

# Monthly Calendar

## March 2023 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, and listed as Eastern Time (ET)

March 2, Thurs., 7-9 PM led by facilitators Linda & Jim  
**Search & Reunion Fears and Fantasies**

March 8, Wed., 7-9 PM led by facilitators Kim & Denice

March 14, Tues., 7-8:30 led by facilitators Marni & Mindy

March 16, Thurs., 7-9 PM led by facilitators Dottie & Estes

March 23, Thurs., 8-10:00 PM led by facilitators Barbara & Dan

#### Special Topic for March Thursday, March 2, 7:00-9:00 PM ET

While most of our General Discussion Meetings have an open discussion format, the March 2nd meeting will have a special topic, **Search & Reunion Fears and Fantasies**.

Search is a normal part of the adoption journey for all involved who have a desire to get their questions answered with the possibility of healing as an outcome. Join us for a discussion on the fears and fantasies experienced in deciding to search and in the search process itself; in the reunion or lack of one; and in the developing of a relationship(s) with on-going contact.

Our special topic meetings are very popular and registration is required:  
<http://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

#### Birth Mother Support Group (Virtual) Wednesday, March 1, 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, March 7, 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>.

## FAMILIES & YOUTH

### **Family Ties Monthly Gathering & Teen TEA (In-Person)**

**Wednesday, March 9, 6:00-7:30 PM**  
**12200 Fairhill Road, Floor A3, Cleveland**

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 an art therapy activity supported by Art Therapy Studio's skilled intern, and other approved adults. This program welcomes adoptive, kinship, and foster families with children of all ages the second Thursday of every month.

For this March meeting of Families Ties, parents and caregivers will be welcomed to participate in Part 1 of the Education Support Series detailed on this page.

### **Harriet Tubman and The Underground Railroad: A Playhouse Square Streamed Event (In-Person)**

**Saturday, March 4, 2:00-3:30 PM ET**  
**REGISTRATION DUE MARCH 1st.**  
**12200 Fairhill Road, Floor A3, Cleveland**

This is a ticketed Playhouse Square Steaming Event. Participating **families will watch together at the Adoption Network Cleveland location!** Books and Lyrics by Douglas Jones | Music by Ron Barnett. Recommended for grades: 3-8. Tickets are limited. This Streaming Performance is part of the Playhouse Square Education Department Social Justice Series.

### **Cleveland Charge Basketball: A Family Social Event (In-Person)**

**Saturday, March 18, 7:00-9:30 PM**  
**CSU Wolstein Center, Cleveland**

Join us for an Adoption Network Family Social Event to cheer on our Cleveland Charge Basketball team as they take on the Long Island Nets! A special treat, Athleta presents Women's History Night and the Cleveland Rocker's 25th Anniversary with free t-shirts to the first 1,000 fans, autographed team photos, and opportunity for postgame free throws

Tickets: Free with courtesy of Adoption Network Cleveland with registration.

Register by or before 3/13.

### **TO REGISTER ANY program on this page:**

Visit our calendar: <https://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

### **Adoption 101: Where Do I Begin (Virtual Workshop)**

**Saturday, March 11, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET**

A three-hour workshop intended for people looking into adoption for the first time and includes information on types of adoption, financing an adoption, adoption as a lifelong journey, and more! This workshop provides a realistic overview of the adoption options and the process involved in each from both professionals and parents.

### **Adoption 201: Adopting Infants Domestically (Virtual Workshop)**

**Wednesday, March 29, 6:00 - 8:00 PM ET**

Expanding on Adoption 101: Where Do I Begin?, this workshop will explore more details for those looking towards the path of domestic infant adoption.

### **Education Support Series (In-Person and Virtual offering)**

**A Three-part Series Unpacking School-Based Supports and Public Assistance for Children presented by Hickman Lowder**

Does your child have a condition that requires extra support at school and/or home such as ADHD, Autism, ODD, anxiety, mood disorder, specific learning disability, executive functioning, or medically fragile needs? Do you believe your student needs more support at school with social, emotional, behavior or academic challenges? Does your child require support from a therapist, occupational therapist or other medical specialty? Join us for one, two, or all three parts of this special series. A full description of the series is available via the registration link, or click to download a copy [here](#).

