

AFSA Outreach

Adoptive Families Support Association

January Meeting: AFSA Families Cook for the New Year

At our January 12, 2008 meeting, we will have a topic that is near and dear to our hearts....cooking (and, of course, eating!). Like previous years, we will have demonstrations, recipes, and food to eat. However, unlike previous years, our chefs this year will be comprised of an AFSA child and his/her parent! We will have three cooking presentations this year with the opportunity to sample what each cook has prepared for presentation. One of the presentations will involve all of the children....so come prepared to get involved!

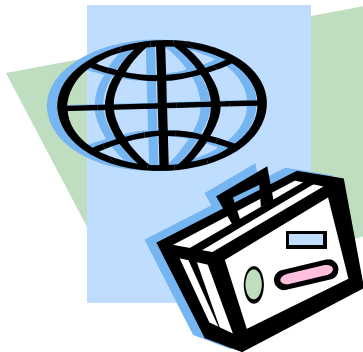


AFSA members, **Eric and David Corty**, will present and demonstrate the making of Korean pancakes. In addition, the **Gisser family** will present and demonstrate the making of spring rolls and all of the children will be able to participate in making their own for the eating! Finally, Tim and Jenny Fox will present and demonstrate the making of Tim's famous truffles. Doesn't this sound wonderful?!

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

February Meeting: International Adoption: An American Perspective

International adoption has changed dramatically over the years. Victor Groza, MSW, PhD, the Grace F. Brody Professor of Parent-Child Studies at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences (MSASS) at Case Western Reserve University, has observed, experienced, and researched many of those changes. At our February meeting, we will be very fortunate to hear Dr. Groza speak about international adoption. Dr. Groza is a teacher, researcher, and social work practitioner who has explored issues in Romania such as institutionalized children, domestic adoption, and foster care. In 2000, he worked with a team from MSASS and the National Organization for the Prevention of Child Abuse in Belize City, Belize, Central America. He met with agencies around issues of child



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January-February 2008

Volume 7, Issue 7

2007-2008 Schedule

September 8	International Search & Reunion
October 13	Creating a
November 10	Adoption Across the Life Span
December 8	Holiday Party
January 12	AFSA Families Cook for the New Year
February 9	International Adoption: An American Perspective
March 8	Spring Ahead Party
April 12	Heritage Celebration
May 10	AFSA Book Club
June 14	Culture Night

Next Meeting

Saturday, January 12

** 6:00 p.m. **

"AFSA Families Cook for the New Year"

Location:

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

January



Birthdays

Sonja Greenfield	13	1/10
Jacqueline Gueulette	11	1/7
Michelle Janovyak	12	1/12
Lily Lehtinen	2	1/6
Hannah Mitchell	6	1/21
Grace Romig	6	1/27
Andrew Scott	7	1/2
Marissa Smith	14	1/31
Emma Stafford	4	1/24
Thomas Vinkovich	16	1/22



Arrival Anniversaries

Kara Heinrich	1/22/94
Matthew Vecchio	1/27/93



February Meeting

Saturday, February 9

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

**“International Adoption:
An American Perspective ”**

Location:

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

Please bring a snack to share

News and Notes

Welcome Wagon

We are please to extend a warm Adoptive Families Support Association welcome to three new families! **Leah, Hamid, Alexander, and Linh Nikooyi** joined AFSA in November. Alexander (age 15) and his younger sister, Linh (age 6 months) live with their parents in North Olmsted. Linh was born in Vietnam and arrived to her family here on October 8, 2007.

Lynette and Dana Schroeder along with their children **Christopher** (age 14) and **Emily** (age 10) also joined AFSA in November of this year. Both Christopher and Emily were born in South Korea. The Schroeder family resides in Worthington.

Finally, the Messner family also became members of AFSA in November. **Michelle and Bryan Messner**, along with their three



children, reside in Wadsworth. Their children are: **Ian** (age 13), **Katie** (age 8), and **Declan** (age 4); Katie and Declan were both born in South Korea.

We are thrilled to have these three wonderful families join our AFSA family. We are so very happy that you have joined us. Welcome!

Share your good news. Email Sara Douglas at sdouglas74@gmail.com or call (216) 360-9585.

