

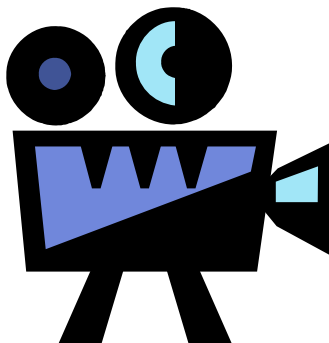
AFSA Outreach

Adoptive Families Support Association

September Meeting: Movie Night— First Person Plural

For our first AFSA meeting of the fall, please join us for the movie, "First Person Plural." This documentary, directed and filmed by Korean-born adoptee Deann Borshay, chronicles her struggle to correct a case of mistaken identity and uncover the mysteries surrounding her adoption. While her adoption documents indicated that she was an orphan with no living family, she received information later in life that indicated that she was not the person that she (and her adoptive family) thought she was. A trip to Korea with her adoptive parents to resolve lingering questions about her history presents an emotional meeting between her adoptive and birth family. The film presents an insightful view into the cultural divide that Deann tries to bridge between her American and Korean identities. It is a wonderful documentary that touches on many of the issues that transracial adoptees (and their adoptive families) confront—the loss of culture often associated with transracial adoption and the changing sense of identity that comes as

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July-August 2008

Volume 8, Issue 4

2008-2009 Schedule

September 13	Movie Night
October 11	Birthparent Panel
November 8	Post-Adoption Support Programs
December 13	Holiday Party
January 10	AFSA Families Cook for the New Year
February 14	Adult Adoptee Panel
March 14	Spring Ahead Party
April 11	Korean Culture Camp Reunion
May 9	Field Trip
June 13	Culture Night

May and June Meeting Notes

At the May meeting, AFSA families participated in our first book club. Attendees brought a wide variety of books, videos, and DVDs to share with the group. After a brief presentation, attendees circulated around tables that were set up to display the materials. It was a wonderful opportunity to discuss favorite items and to find new items to add to our personal libraries. Thank you to all who attended and participated. The June meeting was a wonderful conclusion to a great year at AFSA. The evening began with an AFSA potluck dinner with foods representing a variety of cultures. After a delightful meal, we were all entertained by a the Yin Tang dance group (www.YinTangDance.com). We were enthralled by the beautiful dancing and spectacular costumes. Thank you to all who contributed to the success of "Culture Night."

By request, we are providing a list of the books and other materials that were presented at our May AFSA meeting.

Non-Fiction: "Twenty Things Adopted Kids Wish Their Adoptive Parents Knew" by

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September Meeting

Saturday, September 13

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	9	7/31
Susie Cunningham	10	7/5
Alia Escobedo	3	7/26
Molly McNamarra	7	7/24



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
Jenna Zavasky	7/10/91



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 Korean Culture Camp-2008!



Paperless?

If you are interested in receiving the newsletter via e-mail only (no hard copy), please e-mail Sara Douglas (sdouglas74@gmail.com). Please include your name with your request.

Sara Douglas

News and Notes

Planning Meeting

There was an excellent turnout for our annual planning potluck dinner in July. Thank you to all who attended, brought such wonderful food, and provided thoughts and suggestions for programming for the coming year.

Jennifer Sage

May Meeting Notes

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Sherrie Eldridge; "After the Morning Calm: Reflections of Korean Adoptees" by Sook Wilkinson & Nancy Fox; "Transnational Adoption: A Cultural Economy of Race, Gender, and Kinship" by Sara Dorow; "Cultures of Transnational Adoption" by Toby Volkman; "I Wish for You a Beautiful Life: Letters from the Korean Birth Mothers of Ae Ran Won to Their Children" by Sara Dorow; "Adopted from Asia: How It Feels to Grow Up in America" by Frances Koh; "Attaching in Adoption: Practical Tools for Today's Parents" by Deborah Gray; "Why I Chose You (100 Reasons)" by Gregory Lang; "Korean-Americans: Past, Present, and Future" by Ilpyong Kim.

