

AFSA Outreach

Adoptive Families Support Association

September-October 2008

October Meeting: Birth Parent Panel

Volume 8, Issue 5

The adoption triad consists of birth parents, adoptive parents, and children. Please join Adoptive Families Support Association on October 11, 2008 for a special meeting with a birth parent panel. Birth parents are a very important part of our lives as adoptive parents and of our children's lives as well. Do not miss this opportunity to gain a greater understanding of birth parents, their experiences, and their insights regarding adoption.



The panel of birth parents at our October meeting will be comprised of birthparents who volunteer with Adoption Network Cleveland. They will share their stories and experiences as birth parents. After their presentation, the panel will answer questions from the audience. Please join us for this informative and meaningful meeting. It is always one of our most popular meetings. As always, activities for the children will be provided.

September Meeting: Movie Night

Fifty-nine people attended our first AFSA meeting of the fall. While the children played (or watched their own movie), the adults watched the movie, "First Person Plural." This documentary, directed and filmed by Korean-born adoptee Deann Borshay Liem, told her story of being adopted by an American family in 1966. Growing up in California, the memory of her birth family was nearly obliterated until recurring dreams lead Borshay Liem to discover the truth: her Korean mother was very much alive. The film takes us through Ms. Liem's reunion with her Korean family and presents a view of the conflicts that the film maker felt as she tried to bridge her adoptive family and identity with her Korean family and heritage. It was a very compelling story which raised such issues as identity, loss, and yearning for a sense of belonging—all threads in many adoptee's lives. It also provided us with insight regarding how much has changed in the transracial adoption community over the past 40 years in terms of our recognition of the need to provide opportunities to our children to connect with their birth heritage and culture. For more information, go to: <http://www.pbs.org/pov/pov2000/firstpersonplural>.

2008-2009 Schedule

September 13	Movie Night
October 11	Birth Parent 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

October Meeting

Saturday, October 11

6:00 p.m.

"Birth Parent Panel"

Location:

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

Please bring a snack to share

September



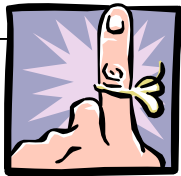
Birthdays

Daniel Escobedo	5	9/14
Declan Messner	5	9/26
Matthew Vecchio	16	9/20
Jason Weber	12	9/14
Angela Weiland	9	9/30



Arrival Anniversaries

Emily Boyle	9/13/95
Sarah Dorn	9/5/05
David Lehtinen	9/25/04
Mary Ann Miller	9/8/92
Andrew Powell	9/25/04
Emma Zordan	9/30/98



November Meeting

Saturday, November 8

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

"Post Adoption Programs"

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

News and Notes

Evening at the Races

Friends of Adoptive Families is sponsoring it's 12th annual "Evening At the Races" fundraising event to benefit Family Adoption Consultants' programs supporting children waiting for adoptive families. This year's event will be held on **Saturday, October 4, 2008** at the Multiplex Sport and Event Center located at 18909 South Miles Road, in Warrensville Heights, Ohio.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and activities include a buffet dinner, an in-house raffle, casino gaming tables, and video horseracing events. Casino Night tickets are \$25/person which includes a buffet dinner, beer, wine, and soft drinks. You may purchase a horse for \$35. The event has been very well attended each year and has raised as much as \$23,000 for waiting children in China, South Korea, Guatemala and the Philippines.

The funds raised from this event help medically fragile children receive much-needed surgeries and specialized medical



care. In addition, funds raised from this event are used to help subsidize the adoption expenses for "special needs" children and help provide basic need items for waiting children.

Tickets may be purchased at the door, or for more information you can contact Jennifer Sage at jsage@STERIS.com or visit our website (www.afsaohio.org) which has a link to "Friends of Adoptive Families" leading to more details about the event.

We hope that you will be able to attend this fun and worthwhile event!

The Asian Gathering

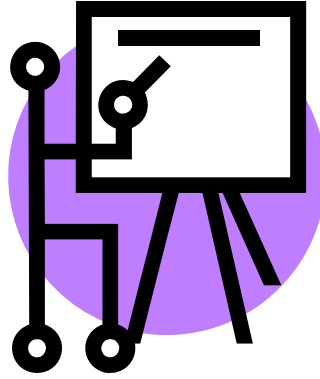
The Asian Catholic Communities of the Cleveland Diocese invite all to attend the Annual Asian Gathering on **Sunday, October 5, 2008**. The theme for this year is "Sharing a Vision of Hope." The event will begin at 12 p.m. at St. Clarence Parish, 30106 Lorain Road, North Olmsted, Ohio with Mass celebrated by The Most Reverend Anthony M. Pilla. Following Mass there will be entertainment and Asian food. For more information go to: www.dioceseofcleveland.org/asianministry.

