

Monthly Calendar

July 2024 Events and Programs

ADULT ADOPTEEES, BIRTH PARENTS & DNA DISCOVERIES

General Discussion Meetings

Support and discussion groups for adult adoptees, birth parents, siblings, adoptive parents, prospective parents, professionals, and anyone interested in exploring the lifelong journey of adoption. Individuals from any location are encouraged to join.

All meeting times are shown in Eastern Time. Meetings are held via Zoom and registration is required to receive the meeting link. For more information on General Discussion Meetings and a list of upcoming special topics, please visit our website.

General Discussion Meeting Dates: (All ET. Virtual unless noted otherwise)

July 10, Wed., 6:30-8:30 PM | Kim & Amy | **In-person**

Special Location: Barroco Larchmere

July 11, Thurs., 7-9 PM led by facilitators Kim & Denice

July 18, Thurs., 7-9 PM led by facilitators Dottie & Estes

July 25, Thurs., 8-10 PM led by facilitators Barbara & Dan

Register at <http://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

Special Topic: Firework Safety: Handle with Care | DNA Discovery Support Group

Tuesday, July 2, 8:00-10:00 PM ET

As the temperatures start to rise, friends and family gather together to celebrate holidays, birthdays, vacations, and reunions. One might want to bring fireworks to such festivities, but we all should recognize that these explosive materials should be handled with care. The same could be said about our DNA discovery results. We invite you to join our discussion as we share our journeys into possible volatile situations that might blow our expectations of what family means. Let's work through how we might handle these situations with care and understanding. Much like fireworks, DNA discovery results can be dangerous, but when handled correctly... they may bring us joy and wonderment.

Register at <http://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

Birth Mother Support Group (Virtual) Wednesday, July 3, 7:00-9:00 PM ET

Our Birth Mother Support Group provides a safe and supportive environment to help with the complexities that are often part of the adoption experience. The meetings are open to birth mothers connected by the lifelong journey of adoption and are an opportunity for birth mothers to encourage one another in their healing process through discussion and interaction. Birth mothers who have experienced closed adoptions or adoptions with varying degrees of openness attend this meeting. We invite you to join this group of women, who are at different places on the same journey, to give and receive understanding and support. The group is facilitated by Lindsey and Nikki.

Register at <http://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

DNA Discovery Support Group (Virtual) Tuesday, July 2, 8:00-10:00 PM ET

If you have either found family using commercial DNA testing or been found by family who used commercial DNA testing (examples of commercial DNA testing are Ancestry.com, Family Tree DNA, 23&Me, My Heritage, etc.) then this is the group for you. You do not need to have a formal adoption connection to be in this group, but you do need to have a DNA discovery for this group to be relevant to you. Finding family, or being found - whether you are looking or not - is a major life event. It can upend long-held beliefs about ourselves and challenge the very things that make us feel like, well..., ourselves.

This group will focus on supporting each other during and after such DNA discoveries. These are not one time events; they are lifelong journeys. This peer support group is not meant to delve into the technical aspects of understanding your DNA results, but rather serve as additional support on your personal journey to integrate your DNA findings into your life. The focus of this group is on the emotional journey, and not the technical aspects of DNA results or the interpretation of results. This group is facilitated by Becky and Oliver.

Register at <http://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

Family Ties Monthly Gathering & Teen TEA Thursday, July 11, 6:00-7:30 PM, In-person

Join us for dinner followed by breakout sessions for parents, young children, and teens. Parents and caregivers will have an opportunity to discuss parenting topics in a supportive environment with others who understand. Teens ages 11+ will meet separately after dinner for Teen TEA, our monthly teen group that provides a safe place for youth to share their truth, advocate for and support one another, and learn more about themselves. Children 10 and under will engage in mindful, therapeutic activities in a fun learning environment.

NAMI Family Support Group (Virtual) Monday, July 15, 6:30-8:00 PM ET

In partnership with NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), this Family Support Group is peer-led and intended for parents and caregivers of children and youth (18 and under) who are experiencing behavioral or mental health symptoms. This group allows your voice to be heard and provides an opportunity for your personal needs to be met. Please join us virtually via Zoom the 3rd Monday of each month.

ALL

A Conversation with Marianne Novy Tuesday, July 9, 7:00-8:00 PM ET Cuyahoga County Public Library Parma Heights

Join us for a conversation with Marianne Novy, author of *Adoption Memoirs: Inside Stories* which tells inside stories of adoption that popular media miss. Marianne Novy shows how adoption memoirs and films recount not only happy moments, but also the lasting pain of relinquishing a child, the racism and trauma that adoptees such as Jackie Kay and Jane Jeong Trenka experienced, and the unexpected complexities of child-rearing adoptive parents Emily Proger and Jesse Green encountered.

Register at <http://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

Monday Evening Speaker Series

Thank You! Our 2023-24 Monday Evening Speaker Series was a success. The series pauses for summer and will return in September. These programs are made possible through your donations, presenters volunteering their time, and the active participation of attendees.

Listen or watch from our catalog of recordings at:
<https://bit.ly/MondayEveningSpeaker>

Transracial Adoptive Parent Support Group (Virtual)

Thursday, July 18, 7:00-8:00 PM ET

Adoption Network Cleveland and Transracial Journeys have joined forces holding a series of co-hosted monthly support groups for parents who have adopted children outside of their own race. This collaborative effort aims to provide an intentionally structured and supportive space where parents can hear from leaders with lived expertise and come together to share their experiences, challenges, and successes in raising transracially adopted persons. Questions? Please contact Janelle by email at Janelle.Poskocil@adoptionnetwork.org.

Register for all programs at <http://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

Save the Dates:

Annual Adoption Network Cleveland Cookout & General Meeting

Saturday, August 17, 2:00-5:00 PM ET
Edgewater Park East Pavilion, Cleveland

Everyone connected to Adoption Network Cleveland and their families are invited to join us for our Annual Cookout! This includes anyone who has participated in programs - past or present, volunteers, donors, board members, staff, community partners, and family members. There will be food, games for the kids, entertainment, music, community and fun! We will also be hosting a special, in-person General Discussion Meeting directly before the cookout from 12:30 - 2:00 PM

Creating Futures

Benefit & Silent Auction

Saturday, September 14, 6:00-10:00 PM
Pickwick and Frolic, 2035 E. 4th St.

