

# Monthly Calendar

## June 2024 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.

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: (All ET. Virtual unless noted otherwise)

June 6, Thurs., 7-9 PM led by facilitators JJ & Rosemary

June 12, Wed., 6:30-8:30 PM | Kim & Amy | **In-person**

June 13, Thurs., 7-9 PM led by facilitators Kim & Denice

June 20, Thurs., 7-9 PM led by facilitators Dottie & Estes

June 27, Thurs., 8-10 PM with facilitators Barbara & Dan

**Special Topic: Nature vs. Nurture Revisited**

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

#### Special Topic: Nature vs. Nurture Revisited

**Thursday, June 27, 8:00-10:00 PM ET**

Theorists and researchers have long debated whether traits or abilities are inborn or forged after birth. How much of us is ingrained in our DNA? What is the impact of parenting and other factors? Are babies “blank slates”? Join us as we discuss our own journeys and how we feel genetics and/or environment impact who we are today. Come to share, listen, or both! All are welcome!

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

#### Birth Mother Support Group (Virtual)

**Wednesday, June 5, 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, June 4, 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>.

### **Family Ties Monthly Gathering & Teen TEA** **Thursday, June 13, 6:00-7:30 PM, In-person**

Join us 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. Teens ages 11+ will meet separately after dinner for Teen TEA, our monthly teen group that provides a safe place for youth to share their truth, advocate for and support one another, and learn more about themselves. Children 10 and under will engage in mindful, therapeutic activities in a fun learning environment.

### **NAMI Family Support Group (Virtual)** **Monday, June 17, 6:30-8:00 PM ET**

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. Please join us virtually via Zoom the 3rd Monday of each month.

## ALL

### **Adoption 101: Where Do I Begin? (Virtual)** **Saturday, June 8, 8:30-12:30 PM ET**

Considering becoming a parent or expanding a family through adoption 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 workshop intended for people looking into adoption for the first time. The workshop is designed to help prospective adoptive parents prepare, build confidence, and make a decision about the best route for their adoption journey.

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

### **Monday Evening Speaker Series**

Thank You! Our 2023-24 Monday Evening Speaker Series was a success. The series pauses for summer and will return in September. These programs are made possible through your donations, presenters volunteering their time, and the active participation of attendees.

Listen or watch from our catalog of recordings at:  
<https://bit.ly/MondayEveningSpeaker>

### **Transracial Adoptive Parent Support Group (Virtual)**

**Thursday, June 20, 7:00-8:00 PM ET**

Adoption Network Cleveland and Transracial Journeys have joined forces holding a series of co-hosted monthly support groups for parents who have adopted children outside of their own race. This collaborative effort aims 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. Questions? Please contact Janelle by email at [Janelle.Poskocil@adoptionnetwork.org](mailto:Janelle.Poskocil@adoptionnetwork.org).

Register for all programs at <http://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

## Save the Dates:

### **Annual Adoption Network Cleveland Cookout & General Meeting**

**Saturday, August 17, 2:00-5:00 PM ET**  
**Edgewater Park East Pavilion, Cleveland**

Everyone connected to Adoption Network Cleveland and their families are invited to join us for our Annual Cookout! This includes anyone who has participated in programs - past or present, volunteers, donors, board members, staff, community partners, and family members. There will be food, games for the kids, entertainment, music, community and fun!

### **Creating Futures**

#### **Benefit & Silent Auction**

**Saturday, September 14, 6:00-10:00 PM**  
**Pickwick and Frolic, 2035 E. 4th St.**

