

# AFSA Outreach

## Adoptive Families Support Association

### January Meeting: AFSA Families Cook for the New Year

At our January 10, 2009 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. Our chefs this year will be comprised of AFSA members and families. We will have three cooking presentations this year with the opportunity to sample what each cook has prepared for presentation.

This year, the AFSA members who will be cooking for us are: **Tim Stafford, Kathy, Daniel and Emily Gisser**, and AFSA President, **Jennifer Sage**. Tim and Jennifer will be cooking Korean dishes and the Gisser's will be presenting some dishes from Viet Nam.

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!



January-February 2009

Volume 9, Issue 1

### 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

### February Meeting: Adult Adoptee Panel

Have you ever wondered what it is like for our non-Caucasian children to grow up in a Caucasian world? How do they feel about looking different than their adoptive parents? How do they feel about their own racial and cultural identities?

At our February 14 AFSA meeting, we will hear a panel of adult adoptees share their personal experiences and feelings about growing up in a transracial family. They will help us address many of the questions we have about our children being ethnically different than their families, friends, and society at large. They will also talk about how we as parents can support our children in developing their ethnic and racial identities.

We have a critical role as adoptive parents to facilitate the development of a strong, healthy, self-identity in our children. According to Victor Groza and Karen Rosenberg, authors of *Clinical and Practice Issues in Adoption*, our children have fragile identities, whether they are adopted as newborns or later in life.

Please come and join us at our February meeting to learn and support one another in our role of helping our children develop healthy attitudes about their ethnicity and culture. It should be a very informative meeting.

### Next Meeting

Saturday, January 10

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

**“AFSA Families Cook for the New Year”**

Location:

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

Sara Douglas

# January



## Birthdays

Michelle Janovyak	13	1/12
Lily Lehtinen	3	1/6
Hannah Mitchell	6	1/21
Grace Romig	7	1/27
Andrew Scott	7	1/2
Emma Stafford	4	1/24
Mayna Watson	2	1/26



## Arrival Anniversaries

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



## February Meeting

Saturday, February 14

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

### “Adult Adoptee Panel ”

Location:

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

**Please bring a snack to share**

# News and Notes

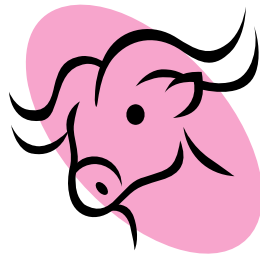
## Têt Fashion Show

Têt, the Vietnamese New Year, is a time of celebration throughout the Vietnamese community. In Cleveland, as part of the celebration, you can attend the Aó Dài Fashion Show on Sunday, January 11, 2009. The event will be held at the Greek Orthodox Church located at 2187 West 14th Street, in Cleveland. The event runs from 3pm–9pm and the charge is \$35 (+\$5 at the door) for adults; children ages 12 and under are free.



Tickets can be purchased at Minh Anh Restaurant at 5428 Detroit Road in Cleveland. For more information about this event contact Jim at (216) 225-7599.

## Lunar New Year: The Year of the Ox



Chinese New Year, Sol Nal, Têt. All of these are names from different Asian countries that represent the Lunar New Year. This year, the Lunar New Year will begin on January 26, 2009 and last for 15 days. According to Wikipedia, the ox is one of the 12 animals of Chinese astrology and it is the sign of prosperity through hard work. People born in the Year of the Ox are considered to be born leaders, to be dependable, and to possess the innate

ability to achieve great things. In addition, Ox people are patient and capable of enduring hardship without complaint. They are most compatible with Snake, Rooster, and Rat people. People born in the years 1913, 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985 and 1997 were born in the year of the Ox. Famous people born in the Year of the Ox include: Johann Sebastian Bach, Charlie Chaplin, Walt Disney, George Clooney, and Barack Obama. For more information about the Year of the Ox, you can go to: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ox\\_\(zodiac\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ox_(zodiac)).

In Cleveland, there are special celebrations to mark the beginning of this wonderful holiday. The Chinese Academy of Cleveland will be hosting a special Chinese New Year celebration on Saturday, January 31, 2009 from 4:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium at the Shaker Heights Middle School (20600 Shaker Boulevard, Shaker Heights, OH). The cost is \$10/person (pre-order only). For information regarding how to purchase tickets, go to: [www.chineseacademyofcleveland.org](http://www.chineseacademyofcleveland.org).

