

# Monthly Calendar

## May 2025 Events and Programs

### ADULT ADOPTEES, 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)

May 1, Thurs., 7-9 PM | Special Topic: "The Healing Power of Music" led by JJ & Rosemary

May 8, Thurs., 7-9 PM led by Kim & Victoria

May 15, Thurs., 7-9 PM led by Dottie & Victoria

May 22, Thurs., 8-10 PM led by Barbara & Dan

#### Special Topic: The Healing Power of Music Thursday, May 1, 7-9 PM ET

Many music genres have been recognized to improve relaxation and emotional well-being. In this session led by JJ and Rosemary, we will discuss the many benefits of music throughout our healing journeys and how each genre can be a therapeutic tool. We'll share ideas on choosing the perfect music to calm the body and relax and elevate the spirit. We invite you to bring your thoughts on a piece of music that you enjoy.

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

#### DNA Discovery Support Group (Virtual) Tuesday, May 6, 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>.

#### Birth Mother Support Group (Virtual) Wednesday, May 7, 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>.

**Family Ties Monthly Gathering****Thurs., May 8, 6:00-7:30 PM ET, In-Person  
Bedford Heights Daycare**

Summer Location! Bedford Heights Daycare. 21661 Libby Rd. Bedford Heights, OH 44146. 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. Adoption Network Cleveland staff also lead a peer support group for teens, and structured activities for younger children including yoga and mindfulness.

**The Magic of Bill Blagg Live!****Sat., May 3, 12:30 PM-2:30 PM, In-Person  
Keybank State Theatre Playhouse Studio**

KeyBank State Theatre Playhouse Studio. Blagg's show combines his mind-blowing magical talents along with his trademark off-the-cuff personality to take you on a magical journey you'll never forget! You'll witness objects float in mid-air, vanish in the blink of an eye and so much more! The Magic of Bill Blagg LIVE! is more than a magic show, it's an interactive magic experience! Critics and audiences alike rave about Bill's jaw-dropping illusions that will have you rubbing your eyes in disbelief. Recommended for ages 5 & up.

**Transracial Adoptive Parent Support  
Thurs., May 15, 12:00-1:00 PM ET, Virtual**

Adoption Network Cleveland and Transracial Journeys hold a co-hosted 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.

**NAMI Family Support Group****Mon., May 19, 6:30-8:00 PM ET, Virtual**

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.

**Monday Evening Speaker Series (Virtual)****When Love Isn't Justice: A Black Adoptee's Note to White Families****Monday, May 5, 8:00-9:00 PM ET  
Presented by Danny Burke**

ADanny Burke is a Black transracial adoptee who grew up in a White family that loved him—but love alone wasn't enough to protect him. In this session, Danny explores what it means to be raised inside Whiteness, navigating the disconnect between familial love and the absence of racial awareness, protection, and accountability.

**From Loss to Legacy: Healing from Adoption Loss and Finding Identity and Belonging through Storytelling****Monday, May 12, 8:00-9:00 PM ET  
Presented by Julie Ryan McGue**

Julie Ryan McGue is an adoptee, identical twin and the author of three published works of nonfiction. Julie will talk about the realities of her adoption and unique family dynamics, how she navigated the adoption search and reunion experience, and why those journeys led to penning two memoirs.

**Transnational Adoptee Support Group****Tuesday, May 13, 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. The group will meet the second Tuesday each month starting in May. Led by transnational adoptees Sandi Morgan Caesar and Svetlana Sandoval, 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. To ensure this space is centered on our shaped yet nuanced experiences, we ask that only transnational adoptees attend.

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