

Monthly Calendar

Decemeber 2022 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 at <http://bit.ly/GDMatANC>.

General Discussion Meeting Dates (Virtual)

Dec. 1, 7-9 pm ET led by facilitators Linda & Jim

Dec. 13, 7-8:30 pm ET led by facilitators Marni & Mindy,

Dec. 14, 7-9 pm ET led by facilitators Kim & Denice

Dec. 15, 7-9 pm ET led by facilitators Dottie & Estes

Dec. 22, 8-10 pm ET led by facilitators Barbara & Dan

DNA Discovery

Special Topic for December

Tuesday, Dec. 6, 7:00-8:30 pm ET

This month, the DNA Discovery Support Group is hosting a Special Topic, **Are DNA Tests A Good Gift Idea?**

If you are considering giving a DNA kit as a holiday, birthday, or special occasion gift, you aren't alone. Autosomal DNA testing, such as Ancestry and 23 and me, is heavily marketed and often on sale through the holidays. These tests can be exciting and very fulfilling. They are also a highly personal decision, inextricably linked to identity and family. Join us to discuss the pros and cons of gifting a DNA test to others.

Registration is required:

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

Birth Mother Support Group (Virtual)

Wednesday, Dec. 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>.



FAMILIES & YOUTH

Family Social Outing - Let's Go Skating! (In-person)

Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022, 2:00-4:00 pm
Halloran Skating Rink
3550 W 117th Street
Cleveland, OH 44111

We'll grab the admission and skate rental fees if you can bring your mittens and hats to this outdoor ice-skating event! Join us for a family friendly event along side speed-skating, spinning, and wall-clutching Adoption Network Cleveland community families.

Please register by December 5th to participate. Register on our calendar: <https://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

Family Social Outing - Cookie Decorating Party (In-person)

Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022, 2:00-4:00 pm ET
Adoption Network Cleveland Office
12200 Fairhill Road, 3rd Floor - A3
Cleveland, OH 44120

We are excited to welcome everyone from youth to youthful for a festive cookie decorating party! Simply bring a container to take home your confectionary masterpieces or memorable mistakes of sprinkling sugars and icing. Adoption Network Cleveland will provide cookies, frosting, and sprinkles.

This event is FREE, but requires registration:
<https://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

FOR ALL

Monday Evening Speaker Series: Family Amiright? How to Set and Hold Holiday Boundaries with Family (Virtual)

Monday, Dec. 5, 2022, 8:00-9:00 pm ET
presented by Katy Perkins, LCSW-S
www.katyperkins.com

As if life wasn't stressful enough, here comes the holiday season - and all the family interactions that come with it. This time of year can be extra challenging for families, when there are lots of expectations, emotions, memories, and opinions swirling around. To visit, or not to visit? How should you manage your time? How can you get through it all and still wrangle some joy out of the season? Let's talk about the power and importance of stating your needs and advocating for yourself and your family.

Registration is required to receive the link for this virtual program. <https://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

Tough Talks - Lessons Learned Through the Fog of Adoption and Reunion (Virtual)

Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022, 7:30-9:00 pm ET
presented by Abby Hasberry, Ph.D.

In anticipation of the release of Dr. Abby Hasberry's memoir, *Adopting Privilege: Finding Identity through the Fog of Transracial Adoption & Trauma*. Abby joins us to discuss her experiences with closed adoptions as an adoptee and a birth parent. Using her research on identity development and her experience as a trauma-informed therapist, Abby examines the mental health effects of policies in closed adoption.

Registration is required to receive the link for this virtual program. <https://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

Monday Evening Speaker Series: Is the Supreme Court Going After Adoptee Heritage Equality?

Monday, Dec. 12, 2022, 8:00-9:00 pm ET
presented by Michele Kreigman

The principles of heritage equality we fought for state-by-state (and are still fighting for) like equal access to OBCs, prioritizing keeping a child in extended family, and attempting to match ethnicity were challenged in the U.S. Supreme Court on November 9th. The 'gold standard in child welfare', as the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 is called, embodied all these principles and influenced domestic state laws and international Hague conventions for the good around adoption. Its impact on the culture of search is also profound but little known, enabling my journey of discovery of paternal family even though I am not an enrolled Tribal citizen and was born/relinquished/adopted before the ICWA was passed.

Why is this 40+ year old law under attack now, and what are the potential impacts on ALL adoptees/donor-conceived people (DCPs) across ethnicities?

Registration is required to receive the link for this virtual program. <https://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

Adoption Network Cleveland
12200 Fairhill Road, Floor A3
Cleveland, Ohio 44120
216) 325-1000
www.adoptionnetwork.org