Adoption Blog: The New York Times

In celebration of National Adoption Month, the New York Times highlighted adoption on its online blog entitled, “Relative Choices: Adoption and the American Family.” You can check out the various articles and discussion boards at their website: <http://relativechoices.blogs.nytimes.com>.

Contributing writers included adult adoptees, young adult adoptees, birth mothers, adoptive parents, book authors, physicians, and journalists. Topics cover domestic as well as international adoption from a variety of perspectives.

Hollee McGinnis, who spoke at our September AFSA meeting, has three pieces on the blog: “Blood Ties and Acts of Love,” “Who Are You Also Known As?,” and “South Korea and Its Children.” Other pieces on the blog are: “Betrayal of a Body and Soul: A Tribute to Ben” by Dr. Jane Aronson, “Helping the Next Generation” by Katy Robinson, “Scattered Among Many” by Huong Sutliff, “A Normal Family” by Jeff Gammage, and “The Real Thing” by Tama Janowitz.



Sara Douglas

News and Notes

AFSA's Bragging Box

AFSA President and Associate Professor at Case Western Reserve University, Dr. Janet McGrath, and her co-investigator, Charles Rwabukwali, received a new five-year, \$2 million grant from the National Institutes of Health's Global Partnerships for Social Science Research on AIDS. They will initiate a program to strengthen social science research on AIDS in Uganda. Funds from the grant will establish a new center at Makerere University in Kampala called the Center for Social Science Research on AIDS that integrates training and research related to HIV and AIDS. The center will be directed by Janet McGrath and Charles Rwabukwali. Congratulations to Janet McGrath. This is a wonderful accomplishment.



Future issues will use the "Bragging Box" space to report on the accomplishments of our members—both large and small! If you have something you would like to share, please e-mail Sara Douglas at sdouglas74@gmail.com.

February



Birthdays

Magdalena Bowne	4	2/7
Rachel Cohen	5	2/12
Matthew Gueulette	14	2/5
Daniel McNamara	3	2/18
Bryan Stafford	6	2/19
Jenna Weber	13	2/7
Jenna Zavasky	17	2/28

Our Mistake!

In the November-December newsletter, we inadvertently omitted Luke Dixon's birthday. Luke Dixon celebrated his 2nd birthday on November 10, 2007. Happy Birthday, Luke!



Arrival Anniversaries

Luke Dixon	2/3/07
Matthew Gueulette	2/7/94
Daniel Hartman	2/1/97
David Hartman	2/1/97
Olivia Maslanka	2/24/99
Sarah Maslanka	2/15/93
Daniel McNamara	2/16/06
Sarah Neese	2/14/00
Jenna Romig	2/21/06

November Meeting Notes: A Change of Plans

Due to a last-minute cancellation of our November speaker, attendees to the November meeting arrived to learn that the meeting format had changed. Instead of listening to a panel of social workers discuss adoption issues across age groups and developmental stages, they would be participating in a group discussion of these issues. The format worked well with a lot of lively discussion amongst the attendees. The result was an opportunity for AFSA members to share ideas, experiences, and insights with one another. We thank all who attended and contributed to the discussion.

Sara Douglas

A Fun, Food-Filled Holiday Party



A visit from the “Big Guy” from the North Pole, an amazing assortment of balloon characters created by Flower Clown, and a wonderful display of delicious food provided by our members all helped to make the AFSA Holiday Party a huge success. Approximately 32 adults and 24 children attended the party this year!

Peggy McCarthy planned the event and the AFSA Board provided the cake for dessert. Many people pitched in to help set up, organize and clean. Special thanks go to: **Janet McGrath, Jennifer Sage, Sara Douglas, Dave Zordan, Eric Corty (party photographer)** and xxxx xxxxxx. We hope we did not miss anyone—our apologies if we did.

This was a return visit by Flower Clown who continues to amaze children and adults alike with his wonderful balloon creations. Spotted were: a reindeer, Pikachu, a fish on a fishing pole, a bear holding the earth, Casper the ghost, Elmo, and a monkey in a tree! In addition to Flower, we were lucky to have **John Janovyak** read a holiday story to the children (see photo), and to have

Janet McGrath & Jennifer Sage host a holiday raffle. We did not let all of the activities dampen our appetites, however.....there were very few leftovers from our wonderful potluck!

To all who came and helped celebrate the holiday season, we thank you!

