

AFSA Outreach

Adoptive Families Support Association

May Meeting: AFSA Families Cook

Due to weather, our January meeting—AFSA Families Cook for the New Year—was cancelled. Given the popularity of this meeting, we decided to reschedule for the May meeting. Hopefully, snow will not be an issue!

Like previous years, we will have demonstrations, recipes, and food to eat. Our chefs this year will be comprised of AFSA members. We will have three cooking presentations with the opportunity to sample what each cook has prepared for presentation.

The AFSA members who will be cooking for us are: **Tim Stafford, Kathy, Daniel and Emily Gisser, and Doug Sage.** Tim and Doug will be cooking Korean dishes and the Gisser's will be presenting some dishes from Viet Nam.

Come prepared to sample each dish and receive a copy of each recipe presented. We look forward to seeing you at our May meeting. Make sure to come prepared to have fun, learn a few culinary tricks, and eat!



May-June 2009

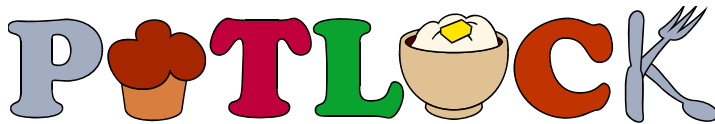
Volume 9, Issue 3

2008-2009 Schedule

September 13	Movie Night
October 11	Birthparent Panel
November 8	Post-Adoption Support Programs
December 13	Holiday Party
January 10	Cancelled! ❄️
February 14	Adult Adoptee Panel
March 14	Spring Ahead Party
April 11	Korean Culture Camp Reunion
May 9	AFSA Cooks
June 13	Culture Night

June Meeting: Culture Night

AFSA's annual Culture Night returns on Saturday, June 13.



This is one of the most popular events of the year as we celebrate the wide range of birth cultures of our AFSA families. For this potluck meal, each family is asked to bring a dish from their family's ethnic heritage to share. Plates, cups, silverware, and drinks will be provided. Please bring any serving utensils you need for your dish. To ensure that there is enough for everyone to have a chance to try all the delicious foods, please bring enough to serve your family plus eight. The AFSA Board will provide dessert.

As a special treat, entertainment will be provided by the martial arts performance group, "Black Out Performance Team." Children are encouraged to wear their traditional dress of their birth countries. Kick off the summer in a delicious way. We hope to see you there.

May Meeting

Saturday, May 9

** 6:00 p.m. **

"AFSA Cooks"

Location:

Korean American
Presbyterian Church of
Cleveland
9305 Midwest Ave.
Garfield Heights

May



Birthdays

Emily Boyle	14	5/10
Matthew Janovyak	15	5/20
Mary Ann Miller	17	5/11
Joshua Powell	7	5/9



Arrival Anniversaries

Ryan Cohen	5/12/00
Paul Corty	5/27/98
Stephen Fox	5/12/97
Michelle Janovyak	5/11/96
Josh Mago	5/21/99
Amelia Sage	5/27/04
Megan Williams	5/17/94
Nathan Williams	5/1/97

News and Notes

Welcome Wagon



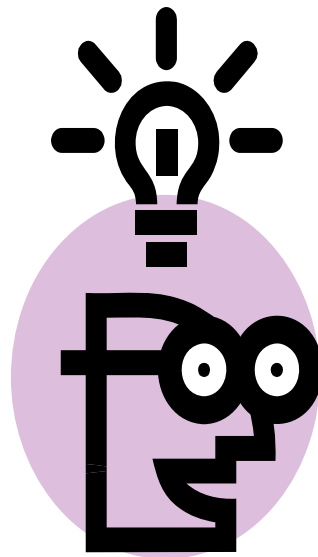
AFSA is happy to welcome its newest and youngest member! **Kevin and Melissa Hensel**, along with son, **Patrick**, welcomed the newest addition to their family. Baby Mackenzie J. Hensel was born on 3/4/09 at 1:51 p.m. She was 7 pounds 7 ounces at birth and 20 inches in length. Mom, Dad, Mackenzi and “big” brother Patrick are all reported to be doing very well. Welcome and congratulations!

FAC Seminars

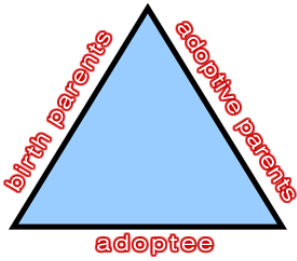
Family Adoption Consultants will be offering two adoption information seminars this spring. Each seminar will provide information about adoption opportunities from Korea, China, and the Philippines as well as new opportunities in Kazakhstan. You can also gather information about many intercountry adoption options through FAC’s partner agencies across the United States. The two sessions will be offered on the following dates: Saturday, May 16 from 9 a.m.–11 a.m. and Saturday, June 27 from 10 a.m. – 12 noon. Both sessions will be held at the Family Adoption Consultants’ offices at 8536 Crow Drive, Macedonia, OH 44056. To pre-register, or obtain more information, you can contact them at (330) 468-0673 or e-mail: jhocevar@facadopt.org.



