

AFSA Outreach

Adoptive Families Support Association

May Field Trip: Cleveland Asian Festival

On Saturday, May 22, AFSA will conduct a field trip to the inaugural Cleveland Asian Festival. The festival runs from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Asia Town Center, East 30th St. & Payne Ave., Cleveland. AFSA families plan to meet at 4 p.m. at the Children's Area. Following our visit to the festival, we plan to have dinner



at 5:30 p.m. at Bo Loong Restaurant, 3922 St. Clair Ave. If you are interested in joining us for dinner, please RSVP to Jennifer Sage (jens_ohio@yahoo.com or 440-392-9964) so that we can get a head count for a reservation.

The Cleveland Asian Festival aims to foster, educate, and promote the culture and traditions of the city's Asian

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May-June 2010

Volume 10, Issue 6

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 22	Cleveland Asian Festival
June 12	Picnic

June Meeting: Picnic

AFSA's final meeting of the 2009-2010 year will be the first-ever AFSA picnic, to take place Saturday, June 12, 2010, at 6 p.m. at the Cleveland Metroparks' Washington Reservation in Newburgh Heights. The picnic will be in the Washington Arborview Picnic Area, which is located off Crete Ave., just north of the Washington Park Horticulture Center, between Fleet Ave. and Harvard Ave in Newburgh Heights. For driving directions, please check the Metroparks web site www.clemetparks.com/visit/index.asp (choose "Washington Reservation" from the drop-down box). A map showing the location of the park is available at www.clemetparks.com/pdf/reservations/Washington_Reservation.pdf.



The picnic will be a potluck, so please bring a dish to share. Dessert will be provided by AFSA. We will have picnic games and entertainment as well.

In addition to the festivities, we will be conducting officer elections for the 2010-2011 AFSA board. If you are interested in joining the AFSA board, please contact one of the current board members.

May Meeting

Saturday, May 22

4:00 p.m.

Cleveland Asian Festival

Location:

Asia Town Center
East 30th St. & Payne Ave.
Cleveland
(meet at Children's Area)

Dinner at 5:30 p.m.
Bo Loong Restaurant

May



Birthdays

Emily Boyle	15	5/10
Matthew Janovyak	16	5/20
Mary Ann Miller	18	5/11
Joshua Powell	8	5/9
Jack Salvaggio	12	5/1



Arrival Anniversaries

Ryan Cohen	5/12/00
Paul Corty	5/27/98
Stephen Fox	5/12/97
Michelle Janovyak	5/11/96
Josh Mago	5/21/99
Amelia Sage	5/27/04
Jenna Weber	5/11/95
Megan Williams	5/17/94
Nathan Williams	5/1/97

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).

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

News & Notes

AFSA 2010-2011 Planning Meeting

With the 2009-2010 AFSA schedule winding down, it's not too early to start thinking ahead to the 2010-2011 year. Is there a program that you would like to see AFSA present in the coming year? Do you have some contacts for potential guest speakers or ideas for special activities that would be good for an AFSA meeting?

A potluck planning party will be held at the house of **Kathleen & Dan Gisser** (32047 Kenyon Circle, Solon) sometime in July to discuss the schedule of AFSA events for next year. The exact date for the party will be determined soon and will be publicized both by flyer and on the AFSA website. Please come to the party with a dish to share and plenty of ideas. Don't bother with a babysitter—bring the children!



May: Cleveland Asian Festival Field Trip

(Continued from page 1)

Pacific communities, along with celebrating Asian Heritage Month. The festival will feature food, games, competitions, a children's area, and appearances by the Wah Lum Kung Fu's seven-man Dragon Dance troupe and the Kwan Family's Lion Dance. Various singing performances will also take place at the festival, along with drumming, dancing and martial arts demonstrations. Also on the schedule are an egg roll eating contest and a fashion show.