February Meeting: Dr. Victor Groza

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abuse and worked on a protocol for program evaluation and research. Dr. Groza also traveled to India as part of his sabbatical during the Fall of 2001 to study Indian families who had adopted. His research and writing primarily focus on the areas of international adoption and child welfare with an emphasis on: (1) an examination of the negative impact on child development from early trauma due to institutionalization and a focus on ways to improve the care of children who must reside in institutions, and (2) family, children, and service system issues in domestic, older-child, and international adoption.

Dr. Groza’s interest in adoption began by growing up in a home with an adoptive brother in the 1960’s. His interest in adoption was renewed while pursuing his doctoral work when he worked as a social worker conducting home studies and post-placement visits for prospective adoptive parents for children with special needs. Initially his research focused on the difficulty of adoption disruption but later, when it became apparent that most older-child adoptions remain intact (over 80%) and do not disrupt, he turned his focus to understanding the intact adoptive family.

Please make sure to mark your calendars to attend this exciting and informative meeting. We are extremely fortunate to be able to have this internationally renowned researcher and practitioner speak at our meeting on February 9, 2008.

Sara Douglas

Calendar of Events 2007-2008

September 8



The Complexity and Reality of International Search and Reunion. Join us to hear internationally known Hollee McGinnis, Policy and Operations Director at the Evan P. Donaldson Adoption Institute in New York (see accompanying article). We are very fortunate to be able to have such a well-known speaker come to speak at our AFSA meeting.

October 13



Creating a Lifebook for Your Child. A special hands on session about how to create a lifebook for our children, including tips about how to address “gaps” in the documentation of an adopted child’s life.

November 10



Adoption Across the Life Span. Join us as a panel of social workers discuss adoption issues across age groups and developmental stages.

December 8



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

January 12

AFSA Families Cook for the New Year. Join AFSA kids (and their parent helpers!) as they show us some special recipes to celebrate the western New Year and prepare for the Lunar New Year.

February 9

International Adoption: An American Perspective. Victor Groza, PhD, Brody Professor of Parent-Child Studies at Case Western Reserve University is an internationally recognized expert on adoption. Join us for this well-known speaker who will discuss current issues in international adoption.

March 8

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 12

Heritage Celebration. TBA.

May 10

AFSA Book Club. There are many books and magazines for and about adoptive families. Are there adoption related books that you would give a thumbs up or thumbs down to? Bring your recommendations and prepare for the summer reading season.

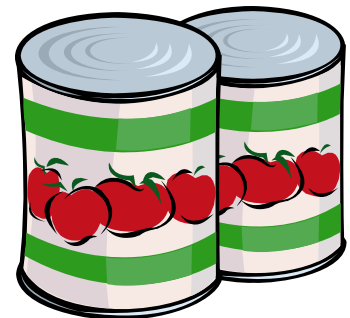
June 14

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

Thank You From the Cleveland Foodbank

Thank you so much to the AFSA Holiday Party attendees who contributed so generously to the Cleveland Foodbank. We collected over 100 pounds of canned food and a monetary gift of \$50 at our annual AFSA Holiday Party!!

The canned food will be distributed to one of their 450 hunger programs. For the monetary donation, 92¢ of every dollar will be spent on direct services to the hungry in Cleveland.



AFSA Outreach

Adoptive Families Support Association

January-February
Volume 7, Issue 7

A monthly 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: Sara Douglas (editor), Jenny Fox, Bob Fox, Janet McGrath, Eric Corty, Jackie Maslanka.

Email: afsa@ameritech.net OR sdouglas74@gmail.com

Adoptive Families Support Association

P.O. Box 29337
Parma, OH 44129-0337
(216) 491-4638



Membership Application

New Member—\$35/year

Renewing Member—\$35/year

Tell us about you. Please indicate any information which should be kept confidential.

Parent Name(s):	Date:
Street Address:	Home Phone: ()
City/State/Zip:	Dad's Occupation: Dad's Work Phone: ()
Email Address:	Mom's Occupation: Mom's Work Phone: ()

Tell us about your children (attach another sheet of paper if needed)

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):
Adoption Agency:	Adoption Agency:	Adoption Agency:

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

*** Make checks payable to AFSA ***

* Date you celebrate your child's arrival anniversary