

AFSA Outreach

Adoptive Families Support Association

September Meeting: Movie Night *Adopted & Meet the Robinsons*

July-August 2010

Volume 11, Issue 1

On September 11, 2010, AFSA will kick off its new year of meetings with Movie Night. Two films are on the bill for concurrent screenings: one for the adults and one for the children. Screening for the adults will be *Adopted*, a documentary film by Barb Lee that looks at the challenges of transracial adoption through the



stories of two families. One family is just beginning the process of adopting a baby from China and is filled with hope and possibility. The other family's adopted Korean daughter is now 32 years old. Prompted by her adoptive mother's terminal illness, she tries to create the bond they never had. The film has a running time of 80 minutes. For those of you who saw Tara VanderWoude's talk at the April 2010 AFSA meeting, you may remember seeing clips from some of the educational video materials about transracial adoption that come on a companion DVD to *Adopted*.

For the younger family members, we will be screening *Meet the Robinsons*, a 2007 animated feature film by Walt Disney Animation Studios. The film's main character is Lewis, a 12-year-old orphaned boy who has been unable to find his birth mother. For a science fair project, he invents a machine to scan his brain and

(Continued on page 3)

2010-2011 Schedule

September 11	Movie Night
October 9	Adoption Network Cleveland Children's Program
November 13	Our Communities
December 11	Culture Night
January 8	AFSA Cooks
February 12	Field Trip
March 12	Spring Party
April 9	Homeland Tours
May TBD	Cleveland Asian Festival
June 11	Picnic

May & June Meeting Notes

The May and June AFSA meetings were each held outside our normal venue. On May 22, 2010, we attended the inaugural Cleveland Asian Festival, held at Cleveland's Asia Town Center, East 30th St. & Payne Ave. AFSA families took part in the Children's Area activities - including the "sumo wrestling" game - and visited the numerous display booths and food stalls. Following our visit to the festival, we convened for dinner at Bo Loong Restaurant. Attendance was sufficient to occupy at least five of the circular family-sized tables at the restaurant!

A return trip to the Cleveland Asian Festival is slated for the May 2011 AFSA meeting. Please be sure to check future issues of *AFSA Outreach* for the date, as the second Cleveland Asian Festival is still in the planning stages and no sched-

(Continued on page 4)

September Meeting

Saturday, September 11

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	11	7/31
Susie Cunningham	12	7/5
Alia Escobedo	5	7/26
Molly McNamara	9	7/24
Hannah Phillips	8	7/20
Claudia Tommasi	15	7/1



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
Douglas Petrick	7/13/00
Jenna Zavasky	7/10/91

Go Paperless?

If you are currently receiving a hard copy of the newsletter but would be interested in receiving it via e-mail only (no hard copy), OR e-mail and hard copy, please e-mail Thomas Bowne (trbowne@hotmail.com).

For those of you who have previously expressed an e-mail preference, you need not do anything.

The electronic version of the newsletter allows you to receive the newsletter sooner and see the graphics in color.

News & Notes

President's Message

I'm honored and pleased to be the AFSA president for 2010-2012. We have an outstanding calendar this year, with a great balance of educational and social events. I'd like to thank everyone who attended this year's planning meeting, and especially those who are working to arrange some of our programs. For those of you looking to become more involved, I'd encourage you to speak directly to me, to our incoming Vice-President **Tim Stafford**, or to our Secretary, **Peggy McCarthy**. We are specifically looking for volunteers who can come to a meeting a few minutes early to make lemonade and help set up, or who are willing to buy a bag of ice for the evening.

Kathleen Gisser

Welcome Wagon

We are delighted to welcome the Doughty family back to AFSA. **Greg and Faryl Doughty** live in University Heights along with their son and daughter, both of whom are children adopted from South Korea.



Chinese & Korean Language Classes

The new school year has begun, and several schools in northeast Ohio offer weekend classes where children and adults can study the language and culture of either China or Korea. Three schools teach Mandarin Chinese:

The Chinese Academy of Cleveland (www.chineseacademyofcleveland.org) holds Saturday morning classes at Shaker Heights Middle School in Shaker Heights, Ohio. Fall semester begins September 11, 2010. For more information, contact Ms. Joann Chen at 440-442-5865 or by e-mail at Principal@chineseacademyofcleveland.org.

