

AFSA Outreach

Adoptive Families Support Association

March Meeting: Spring Ahead Party



The Annual AFSA Spring Party will be held March 8 at our usual Garfield Heights meeting location. As we did last year, this year there will be food, games, activities and prizes! We will have games and activities for kids of all ages, so make plans now to attend.

AFSA will supply the main course of pizza as well as lemonade and other beverages. We ask each family to bring a dessert to share.

Some of the activities that you can look forward to include: a craft activity, bingo (complete with prizes), and a “cookie” walk with winners getting to take home cookies instead of the traditional cake.

So, mark your calendars now for the “Spring Ahead” AFSA Party. We hope to see you there.

April Meeting: AFSA’s First Book Club

Due to some scheduling changes, we are rearranging the April and May meetings. At our April meeting, we are asking everyone to bring their favorite adoption-related books, magazines, videos, and/or DVDs to share with the group. We thought that it would be a nice opportunity to share our collective knowledge regarding various resources available to adoptive families.

We are asking you to bring books and media to share in the areas of: pre-adoption parenting, children’s fiction and non-fiction, and adult fiction and non-fiction. Topics related to parenting, adoption, and transracial issues will be the focus of

the evening’s discussion.

This is an opportunity to “show and tell” your favorite books, magazines, videos and DVDs. In addition, it will be a wonderful chance to get some good referrals from other members of AFSA.

We look forward to a fun and informative evening and hope to see you there!

Sara Douglas



March—April 2008

Volume 8, Issue 2

2007-2008 Schedule

September 8	International Search & Reunion ✓
October 13	Creating a Lifebook ✓
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	AFSA Book Club
May 10	Movie Night
June 14	Culture Night

March Meeting

Saturday, March 8

** 6:00 p.m. **

“Spring Ahead Party”

Location:

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

Please bring a dessert
to share

News and Notes

March



Birthdays

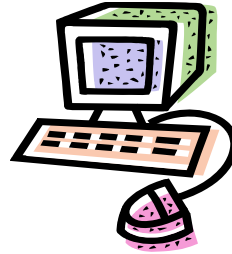
Theodora Bowne	6	3/31
Robin Cohen	13	3/20
Anna Fox	8	3/29
David Lehtinen	4	3/19
Sarah Neese	9	3/2
Andrew Powell	4	3/21
Emma Zordan	10	3/14



Arrival Anniversaries

Christopher Antill	3/20/91
Magdalena Bowne	3/14/05
Sarah Boyle	3/2/05
David Corty	3/30/96
Cassie Cunningham	3/26/97
Maggie Dissinger	3/9/96
Emily Gisser	3/19/02
Emily Schroeder	3/2/98
Jason Weber	3/27/97

AFSA Online



The AFSA Board is pleased to announce that we will soon be launching AFSA's website! Yes...we're entering the 21st century at last! **T. J. Powell**, AFSA member, is working with the board in setting up the website. Our domain name is: afsahio.org – we are planning to have it ready to launch by the spring. Details will follow in the next newsletter. As part of the website, photos taken at AFSA meetings will be posted on the website. If you do not want photos of you or your family posted, please let us know by e-mailing Sara Douglas at sdouglas74@gmail.com.

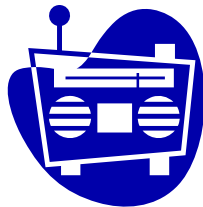
Reunion Speaker

Marianne Novy, author of *Imagining Adoption: Essays on Literature and Culture*, will speak at the April 17 Shaker Heights General Meeting of Adoption Network Cleveland from 7:30pm–9:30pm at the Unity of Greater Cleveland Church, 3350 Warrensville Center Road, Shaker Heights. The topic will be, "What I Did and Didn't Find in Literature about the Emotional Impact of Secrecy and Reunion After Adoption." For information about this meeting contact Linda Bellini at (216) 325-1000 ext. 103 or Linda.Bellini@adoptionnetwork.org.

May Meeting

Our election for new Board members will take place at the May meeting (start time 5:30 p.m.). If you are interested in serving on the AFSA Board, please contact Janet McGrath at: mcgrathjanet@yahoo.com.

Adoption in America



We are highlighting a series that was produced in 2007 by National Public Radio called, "Adoption in America."

You can listen to a variety of programs—all relating to adoption in America—at the following website: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=12184872>
 Topics include: an overview of adoption in America, a mother and son offering trans-racial adoption insights, and a Korean-American (Susan Soon-Keum Cox) reflecting on life as an adoptee. In addition, there are many links to other adoption related topics and resources.

