

Monthly Calendar

February 2021 Events and Programs

ADULT ADOPTEE & BIRTHPARENT

General Discussion Meetings

Support and discussion groups for adult adoptees, birthparents, siblings, adoptive parents, prospective parents, professionals, and anyone interested in exploring the lifelong journey of adoption. January meetings will be virtual. Individuals from any location are encouraged to join. All meeting times are shown in Eastern Time. Preregistration is required. Visit our website calendar and click on the date of your choice to register at <http://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

For more information on General Discussion Meetings and a list of upcoming special topics, please visit our website at <http://bit.ly/GDMatANC>.

Coming in March:

DNA Discovery Group

DNA testing has become widely popular through Ancestry, 23 and Me, FTDNA, My Heritage and other commercial products. Our newest General Meeting: DNA Discovery Group will focus on the emotional impact of experiencing a DNA discovery. This group will meet on the first Tuesday of every month from 8-10 pm ET, starting on Tuesday, March 2, 2021. Find out more and register on our calendar: <http://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

Virtual General Discussion Meeting Dates

February 2, 8-10 p.m. (ET) a special DNA Discovery Panel: Dealing with the Emotional Impact of DNA Testing facilitated by Traci Onders

February 4, 7-9 p.m. (ET) led by our Rocky River facilitators, Linda & Elaine

February 9, 7-9 p.m. (ET) led by our Columbus facilitators, Marni & Mindy

February 10, 7-9 p.m. (ET) led by our Summit Co. facilitators, Kim & Denice

February 18, 7-9 p.m. (ET) led by our Heights facilitators, Dottie & Estes

February 25, 8-10 p.m. (ET) led by our Virtual facilitators, Barbara & Dan

FAMILIES & YOUTH

Weaving Cultures Transracial Adoptive Family Group - Parent Group (Virtual)

Tuesday, January 19, 8:00-9:30 p.m. ET

Weaving Cultures is for families who have been formed through transracial adoption. Join other transracial adoptive parents for a virtual get-together. This will be an opportunity for parents to talk, share, and learn from each other. The meeting this month will be an open forum, bring any topics or questions you want to discuss or just come to listen and build community. This meeting will be virtual using ZOOM.

Register through our calendar:

<https://bit.ly/CalendarANC>

New Family Resilience Fund starts February 1

The new Fund at Adoption Network Cleveland provides financial assistance to adoptive parents, foster parents, kinship caregivers, and parents who themselves were formerly in foster care to meet short-term needs. This assistance is meant to help families bridge periods of financial instability, allowing them to focus on creating a stable, permanent home for the children in their care. Specific income eligibility requirements to meet Federal funding guidelines apply. Learn more at:

<http://bit.ly/ANCresilience>

Family Ties Program

This program includes a monthly group where adoptive, kinship, and foster families meet, share experiences, and learn from each other and featured presenters. To find out more: <http://bit.ly/FamilyTiesatANC>.

YOUTH GROUP (Virtual):

Wednesday, February 10, 6:00 p.m. ET - Girl Code
 Wednesday, February 24, 6:00 p.m. ET - Guy Code

Virtual opportunities for youth ages 11-18 to meet online with peers in a facilitated conversation will be provided for boys (Guy Code) and girls (Girl Code) separately. For more information and the link to access the meetings, contact Danielle Gibson at danielle.gibson@adoptionnetwork.org.

Donuts with Donikea and Danielle Every Tuesday Morning at 8:30 a.m. ET

Every Tuesday from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Donikea and Danielle will be providing a safe space for adoptive, kinship and foster parents to drop-in with questions and conversation.

