

Hiroki and Ben

LOVING COUPLE
RESTAURANT OWNER AND TRANSLATOR/WRITER
WITH THE MOST WONDERFUL FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Hiroki and Ben
(360) 724-8055
adopt@BenandHiroki.com



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We live in a small town north of Seattle and are looking for a newborn baby to adopt. We live in a Buddhist home, speak Japanese and English and would like to raise our child to be bilingual.

After living in rural, suburban and urban settings, we selected a small town close to the sea with lots of farmland all around. Our house has a large yard for kids to run around in and is a short walk to all the shops, restaurants and activity of the quaint downtown area. There are nearby woods and fields to explore, and we are only a short distance to a couple larger towns to see movies and go shopping. We also love being within driving distance of Seattle and Vancouver where we can visit friends and family and participate in big city activities.

We believe in raising children with a strong sense of self-responsibility and respect for other people, and in providing a warm, loving family environment. As an approach for attaining personal growth, instilling compassion and living in harmony with others, Buddhism is a way of living that we embrace.

After many years together, we were finally able to be legally married in 2012, and we would love to bring a child into our family. We have established careers and are financially secure. More importantly, our families, friends and child-loving collie are all eager to welcome a baby.



On a day trip to Guemes Island, across the strait from Anacortes

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Hiroki...

Born and raised in Japan, Hiroki has lived in the US for more than twenty years. He recently sold a successful bakery in Seattle and opened a small restaurant in Mount Vernon. Each day, Hiroki creates a new menu with only two or three entrées plus appetizers and desserts made from local, fresh ingredients. The response from the community has been overwhelmingly positive, with three full-house bookings in the first month.

Hiroki loves his work but knows he will love being a father much, much more. He has set his restaurant hours to only twenty hours a week so that he will have plenty of time to focus on his family.

Hiroki has a culinary degree from the Art Institute of Seattle, and developed an exclusive line of desserts at his bakery, including his popular green tea tiramisu. He has been featured twice on KCTS public channel 9 in Seattle for his blueberry scones and soufflé cheesecake, and also in newspapers and magazines (including Sunset and Seattle Magazine).



Hiroki holds the baby boy of a good friend of his in Japan

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Hiroki's new restaurant, the UpCountry...



Hiroki contemplates his next dish



The outside of the restaurant in Pine Square, Mount Vernon

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Hiroki's new restaurant, the UpCountry...



Our friends Noriko and Joey sample an appetizer plate at the UpCountry

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Hiroki and Ben gather for a picture with old friends and new acquaintances to celebrate the opening of the restaurant in May

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Hiroki's creations



Chicken teriyaki with oshi-sushi, a recent offering at Hiroki's restaurant. The teriyaki is sprinkled with *sansho*, a tangy pepper grown in Japan.

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A princess cake, a traditional Swedish cake popular for baby showers and weddings

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Ben...

Ben grew up in the Seattle area and lived in Japan for many years as an adult. He is fluent in Japanese and works as a translator, specializing in technical translation from Japanese to English.

He has a strong love of languages and a master's degree in linguistics. He also studies Italian and Lushootseed, a Native American language spoken by only about a hundred people in the Puget Sound region. Ben has been working to help bring the language back, creating a Wikipedia-style dictionary for Lushootseed on the internet.

In addition, Ben has dreamed of being a writer since he was a child. He is now finishing up the first installment of an adventure story set in China, India and Vietnam in the third century.

Ben sits with the one-year-old son of close friends. His mother signs American Sign Language fluently, and he is growing up signing ASL and speaking English and Spanish.

He has a sweet disposition and would love to have a playmate.



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One of the great things about Western Washington is all the beautiful scenery and nature there is to enjoy. Here we are on a trip up the Skagit River east of Sedro-Woolley.

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Our friends—Manako, Noriko and Jun—stand behind us, helping us celebrate our wedding. Manako is a professional interpreter, Noriko is an international store designer for Starbucks and Jun works in the import industry.

