

Monthly Calendar

October 2025 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. We believe adoption is a complex, lifelong, and intergenerational journey for all those whose lives are impacted by it. These meetings connect and empower individuals impacted by adoption, kinship, foster care, and DNA Discoveries and provide a source of healing, understanding, and learning.

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: (Virtual unless noted otherwise)

Oct. 2, Thurs., 7-9 PM led by JJ & Rosemary

Oct. 9, Thurs., 7-9 PM led by Kim & Denice

Oct. 15, Wed., 6:30-8:30 PM In-person Special Topic Meeting led by Kim & Amy

Oct. 16, Thurs., 7-9 PM led by Dottie & Victoria

Oct. 23, Thurs., 8-10 PM Virtual Special Topic Meeting led by Barbara & Dan

In-Person Special Topic Meeting: *Split Loyalties and Striking a Balance Between Our Needs and Those of Others*

Facilitated by Kim & Amy

Wednesday, Oct. 15, 6:30-8:30 PM ET

Virtual Special Topic Meeting: *Adoption Constellation Discussion Panel: Emotional Perspectives During the Holidays*

Facilitated by Barbara & Dan

Thursday, Oct. 23, 8-10 PM ET

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

DNA Discovery Support Group (Virtual) Tuesday, October 7, 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.

Birth Mother Support Group (Virtual) Wednesday, October 1, 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.

Transnational Adoptee Support Group (Virtual)

Tuesday, October 14, 7:00-9:00 PM ET

The Transnational Adoptee Support Group Meetings will offer a safe space for transnational adoptees to explore the challenges and lifelong experiences shaped by adoption across borders. These group discussions aim to foster a sense of community, allowing us to share our stories and support one another in our unique experiences. Transnational adoptees face distinct challenges, including cultural and language loss, legal complexities related to citizenship and identity, and the unique challenges in birth family search and reunion transnationally. We ask that only transnational adoptees attend. Facilitated by Sandi and Svetlana.

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

Family Ties Monthly Gathering

Thurs., Oct. 9, 6-7:30 PM ET, In-Person

Join us on the 2nd Thursday of each month 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.

Transracial Adoptive Parent Support

Thurs., Oct. 16, 12:00-1:00 PM ET, Virtual

A monthly support groups for parents who have adopted children outside of their own race, aiming 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.

Family Social at Ramseyer Farms

Sat., Oct. 18, 3:00-7:00 PM ET, In-Person

Come on down to the farm and enjoy the day exploring corn mazes, hayrides, farm animals, and making memories with over 50 fun activities for all ages. Our group will have a bonfire with hot dogs and s'mores!

NAMI Family Support Group

Mon., Oct. 20, 6:30-8:00 PM ET, Virtual

In partnership with NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), this support group is peer-led and intended for parents and caregivers of children and youth who are experiencing behavioral or mental health symptoms.

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

ALL

Monday Evening Speaker Series

Our Monday Evening Speaker Series is BACK for our 6th season! Attend a virtual event to expand your knowledge, feed your soul, and engage in meaningful conversations with vibrant speakers. Click a session below to learn more about a speaker or register to join us on Zoom.

To listen to past recordings in our Monday Evening Speaker Series, visit https://bit.ly/MSS_YouTube.

Choosing to Breathe: A Return to The Gathering Place

Monday, Oct. 6, 8:00-9:00 PM ET

Presented by Emma Stevens (Linda Pevac)

What happens when we make a conscious decision to make our identities more than only being an adoptee? What if we were first to do the hard work necessary to move residual trauma out of our bodies and then dedicate ourselves to writing ourselves a new story? I want to share with you my own experience of doing just that and how creating *The Gathering Place* has helped me transform. This magical and mysterious place has shown me that when I choose to fully breathe and make space for new thoughts and ideas about myself and the world around me, I can, and we all can, be set free from former ways of being.

Finding Your Voice: From Personal Journey to Shared Experience

Monday, Oct. 13, 8:00-9:00 PM ET

Presented by Deborah Jiang-Stein

Deborah Jiang-Stein, a product of foster care and adoption, is author of *Lucky Tomorrow: Stories*, and the memoir, *Prison Baby*. She will discuss her adoption journey after learning the secret of her birth in prison. She speaks about the stories that define us, and reframing our narrative on our own terms, moving through trauma stories to include joy, resilience, and growth in the adoption narrative.

The Long Shadow of Adoption: How to Find Light in the Dark Places

Monday, Oct. 27, 8:00-9:00 PM ET

Presented by Eileen Drennen

Eileen Drennen, a first mother and open records advocate, has written about how losing her only child to adoption has affected all her relationships in essays and a memoir (tentatively titled *ONCE REMOVED* and currently out on submission). While she acknowledges the decades-long process of researching, reliving and revising a memoir about the things you can't change is not for the faint of heart, she credits the process with teaching her about the ways imagination and a sense of play can lighten the heavy load of grief.