The Cleveland Contemporary Chinese Culture Association (www.cccca.org) holds classes at Solon High School in Solon, Ohio. Classes are generally on Saturdays, but some sessions are on Sundays when they would otherwise conflict with high school activities. Fall semester begins Sunday, September 12, 2010. For more information, send an e-mail to cccca_bod@yahoo.com.

The Westlake Chinese School (www.westlakechineseschool.com) offers Saturday language and dance classes at Lee Burneson Middle School in Westlake, Ohio. Fall semester began August 28, 2010. For more information, contact Mr. Phil Zhang at 216-225-2255 or by e-mail at westlakechinese@gmail.com.

The Korean American Association of Greater Cleveland hosts Saturday classes for children and adults interested in studying Korean language and culture. The classes are held at the Asian Town Center at East 38th Street and Superior Ave. in Cleveland. Fall semester begins September 11, 2010. For more information, please contact Mr. Gene Lee at mgenelee@yahoo.com.



Calendar of Events 2010-2011

- September 11** **Movie Night.** Movie options for both adults and children. While parents watch Barb Lee's documentary film, *Adopted*, the children will watch the Disney Animation feature, *Meet the Robinsons*, which has an adoption-related story.
- October 9** **Adoption Network Cleveland Children's Program.** A trained adoption professional will hold discussion groups with the children regarding how to talk about adoption with their peers.
- November 13** **Our Communities.** We take a look at some of the local Cleveland communities that share the birth cultures of our children.
- December 11** **Culture Night.** The traditional AFSA favorite serves as our send-off to 2010, featuring food from around the world, games, and entertainment.
- January 8** **AFSA Families Cook.** Join AFSA kids (and their parent helpers!) as they show off their culinary skills and provide us with recipes that we can try at home.
- February 12** **Field Trip.** We will visit an Asian grocery store in the Cleveland area. More details to be announced.
- March 12** **Spring Ahead Party.** As we move the clocks ahead, it is time for another AFSA party. Food, fun, and games, including bingo and a cakewalk.
- April 9** **Homeland Tours.** Details to be announced.
- May TBD** **Cleveland Asian Festival.** Date to be announced when Festival organizers release the schedule for the second-annual event.
- June 11** **Picnic.** We finish the year with outdoor food and fun at a location to be announced. Entertainment to include a *tae kwan do* demonstration.

Note: Dates and topics are subject to change; future issues will present updated schedules.

September Meeting: Movie Night

(Continued from page 1)

uncover his memories. While that does not work, in the process he meets Wilbur, who takes Lewis on a journey to the future, where they meet Wilbur's wacky family. The movie, which includes the voices of Angela Bassett and Laurie Metcalf, has a running time of 95 minutes.

Please Note: The program will begin at 6:00 p.m. and the movies will start promptly at 6:15 p.m. so that we do not run on too long.

August



Birthdays

Emily Gisser	9	8/1
Daniel Hartman	14	8/16
David Hartman	14	8/16
Kara Heinrich	17	8/19
Mark Miller	16	8/31
Douglas Petrick	11	8/15
Emily Skerl	13	8/24
Lianne Timko	12	8/13



Arrival Anniversaries

Neha McCarthy	8/09/05
Sarah Pearce	8/30/05
Bryan Stafford	8/27/02
Emma Stafford	8/17/04
Greg Styer	8/29/90
Lianne Timko	8/4/99
Joseph Tommasi	8/25/92
Angela Weiland	8/29/00



New Mailing Address

AFSA's mailbox has moved! (Well, not quite – we've just gotten a new mailbox in a different location.)

P.O. Box 25488

Garfield Heights, OH 44125-0488

Culture Corner: Mid-Autumn Festival

In East Asia, the full moon that occurs on the 15th day of the eighth lunar month is considered the Harvest Moon. Festivities to celebrate the arrival of the Harvest Moon take place in all of the countries with Confucian traditions. In China, the celebration is called the Mid-Autumn Festival (*Zhong Qiu Jie*); in Japan, it is *Tsukimi*; in Korea, it is *Chuseok* (or, alternatively, *Hangawi*); and in Vietnam, *Têt Trung Thu*. By the Western solar calendar, the Harvest Moon arrives this year on Wednesday, September 22.