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Hiroki's parents visit in spring 2015



Hiroki's parents enjoy Mexican food on a trip to the US in 2015. In addition to visiting this diner in Anacortes, we took a drive to Mount Baker, went to Vancouver where we enjoyed fancy dim sum and the beautiful scenery, and drove along Chuckanut Bay to Bellingham.

While visiting from Japan, Hiroki's parents stop by Ben's parents' home in Seattle. Ben's mom is taking the picture.



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Assorted photos...



At left, our wonderful dog Q-ta sits in the back of our SUV eagerly waiting to go for a hike. At right, Q-ta yawns after the hike. His name comes from "cute" in English and "ta" which indicates a boy's name in Japanese.



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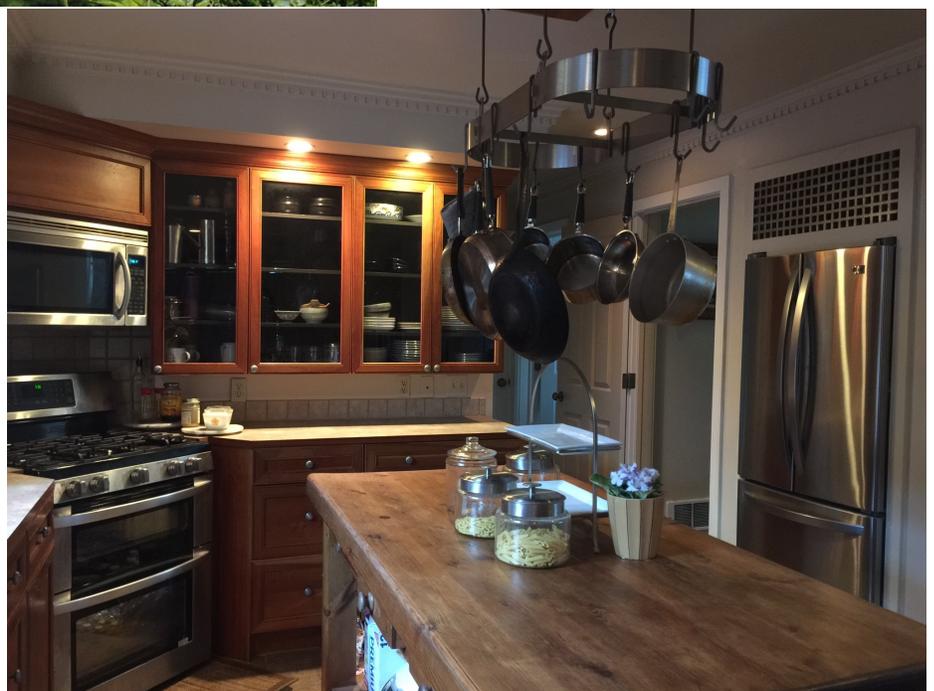
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Our home



The back entrance to our home



Our main kitchen where Hiroki makes his fabulous meals

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Assorted photos...



Hiroki's dad visited the US for the first time in 2015. With all the beautiful scenery and interesting food, he said it was the best vacation he had ever had in his life. A welder by profession, he loves working with his hands. One morning, we got up and found he had taken the dried bamboo from our front yard and was creating supports for Hiroki's roses.

A view of our backyard. You can tell how Hiroki inherited a love of gardening.



