

# Monthly Calendar

## August 2022 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 at <http://bit.ly/GDMatANC>.

#### General Discussion Meeting Dates (Virtual)

August 4, 7-9 pm ET led by facilitators Linda & Jim  
August 9, 7-8:30 pm ET led by facilitators Marni & Mindy  
August 10, 7-9 pm ET led by facilitators Kim & Denice  
August 18, 7-9 pm ET led by facilitators Dottie & Estes  
August 25, 8-10 pm ET led by facilitators Barbara & Dan, **\*\*Special Topic: Parenting While Adopted\*\***

**August 14** Special In-person General Meeting - Horseshoe Lake Park (registration req. See pg. 3)

#### Special Topic in August

While most of our General Discussion Meetings have an open discussion format, our August 25th meeting will discuss **Parenting While Adopted**.

Having children can be a very powerful experience for adoptees and can bring with it a biological connection they have never experienced as well as an expanded view of pregnancy, birth and parenting. The impacts can vary as every journey is unique. Some adoptees describe parenting as profound and healing, some find it brings them closer to their adoptive family and awakens a new appreciation, and some find it compels them to search for their own genetic identity and medical history for themselves and their children. Join us as we explore the journey that adoptees experience as parents.

Registration is required: <http://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

#### Birth Mother Support Group (Virtual) Wednesday, August 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, August 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.

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

### **Tough Talks Parent Discussion (Virtual) Country of Origin Travel and Your Child** Thursday, August 11, 2022, 7:30-9:00 pm ET Presented by Brook Randolph, LMHC, LPCC-S

As a part of openness in adoption and identity development, travel to your child's first country is a priceless investment and experience. Yes, trips can be emotionally difficult. There may be emotional and behavioral fallout. Do it anyway if your child wants to go. It may cost you financially, emotionally, and physically, but the investment in your child will be well worth it. Brooke Randolph shares as both a therapist specializing in adoption and a parent in an open international adoption.

Register on our calendar: <https://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

### **Family Ties Monthly Gathering (In-person)** Friday, August 26, 2022, 6:00-7:30 pm

Adoptive, Kinship, and Foster families with children of all ages are invited to join us each month for food, fun, and community. We will start at 6 pm with a potluck dinner. Families are encouraged to bring something to share, but it is not required. The evening will include opportunities to connect with other parents and children, learn and grow together, experience fun activities, and leave with new resources.

Register on our calendar: <https://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

### **Adoption 101: Where Do I Begin? (Virtual)** Saturday, August 20, 2022, 9:00 am-12:00 pm ET

Many couples and individuals hoping to become parents or to expand their families look to adoption. This endeavor can be both exciting and overwhelming. There is so much information available about adoption that people often ask, "Where do I begin?" Adoption 101 is a three-hour workshop intended for people looking into adoption for the first time and will provide a realistic overview of the adoption options and the process involved in each from both professionals and parents. The information and resources offered will help individuals make a decision about the best route for their adoption journey. Adoption Network Cleveland is a neutral source of information, as we are not an adoption agency.

Member cost: \$20 per person and \$35 per couple  
Non-Members: \$35 per person and \$55 per couple

Registration is required: <https://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

Programs are provided free unless otherwise noted.  
Programs indicate whether they are offered  
virtually or in-person.

### **Adoption 201: Domestic Infant Adoption (Virtual)** **COMING SOON:** Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2022 6:00-9:00 pm ET

Many couples and individuals hoping to become parents or to expand their families look to adoption. This endeavor can be both exciting and overwhelming. Expanding on the Adoption 101: Where Do I Begin Workshop, this 2-hour workshop explores more details for those looking to consider a domestic infant adoption, including details about how to select an agency and sample requirements; details of the home study expectations; and a discussion on openness in Adoption. Adoption Network Cleveland is a neutral source of information, as we are not an adoption agency.

Member cost: \$15 per person and \$25 per couple  
Non-Members: \$20 per person and \$35 per couple

Registration is required: <https://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

### **Teen Tea (In-person)** Friday, August 5, 2022, 5:00-6:00 pm

Youth who are adopted or living with extended family or in foster care, ages 11+ are invited to join our monthly peer support group! This will be a safe place for youth to share their truth, advocate for and support one another, and learn more about themselves. Snacks will be provided, and each attendee will be entered in a door prize raffle. Parents, there is space for you to hang out while the teens meet! Come check out our new space and enjoy some in-person comradery.

Register to attend at: <https://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.



*Adoption Network*

*Cleveland*

**GENERAL DISCUSSION  
MEETING &  
ANNUAL COOKOUT**



**FOOD (PROVIDED) GAMES FACE  
PAINTING MAGICIAN BALLOON ARTIST**

**Join Us for one or both of two great events!**

**12:30-2:00 pm: General Discussion Meeting - Adults Only  
(childcare provided during meeting, bring lawn chair)**

**2:00 -5:00 pm: Annual Cookout - Everyone!**

**SUNDAY AUGUST 14**

**HORSESHOE LAKE PARK - 2701 PARK DR, SHAKER HEIGHTS, 44120**

**More Info & To Register: <https://bit.ly/CalendarANC>  
Please register by Wednesday, August 10 for catering count**