Planning Ahead



Is there a program you’d like to see AFSA present? Do you have some ideas about guest speakers or special activities that would be fun to try at an upcoming AFSA meeting? As AFSA begins to plan for next year, we would like to hear what programs you would like to see for the coming year. We will hold a special potluck planning meeting on a Saturday evening in July at the Sage’s house. Their house is located at 866 Outrigger Cover, Painesville. Look for a flyer soon with specifics about the planning potluck. Don’t get a babysitter—bring the kids! Please bring a dish to share and ideas for how to make next year another great one for AFSA! This has been a fun event in year’s past....so don’t miss out. We hope to see you there.



Birth Mother's Day

Since 1990, the adoption community has marked the Saturday before Mother's Day as "Birth Mother's Day." The purpose of this day is to recognize and honor birth mothers. According to an article in *The New York Times*, some advocates of traditional adoptions worry that too much emphasis is being put on adoption losses rather

than what is being gained for both the mother and her child. However, others feel that Birth Mother's Day is one of a wide variety of rituals that helped birth mothers. Nonetheless, Birth Mother's Day is an event that touches all involved in adoption. To recognize the importance of the role that birth mother's play, Adoption Network Cleveland will be holding their annual Birth Mother's Day Ceremony on May 9, 2009. For more details, go to their website at:

<http://www.adoptionnetwork.org/events.asp> or call Linda at: (216) 325-2000, extension 103. For more information about the history of Birth Mother's Day, you can go to: <http://www.nytimes.com/1994/05/08/us/once-silent-mothers-raise-voices.html?partner=rssnyt&emc=rss>.

June



Birthdays

Margaret Antill	17	6/10
Nathan Dorn	7	6/11
Patrick Hensel	4	6/27
Daniel Neese	7	6/3
Linh Nikooyi	2	6/22
Jenna Romig	6	6/4
Emily Schroeder	12	6/24
Nick Williams	10	6/17

March and April Meeting Notes

At the March meeting, a rousing group of children and adults attended our Spring Party. This year's theme was the Olympics. Children participated in a variety of games ranging from Dance, Dance, Revolution to ping pong. Following the games, there was a Parade of Nations and awards were distributed. A special thank you to **Peggy McCarthy**, **Jennifer Sage**, **Kathy Gisser**, and **Sara Douglas** for planning, providing food and games, and organizing the group activities. A good time was had by all!



At the April meeting, we had a Korean Culture Camp (KCC) reunion followed by an informational presentation by **Paul Hartman**. Paul, who co-directs KCC with his wife **Brenda**, provided an excellent presentation that covered a history of the camp, an overview of activities, and lots of photos of children having fun. Paul was ably assisted in his presentation by his daughter, **Bonnie**. Several KCC campers from previous years attended and brought posters and pictures to share.

There were lots of hugs as campers who had not seen each other since the 2008 KCC got the chance to catch up on news and plan for this year's upcoming camp. Thank you to all who helped make the KCC Reunion and Information night so much fun.

June Meeting

Saturday, June 13

**** 6:00 p.m. ****

"Culture Night"

Location:

Korean American Presbyterian
Church of Cleveland
9305 Midwest Ave.
Garfield Heights

**Please bring food from your
ethnic heritage to share**

EAC Zoo Picnic



European Adoption Consultants (EAC) is hosting their 17th Annual Memorial Day event, "Memorial Weekend at the Zoo." EAC families will meet at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo on Saturday, May 23, 2009 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information

call 800-533-0098 or check their website at:
<https://www.eaci.com/>



New Editor for *Outreach*

This will be the last newsletter from our current editor, **Sara Douglas**. Sara will be handing over the newsletter responsibilities to **Tom Bowne**. A big "thank you" to Tom for agreeing to be the new editor of our AFSA newsletter. For any questions regarding the newsletter, you may contact Tom at: trbowne@sbcglobal.net.



Dragon Boat Festival

The Flats Oxbow Association and Cleveland Rowing Foundation will, once again, be presenting the Cleveland Dragon Boat Festival. The Festival will be held on Saturday, August 29, 2009 on the West Bank of the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland's historic Flats. Opening Ceremonies begin at 9:00 a.m. on the patio deck of Cyrus Waterfront Restaurant and Patio, 2000 Sycamore Street. Races will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. There is no admission fee for spectators and parking is available.



For those who have not attended a dragon boat race, the activity incorporates not only individual fitness, but team building and recreational exercise—all in the name of fun! The Festival will not only promote the people and unique cultures of Cleveland's Asian community but will be providing support for *The Gathering Place*. All net proceeds from the Festival will be donated to *The Gathering Place*—an organization and caring community that supports, educates and empowers individuals and families touched by cancer through programs and services provided free of charge.

