

AFSA Outreach

Adoptive Families Support Association

September Meeting: Movie Night— Families of the World

July-August 2009

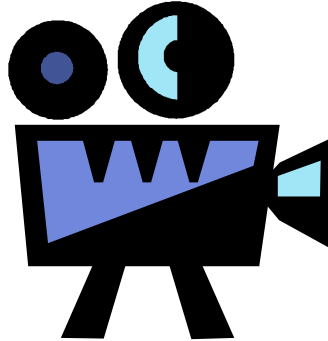
Volume 10, Issue 1

For our first AFSA meeting of the fall, please join us to watch two one-half-hour episodes from the award-winning series “Families of the World.” We will be screening the films on Korea and China.

Each film depicts the everyday lives of a pair of families – one urban and one rural – from the perspective of a child. While following these families in their day-to-day routine, the films also provide interesting information about Korea and China. After the screening we will have a period of discussion.

The films in this series have won awards such as the Parents’ Choice Group Awards and *Parenting Magazine’s* Video of the Year. Some AFSA families also report that the films have been a big hit in their households. Please join us for what should be an interesting and informative evening.

Please Note: The program will begin at 6:00 p.m. and the movies will start promptly at 6:15 p.m. so that we do not run on too long.



2009-2010 Schedule

September 12	Movie Night
October 10	Adoption & School Issues
November 14	Racism
December 12	Culture Night
January 9	AFSA Cooks
February 13	International Adoption Update
March 13	Spring Party
April 10	Field Trip
May 8	Book Club
June 12	Picnic

May & June Meeting Notes

At the May meeting, AFSA families were treated to a trio of delicious culinary offerings provided by fellow members. The presentation had originally been scheduled for the January meeting, only to be sidelined by a snowstorm. Our culinary wizards showed no signs of rust from the long layoff, however, as they prepared Vietnamese and Korean dishes.

Our first master chef was seven-year old **Emily Gisser**, ably assisted by her sous-chefs, **Dan** and **Kathleen Gisser**. Emily’s recipe was Shrimp on Sugarcane, which featured an aromatic puree of ground shrimp (made before our eyes in a blender) affixed to a sugar-cane skewer. The assembled skewers were then grilled outside on a portable grill procured just for the occasion.

Next up was AFSA president **Jennifer Sage**, who made *kimbab*, the Korean rice rolls that serve as a tasty snack and picnic food. Jennifer assembled and rolled the *kimbab* for the audience, helped by daughter **Amelia**.

Our final chef of the evening was **Tim Stafford**, who shared his kitchen secrets for the preparation of Korean meatballs. Sporting an apron and chef’s hat, Tim

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September Meeting

Saturday, September 12

6:00 p.m.

“Movie Night”

Movie starts promptly at 6:15 p.m.

Location:

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

Please bring a snack to share

July



Birthdays

Ryan Cohen	10	7/31
Susie Cunningham	11	7/5
Alia Escobedo	4	7/26
Molly McNamara	8	7/24
Hannah Phillips	7	7/20
Claudia Tommasi	14	7/1



Arrival Anniversaries

Susie Cunningham	7/19/99
Sonja Greenfield	7/2/95
Patrick Hensel	7/27/06
Lily Lehtinen	7/1/06
Hannah Mitchell	7/16/02
Douglas Petrick	7/13/00
Jenna Zavasky	7/10/91

Go Paperless?

If you are currently receiving a hard copy of the newsletter but would be interested in receiving it via e-mail only (no hard copy), OR e-mail and hard copy, please e-mail Thomas Bowne (trbowne@hotmail.com).

For those of you who have previously expressed an e-mail preference, you need not do anything.

The electronic version of the newsletter allows you to receive the newsletter sooner and see the graphics in color.

News & Notes

Welcome Wagon

We are please to extend a warm Adoptive Families Support Association welcome to Stewart and Kathy Petrick of Lakewood.

They joined AFSA in April along with their two children Douglas (soon to be age 10) and Gayle (age 7). We are so glad that your family has joined us!

