes for work and sometimes for fun. We feel like we have the best of both worlds.

We have wanted a family since very early on and as a same-sex couple we have always known adoption would be our first choice in creating our family. We met in 1998 while both completing our Master of Fine Arts degrees in London. Now we are both college professors and professional artists who love to teach and create with our hands. We live in a spacious home with five bedrooms, three bathrooms, a sun-filled living room, a kitchen and a dining room, on nearly 2 acres of land. We are close to lots of outdoor activities, good schools, and lots of community events for families.

We also have a dog, Stein, who is an English Bull Terrier and is four years old. He is an extremely relaxed dog and great with children and babies. We take him for long walks in a nearby nature preservation area. Our home is very important to us and we are always working at home on projects or in the yard. We love to cook and plan to teach your child about nutrition and involve them in making regular family dinners. Outside of the house we enjoy going to visit friends, seeing movies, visiting museums, and going out on our boat.

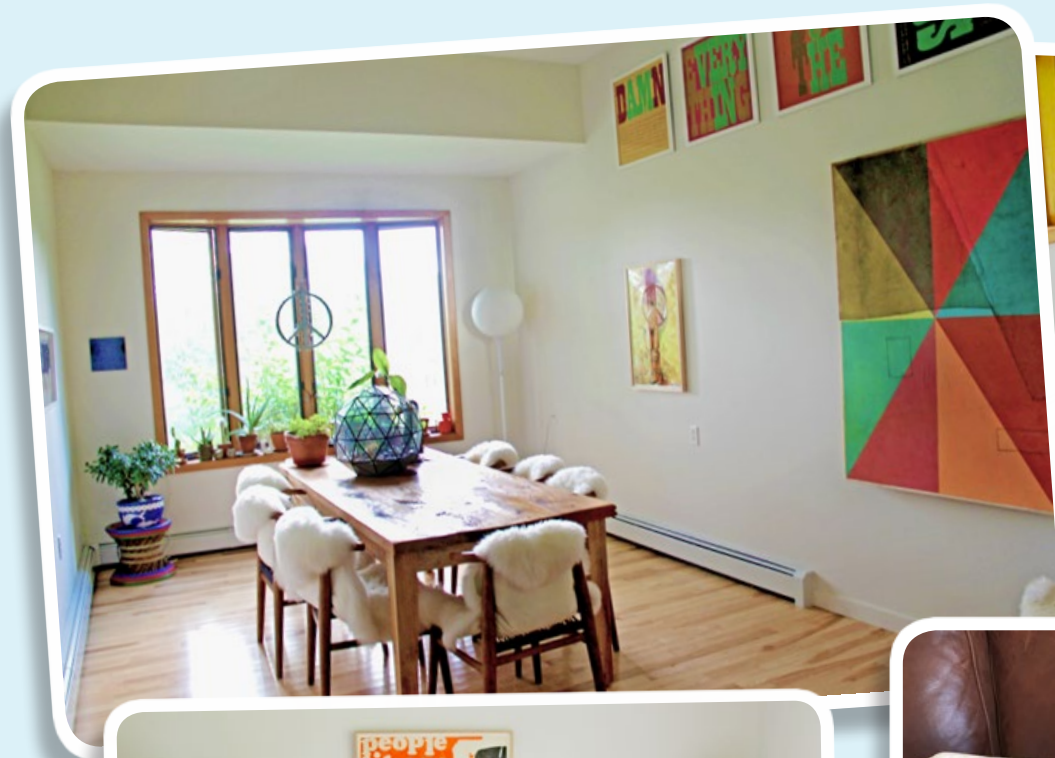
We are very social and most of our close friends have young children whom we have known since they were born. We look forward to our child growing up with their children, some of whom were adopted. We have learned a great deal from them about the adoption process and child rearing in general. We have received a tremendous amount of support from our family and friends as we have continued on our journey towards building our family.



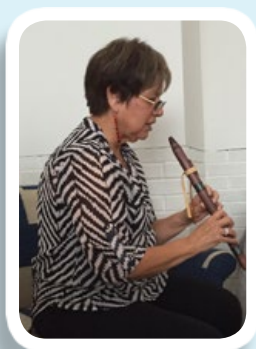
We are surrounded by lots of open space where your child can run and play in our yard and the 16 acre nature preservation area that meets the edge of our property. We enjoy taking long walks here and working outside in our garden where we grow vegetables and flowers.