Guest appearances at the festival are scheduled for baseball player Chun-Hsiu Chen of the Lake County Captains, pianist Tatsuya Nagashima, radio and television personality Ratanjit Sondhe, and immigration attorneys Richard Herman and Margaret Wong.

Admission to the festival is free. More information on the schedule and featured events is available at www.clevelandasianfestival.org.

EAC Zoo Picnic



European Adoption Consultants (EAC) is hosting its 18th Annual Memorial Weekend event, featuring a picnic at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo on Saturday, May 29, 2010. EAC families are invited to meet at the zoo for festivities that start at 10 a.m. The gathering will also feature a NASA photo opportunity.

For more information or to register for the event, please call 866-586-5656 or consult the following EAC web site:

<http://eaci.com/memorial2010/index.html>.

April Meeting Notes

Tara VanderWoude was the guest speaker at the AFSA meeting on April 10, 2010, addressing the topic of race and adoption. Ms. VanderWoude, who is both a Korean-born adoptee and an adoptive mother, works as an adoption specialist social worker for a not-for-profit adoption agency. Using film clips to illustrate some of her points, she offered us a "Top 20" list of suggestions to help parents raise children who are of a different race.

The first thing that parents need to realize, Ms. VanderWoude said, is that race is an issue. The goal is not be colorblind, but rather not to be prejudiced. That is, one should not make assumptions about others on the basis of their race.

Parents should initiate discussions about race with their children when the children are very young and then talk about it regularly. In one sense, these discussions are like a vaccination that requires frequent and regular booster shots. While the discussions should start at an early age, parents should realize that children will reach an understanding of racial issues at different ages and at different rates. Race often becomes a more important issue in adolescence or young adulthood, especially when the child is off on his or her own for the first time.

Parents should help their children know about their birth stories and help them develop strategies to deal with acts of prejudice. Children should be taught that they have options on how to deal with questions from strangers. Role-playing at home in advance of such situations may be helpful. If the children have an awkward encounter with a stranger, the parents should discuss the situation with the child afterward. Parents should validate any negative experiences rather than make excuses for another person's unacceptable behavior.

Parenting a child of a different race may require the family to change their plans on where to live. Parents should expose their children to other children of the same race, which may involve the family moving to a different city or neighborhood. At the same time, parents should equip their children to relate with same-race friends or acquaintances who are not adopted. An important part of this process is to realize that your child may have feelings of being an impostor in his or her racial group.

Ms. VanderWoude mentioned that a goal for parents is to build their child's self-esteem as a bulwark against prejudice. However, parents should avoid positive stereotyping as a way of compensation for prejudice. One should teach children to externalize racism, and realize that the child is ultimately responsible for his or her experience.



Tara VanderWoude addresses the April meeting

June



Birthdays

Margaret Antill	18	6/10
Nathan Dorn	8	6/11
Patrick Hensel	5	6/27
Daniel Neese	8	6/3
Linh Nikooyi	3	6/22
Gayle Petrick	8	6/13
Jenna Romig	7	6/4
Emily Schroeder	13	6/24
Nick Williams	11	6/17

June Meeting

Saturday, June 12

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

AFSA Picnic

Cleveland Metroparks'
Washington Arborview

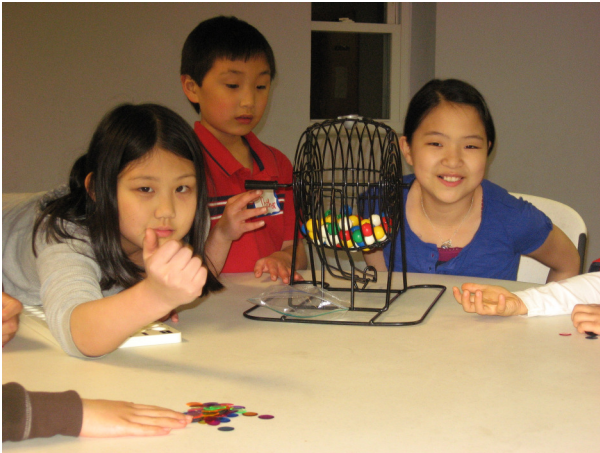
Picnic Area

off Crete Ave.,

between Fleet & Harvard Ave.
Newburgh Heights

Please bring a dish to share

Scenes from AFSA's Spring Party



Professional bingo operators in action!