Chinese Language Schools

Several schools in northeast Ohio offer classes where children can study Mandarin Chinese and learn about Chinese culture and events. The Westlake Chinese School offers Saturday language and dance classes at Lee Burneson Middle School in Westlake, Ohio. For more information, you can call (440) 241-2141 or check their website: www.westlakechineseschool.com. The Chinese Academy of Cleveland holds Saturday morning classes at Shaker Heights Middle School in Shaker Heights, Ohio. For more information contact Ms. Teng at (440) 461-0605 or check their website: www.chineseacademyofcleveland.org. The Cleveland Contemporary Chinese Culture Association holds Saturday classes at Solon High School. For more information, contact Dr. Liming Wang at (216) 444-1149 or check their website: www.ccca.org.

Family Adoption Consultants: Classes

Family Adoption Consultants (FAC) will be hosting several classes that relate to adoption. Families in all stages of the adoption process are welcome—from families just beginning the process to experienced families who are dealing first-hand with some adoption related issues. Attendance is open to families who have adopted from other agencies other than FAC. The location for all of the offerings is at the FAC office located at 8536 Crow Drive, Macedonia, Ohio 44056. Pre-registration is mandatory. Each session will cost \$15 per person or \$25 per couple and payment must be made to the FAC Ohio office no later than October 13, 2008. If you are interested in attending any of the classes mentioned below, contact the FAC office at (330) 468-0673 or you can find a link to FAC and “Ohio Trainings” via our website (www.afsaohio.org). October and November sessions are presented here ; future sessions will be presented in subsequent AFSA newsletters.



Session 1: October 18, 2008 from 8:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. “Medical Issues in International Adoption.” What should I look for in my referral information? When should I be concerned about my baby’s development? This is your chance to ask the experts. This session is mandatory for FAC families.

Session 2: October 18, 2008 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. “Who Am I and Where Did I Come From?” The search for self is explored through presentations made by a panel of adult adoptees, birth parents, and adoptive parents. This session is mandatory for FAC families.

Session 3: October 18, 2008 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. “Isn’t Love Enough?” Encouraging attachment with your adopted child will be explored in this workshop whose focus is to examine how and why attachment occurs and determine what you can do now to help prevent attachment problems later. This session is mandatory for FAC families.

Session 4: October 19, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. “Helping Your Family Become Multicultural.” This workshop will examine ways that you can help your child assimilate into your world and ways in which you must keep your child’s birth culture alive for him/her. This session is mandatory for FAC families.

Session 5: October 19, 2008 from 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. “A Family Journey through Placement/Adoption Core Issues.” All members of the adoptive family have unique feelings regarding the adoption. Learn about yourself, your child, and how to tackle those difficult feelings and questions. This session is elective for FAC families.

Baby Basics: November 15, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. “Baby Basics Training Class”. This program is presented through Akron Children’s Hospital and this session will take place at Akron’s Children’s Hospital. The program is aimed at educating parents about the fundamentals of caring for their newly adopted child. The class will be taught by experienced Children’s Hospital staff and will cover such topics as infant/toddler safety, immunizations, dietary concerns, and child proofing your home. For this session, you need to contact Akron Children’s Hospital (1-800-358-KIDS). Cost is \$40 per person and \$60 per couple. This session is elective for FAC families.

October



Birthdays

Sarah Boyle	5	10/29
David Corty	13	10/24
Paul Corty	11	10/7
Maggie Dissinger	13	10/14
Tim Fox	16	10/15
Sarah Maslanka	16	10/7
Neha McCarthy	5	10/7
Katie Messner	9	10/3
Jenna Timko	4	10/27
Nathan Williams	12	10/30



Arrival Anniversaries

Theodora Bowne	10/19/02
Linh Nikooyi	10/8/07
Joshua Powell	10/24/02
Emily Skerl	10/4/98
Claudia Tommasi	10/19/95
Nick Williams	10/21/01

Korean Culture Camp: Another Successful Year

Fifty-five campers ages 7 through 17 experienced Korean cuisine, cooking classes, pop culture and water balloon fights at this year's Korean Culture Camp (KCC) held this August at the Saint Leonard's Youth Retreat Center in Avon, Ohio. KCC is supported by our organization the Adoptive Families Support Association and was staffed by young-adult Korean-American counselors as well as several behind-the-scenes adoptive parents from AFSA. Back by popular demand, **Paul and Brenda Hartman** were responsible for orchestrating all aspects of camp and **Jenny Fox** (ably assisted by her husband **Bob**) was responsible for overseeing all aspects of menu selection, food preparation, and kitchen responsibilities. Ryoung Lee and Jenny Choi returned as co-directors and were ably assisted by the following counselors: Molly Baxendale, Jay Cha, Dennis Cho, Sarah Kim, Stephani Kim, Patrick McCarthy, Paul Miller and Silvia Yim. As in prior years, campers were divided into teams (called family groups) to compete against one another in a variety of camp activities throughout the week. Each family group consisted of a counselor and 6 campers: two smalls (ages 7-10), two mediums (ages 11-13), 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 campers really distinguished themselves as role models.



