

AFSA Outreach

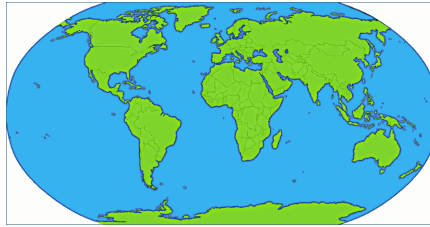
Adoptive Families Support Association

November Meeting: International Adoption Update

November-December 2009

Volume 10, Issue 3

At the November AFSA meeting, Victor Groza, Grace F. Brody Professor of Parent-Child Studies at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University, will speak to us about current issues in international adoption. His presentation will provide a review of the Hague Adoption Convention and an update on the status of U.S. adoptions from Guatemala and Kazakhstan.



The Hague Adoption Convention was developed in 1993 as a means to foster international cooperation on intercountry adoptions. The convention seeks to protect children and their families against the risks of illegal, irregular, premature or ill-prepared overseas adoptions. This convention, which also operates through a system of national central authorities, reinforces the UN Convention

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December Meeting: Culture Night

AFSA's annual Culture Night is moving to the end of the calendar year, with the next installment on Saturday, December 12. This is one of the most popular events on our schedule 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 always popular Flower Clown, who will entertain young and old with fantastic balloon sculptures and rapid-fire, sometime corny jokes. Children are encouraged to wear traditional dress of their birth countries. We hope to see you there.

2009-2010 Schedule

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

November Meeting

Saturday, November 14

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

“International Adoption Update”

Victor Groza, Ph.D.

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

Please bring a snack to share

November



Birthdays

Maria Dissinger	8	11/5
Luke Dixon	4	11/10
Ian Messner	15	11/26
Amelia Sage	6	11/24
Christopher Schroeder	16	11/3



Arrival Anniversaries

Margaret Antill	11/13/92
Maria Dissinger	11/13/02
Bonnie Hartman	11/9/02
Daniel Neese	11/26/02
Jenna Timko	11/14/05

December Meeting

Saturday, December 12

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

“Culture Night”

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

News & Notes

Welcome Wagon

At the October meeting, **Nick** and **Jenny Salvaggio** introduced their son **Max**, who arrived from South Korea on August 20. Max is the couple’s second son, joining older brother **Jack**. We would like to extend a warm Adoptive Families Support Association welcome to the entire Salvaggio family.



Cleveland Food Bank

The Cleveland Food Bank has as its mission to alleviate hunger in Cleveland by providing food and support to community organizations that feed the hungry. In 2008, the Cleveland Foodbank distributed 21.6 million pounds of food and other essential products to 451 member agencies. This was enough food for its member agencies to serve over 16 million meals for individuals in need. To learn more, please go to: www.clevelandfoodbank.org. We hope that you can contribute canned goods at the Holiday Party on December 12.



Asian Services in Action Food Drive

A number of local organizations and companies are participating in a drive to collect nonperishable food items for Asian Services in Action’s food pantry. ASIA’s food pantry program serves more than 70 families in their Newcomer Family Assistance Center. Eighty-five percent of those served have incomes at or below twice the Federal poverty level.

Nonperishable food items and donations can be dropped off at ASIA’s office at 3631 Perkins Avenue, Suite 2A-W, Cleveland, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Please telephone 216-881-0330 in advance to arrange a drop-off.

Items on the wish list include jasmine, short-grain, basmati, or glutinous rice; ethnic instant noodles, mung beans, sardines, canned bamboo shoots, mushrooms, lotus roots and tofu skins. For more information, please consult <http://www.asiainc-ohio.org/2009/11/04/let's-fight-hunger-together/>.

Supporting organizations include the Cleveland Contemporary Chinese Culture Associations, the Cleveland Chinese School, the Korean American Association of Greater Cleveland, MotivAsians, Cleveland Clinic, Key Bank, and Lubrizol.

Adoption Network Day at Lake Erie Monsters

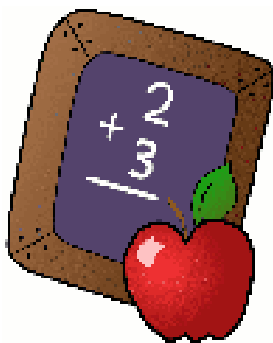
On Saturday, November 14, at 1 p.m., bring the whole gang to the Q for some great hockey as the Lake Erie Monsters host the Houston Aeros. Children can enjoy free face painting, hair painting, sign making, caricature artists, balloon artists, magicians and more! By ordering through Adoption Network Cleveland, you can save \$2 on the ticket price; a portion will go to support ANC’s programs and services. Tickets are available online at <http://www.theqarena.com/store/adoption> (offer code: ANC) and at the Adoption Network Cleveland office.

October Meeting Notes

More than 40 people attended the October AFSA meeting, which featured a group discussion of school and adoption issues. AFSA members **Jenny Fox**, **Emily Gisser**, **Janet McGrath**, and **Bonnie Smith** graciously volunteered to serve as panelists to stimulate the discussion. AFSA president **Jennifer Sage** was the moderator, distributing copies of some articles from adoption-related magazines as a resource for families.

The panelists and assembled audience touched on a wide variety of subjects, including educating teachers and classmates about the adoption process, handling strangers' general questions about adoption, and dealing with school assignments that may present difficulties for adoptive children, such as "family trees" and discussions of early childhood experiences.