April Meeting

Saturday, April 12

** 6:00 p.m. **

"AFSA Book Club"

Location:

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

Please bring a snack to share



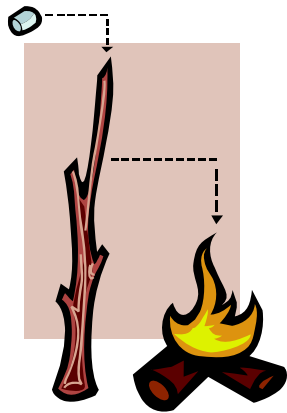
Adoption Network Cleveland Benefit

Adoption Network Cleveland will be holding their largest fundraising event of the year at The House of Blues in Cleveland on April 10th from 5:30pm-9:30pm. You can purchase tickets for the event—a benefit and silent auction—by contacting Robin Ott at (216) 325-1000, ext. 101. Ticket prices are \$60 for members and \$80 for non-members.

Korean Culture Camp 2008

Adoptive Families Support Association is proud to announce its twentieth annual Culture Camp for Korean-American children. Camp will be held Wednesday, July 30 through Sunday, August 3 at the St. Leonard Youth Retreat Center in Avon, Ohio, which is about 20 miles west of downtown Cleveland.

The program is open to children ages 7 (who have completed first grade) through 17 years. Its purpose is to develop a positive self-image among Korean-American children. Through participation in games, crafts, and music, and exposure to the foods, language and history of Korea, campers will develop a greater understanding and appreciation of their cultural heritage. We will also have plenty of regular camp activities such as games, sports, and a Saturday



night campfire.

An adult staff of at least 14 is planned: approximately 9 Korean-American counselors and 5 AFSA parents. All campers sleep in dormitories with adult supervision and all meals are provided.

Camp fees are \$290 for your first child and \$225

for each addition child. Non-Korean siblings are welcome!

If you have any questions, please contact Paul or Brenda Hartman at (440) 729-2949 or via e-mail at brendalee99@adelphia.net.

We look forward to seeing your children at the 2008 AFSA Korean Culture Camp!

Brenda and Paul Hartman

April



Birthdays

Soo Ah Dorn	3	4/14
Joe Fox	17	4/1
Daniel Greenfield	18	4/28
Bonnie Hartman	6	4/12
Greg Styer	18	4/21



Arrival Anniversaries

Daniel Escobedo	4/7/04
Declan Messner	4/27/04
Christopher Schroeder	4/27/94

February Meeting Report: Victor Groza

Approximately 50 people were in attendance for February's meeting to hear an outstanding presentation by Victor Groza, PhD, Professor of Parent-Child Studies at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University. Dr. Groza gave an overview of international adoption practices and research. Some interesting facts that were presented include the fact that 2% of all children born in Guatemala are placed for adoption internationally and that 50% of all children in Iceland are international adoptees. Dr. Groza then discussed his classification of outcomes for children adopted internationally. In his experience, approximately 10% of children are resilient rascals—trauma does not seem to affect them in any negative way. Approximately 80% of children are wounded warriors—these

children have some negative outcomes from international adoption but recover quickly and are not seriously affected. Finally, approximately 10-20% are challenged children. These children need early and ongoing support to deal with negative effects of adoption. Dr. Groza ended his presentation with a discussion of the Hague Convention that will begin on April 1, 2008. Dr. Groza stated that he expects that the Hague will require countries and agencies to undertake more ethical practices and provide pre- and post-adoption services more reliably. For a complete presentation of the legislation, go to: <http://laws.adoption.com/statutes/hague-convention-on-protection-of-children.html>.

Sara Douglas



Film Festival

The Cleveland International Film Festival will be held from March 6-16, 2008 at Tower City Cinemas at Tower City Center. There are several films this year that focus upon adoption-related issues. "Little Moth," a film that focuses on adoption in China will be shown on March 8-11, and "Foster Child," a film that focuses on foster families of children adopted internationally will be shown on March 11-12. For more information go to www.clevelandfilm.org.

January Meeting Notes: AFSA Families Cook!



Over 50 AFSA members (adults and children) were treated to a wonderfully tasty meeting in January. There were three presentations representing Korean, Vietnamese, and French foods. Recipes are included at the end of this article.

The evening started with a presentation by the Corty “boys” of traditional Korean pancakes. **Eric, David and Paul** took turns measuring, stirring, and cooking. They made vegetable, crab, and kim chee pancakes with enough for all to enjoy. This recipe was tasty and easy as well!

Next, **Kathy, Dan, and Emily Gisser** showed us how to prepare fresh Vietnamese spring rolls. After their presentation, they had tables set up so that children (and adults, too) could make their own spring rolls. Fortunately, the Gisser’s made several batches of spring rolls ahead for those of us too lazy to make our own!

Finally, we topped off the evening with a wonderful dessert—chocolate truffles (adapted from Alton Brown’s 2004 recipe). **Tim and Jenny Fox** did a wonderful job of walking us through this very labor intensive dessert—complete with presentations of what the chocolate should look like at various stages in the process. Fortunately, they made enough for all to enjoy!