For a fun family activity, consider putting the Cleveland Dragon Boat Festival on your family's calendar!

Adoption Volunteer Opportunities

Know a kid who wants to meet new friends, earn volunteer hours, have fun...and help a great cause? Then have them join the Adoption Network Cleveland **Youth Volunteer Team!** This is a special club for kids and teens age 10-15, held once a month at the Adoption Network Cleveland office. Facilitated by older youth leaders and staff, each meeting focuses on a different volunteer project to help Adoption Network Cleveland and also includes other fun activities. Snacks are provided and volunteer hours tracked. You can read more about this team at www.adoptionnetwork.org/ and then click on "Volunteer Now Youth Volunteer Team."

If you have any questions, want to sign up a youth, or are interested in being a youth leader (16 or older), please contact Robin Ott at 216-325-1000 x104 or via e-mail: robin.ott@adoptionnetwork.org. For those interested in attending as a youth volunteer, request the youth volunteer application by sending an email to robin.ott@adoptionnetwork.org and bring it to your first meeting or mail it to: Robin Ott, Volunteer Coordinator, 4614 Prospect Ave, Suite 550, Cleveland, OH 44103.



Calendar of Events 2008-2009

September 13



Movie Night. We will be watching & discussing the movie, “First Person Plural”—a documentary shown on PBS about a Korean-American adoptee’s struggle to unravel the mysteries surrounding her adoption (www.pbs.org/pov/povf2000/firstpersonplural/program/synopsis.html)

October 11



Birth parent Panel. A panel of birthparents generously share their stories and talk to AFSA families about their experiences as birthparents. Past birthparent panels have been one of our most popular AFSA meeting topics.

November 8



Post-Adoption Support Programs. Victor Groza, PhD, Brody Professor of Parent-Child Studies at Case Western Reserve University is an internationally recognized expert in transracial adoption. Come hear him talk about his post-adoption program, Adoption PARTners.

December 13



Holiday Party. Join us for holiday fun! Food, games, and perhaps a visit from you-know-who!

January 10



Cancelled due to weather!

February 14



Adult Adoptee Panel. A panel of adult adoptees share their stories and talk to AFSA families about their experiences growing up as adopted children. This is one of our most popular meeting topics.

March 14



Spring Ahead Party. Back by popular demand...as we move the clocks ahead, it is time for another AFSA party. Food, fun, and games. Bingo, anyone?

April 11



Korean Culture Camp Reunion and Information Night. Join us as we have an informational presentation about AFSA-supported Korean Culture Camp. We also invite prior KCC campers to come for a reunion.

May 9

AFSA Families Cook. This program replaces the snowed-out January cooking demonstration. Come to watch and learn...and eat, of course.

June 13

Culture Night. We end our AFSA year, as always, with our annual Culture Night, featuring food from around the world, games, and entertainment.

AFSA Outreach

Adoptive Families Support Association

May-June 2009

Volume 9, Issue 3

A bi-monthly publication for members and friends of Adoptive Families Support Association.

AFSA's mission is to enrich, strengthen, and support families built through international adoption by providing social and cultural programs, educational resources, and opportunities to form support networks and friendships with others. We are a not-for-profit, independent, voluntary group serving Northeast Ohio. Bylaws and financial statements are available to members on request.

Newsletter committee: Sara Douglas (editor), Eric Corty, Jenny Fox, Jennifer Sage, Jackie Maslanka.

Email: afsa@ameritech.net or on the web:
<http://www.afsaohio.org>
 (Click on "Contact Us")

Adoptive Families Support Association

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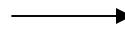


Membership Application

New Member—\$35/year*

Renewing Member—\$35/year**

**If all information has remained the same since your last registration, check



Yes, information same since last registration

If information has changed, provide the appropriate new information below.

Parent Name(s):	Date:
Street Address:	Home Phone: ()
City/State/Zip:	Email Address #1:
Circle Your Preferred Method of Communication: Phone Email	Email Address #2 (if needed):

For more than 3 children attach another sheet of paper

Child 1	Child 2	Child 3
Name:	Name:	Name:
Joined Family by: Birth or Adoption	Joined Family by: Birth or Adoption	Joined Family by: Birth or Adoption
Birth Date: M or F	Birth Date: M or F	Birth Date: M or F
Arrival Date:	Arrival Date:	Arrival Date:
From (country/state):	From (country/state):	From (country/state):

*NEW MEMBERS: How did you hear about AFSA? Adoption Agency Friend Korean Culture Camp Web Other

Mail this application with your dues check to: AFSA Membership, P.O. Box 29337, Parma, OH 44129-0337