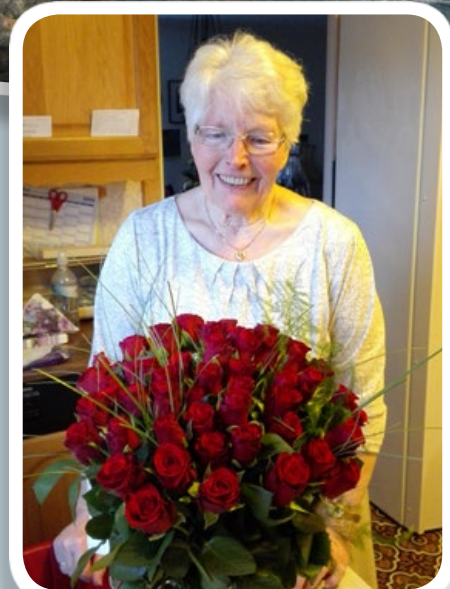
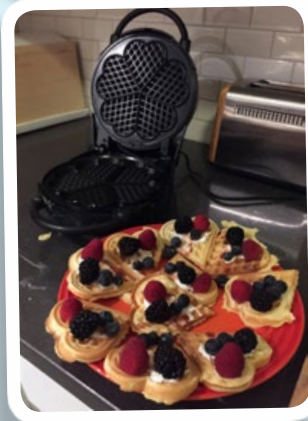
In our window hangs a peace sign to remind ourselves and others to remain open and mark our home with peace and love. We love spending time with family and friends. Here are pictures from Stein's birthday, Thanksgiving and, Jeff's father's birthday with our niece Lola.



Our home is filled with art and happiness! Here are pictures of our dining room, our guest bedroom, our living room and our dog Stein-Olaf who loves children.



Jeff's mother Georgia and father, James, are pictured on the top right. His sister Jamie, is in the picture in the middle with Jeff. She is married to Doug and they have three beautiful children, Cormac (16 years old), Lily (14 years old) and Lola (10 years old). They live in North Carolina, and we visit each other regularly. They are all very excited for us to begin our family and look forward to meeting their new grandchild, cousin, niece or nephew. When we are all together we like to take the kids to different activities including skiing, swimming, the movies and museums.



Rune's family lives in Norway. There is mamma Annemor, she loves roses, as you can see in the picture on the right. Pappa Rolf, who is reading a map in the top picture on the left; he loves walking in nature. Sister Torill, is in the white dress in the picture above with brother Johnny to her right. Rune has three nephews; Vidar, Øystein and Endre. We visit them at least once a year, which means a lot of cake and eating. Rune inherited his love of baking from his mother. They are excited and waiting for the day when we bring our child to visit them in Norway where we love to go hiking and spend time at the family summer home in the fjords.



We spend holidays with Rune's family in Norway or with Jeff's family in North Carolina. We also enjoy hosting family and friends at our house for holiday celebrations.

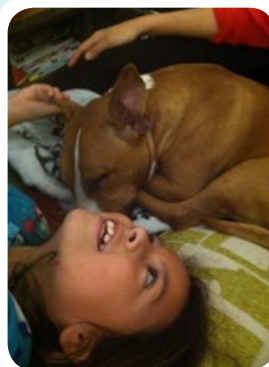




We love spending time with our friends and their children. Above Jeff is getting his homemade birthday cake.



This is a picture of us with Jeff's nephew Cormac in 1999.



Stein is a snuggle bug. Here with Jeff and above with our niece Lola.

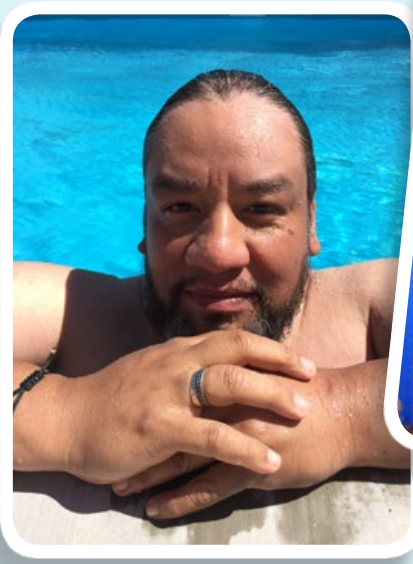


These are some of our very incredible friends who have helped us through the adoption process based on their own experiences of building their families through successful adoptions. We feel very blessed to know them.