If you are interested in seeing traditional Chinese Lion dancing, one restaurant to consider is Li Wah's at 2999 Payne Avenue in Cleveland. They will be having Lion

*(Continued on page 3)*

# November Meeting Notes: Post-Adoption Support Programs

At our November meeting, Dr. Victor Groza (Grace F. Brody Professor of Parent-Child Studies at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University) spoke about post-adoption programs focused upon enhancing parent-child relationships in adoptive families. Dr. Groza, and two of his associates, described their program entitled Adoption PARTners which has just recently begun providing services in the community. The major focus of his program is Parent-Centered, Assessment, Referral and Transition and one of its unique contributions is that the assessment and intervention occur in the family home. In addition, the program assessment, treatment, and referral approach is evidence-based and utilizes current research findings to guide their practice. Before any intervention begins, someone from Dr. Groza's practice conducts developmental and behavioral assessments of the child and parent/family. The results of these assessments are shared with the family. The intervention is for a maximum of 6 month modules and includes: home-based meetings (if the family lives within 30 minutes of the clinic), use of techniques that the family can use to improve the child's attachment and behavior management, a strength-based model that emphasizes what the family does well for their children, and use of social support networks to support the family. As part of their practice, Dr. Groza's team members monitor the intervention and conduct on-going assessments of the children and family with continued feedback to family members.



We are very fortunate to have Dr. Groza and his PARTners program located in the Cleveland area. For more information, you can visit their website: <http://msas.case.edu/faculty/vgroza/postadopt.html>.

Sara Douglas

*(Continued from page 2)*

dancing on January 25 at 6 p.m. and again on January 26 at 11 a.m. For more information, you can call them at (216) 696-6556. Other area restaurants have special New Year's feasts and events. Just a few that you may wish to investigate are: #1 Pho (Vietnamese) located at 3120 Superior Avenue, Cleveland (216-781-1176), Min Anh Vietnamese at 5428 Detroit Avenue, Cleveland (216-961-9671), Bo Loong's (Chinese) at 3922 St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland (216 -391-3113), Pearl of the Orient (Chinese) at 20121 Van Aken Blvd, Shaker Heights (216-71-8181), Pearl of the Orient at 19300 Detroit Road, Rocky River (440-333-9902) and Seoul Restaurant (Korean) at 5270 Pearl Road, Cleveland (216-661-5990).

Regardless of how you celebrate the Lunar New Year, experiencing the fun and food at one of Cleveland's Asian restaurants is certainly a wonderful way to begin the festivities.

Sara Douglas

## February



### Birthdays

Magdalena Bowne	5	2/7
Rachel Cohen	6	2/12
Bryan Stafford	7	2/19
Olivia White	3	2/3
Evan White	5	2/5



### Arrival Anniversaries

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

# 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. 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: **Jennifer Sage, Doug Sage, Sara Douglas, Kathy Gisser, and Kevin Hensel.** Also, a special “thank you” to **Emma Zordan** who did a wonderful job as Santa’s Helper! 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, a fish on a fishing pole,

a sweet 16 birthday cake, and a monkey in a tree! In addition to Flower, we were lucky to have **Jenni-**

**fer 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!

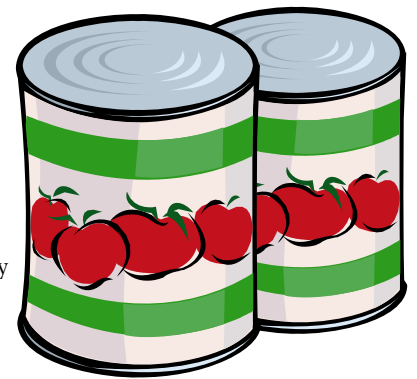
To all who came and helped celebrate the holiday season, we thank you!

---

## 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 63 pounds of canned food and monetary gifts totaling \$180 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.



## 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](http://www.pbs.org/pov/povf2000/firstpersonplural/program/synopsis.html))

October 11



**Birth parent 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 an 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.

## Membership Renewal Reminder

If you have a colored stripe on your mailing label, then according to our records, your AFSA membership has not yet been renewed. We are inviting you to renew now. You may renew by completing the renewal form on the back page of this newsletter, or may download the form on our website: [www.afsaohio.org](http://www.afsaohio.org). If we have identified you as not having renewed your membership, but you think that you have, please contact **Kevin Hensel** ([Kevin.d.hensel@us.abb.com](mailto:Kevin.d.hensel@us.abb.com)) for clarification.