Children's Books: "Zen Ties" by Jon Muth; "Zen Shorts" by Jon Muth; "Bee-bim Bop!" by Linda Sue Park & Ho Maek Lee; "Motherbridge of Love" by Sinran & Josee Masse; "Through Moon and Stars and Night Skies" by Ann Turner & James Hale; "Forever Fingerprints: An Amazing Discovery for Adopted Children" by Sherrie Eldridge & Rob Williams; "The Red Thread: An Adoption Fairy Tale," by Grace Lin; "Shaoy and Dot: Bug Meets Bundle" by Mary Beth & Steven Chapman; "Korean Children's Stories and Songs" by Peter Hyun; "When You Were Born in Korea: A Memory Book for Children Adopted From Korea" by Brian Boyd; "When You Were Born in China: A Memory Book for Children Adopted From China" by Sara Dorow & Stephen Wunrow; "Let's Learn About Korea" by Suzanne Han; "Rosie's Family: An Adoption Story" by Lori Rosove & Heather Burrill; "We Adopted You, Benjamin Koo" by Linda Girard & Linda Shute; "Families Are Different" by Nina Pellegrini; "A Mother for Choco" by Keiko Kasza.

Miscellaneous Books: "The Lost Daughters of China: Adopted Girls, Their Journey to America, and the Search for a Missing Past" by Karin Evans; "When My Name Was Keoko" by Linda Sue Park; "PACT's Multicultural Book Source: An Opinionated Guide to Books that Reflect, Open and Address Issues for Adoptive Families" obtained via www.pactadopt.org.

Videos/DVDs: "Families of South Korea" from www.familiesoftheworld.com; "Arirang: The Korean-American Journey" produced by Tom Coffman/Korean American Coalition (213.380.6175); "Through Moon and Stars and Night Skies: Reading Rainbow," distributed by Great Plains National TV (800.228.4630).

If any materials that you brought to the May meeting were omitted from this list, contact Sara Douglas (sld74@gmail.com) and they will be added to our list.





Calendar of Events 2008-2009

- September 13** **Movie Night.** We will be watching & 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/povf2000/firstpersonplural/program/synopsis.html)
- October 11** **Birthparent Panel.** A panel of birthparents generously share their stories and talk to AFSA families about their experiences as birthparents. Past birthparent panels have been one of our most popular AFSA meeting topics.
- November 8** **Post-Adoption Support Programs.** 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 his post-adoption program, Adoption PARTners.
- December 13** **Holiday Party.** Join us for holiday fun! Food, games, and perhaps a visit from you-know-who!
- January 10** **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 14** **Adult Adoptee Panel.** A panel of adult adoptees share their stories and talk to AFSA families about their experiences growing up as adopted children. This is one of our most popular meeting topics.
- March 14** **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 11** **Korean Culture Camp Reunion and Information Night.** Join us as we have a informational presentation about AFSA-supported Korean Culture Camp. We also invite prior KCC campers to come for a reunion.
- May 9** **Field Trip!** Details to be announced.
- June 13** **Culture Night.** We end our AFSA year, as always, with our annual Culture Night, featuring food from around the world, games, and entertainment.

August



Birthdays

Emily Gisser	7	8/1
Daniel Hartman	12	8/16
David Hartman	12	8/16
Kara Heinrich	15	8/19
Mark Miller	14	8/31
Emily Skerl	11	8/24
Lianne Timko	10	8/13



Arrival Anniversaries

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

September Meeting: Movie Night

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adoptees gain more information regarding their past.

Please join us as we view and discuss this interesting film. While the focus of the film is on a Korean-born adoptee's search for information about her past, the themes are relevant for all adoptees and adoptive parents.

We look forward to seeing you at our meeting. If you are interested in more information about the film or the director, please visit the website: <http://www.pbs.org/pov/pov2000/firstpersonplural/program>.

Please Note: The program will begin at 6 p.m. and the movie will start promptly at 6:15 p.m. as it is 60 minutes long.

AFSA Outreach

Adoptive Families Support Association

July-August 2008

Volume 8, Issue 4

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), Eric Corty, 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

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It's time to renew your membership!

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

Download the renewal form from our website:

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

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

Don't miss out on any of the fun. **Renew today!**