We love to travel and take road trips. Here are pictures from some of our adventures, including sleeping in teepees in South Dakota, Native American pow wows, Rune at the Grand Canyon, and under a red rock arch in Utah, Jeff in Joshua Tree, as well as a beautiful rainbow we saw in New Mexico

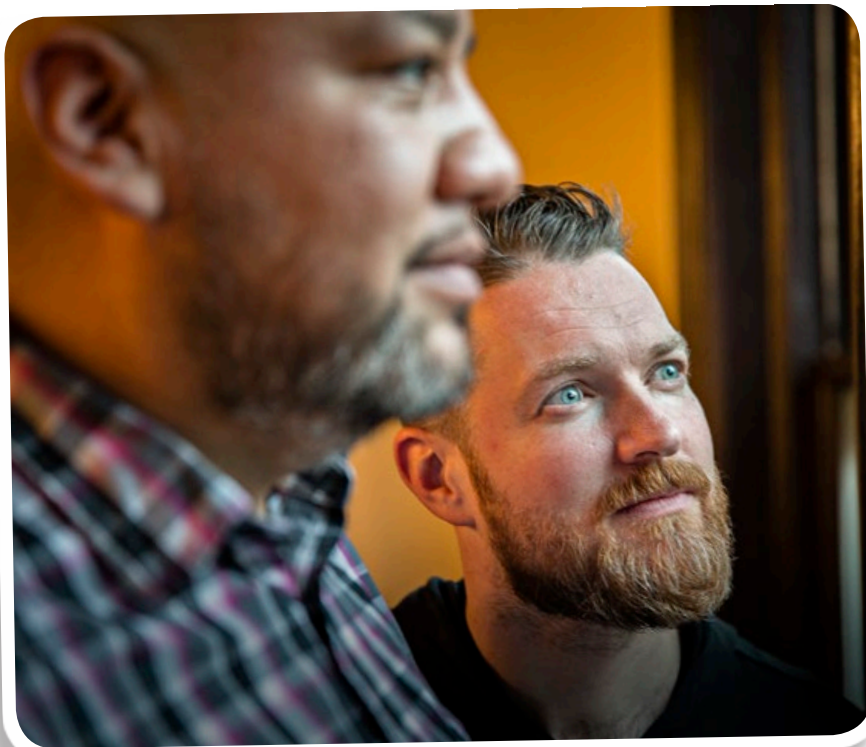


We plan to travel with your child once they are old enough and expose them to many different cultures here in the US and abroad. Here are pictures from a recent trip to Joshua Tree, California, where we stayed in a house in the middle of the desert. Rune loves science and nature. Here he is looking at jellyfish in a huge aquarium during another trip to California. Above left you see Jeff outdoors in beautiful South Dakota learning to work with leather. We also enjoy getting out on the water locally in our boat to explore the Hudson River.

We will make sure that any child in our family knows they are loved, feels safe and cared for. They will have their own space and also have a close group of other children to play with. They will know their cousins on both sides of the family, and their aunts, uncles, and grandparents. Our families are very supportive and when your child arrives, Jeff's parents will come and help us care for them in the beginning. We are creating a nursery, within our newly owned art studio building, where your child can sleep and play close to us and we can spend time together throughout each day. We also employ seven studio assistants who are all very excited to meet the baby we are lucky enough to adopt. Our schedules are flexible and we plan to both be primary care givers on a daily basis.



Being an interracial couple ourselves, we are well prepared to raise a child of any race and look forward to meeting them and learning more about their heritage and yours as well. We believe that your child should know as much as they and you are comfortable with about each other. Your child will travel and see other cultures including theirs and ours (Norwegian and Native American). As they grow older, we know that children have many interests and that they will change. We are committed to supporting them in their interests as they figure out who they are. We will carefully consider day cares, nursery schools, and K-12 schools that will provide stimulation and education along with nurturing and support. We look forward getting to know your child and to support them as they make discoveries from childhood into adulthood.



We have worked hard to get to this point and are ready to welcome your baby into our home. We will provide the very best environment that we can to ensure that your child has an extremely happy childhood, knows they are loved, receives a good education, is healthy in mind and body, and is ultimately prepared to have a successful life as an adult. We will always be here for them and understand parenting does not end when they leave our home. We know that life is full of ups and downs and we will be here to support them through all of it and always with kindness and unconditional love.

We are open to maintaining communication with you before and after the adoption process is complete as we feel this is very beneficial to the physical and mental well-being of your child as they develop as a person. We will always speak of you in the highest regard.

Thank you! Your courageous decision can make our dream come true. If you wish to know more about us or contact us, please use the following contact information:

Email us at **JeffandRune@gmail.com** or
contact **Forever Families Through Adoption** at **1-914-939-1180** or Toll free **1-866-922-3678**

Jeff & Rune



John Smith

Thank you!