President's Message

We had an excellent turnout for our annual planning potluck dinner in July. Many thanks to those who attended, brought such wonderful food, and provided ideas and suggestions for programming for the coming year. We hope that we have put together an interesting lineup for 2009-2010 and we look forward to seeing your families at the meetings.

Jennifer Sage

Cleveland Dragon Boat Festival

The Cleveland Dragon Boat Festival will take place on Saturday, August 29, 2009, on the West Bank of the Flats of the Cuyahoga River. The festival is presented by the Cleveland Dragon Boat Association and the Flats Oxbow Association. Opening ceremonies will



**Cleveland
Dragon Boat
Festival**

take place 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. Dragon boat racing is an exciting event for both participants and spectators. 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!

China Orphanage Service Project

Family Adoption Consultants will be conducting its second annual China Orphanage Service Project this October. Participants will assist children with special needs at an orphanage outside of Beijing, China. There are two trip options: a 14-day trip from October 3-16 and an 11-day trip from October 3-13.

Applications for the trip can be found on the FAC website at www.facadopt.org. Click on the "China" link and scroll down to the "China: China Service Project" article. A blog from AFSA member **Tim Stafford** describing the inaugural trip can be found at <http://chinaservicemay08.blogspot.com>.

Questions about the 2009 trip can be directed to Bill Torgler by telephone at 330-685-1042 or by e-mail at wet@uakron.edu.



Calendar of Events 2009-2010

- September 12** **Movie Night.** Movie fun for the whole family, as we watch and discuss two 30-minute movies, "Families of Korea" and "Families of China." The films are each from the award-winning "Families of the World" DVD series.
- October 10** **Discussion of School Issues and Adoption.** Join your fellow AFSA families to talk about issues relating to school-age children and adoption.
- November 14** **Racism and Adoption.** Tara VanderWoude is an adult adoptee who has worked in adoption, including heritage travel, as well as a parent of adoptive children. She will speak parenting children who are transracially adoptive.
- December 12** **Culture Night.** The traditional AFSA favorite moves to the end of the calendar year, featuring food from around the world, games, and entertainment.
- January 9** **AFSA Families Cook.** Join AFSA kids (and their parent helpers!) as they show off their culinary skills and provide us with recipes that we can try at home.
- February 13** **International Adoption Update.** 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 changes in international adoption, the Hague Convention and other topics.
- March 13** **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 10** **Field Trip!** Details to be announced.
- May 8** **Book Club.**
- June 12** **Picnic!** We finish the year with outdoor food and fun at a location to be announced.

Note: Dates and topics are subject to change; future issues will present updated schedules.

Meeting Topics Needed for Younger Members

In addition to the schedule of activities listed above, we are looking for activities or discussion topics of particular interest to AFSA children ages 10 and up. If you are in that age range and have ideas about how to make the AFSA meetings more interesting for YOU, please share those ideas with **Jennifer Sage** or another AFSA board member. We hope to use some of the better suggestions during the our 2009-2010 meetings.

August



Birthdays

Emily Gisser	8	8/1
Daniel Hartman	13	8/16
David Hartman	13	8/16
Kara Heinrich	16	8/19
Mark Miller	15	8/31
Douglas Petrick	10	8/15
Emily Skerl	12	8/24
Lianne Timko	11	8/13



Arrival Anniversaries

Neha McCarthy	8/09/05
Sarah Pearce	8/30/05
Bryan Stafford	8/27/02
Emma Stafford	8/17/04
Greg Styer	8/29/90
Lianne Timko	8/4/99
Joseph Tommasi	8/25/92
Angela Weiland	8/29/00



Our September-October issue will highlight this year's Korean Culture Camp. There were a record number of campers this year. Stay tuned for details and photographs from the 2009 Korean Culture Camp!

Chinese & Korean Language Classes

The start of the school year is right around the corner, and several schools in northeast Ohio offer Saturday classes where children and adults learn the language and culture of either China or Korea. Three schools teach Mandarin Chinese:

The Chinese Academy of Cleveland (www.chineseacademyofcleveland.org) holds Saturday morning classes at Shaker Heights Middle School in Shaker Heights, Ohio. For more information, contact Ms. Szewei Teng at 440-461-0605 or by e-mail at Principal@chineseacademyofcleveland.org.