Parents felt that they need to strike a balance between being involved with their children's schooling and being too involved. At the beginning of the school year, for instance, it may be helpful to let the teacher know about your family's formation and how comfortable your child is in dealing with adoption.



Ideally, assignments that may present difficulties for adoptive children (such as family trees) should allow for multiple options for **all** students so that a child deciding to "opt out" of a particular part of the assignment does not end up being made to feel different from the rest of the class.

Unfortunately, some teachers may balk at deviating from their tried-and-true classroom assignments. Some parents noted from personal experience that if a teacher is unreceptive to the parents' concerns, parents should seek to talk to the principal as soon as possible, so as to minimize problems for the student.

November Meeting: International Adoption Update

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on the Rights of the Child and seeks to ensure that intercountry adoptions are made in the best interests of the child and with respect for his or her fundamental rights, and to prevent the abduction, the sale of, or traffic in children.

Guatemala is a signatory to the Hague Adoption Convention, but the United States Department of State is not currently processing new adoptions from that country. Kazakhstan is not a signatory to the Convention.

Dr. Groza has spoken to AFSA on several occasions in recent years and has always provided interesting presentations with valuable insights. He has spent much of his professional career studying the adoption process and has conducted extensive research into adoptive families. We look forward to hearing from Dr. Groza at the November meeting.

December



Birthdays

Christopher Antill	19	12/17
Stephen Fox	13	12/18
Emily Mago	13	12/8
Josh Mago	11	12/9
Olivia Maslanka	13	12/1
Alexander Nikooyi	16	12/23
Max Salvaggio	1	12/5
Mia Scott	7	12/21
Megan Williams	16	12/23



Arrival Anniversaries

Nathan Dorn	12/16/02
Anna Fox	12/8/00
Gayle Petrick	12/9/02
Grace Romig	12/4/02
Marissa Smith	12/22/94
Colin Styer	12/16/92

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).

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

2009 Korean Culture Camp Review

Fifty-eight children ages seven through seventeen attended the Adoptive Families Support Association's 21st annual Korean Culture Camp at Saint Leonard's Youth Retreat Center in Avon, Ohio. The camp was a great success!

Staffed by ten Korean-American counselors (as well as several behind-the-scenes adoptive parents), campers were treated to morning sessions consisting of Korean culture, language, cooking and art. Afternoon sessions comprised traditional camp activities such as relay races, water games and field games.

All campers were split into teams (called "family groups") to compete against one another and obtain points in an effort to win prizes at the end of camp. Each family group consisted of a counselor and six campers: two smalls (ages 7-9), two mediums (ages 10-13), and two larges (ages 14-17). Traditionally, the "larges" help take care of the "smalls" during the week, and this year was no different as the older kids did a great job of shepherding the smalls.

There were several other highlights during camp.

On Thursday night a group of local Korean-American families prepared, served and shared a traditional Korean meal with the campers, the counselors and the parent volunteers. This meal is one of the most anticipated events of camp, and these wonderful folks did not disappoint. The *bulgogi* and *kimbap* were excellent, and campers enjoyed the leftovers the following day.



Saturday afternoon consisted of the ever-popular water games, culminating in a water balloon fight (with about 1000 water balloons!) and the initiation of our "rookie" counselors.

The rain held off, allowing the campers to enjoy a Saturday evening campfire, where they discussed their time at camp and started saying some early tearful goodbyes. Camp concluded on Sunday morning as parents arrived and were treated to a closing skit and slide show.

Camp would not be a success without all of the volunteers that make it possible. We would like to thank the counselors who worked so hard to provide a wonderful program for the campers: Ryoung Lee, Jenny Choi, Kim Brown, Sarah Kim, Alyssa Conner, Silvia Yim, Susie Shin, Paul Miller, Patrick

McCarthy and Jay Cha. A special thanks to Ryoung and Jenny for their work as co-directors this year.

We'd also like to thank **Jenny & Bob Fox** for coordinating and preparing all of our meals during the week. We were also blessed to have several parent volunteers help us throughout camp. These included: **John & Angela Mago**, **Kris Heinrich**, **Sara Douglas & Eric Corty**, **Ron & Nancy Neese** and **Dave Zordan**. Thanks also to Ken Kulp for providing firewood for our Saturday night campfire.

Paul & Brenda Hartman



photo courtesy of Sara Douglas



Begin planning for Korean Culture Camp 2010! The dates for next year's camp are Tuesday, July 13, 2010, through Saturday, July 17, 2010. Note that the camp is sold-out for girls, and only has a handful of spots for boys, so please act quickly!

For more information, please contact Paul or Brenda Hartman at 440-729-2949 or at brendalee99@roadrunner.com.

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** **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 Adoption Convention and other topics.
- 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** **Book Club.**
- 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** **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.
- May 8** **Field Trip!** Details to be announced.
- 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.

Membership Renewal Reminder

If you have not yet renewed your AFSA membership, we invite you to renew now. This issue will be the last complimentary issue sent to those whose AFSA memberships have expired. If you have an orange stripe on your mailing label for this issue, that means that your membership has expired. Don't delay—renew today!

You may renew by completing the renewal form on the back page of this newsletter, or you may download the form on our website: www.afsaohio.org.