#### **Part 1: The ABCs of IEPs and 504 Plans**

**Thursday, March 9, presentation at 6:30 PM ET**, in-person attendees may register to join us for dinner at 6:00 PM as well as register for childcare and/or teen program (this date only).

**Part 2: Empowering Families for School Meetings**  
**Thursday, March 16, presentation at 7:00 PM ET**

**Part 3: Public Assistance for Children with Disabilities**  
**Thursday, March 23, presentation at 7:00 PM ET**

## FOR ALL: Monday Evening Speaker Series (Virtual)

***The Good Adoptee & Me: How I Connected to the Adoption Community by Telling my Story on Stage***  
**Monday, March 6, 8:00-9:00 PM ET**  
**presented by Suzanne Bachner**  
**[www.TheGoodAdoptee.com](http://www.TheGoodAdoptee.com)**

When Suzanne Bachner first started writing her adoption story in the form of what would become her solo show, *The Good Adoptee*, she had no idea it would lead her into community with one of the greatest and sometimes the most challenging groups around: the adoption community aka Adoption Land. Suzanne found that as she brought to life onstage the thematic exploration of connection, belonging, identity and family, she experienced a parallel exploration in life. Suzanne will take you behind the scenes, sharing her process of writing and directing the play and how touring the show in support of Adoptee Rights and Equality connected her and ultimately brought her closer to the adoptee community, to allies and to both first/birth parents and adoptive parents – including her own.

*The Good Adoptee* is not required viewing before this talk, but you can watch a video of the show here: <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/thegoodadoptee> and enjoy \$15 off with the CODE: ANC (a \$4.99 72-hour rental).

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

***Coming Full Circle: My Truth, Lies, and a Little In-between***  
**Monday, March 13, 8:00-9:00 PM ET**  
**presented by Chester Jackson**

In Chester's words, "My life as a late discovery informally relinquished (aka LDA) person is a testimonial to what could have been a better way. Still, there is no such thing as a little white lie." Chester's professional life got even more personal than it already was when he learned the truth of his origins. Come and learn from Chester's experiences, insights, and life lessons.

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

***The Baby Thief and You***  
**Monday, March 20, 8:00-9:00 PM ET**  
**presented by Barbara Raymond,**  
**[www.babythief.com](http://www.babythief.com)**

March 20 is the 8th anniversary of Ohio's "Opening Day" in 2015 – the day the state fully implemented S.B. 23 making previously closed original birth records accessible upon request to 400,000 adult adoptees. For Adoption Network Cleveland this was the culmination of decades of work advocating for adoptee rights, and we celebrated with Ohio-born adoptees from across the country. On this anniversary we examine an important piece of the historical context of secrecy in adoption.

***The Baby Thief and You***

How has a woman who died in 1950 affected you? Barbara Raymond, who spent over a decade researching and writing her nonfiction book, *The Baby Thief: The Untold Story of Georgia Tann, the Baby Seller Who Corrupted Adoption*, will attempt to answer that question.

Tann operated out of Memphis, Tennessee, from 1924 to 1950, stealing over 5,000 children from poor, often single parents and selling them to wealthy people. In the process, she invented modern American adoption, popularizing it, commercializing it, and corrupting it with secrecy. Barbara, an adoptive mother herself, was the first person to discover that Tann began the practice of falsifying adoptees' birth certificates, sealing their true ones and issuing false ones that portrayed their adoptive parents as their birth parents. Eventually every state began issuing false birth certificates.

Barbara will discuss Tann's actions and their consequences, which are still felt today. She'll also talk about her search for her daughter's birth family, and the ongoing, happy reunion that followed.

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



**March 20th marks the heartfelt 8th anniversary of our successful campaign to allow original birth certificates access to Ohio adoptees. We celebrate with all who worked with us to make this possible. Thank you!**