The Cleveland Contemporary Chinese Culture Association (www.cccca.org) holds Saturday classes at Solon High School. For more information, contact Mr. Nianfa Tang at 440-376-0788 or by e-mail at ccca_bod@yahoo.com.

The Westlake Chinese School (www.westlakechineseschool.com) offers Saturday language and dance classes at Lee Burneson Middle School in Westlake, Ohio. For more information, contact Mr. Thomas Ren at 440-4522.

The Korean American Association of Greater Cleveland hosts Saturday classes for children and adults interested in studying Korean language and culture. The classes are held at the Asian Town Center at East 38th Street and Superior Ave. in Cleveland. For more information, please contact Mr. Gene Lee at mgenelee@yahoo.com.

May & June Meeting Notes



Amelia Sage rolls *kimbap*



Chef Stafford with Korean meatballs

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showed us how the dish could be prepared in a hurry for unexpected guests, using precooked meatballs from your grocer's freezer and a jar of Korean barbecue sauce.

The assembled guests found the food scrumptious and made it disappear in very little time. We thank all three of our presenting families, whose recipes are available on the AFSA web site. We look forward to January 2010 for the next installment of AFSA's answer to the Food Network.

AFSA wrapped up its 2008-2009 year with a potluck dinner that featured an array of dishes from the cuisines of many different countries. Following the dinner, there was a brief procession of children wearing traditional clothing from their birth countries, as well as a martial arts performance by the Blackout Performance Team. The three-person Blackout team entertained our group with a number of energetic routines choreographed to music. Highlights included swordsmanship, board-breaking, and an array of flips and jumps that were executed despite the performers having to negotiate a span of only about nine feet from floor to ceiling. The audience gave the team an enthusiastic response. Thank you to all of the families who contributed to another successful "Culture Night."

It's Membership Renewal Time!

An Invitation to Renew Your Membership

All current AFSA memberships expire August 31, 2009. We hope you'll continue to be a part of AFSA and that you'll take a few moments now to complete the form below and send it in with your renewal dues (\$35).

If your address and other information have not changed in the past year please check the box marked, "Yes, information same since last registration." If information has changed, please provide appropriate new information.

If you are not yet a member

We would like to take this opportunity to invite you to join Adoptive Families Support Association. AFSA is proud to represent families who have adopted children from all over the world.

As a member, you will receive *Outreach*, AFSA's bimonthly newsletter to keep you up-to-date on group programs, members, and adoption-related news. You will also be able to access information via our web site: www.afsaohio.org.

In addition to social and cultural activities throughout the year, AFSA holds informative monthly meetings where speakers talk on a variety of pertinent parenting and adoption topics. We hope you'll accept our invitation to join, and complete and mail the application form below. Dues are \$35 per family.

Please mail all membership renewal and new member applications to:

AFSA Membership
P.O. Box 29337
Parma, OH 44129-0337

If you have any questions, contact us at: www.afsaohio.org

If you joined AFSA after June 15, 2009, or have already renewed your membership, you do not need to renew at this time.

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

Parent Name(s):	Date:
Street Address:	Home Phone: ()
City/State/Zip:	Email Address #1:
Preferred Method of Communication (please circle): <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> Phone Email </div>	Email Address #2 (if needed):

For more than 3 children, please 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):

Mail this application with your dues check to: AFSA Membership, P.O. Box 29337, Parma, OH 44129-0037

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July-August 2009

Volume 10, Issue 1

A bimonthly publication for members and friends of Adoptive Families Support Association. Deadline for submitting information is the 10th of each month.

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: Thomas Bowne (editor), Jenny Fox, Jennifer Sage, Jackie Maslanka.

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

Adoptive Families Support Association

<http://www.afsaohio.org>
P.O. Box 29337
Parma, OH 44129-0337
(216) 491-4638

It's time to renew your membership!

All memberships expire August 31, so send in your renewal today.

Use the renewal form on page 5 of this newsletter or
download a copy from our website:

http://afsaohio.org/files/AFSA_Member_Application.pdf

We have a great year planned—see the calendar inside this issue