There were several other highlights during camp. On Friday night a group of local Korean-American families from Korean Central Presbyterian Church prepared, served, and shared a traditional Korean meal with the campers, counselors, and parent volunteers. This meal is one of the most anticipated events of camp and these wonderful people did not disappoint. All of the food was excellent and campers enjoyed the leftovers of bulgogi and kim-bap the following day.

As in prior years, we had the water games, water balloon fights, and Saturday evening campfire, where the campers discussed their time at camp and started saying some early tearful goodbyes. Camp concluded on Sunday morning as parents arrived and were treated to closing skits and a slide show. As has become a tradition, each camper received a CD with a slide show of photos from throughout the week—a wonderful reminder of great times and lasting friendships.

Parent volunteers also helped make camp a success this year. These included: **John and Angela Mago, Kris Heinrich, Jackie and John Maslanka, Ken Kulp, Sara Douglas and Eric Corty.** Thank you to all who made KCC's 20th year such a wonderful one!

Paul and Brenda Hartman



Transracial Adoption


Faculty in the Department of Family Science, in conjunction with The Center for Adoption Support and Education at the University of Maryland at College Park, are initiating a national survey of transracially adopted adolescents and their families. The specific focus of the study is to examine the impact of family characteristics on the overall adjustment, self-esteem, and racial identity of racial minority youth adopted by Caucasian parents. The lead researcher, Dr. Leigh Leslie, is seeking to enroll Caucasian parents and their racial minority adolescent children for an on-line survey that will take approximately 20 minutes. Adolescents need to be between the ages of 14-18 years old and will receive a \$10 iTunes gift card after completing the survey. For more information, or if you would like to participate in the study, contact Dr. Leslie at: (301) 405-4011 or e-mail Dr. Leslie at: lleslie@umd.edu.

Sign Up Early for KCC 2009!

The dates for next year's Korean Culture Camp are Wednesday, July 15, 2009 through Sunday, July 19, 2009. There are already 40 campers registered for the 2009 camp session so make sure to get your registration in early. Campers from the 2008 session received registration forms for next year's camp—or you can go to our website (www.afsaohio.org) to find the link to Korean Culture Camp 2009 and download the registration form. For more information, contact Paul or Brenda Hartman at (440) 729-2949. You may also contact them via e-mail at: brendalee99@adelphia.net.



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** **Birth Parent Panel.** A panel of birth parents generously share their stories and talk to AFSA families about their experiences as birth parents. Past birth parent 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.

Paperless Anyone?

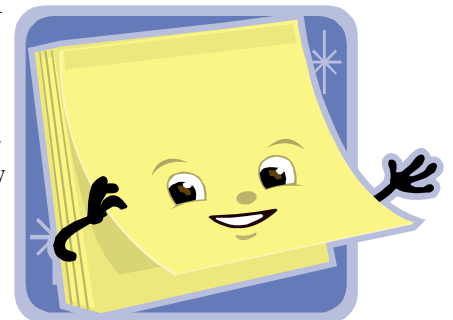
If you are interested in receiving the newsletter via e-mail only (no hard copy), OR e-mail and hard copy, please e-mail Sara Douglas (sdouglas74@gmail.com). Please include your name with your request. Advantages of the electronic version of the newsletter include:



- [Get the newsletter earlier](#)
- [See the graphics in color](#)
- [Help the environment](#)

Membership Renewal Reminder

If you have not yet renewed your AFSA membership, we invite you to renew now. For the November-December issue, there will be a colored strip on the mailing labels of those whose membership has expired. You may renew by completing the renewal form on the back page of this newsletter, or may download the form on our website: www.afaohio.org.



AFSA Outreach

Adoptive Families Support Association

September-October

Volume 8, Issue 5

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

<http://www.afsaohio.org>
 P.O. Box 29337
 Parma, OH 44129-0337
 (216) 491-4638

Membership Application

New Member—\$35/year*

Renewing Member—\$35/year**

**If all information has remained the same since your last registration, check 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