

AFSA Outreach

Adoptive Families Support Association

May Meeting: AFSA's First Book Club



The program for AFSA's May meeting (May 10) will be our first book club. We are asking everyone to bring their favorite adoption-related books, magazines, videos, and/or DVDs to share with the group. 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. We will have tables set up so that books

and other media can be displayed by genre. In addition, we will give individuals the opportunity to talk briefly about a favorite book and will then circulate to view and discuss the various items on display.

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

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June Meeting: Culture Night

AFSA's annual Culture Night returns on Saturday, June 14. This is always 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. As always, 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 Yin Tang dance group. You can see them on their website: www.YinTangDance.com. Children are encouraged to wear the traditional dress of their birth countries. Kick off the summer in a delicious way. We hope to see you there!

Honoring Birthmothers

Over the last 18 years, the adoption community has marked the Saturday before Mother's Day as "Birthmother's Day." The purpose of this day is to recognize and honor birthmothers – those most silent members of the adoption triad. Like most

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May—June 2008

Volume 8, Issue 3

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	BLIZZARD! ✓
April 12	Spring Ahead Party ✓
May 10	AFSA Book Club
June 14	Culture Night

May Meeting

Saturday, May 10

** 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

News and Notes

May



Birthdays

Emily Boyle	13	5/10
Cassie Cunningham	12	5/23
Matthew Janovyak	14	5/20
Mary Ann Miller	16	5/11
Joshua Powell	6	5/9

Welcome & Arrivals Korean Camp Reminder

There was exciting news at our April meeting. **Andy and Aimee Watson** arrived at the meeting with their daughter, **Mayna Abigail** in their arms! Mayna was born in Guatemala on January 26, 2007 and joined her new family on February 27, 2008.



We also welcomed the Schroeder family who traveled all the way from Worthington just to attend our meeting! **Christopher & Emily** attended KCC last summer & parents **Lynette & Dana** decided to join AFSA. Welcome!!

For those of you who are considering sending your children to this year's Korean Culture Camp, the pre-registration deadline is May 11, 2008. (The camp filled up last year). Dates for Korean Culture Camp are July 30–August 3, 2008 and it will again be held at the St. Leonard Youth Retreat Center in Avon, Ohio. The program is open to adopted Korean children and their non-Korean siblings ages 7 through 17 years of age. If you have any questions about the camp, please contact Paul or Brenda Hartman at: (440) 729-2949 or via e-mail at: brendalee99@adelphia.net.

Planning Ahead



Arrival Anniversaries

Ryan Cohen	5/12/00
Paul Corty	5/27/98
Stephen Fox	5/12/97
Michelle Janovyak	5/11/96
Amelia Sage	5/27/04
Mia Scott	5/23/03
Andrew Scott	5/24/01
Thomas Vinkovich	5/19/92
Jenna Weber	5/11/95
Nathan Williams	5/1/97
Megan Williams	5/17/94



Is there a program you'd like to see AFSA do? As AFSA begins to plan for next year, we'd like to hear what programs you would like to see for the coming year. We will hold a special potluck meeting on July 12, 2008 at 5 p.m. at the Sage's house located at 866 Outrigger Cove, Painesville. 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! We hope to see you there!



June Meeting
Saturday, June 14

** 6:00 p.m. **

“Culture Night”

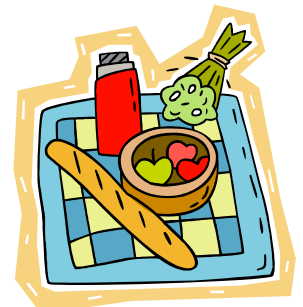
Location:

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

Please bring food from your ethnic heritage to share

FAC Picnic

Family Adoption Consultants (FAC) will be celebrating their 26th anniversary on Saturday June 21, 2008. The picnic will take place at “The Chalet” at Cleveland Metro Parks in Strongsville, OH from 12:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. Cost is \$10



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AFSA's Bragging Box



AFSA's own **Paul Corty** had a letter to the editor published in *The New York Times* on March 1, 2008. He wrote his letter in response to an article that he had seen that discussed whether or not John McCain could run for president of the United States because he was born in the Panama Canal—outside of the United States. As a naturalized citizen, Paul (and all of our internationally adopted children) cannot run for the highest office in our country. Paul felt that this was unfair and, as a result, wrote to *The New York Times*. His letter can be viewed online at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/03/01/opinion/101mccain.html>. Paul received a letter from Senator Sherrod Brown who also saw his letter. Good work, Paul!

Do you have some news to share with us? If you have something you would like to share, please e-mail Sara Douglas at sdouglas74@gmail.com.

June



Birthdays

Margaret Antill	16	6/10
Nathan Dorn	6	6/11
Patrick Hensel	3	6/27
Daniel Neese	6	6/3
Linh Nikooyi	1	6/22
Jenna Romig	5	6/4
Emily Schroeder	11	6/24
Colin Styer	16	6/19
Nick Williams	9	6/17

Family Adoption Consultants Picnic

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per family and each family is asked to bring their own food to grill, plates, cups, and silverware. Remember to bring your own blankets, lawn chairs etc. They also ask that you bring one covered dish to share with 15 people. Last names starting with A-L should bring a casserole or salad and M-Z should bring a dessert. FAC will provide the charcoal, cooking utensils, and tablecloths. Activities include: fashion show, games, and Tae Kwon Do demonstration. Volunteers are still needed. If you want to volunteer or have questions, you can contact Julie at: (330) 468-0673 or via e-mail at: julie@facadopt.org.