- Connect with other Adoptive, Kinship and Foster Parents
- Learn more from our Education Liaison
- Ask parenting questions and share information
- Get a recap of this months Family Ties group topic

Register to get the link on our calendar: <https://bit.ly/CalendarANC>



A Special February Family Ties Presentation

February 11, 2021, 6:00-7:00 p.m. ET

Parents of Adoptive, Foster, and Kinship Families are encouraged to join us to learn and discover, "Your Child's Love Language." Join us as we discuss the book, *The 5 Love Languages*, and how these concepts can build stronger emotional connections and be a fun, mutually rewarding activity for you and your child(ren). All adoptive, foster, and kinship parents are welcome and encouraged to attend, even if you don't regularly attend our Family Ties group or live outside of the Cleveland area. The first 20 people who live in the Cleveland area to register will receive a copy of the book ahead of the group meeting.

A BIG thank you to **Mac's Backs Books** for their donation of 20 copies of *The 5 Love Languages* for this event. Registration required: <http://bit.ly/39adPFJ>

FOR ALL

This is Us - A Facilitated Discussion (Virtual)

Monday, February 15, 8:00-9:00 p.m. ET

NBC's hit show "This is Us" has gained a following in the adoption community. Over the last several years, the show has highlighted many of the complex issues around adoption and race. Adoption Network Cleveland invites you to join us for a facilitated discussion. Everyone is invited to attend and share their perspective. The discussion will be facilitated by Barbara Robertson, LMSW and Ohio-born, New York adoptee, and Krysia Orlowski, writer, professor, and transracial adoptive parent.

To find out more and to register on our calendar: <https://bit.ly/CalendarANC>





MONDAY EVENING SPEAKER SERIES

Adoption Network Cleveland

Adoption Network Cleveland is pleased to offer another session of our popular Monday Evening Speaker Series! Join other individuals connected to adoption and child welfare for a range of engaging presentations on topics that are of interest to our community. Upcoming Sessions include:

Monday, February 8, 2021 (8-9 pm ET) - Gabrielle Glaser

A Conversation with Gabrielle Glaser, author of *American Baby*

New York Times best-selling author Gabrielle Glaser will discuss her new book *American Baby: A Mother, A Child, and the Shadow History of Adoption* which was released on January 26, 2021. In 1961, 16-year-old Margaret Erle became pregnant by her boyfriend, and her parents sent her to a maternity home. After she gave birth to a son, social workers threatened her into signing away her parental rights. For decades, Margaret tried desperately to find her son, but was blocked by the adoption agency that had handled his adoption. Investigative journalist Gabrielle Glaser follows Erle's journey in a wrenching narrative that centers on the secretive, exploitative adoption business in postwar America. In *American Baby*, she highlights how the adoption industry's practices led to countless forced separations, which she lays out in intense and chilling detail. Our bookstore partner for this event is Mac's Backs Books at www.macsbacks.com.

Monday, February 22, 2021 (8-9 pm ET) - Eve Wiley, LPC

A Conversation with Eve Wiley

Fertility Fraud, The Fertility Industry, and Genetic Identity

Modern-day Erin Brockovich, Eve Wiley, shares her personal story and her journey of purpose lobbying for fertility fraud bills across the U.S. Her presentation will discuss how the current legal landscape of the fertility industry marginalizes genetic identity. She will also discuss the progress that has already been made advocating for genetic identity, and how those without genetic identity and protections against fraud still remain marginalized.

Monday, March 8, 2021 (8-9 pm ET) - Kevin Gladish

Healing through Storytelling: A Late Discovery Adoptee's Narrative

Kevin will share his personal story as a late discovery adoptee, and how he used creative outlets to promote his own healing. Kevin has performed as a live storyteller in Chicago at several venues over the years, including on the Steppenwolf stage and in The Moth, where he participated in *The Grand Slam*. He's written for a number of adoption-related platforms, most recently for *Portrait of an Adoption*, and was featured on the *Bloods Call Podcast*. Shortly after Kevin discovered his adoption by asking for his newly-released Ohio birth certificate in 2015, he began writing a blog called *A Story With No Beginning* which documented his discovery, his search for birth family, and his struggle with his new identity as it all happened. The blog was recently adapted into a solo performance piece, *A Secret in Plain Sight*.

For more information on the series and to register for sessions: <http://bit.ly/ANCMondays21>

Adoption Network Cleveland

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