

# Monthly Calendar

## June 2021 Events and Programs

### ADULT ADOPTEE & BIRTHPARENT

#### 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. June meetings will be virtual. Individuals from any location are encouraged to join. All meeting times are shown in Eastern Time. Preregistration is required. Visit our website calendar and click on the date of your choice to register at <http://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

For more information on General Discussion Meetings and a list of upcoming special topics, please visit our website at <http://bit.ly/GDMatANC>.

#### Virtual General Discussion Meeting Dates

June 1, 8-10 pm ET **DNA Discovery Support Group**  
led by facilitators Becky & Oliver

June 3, 7-9 pm ET led by facilitators Linda & Elaine

June 8, 7-8:30 pm ET led by facilitators Marni & Mindy,  
**Special Topic: Loss in Adoption**

June 9, 7-9 pm ET led by facilitators Kim & Denice

June 17, 7-9 pm ET led by facilitators Dottie & Estes

June 24, 8-10 pm ET led by facilitators Barbara & Dan

#### Birth Mother Support Group (Virtual) Wednesday, June 2, 7:00-9:00 pm ET

Our Birth Mother Support Group is facilitated by Lindsey and Nikki and 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.

We invite birth mothers to join this group of women, who are at different places on the same journey, to give and receive understanding and support. Register at <http://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

#### DNA Discovery Support Group (Virtual) Tuesday, June 1, 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 or 23&Me, 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. Examples include individuals with a known connection to adoption but also, individuals with unexpected parentage results among those not adopted such as unknown child discovery, unexpected niece, nephew or cousin discovery, individuals discovering they are donor-conceived or adopted (late discovery adoptees); anyone who has found unknown siblings. international adoptees connecting to family including cousins, unexpected grandparent discoveries, and the many other scenarios that are surprising folks with today's widespread commercial DNA testing. Register at <http://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.



## FAMILIES & YOUTH

### Family Ties Program

This program includes a monthly group where adoptive, kinship, and foster families meet, share experiences, and learn from each other and featured presenters. To find out more: <http://bit.ly/FamilyTiesatANC>.

### PARENT & YOUTH GROUP (In-Person)

**Thursday, June 10, 6:30-8:00 pm ET**

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

We will meet in person this month in an outdoor adventure for the whole family! Join us for a Scavenger Hunt and Kites at Canalway Center. We will catch up, make new friends, and have some fun! Please register so that we can plan for the event: <https://bit.ly/CalendarANC>. Rain date will be June 17

### PARENT GROUP (Virtual)

**Tuesday, June 22, 6:30-8:00 pm ET**

**Are Your Kids One of the Big Three?**

Adoptive, kinship, and foster parents are invited to join us for a discussion on parenting using NBC's hit show "This is Us" as a starting point for our conversation. Over the last several years, the show has highlighted issues of family separation, adoptive and foster families, race, birth parents, closed versus open adoption, and differences in parenting. In this session, we will discuss strategies to modify your parenting style to meet the needs of your individual children. We will also talk about how the parent-child relationship changes over time. Registration is required to receive the link:

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

### YOUTH GROUP (Virtual):

**Tuesday, June 8, 6:00 pm ET - Girl Code**

**Wednesday, June 23, 6:00 pm ET - Guy Code**

Virtual opportunities for youth ages 11-18 to meet online with peers in a facilitated conversation will be provided for boys (Guy Code) and girls (Girl Code) separately. For more information and the link to access the meetings, contact Danielle Gibson at [danielle.gibson@adoptionnetwork.org](mailto:danielle.gibson@adoptionnetwork.org).

### Discussions on Race & Family (Virtual)

**Tuesday, June 15, 6:30-8:00 pm ET**

**June focus: Talking to White Kids About Race**

Adoption Network Cleveland is pleased to offer a series of facilitated virtual discussions on Race and Family this summer, co-hosted by The Weaving Cultures Transracial Family Group and our Family Ties program. Parents, guardians, and other family caregivers of adoptive, kinship, and foster families are invited to join in the discussion.

**You do not need to be part of a transracial family to attend!** Together, we will explore different aspects of race and family, and how we as parents and caregivers of children can talk with them honestly about issues of race. Discussions will also include how issues of race intersect with adoption, kinship care, and foster care. Expect discussions to include interactive breakouts. Registration is required through our calendar: <https://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

## FOR ALL



Adoption Network Cleveland is pleased to offer two more presentations as we conclude this session of our popular Monday Evening Speaker Series!

**Monday, June 7, 2021, 8-9 pm ET (Virtual)**  
**Some Of What I've Learned So Far with Damon Davis**

Damon has interviewed close to 200 adoptees for his podcast *Who Am I Really?* which he launched in 2017. After so many adoption conversations Damon describes coming to feel that we all, adoptees, adoptive families, and birth parents, need to listen more to one another's stories in the adoption triad. However, we also need to expand the consideration of others' feelings beyond the triad's three sides to include the whole ecosystem: foster caregivers, social workers, legislators, and many more. Join us in this conversation.

**Monday, June 14, 2021, 8-9 pm ET (Virtual)**  
**The Legacy of The Girls Who Went Away with Ann Fessler**

Ann Fessler is the author of *The Girls Who Went Away* which is based on 100 oral history interviews she conducted with women who lost children to adoption during the 28 years that followed WWII when a perfect storm of circumstances led to an unprecedented number of surrenders. The book was followed six years later by her documentary film *A Girl Like Her* that combined archival film footage with her audio interviews. Ann will discuss the painful legacy of devastating grief left by these adoption practices used on unwed mothers in post-WWII America, and what has happened since the release of the book and film, which gave a generation of birthmothers a voice.

**For more information on this virtual series, to register for sessions, and to listen to recordings of past sessions:** <http://bit.ly/ANCMondays21>. This session of our Monday Evening Speaker Series will conclude with Ann Fessler's presentation and return in September 2021.

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