Birthmother's Day Ceremony

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things in the adoption domain, Birthmother's Day is controversial. Nonetheless, Birthmother's Day is an important day for all of us involved in adoption. To recognize the importance of the role that birthmother's play, Adoption Network Cleveland will be holding their Annual Birthmother's Day Ceremony on Saturday, May 10, 2008 at 2 p.m. The ceremony will be held at Adoption Network Cleveland offices located at 4614 Prospect Avenue, Suite 550, Cleveland, Ohio. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP by May 5 to Marsha at (216) 325-1000.



Arrival Anniversaries

Jacqueline Gueulette	6/12/97
Katie Messner	6/22/00

Local Adoption Events

European Adoption Consultants (EAC) is hosting the 16th Annual Memorial Day event, "EAC Families at the Zoo." EAC families will meet at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo Saturday, May 24, 2008 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information call Cathy Garvin at 800-533-0098. Adoption Network Cleveland will be holding an adoptive and foster parent discussion group on Tuesday, May 13, 2008 from 6 p.m.—8 p.m. The event will be held at Adoption Network Cleveland, 4614 Prospect Avenue, Suite 550. A light dinner will be served at 5:45 p.m. The focus of the discussion will be "Re-defining Normal" and will focus on adjusting to family changes that occur with adoption. You can RSVP to Marsha at (216) 325-1000.

April Meeting Notes: Spring Party a Success

After cancelling the March meeting due to blizzard conditions, we finally held our “Spring Ahead” party in April. Thanks to **Peggy McCarthy’s** great planning, a great time was had by all. A special thank you to **Janet McGrath, Jennifer Sage, Peggy McCarthy, Paul Corty, and Dave and Emma Zordan** for helping set up, decorate, and provide food. Over 60 people attended and brought snacks and desserts to complement our dinner of pizza. The “cookie walk” was enjoyed by young and old alike and that activity was followed by a rousing game of bingo with prizes awarded to all winners. While receiving a prize was fun for all, getting a chance to turn the bingo wheel and announce the letter and number for the bingo game seemed equally fun for many of the younger participants! Again, thank you for all who came and made this such a fun event.



Equality for Adopted Children: EACH



EACH, Equality for Adopted Children, advocates on behalf of children adopted into American families and their adoptive families. EACH seeks to work with Congress, the White House, and government agencies to promote adoption policies and legislative changes that will ensure that adopted children of American families have the very same rights and opportunities granted to children born into American families. The mission of EACH is to achieve equal treatment for adopted and biological children of American citizens under federal and state laws. There are two major pieces of legislation that have been introduced, but have not yet passed the full Congress and been signed into law: The Inter-country Adoption Reform Act (ICARE) and the Natural Born Citizen Act (NBC Act). EACH supports both of these proposed bills and will work to help enact them into law. The Natural Born Citizen Act would define the term in the Constitution “natural born citizen.” The law would define the term to include any person born in and subject to the jurisdiction of the United States; and any person born outside the United States who derives citizenship at birth from U.S. citizen parents, or who is adopted by the age 18 by U.S. citizen parents who are otherwise eligible to transmit citizenship. The law would assure U.S. parents who give birth to children while overseas, including military, foreign service, and expatriate families, that their children would one be eligible to run for president of the United States, as well as parents of children adopted by age 18 by a U.S. citizen parent. To learn more about the organization EACH as well as the NBC Act and the ICARE Act, go to: <http://www.equalityforadoptedchildren.org>. You can also find out more legislative news and updates as well as learn ways in which you can help advocate for equality for adopted children.

Sara Douglas

Chinese Spectacular at The State Theatre

Chinese Spectacular, a show that features rich costumes, choreography, and hi-tech backdrops tells stories and embodies themes drawn from China’s ancient culture. The show, which is touring 65 major cities around the world, will be in Cleveland at the State Theatre on May 3, 2008 at 7 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$25–\$110 and you can receive more information at Cleveland.BestChineseshows.com. Tickets can be ordered by phone (866-546-1353) or online (PlayhouseSquare.org).









May Meeting: AFSA’s First Book Club

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from other members of AFSA. The May meeting will begin with the election of new AFSA Board members which will be followed by a brief presentation of AFSA’s new website (see story page 5). We will finish the evening with our exchange of print and electronic materials related to adoption. It should be a fun and enlightening evening. We hope to see you there!



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**  **BLIZZARD!** Meeting cancelled.
- April 12**  **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?
- 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.

May Meeting: Unveiling AFSA’s Website

At the May 10, 2008 meeting, we will have a brief unveiling of AFSA’s website! Yes, finally, AFSA will have its very own website, thanks to **T.J. Powell** and Board members: **Janet McGrath, Jennifer Sage, Peggy McCarthy, and Sara Douglas.** The website will be available in early May and the address is: <http://afsaohio.org>. While the website will be up and running by early May, it will still be undergoing revisions and changes as we continue to modify it to meet our needs. Currently the navigation buttons include: contact page, history of the organization, information about and photos from Korean Culture Camp, AFSA Outreach newsletters,



and links to other organizations’ websites. Eventually, you will be able to join AFSA or renew your membership on-line. If you prefer to view the newsletter in color, you can now go to the website to view the newsletter. Past newsletters will be archived there as well. We look forward to sharing the website with you at the May 10th meeting.

Come help us celebrate our long overdue entry into the 21st century!

Sara Douglas

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, Jennifer Sage, Eric Corty, Jackie Maslanka.

Email: 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 44129-0037
(216) 491-4638

Membership Application New Member—\$35/year* Renewing Member—\$35/year**

**If all of information has remained the same since your last registration, check "Yes". 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 44129-0037

*** Make checks payable to AFSA ***