

AFSA Outreach

Adoptive Families Support Association

January Meeting: AFSA Cooks



At our meeting on January 9, 2010, AFSA will present its always popular cooking program – our answer to Julia Child and cable television’s Food Network. As in previous years, the program will include cooking demonstrations, recipes, and samples of the food. And as usual, our celebrity chefs will be drawn from the ranks of AFSA families. The chefs scheduled to appear in this year’s program are **Emma Zordan, Paul and Eric Corty, and Luis and Jeanette Escobedo.**

You will not only be able to sample the culinary delights prepared by our chefs, but will also be able to pick up a copy of the recipes so that you can cook the dishes in the comfort of your own kitchen.

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!

February Meeting: Book Club

It’s back by popular demand! For AFSA’s meeting on February 13, 2010, we will present our second-ever book club. This program will be an opportunity for members to bring in their favorite adoption-related resources, including books, magazines, video-tapes and DVDs to share with the entire group. It should be a wonderful opportunity for families to learn about useful parenting resources.

We will set up separate stations to group the materials by subject matter, including children’s literature, the adoption process, and issues facing adult adoptees. Contributors to the resource tables will have the opportunity, if they wish, to talk briefly about a favorite book, magazine or video. Following these presentations, we will circulate to view and discuss the various items on display.

The first AFSA book club was held in May 2008, and it proved to be a great opportunity to exchange information about various adoption-related media. We hope to see you at the second book club in February 2010!



January-February 2010

Volume 10, Issue 4

2009-2010 Schedule

September 12	Movie Night
October 10	Adoption & School Issues
November 14	International Adoption Update
December 12	Culture Night
January 9	AFSA Cooks
February 13	Book Club
March 13	Spring Party
April 10	Racism
May 8	Field Trip
June 12	Picnic

January Meeting

Saturday, January 9

6:00 p.m.

“AFSA Cooks”

Location:

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

January



Birthdays

Michelle Janovyak	14	1/12
Lily Lehtinen	4	1/6
Hannah Mitchell	7	1/21
Grace Romig	8	1/27
Andrew Scott	8	1/2
Emma Stafford	6	1/24
Mayna Watson	3	1/26



Arrival Anniversaries

Alia Escobedo	1/27/07
Kara Heinrich	1/22/94
Matthew Vecchio	1/27/93

February Meeting

Saturday, February 13

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

“Book Club”

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

Please bring a snack to share

News & Notes

Lunar New Year: Year of the Tiger

While you are just getting used writing “2010” on your checks, it is not too soon to look forward to the Lunar New Year, the start of the Year of the Tiger. Holidays based on the lunar calendar are still widely celebrated in East Asian cultures; the holiday at the start of the lunar year is known in China as the Spring Festival, in Korea as Sol Nal, and in Vietnam as Têt.

Measured by the Gregorian solar calendar, February 14, 2010, will mark the start of Lunar Year 4707 (by Chinese reckoning). New Year festivities will conclude 15 days



later with the coming of the first full moon of the year. Traditionally, preparations for the new year begin a week or more before the year end, with a thorough housecleaning to sweep out the bad luck from the departing year. The new year’s celebration is a time to gather the family and wish for a year of peace and prosperity.

People born in the year of the Tiger are believed to have a lively disposition and uninhibited nature. They are said to be broad-minded and forthright. However, they have a tendency to act in haste and are prone to suspicion. They never hide their feelings, and have honest, tender, generous and humorous personalities. Persons born in the year of the Tiger are believed to be most compatible with people born in the years of Horse, Dragon, and Dog. Previous Years of the Tiger include the following years in the Gregorian calendar: 1914, 1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1975, 1986 and 1998.

In the Cleveland area, there are numerous opportunities to participate in the special celebrations to mark the beginning of the lunar year. For instance, the Chinese Academy of Cleveland will be hosting a special Chinese New Year celebration on Saturday, February 20, 2010, from 4:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium at the Shaker Heights Middle School (20600 Shaker Boulevard, Shaker Heights). The cost is \$10/person (pre-order only). For information regarding tickets for the event, consult the organization’s website at www.chineseacademyofcleveland.org.

You can watch traditional Chinese Lion dancing on the morning of February 14 at Li Wah restaurant, located at 2999 Payne Ave., Cleveland (216-696-6556). The Cleve-

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All Your News That’s Fit We’ll Print

If you have some good news to share with other AFSA families, such as referrals, arrivals, or feats of amazing skill by your loved ones, please pass it along to us at trbowne@hotmail.com or call Thomas Bowne at 216-751-5067.

AFSA Outreach is published bimonthly. The deadline for submissions is the 20th of the month prior to the month of publication.



November & December Meeting Notes

At the November AFSA meeting, Dr. Victor Groza of Case Western Reserve University spoke to an audience of more than 20 people, discussing the status of international adoptions from Kazakhstan and Guatemala. Dr. Groza had recently traveled to Kazakhstan as part of a U.S. State Department mission promoting international adoption.

Kazakhstan currently has about 50,000 children in institutions, said Dr. Groza, with about 700 international adoptions annually. The country's system of care for orphaned children is similar to the former system in the Soviet Union. For example, Kazakhstan has not yet set up a system of foster care. There are no provisions for domestic adoptions in the country, but there is general community support in Kazakhstan for international adoption, said Dr. Groza. He thinks that the Kazakh government is still trying to think through how they want to set up their child care system, but he said it was likely that Kazakhstan would eventually become a signatory to the Hague Adoption Convention.

Guatemala is currently closed to international adoption. Dr. Groza described some of the problems with the system prior to the closure, in which about two percent of live births in the country were placed for international adoption. Dr. Groza said that the international adoption process in Guatemala was not child-centered, and the structure of the payment system for birth mothers pressured them to relinquish their children for adoption. If the country reopens for international adoption, he expects that the system will be centralized rather than controlled by private attorneys.

On December 12, 2009, AFSA held its annual Culture Night, celebrating the birth cultures of our families. A number of children wore traditional dress from their birth countries. We started the evening with a potluck supper, enjoying a diverse culinary spread including marinated chicken, cheese-filled bread, baked apples, rice, noodles, *apcha*, salads, and laver. Desserts were provided by the AFSA board and featured cookies, brownies, Choco-Pies and other delicacies.

Following the meal, the children received a visit from Flower Clown, who entertained us with balloon sculptures and witty repartee. Thanks to all of the families who participated to make the night a great success.

Lunar New Year

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land Public Library also often has a free Lunar New Year's program with a Lion Dance. But as of press time, no date was available. Check www.cpl.org for details.

Other area restaurants may have special New Year's events. You may want to check out the following. **Vietnamese:** #1 Pho at 3120 Superior Ave., Cleveland (216-781-1176); Min Anh at 5428 Detroit Rd., Cleveland (216-961-9671); Superior Pho at 3030 Superior Ave., Cleveland (216-781-7462); **Chinese:** Bo Loong at 3922 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland (216-391-3113); Pearl of the Orient at 20121 Van Aken Blvd., Shaker Heights (216-751-8181) or at 19300 Detroit Rd., Rocky River (440-333-9902); **Korean:** Seoul Hot Pot at 3709 Payne Ave., Cleveland (216-881-1221); Seoul Restaurant at 5270 Pearl Rd., Cleveland (216-661-5990).

February



Birthdays

Magdalena Bowne	6	2/7
Rachel Cohen	7	2/12
Bryan Stafford	8	2/19
Jenna Weber	15	2/7
Olivia White	4	2/3
Evan White	6	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

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