

Monthly Calendar

May 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. May 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>.

Please note that our **May 27** meeting will have a special topic: **Nurturing the Relationship after Re-Uniting**.

Virtual General Discussion Meeting Dates

May 4, 8-10 p.m. (ET) DNA Discovery Support Group led by facilitators Becky & Oliver

May 6, 7-9 p.m. (ET) led by facilitators Linda & Elaine

May 11, 7-8:30 p.m. (ET) led by facilitators Marni & Mindy

May 12, 7-9 p.m. (ET) led by facilitators Kim & Denise,

May 20, 7-9 p.m. (ET) led by facilitators Dottie & Estes

May 27, 8-10 p.m. (ET) led by facilitators Barbara & Dan, **Special Topic: Nurturing the Relationship after Re-Uniting**

Birth Mother Support Group (Virtual) Wednesday, May 5, 7:00-9:00 p.m. 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.

We invite birth mothers to join this group of women, who are at different places on the same journey, to give and receive understanding and support. Register at <http://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

DNA Discovery Support Group (Virtual) Tuesday, May 4, 8:00-10:00 p.m. 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 or 23&Me, 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. Examples include individuals with a known connection to adoption but also, individuals with unexpected parentage results among those not adopted such as unknown child discovery, unexpected niece, nephew or cousin discovery, individuals discovering they are donor-conceived or adopted (late discovery adoptees); anyone who has found unknown siblings. international adoptees connecting to family including cousins, unexpected grandparent discoveries, and the many other scenarios that are surprising folks with today's widespread commercial DNA testing. Register at <http://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

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>.

PARENT GROUP (Virtual)

Thursday, May 13, 6:00-7:30 p.m. ET

Our discussion this month will focus on *Talking with Your Children About Racism and Violence*. Many children may be struggling with processing the recurring news and images of racism and violence in the world. We could all use pointers to help us talk to our kids about these difficult topics. Come to this month's Family Ties meeting to learn more tools and resources to have these conversations with your family. Join us on Zoom to learn, share, and give and receive support. Registration required: <https://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

YOUTH GROUP (Virtual):

Tuesday, May 11, 6:00 p.m. ET - Girl Code

Wednesday, May 26, 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.

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

Tuesday, May 18, 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 is 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>.

Five Things Transracial Families Need to Know to Thrive (Virtual)

Tuesday, May 4, 8:00-9:30 p.m. ET

We are excited to be featured at an upcoming Connecting for Kids Speaker Series, discussing, "Five Things Transracial Families Need to Know to Thrive (Virtual)." Do you have a beautiful family that was formed through transracial adoption? Are you looking for ways for your child to form a strong racial identity as well as a strong family bond? Join Krysia Orłowski, Volunteer Parent Coordinator, and Donikea Austin, Program Manager of Adoption Network Cleveland as they walk us through tips that families formed by transracial adoption need to thrive. <https://connectingforkids.org/speakerseries>.

Adoption 101: Where Do I Begin? (Virtual)

Saturday, May 15, 9:00 a.m-12:00 p.m. ET

This workshop gives a realistic and neutral source of information on adoption options and the process involved including key decision points. It is designed specifically for individuals and couples interested in adopting for the first time. While some information is specific to Ohio, individuals and couples from anywhere in the U.S. would benefit greatly from the workshop.

Minimal costs for registration: <https://bit.ly/WhereDolBeginANC>.



This is Us - A Facilitated Discussion (Virtual)

Monday, May 17, 8:00-9:00 p.m. ET and

Monday, May 31, 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 register for one or both dates on our calendar: <https://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.



Wednesday, May 26 from 7:30-9:00 pm
Virtual using Zoom

Book Group Discussion - American Baby by Gabrielle Glaser

Wednesday, May 26, 7:30-9:00 p.m. ET

Join Adoption Network Cleveland for a virtual Book Group Discussion on Gabrielle Glaser's *American Baby: A Mother, A Child, and the Shadow History of Adoption*. This nonfiction read reveals the shocking truth about postwar adoption in America, told through the bittersweet story of one teenager, the son she was forced to relinquish, and their search to find each other. In *American Baby*, Glaser highlights how the adoption industry's practices led to countless forced separations, which she lays out in intense and chilling detail. Our book group discussion will be facilitated by staff member Camille Rose Dickson.

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



Adoption Network Cleveland is pleased to offer another session of our popular Monday Evening Speaker Series! Upcoming **virtual** sessions include:

Monday, May 3, 2021, 8-9 p.m. ET

"Whiteness" and Adoption with Kate Livingston, PhD

What is 'whiteness'? Why is it important for all those involved in adoption to develop an understanding of 'whiteness'? How might a better understanding of 'whiteness' help you examine your own adoption experience? In this session, Dr. Kate Livingston will provide an introduction to the concept of 'whiteness' and look at how the term is used in contemporary discussions of racial justice and in the study of race and adoption.

Monday, May 10, 2021, 8-9 p.m. ET

***Illusions of Simplicity - Preparing for Contact and Reunion* with Patricia Martinez Dörner, MA, LPC**

This presentation will celebrate the wonderful advancements DNA testing and access to records have brought to the search process while also recognizing that making contact with family after receiving information quickly can be daunting for all involved. It is important to recognize that these yearned for relationships will have complexities. Thus, long-term outcomes will be greatly affected by the preparation we allow ourselves.

Monday, May 24, 2021, 8-9 p.m. ET

***DNA Family Search and Reunion Viewed Through a Bioethics Lens* with Brianne Kirkpatrick**

When deciding to search for an adopted child or biological family, there are points of a decision where we ask, "What's the right thing to do?" It's not always clear, and this is where discussions around "ethics" come in. In this presentation, Brianne Kirkpatrick - a genetic counselor and family member of an adoptee - will offer a perspective based on personal and professional experience. She'll approach the tricky family situations that arise during family search and reunion using a lens of bioethics.

For more information on this virtual series, to register for sessions, and to listen to recordings of past sessions: <http://bit.ly/ANCMondays21>.