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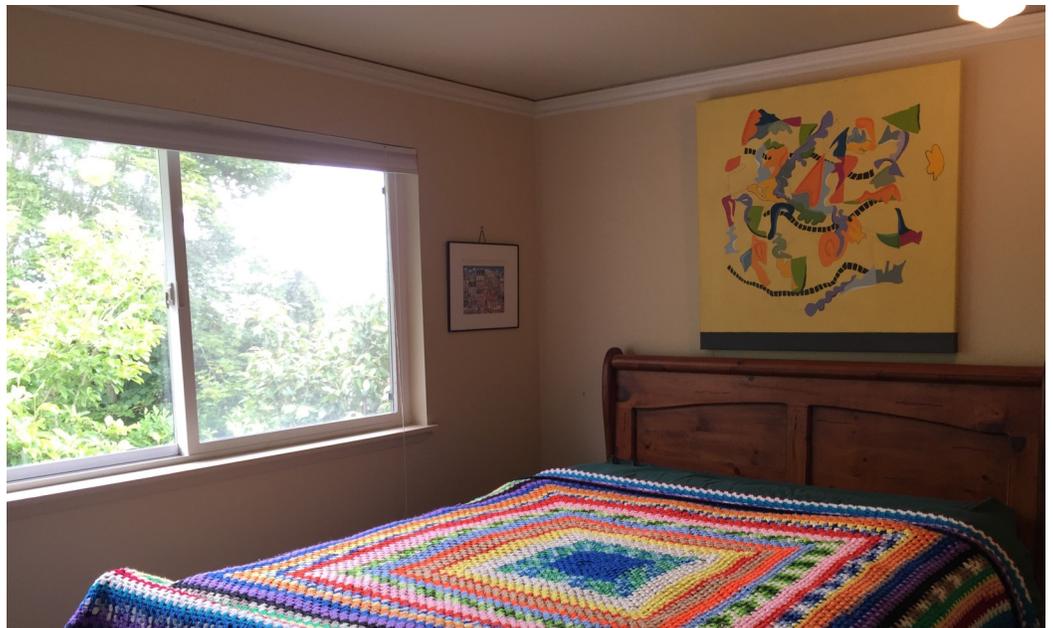
Our home



Ben's parents



Ben's sister Diana hugs her daughter, Natasha



Ben's mom's artwork hangs in the room to be a nursery. Ben crocheted the afghan on the bed when he was a child.

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Our home



Our dining room where we enjoy lots of happy gatherings of family and friends. The chandelier, table and chairs came with the house.



Hiroki's hobby—African cichlids and other tropical fish

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Our house on Maui



Two of our friends on Maui adopted their son Gavin when he was a baby. He's now a darling little boy who loves restaurants and likes to pretend he's a very serious busboy when we go out.

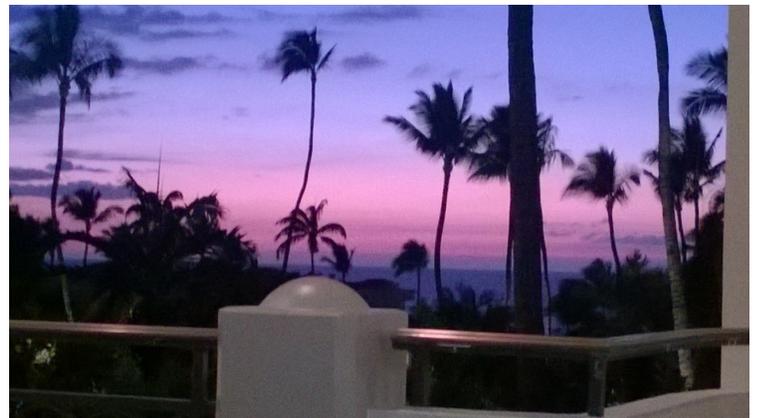


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Our home Upcountry (where Hiroki's restaurant gets its name) on Maui. It is rented to a family. The father is a gardener so the place always looks beautiful, and there is an exciting field of goats in the backyard.



The sunsets are just one of the many attractions on Maui. We generally go once a year to visit friends, take in the sights and relax.

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We aspire to be parents who provide solid guidance to our child while creating opportunities for growth and exploration.

With caring friends and family members, we will give support so our child can find his or her own unique way in the world.

Thank you for reading our profile.

Q-ta joins us for a selfie
in our backyard



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