We thank the Corty “boys,” the Gisser family, and Tim and Jenny Fox for sharing their wonderful recipes with us

January Meeting Recipes

Korean Pancakes

Ingredients: 1 cup Korean pancake mix
1 cup water
4 scallions

Optional: shredded carrots, kim chee, shrimp,
crab meat

- Mix together water and pancake mix. The batter should be thin. If not thin enough, add more water.
- Add scallions and/or whatever other ingredients one wishes.
- Heat pan; coat with vegetable oil.
- Cook about 2-3 minutes/side.
- Serve plain or with soy sauce, hoisin sauce, or other condiments.

Fresh Vietnamese Spring Rolls

Ingredients:

- 20 round pieces dried rice paper
- 4 cups of filling (use any combination of the spring roll base—noodles, vegetables, herbs—and flavorings such as seafood, meat, or nuts).
- Choose some of these for the base: 1 cup lettuce torn into bite size pieces or shredded. Boston lettuce or a package of shredded cabbage works well. 1 cup bean-sprouts, 1/2 cucumber (julienned), 2 carrots (julienned), 1 cup daikon radish (julienned), or radish and carrot salad, 1/2 package dried rice vermicelli, 1 bunch basil (chopped), 1 bunch cilantro (chopped), 1 bunch mint (chopped). Flavorings might include: 1/2 cup chopped peanuts, 1 cup small cooked shrimp, 1 cup roasted pork, ham or chicken (chopped or shredded).

Instructions:

- Soften the rice vermicelli: heat a pot of water to just below boiling. Cook the rice vermicelli 3 minutes. Drain and set aside.
- Soften the rice paper: fill a frying pan with 2 inches of water. Keep the water hot but well below boiling. Soak one sheet of rice paper at a time in the water until softened (1 minute). Gently remove rice paper from water with a spatula and spread out on a plate or wax paper.
- Stuff and roll: place a mixture of the filling ingredients into a pile about 2 inches from one edge of the rice paper. Fold the nearest edge over the ingredients, tuck in the sides, and roll tightly to the far side.
- Serve with a dipping sauce of your choice (typically *Nuac Mam Cham* or a peanut sauce).

Peanut Sauce

Ingredients: 1 tbs vegetable oil, 2 cloves garlic (chopped), 2 red chili peppers (seeded, chopped), 2/3 cup roasted unsalted peanuts (chopped), 2/3 cup chicken stock, 4 tbs coconut milk, 1 tbs hoisin sauce, 1 tbs fish sauce or soy sauce, 1 tbs sugar.

Instructions: Stir fry the garlic and chilis in oil until they soften. Add all but 1 tbs of the peanuts. Stir fry for a few minutes. Add the remaining ingredients and bring to a boil. Simmer for a few minutes, until the sauce thickens and oil appears on the surface. Serve, garnished with the remaining peanuts.

Continued on Page 5



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.
- 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 **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.
- May 10 ****5:30 p.m.**Movie Night.** We will be watching and 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/pov2000/firstpersonplural/program/synopsis.html).
- 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.

(Continued from Page 4)

Chocolate Truffles

(Adapted from Alton Brown’s 2004 recipe)

Ingredients:

- 10 oz. bittersweet chocolate, chopped fine
- 3 tbs butter
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 1 tbs corn syrup
- 1/2 cup Dutch process cocoa powder, finely chopped nuts, or toasted coconut
- 8 oz. chocolate, for dipping

Instructions:

- Put 10 oz. chocolate and butter in a medium glass mixing bowl. Microwave for 30 seconds, Stir and repeat. Set aside.

- Heat the heavy cream and corn syrup in a small saucepan over medium heat until simmering. Remove and pour over the chocolate mixture. Let stand 2 minutes, then mix with a rubber spatula until the chocolate is melted and the mixture is smooth and creamy. Line an 8x8 baking dish with foil. Pour chocolate mixture into the prepared dish and refrigerate for 1 hour.
- Turn out the chocolate onto a cutting board and cut into 30 squares. Using 2 teaspoons, shape the squares into spheres (or you can use a melon baller). Put the portions onto a cookie sheet lined with parchment paper and chill for 30 minutes. When they are chilled, reshape into balls.
- Melt the dipping chocolate in the microwave or over a double boiler. Dip an ice cream scoop into the melted chocolate and dump it out. Put one ball into the chocolate coated scoop and roll it around until coated. Put into a dish with cocoa powder, nuts, or coconut. Roll around to coat the truffle, then place on a cook sheet lined with parchment paper. Allow to set for 1 hour in the refrigerator. Serve at room temperature.

AFSA Outreach

Adoptive Families Support Association

March—April 2008

Volume 8, Issue 2

A bi-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 44129-0037
(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