Chinese Moon Cakes

While the festival in China dates back to the Tang dynasty (618-907 A.D.), it also commemorates a 14th century uprising against the Mongols, who then ruled China as the Yuan dynasty. In a cunning plan, the rebels wrote the call to revolt on pieces of paper and embedded them in cakes that they smuggled to compatriots. Today, during the festival, people eat special sweet cakes known as “Moon Cakes” made with fillings such as ground lotus and sesame seed paste, egg yolks or other ingredients.

In Vietnam, *Têt Trung Thu* is one of the most popular family holidays. Vietnamese families plan their activities around their children on this special day. According to a Vietnamese story, parents once were working so hard to prepare for the harvest that they left the children playing by themselves. To make up for the lost time, parents would use the Mid-Autumn festival as an opportunity to show their love and appreciation for their children. Parents buy lanterns for their children so that they can participate in a candlelit lantern procession at dawn. Lanterns represent brightness while the procession symbolizes success in school. Vietnamese markets sell a variety of lanterns, but the most popular children’s lantern is the star lantern. Other children’s activities include arts and crafts in which children make face masks and lanterns.

In Korea, *Chuseok* is a three-day holiday that nowadays is marked by a massive countrywide migration as families in Seoul and its environs head back to visit the family’s hometown. A large feast is prepared. One food item specifically associated with the festival is *songpyeon*, a dumpling of rice powder dough surrounding a sweet filling made with ingredients such as sesame seeds, red bean paste, or chestnuts. The dumplings are then steamed on a bed of pine needles. Traditionally, food is carefully arranged on the family shrine so that the ancestors’ spirits can also enjoy the feast. Afterwards, families pay their respects to their ancestors at the grave site.

The *Tsukimi* (literally, “moon viewing”) festival in Japan is believed to date back to the Heian period (794-1185 A.D.), when Chinese influences were strong in the Japanese royal court. The festival involves parties to view and contemplate the Harvest Moon. Traditional displays for the festival include decorative arrangements of Japanese *susuki* grass. Round rice dumplings that are reminiscent of the moon are eaten.



Arrangement of food items at the ancestral shrine for Korea’s Chuseok festival.

May & June Meeting Notes

(Continued from page 1)

ule has yet been released.

Our June meeting was the first-ever AFSA picnic. We met at the Washington Arborview Picnic Area in Newburgh Heights and were fortunate enough to have sunny and hot weather for the outing. In addition to a potluck picnic, we had a number of children’s games, including a water balloon toss, scavenger hunt, and races with beanbags on the head. Such a great time was had by all that we plan to close the 2010-2011 schedule with another picnic. Stay tuned for details about the location.

It's Membership Renewal Time!

An Invitation to Renew Your Membership

All current AFSA memberships expired August 31, 2010. We hope you'll continue to be a part of AFSA and that you'll take a few moments now to complete the form below and send it in with your renewal dues (\$35).

If your address and other information have not changed in the past year please check the box marked, "Yes, information same since last registration." If information has changed, please provide appropriate new information.

If you are not yet a member

We would like to take this opportunity to invite you to join Adoptive Families Support Association. AFSA is proud to represent families who have adopted children from all over the world.

As a member, you will receive *AFSA Outreach*, our bimonthly newsletter to keep you up-to-date on group programs, members, and adoption-related news. You will also be able to access information via our web site: www.afsaohio.org.

In addition to social and cultural activities throughout the year, AFSA holds informative monthly meetings where speakers talk on a variety of pertinent parenting and adoption topics. We hope you'll accept our invitation to join, and complete and mail the application form below. Dues are \$35 per family.

Please mail all membership renewal and new member applications to:

AFSA Membership
P.O. Box 25488
Garfield Heights, OH 44125-0488

If you have any questions, contact us at: www.afsaohio.org

If you joined AFSA after June 15, 2010, or have already renewed your membership, you do not need to renew at this time.

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:
Preferred Method of Communication (please circle): <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> Phone Email </div>	Email Address #2 (if needed):

For more than 3 children, please 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

Please mail this application with your dues check to: AFSA Membership, P.O. Box 25488, Garfield Heights, OH 44125-0488

*** Make checks payable to AFSA ***

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Volume 11, Issue 1

A bimonthly publication for members and friends of Adoptive Families Support Association. Deadline for submitting information is the 20th of the month prior to the month of publication.

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.

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<http://www.afsaohio.org>
(Click on "Contact Us")

Adoptive Families Support Association

<http://www.afsaohio.org>
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(216) 491-4638

It's time to renew your membership!

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

Use the renewal form on page 5 of this newsletter or
download a copy 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!**