Winners of the three bingo games were **Janet McGrath**, **Jeff Scott**, and **Hallie DeChant**, each of whom claimed a prize from the prize table.

AFSA held its Spring Party on March 13, 2010, celebrating the arrival of Daylight Savings Time with a potluck dinner followed by fun and games. After feasting on an pizza and an array of side dishes prepared by fellow AFSA members, the assembly convened for friendly competition in party games.

The first game was a cakewalk, with three separate rounds in which the contestants were segregated by age. Girls took all three places on the podium. **Sarah Dorn** was the winner in the youngest age group. She was followed in victory by **Anne Ritz** and **Michelle Janovyak**. Winners received cupcakes or cake.

After the cakewalk, the group switched to bingo, in which players of all ages competed.



Sarah Dorn enjoys her cakewalk winnings



We've got that!. Tad Holzapfel covers a square on his card











Luke Dixon looks to fill his bingo card



Patrick & Melissa Hensel check their bingo card

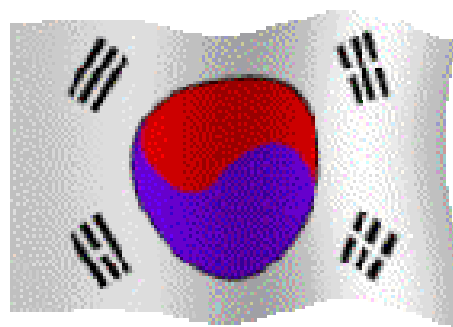
Calendar of Events 2009-2010

- September 12**  **Movie Night.** Movie fun for the whole family, as we watch and discuss two 30-minute movies, “Families of Korea” and “Families of China.” The films are each from the award-winning “Families of the World” DVD series.
- October 10**  **Discussion of School Issues and Adoption.** Join your fellow AFSA families to talk about issues relating to school-age children and adoption.
- November 14**  **International Adoption Update.** 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 changes in international adoption, the Hague Adoption Convention and other topics.
- December 12**  **Culture Night.** The traditional AFSA favorite moves to the end of the calendar year, featuring food from around the world, games, and entertainment.
- January 9**  **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 13**  **Book Club.**
- March 13**  **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 10**  **Racism and Adoption.** Tara VanderWoude is an adult adoptee who has worked in adoption, including heritage travel, as well as a parent of adoptive children. She will speak parenting children who are transracially adoptive.
- May 22** **Field Trip!** A visit to the inaugural Cleveland Asian Festival on May 22. Please see pages 1 & 2 for more information on the festival.
- June 12** **Picnic!** We finish the year with outdoor food and fun at the Washington Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks in Newburgh Heights. Please see page 1 for more details.

Korean Liberation Day Picnic

The Korean American Association of Greater Cleveland has extended an invitation to AFSA families to attend its Korean Liberation Day picnic on Sunday, August 15, 2010. The picnic will be held in the Cleveland Metroparks' Brecksville Reservation.

The KAAGC needs a headcount from AFSA families, so those families interested in attending the picnic should please contact **Jennifer Sage** either by telephone at 440-392-9964 or by e-mail at jens_ohio@yahoo.com or through the AFSA website.



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Adoptive Families Support Association

May-June 2010

Volume 10, Issue 6

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.

Newsletter committee: Thomas Bowne (editor), 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

Please mail this application with your dues check to: AFSA Membership, P.O. Box 29337, Parma, OH 44129-0037

*** Make checks payable to AFSA ***