

# Monthly Calendar

## September 2022 Events and Programs

### ADULT ADOPTEEES, 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)

Sept. 1, 7-9 pm ET led by facilitators Linda & Jim  
**\*\*Special Topic: Relatively Speaking\*\***

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

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

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

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

#### Special Outdoor, In-person General Discussion Meeting

**Saturday, Sept. 24, 2:00-4:00 pm ET**  
**12200 Fairhill Rd, Cleveland, OH 44120**

Please join us for a special opportunity for an outdoor in-person General Meeting! General Discussion Meetings provide a safe place where people can share their feelings and experiences, get support from their peers, and learn from others' perspectives. The meetings have an open discussion format and are attended by anyone with a connection to adoption or foster care, including adult adoptees, birth parents, siblings, adoptive parents, those that have experienced foster or kinship care, or DNA discoveries such as misattributed parentage or donor conception. The majority of our General Discussion Meetings are held via Zoom, and this is a unique chance for those in Cleveland to gather in person.

Registration is required: <http://bit.ly/CalendarANC>

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

#### DNA Discovery Support Group (Virtual) Tuesday, Sept. 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.

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

### **Tough Talks Parent Discussion (Virtual) Advocating for Your Child's Educational Needs**

**Thursday, Sept. 8, 2022, 7:30-9:00 pm ET**  
**Presented by Janet Fleck Griffith, Education  
Advocate**

Does your child struggle academically, emotionally, or socially at school? Have you wondered whether they need extra support? Does your child have an existing Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan? Or is your child prone to discipline issues at school? Navigating community and school services can be a confusing and intimidating process. In this presentation, Ms. Griffith will provide a general overview of early intervention services, school-based supports, and the transition to adulthood. She will discuss IEPs and 504s, including the eligibility process, support, and services. She will also touch on the discipline process, including Manifest Determination Reviews. The presentation will include best practices to help you become the best advocate for your student.

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

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

**Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2022, 6:00-7:30 pm**

Adoptive, Kinship, and Foster families with children of all ages are invited to join us each month for food, fun, and community. We will start at 6 pm with a potluck dinner. Families are encouraged to bring something to share, but it is not required. The evening will include opportunities to connect with other parents and children, learn and grow together, experience fun activities, and leave with new resources. Teens ages 11+ will meet separately after dinner for Teen TEA, our monthly peer support group that provides a safe place for youth to share their truth, advocate for and support one another, and learn more about themselves.

Register on our calendar: <https://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.



### **Family Social Outing - Cleveland Metropark Zoo (In-person)**

**Saturday, Sept. 10, 2022, 10:00-5:00 pm ET**  
**3900 Wildlife Way, Cleveland, OH 44109**

Adoptive, kinship and foster families are invited to join us for a fun family social at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. There is no cost for this event, but RSVP is required by 9/2/22. Families will pick up their tickets at the table near the membership booth starting at 10:00 am. Come early and socialize with other families and make new friends! Families can enjoy the park at their own pace. This is a "Rain or Shine" event. Plan on dressing for the weather.

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

### **Adoption 201: Domestic Infant Adoption (Virtual)**

**Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2022, 6:00-9:00 pm ET**

Many couples and individuals hoping to become parents or to expand their families look to adoption. This endeavor can be both exciting and overwhelming. Expanding on the Adoption 101: Where Do I Begin Workshop, this 2-hour workshop explores more details for those looking to consider a domestic infant adoption, including details about how to select an agency and sample requirements; details of the home study expectations; and a discussion on openness in Adoption. Adoption Network Cleveland is a neutral source of information, as we are not an adoption agency.

Member cost: \$15 per person and \$25 per couple  
Non-Members: \$20 per person and \$35 per couple

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

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

**MONDAY EVENING  
SPEAKER SERIES**  
Adoption Network Cleveland  
*with*  
**Zara Phillips**



**Monday Eveing Speaker Series (Virtual)**

Our Monday Evening Speaker Series returns at the end of September, full of topics that are of interest to a broad audience impacted by adoption, kinship, and foster care.

**Monday, Sept. 26, 2022, 8:00-9:00 pm ET**  
**Adoption and Addiction presented by Zara Phillips**

Adopted people are overrepresented in statistics reflecting addiction. Why is that? Zara Phillips will join us for this Monday Evening Speaker Series presentation and lead a discussion on why adoption and addiction are interconnected for so many adoptees. She will also share her own addiction story and reflect on how getting sober led her to understand the impact adoption had on her life.

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

**Win a Golden Ticket**  
To a Fantastic Getaway for Two!

One lucky winner will win a getaway - their choice of one of these fantastic hotspots!

**Key West - New Orleans - San Francisco/Napa Valley**

- Round trip airfare from any major US airport
- Deluxe Accommodations
- 3 years to use the trip

**Raffle Info: 120**

**\$50/ticket or 6 for \$250**

**Drawing Date: September 17, 2022**

**Details:**  
[www.adoptionnetwork.org/golden](http://www.adoptionnetwork.org/golden)

**Benefiting:**  **ADOPTION NETWORK CLEVELAND**  
THE OHIO FAMILY CONNECTION  
EIN #34-1603766 (216) 325-1000

 **SCAN ME**

ADOPTION NETWORK CLEVELAND'S

**Creating Futures**  
BENEFIT & SILENT AUCTION  
*Parisian Soiree*

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2022**  
**6:00-10:00 PM**  
Bay Aris, 28795 Lake Road, Bay Village, Ohio 44140

Heavy Hors d'oeuvres  
Libations  
Silent Auction  
World Travel Auction  
Music

**PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS BY SEPT. 2:**  
[WWW.ADOPTIONNETWORK.ORG/2022-CREATING-FUTURES/](http://WWW.ADOPTIONNETWORK.ORG/2022-CREATING-FUTURES/)  
OR (216) 482-2322

**TICKETS**  
\$150 PER TICKET  
MEMBERS RECEIVE \$25 OFF EACH TICKET  
*Members should look for their member email or call (216) 482-2322 for the discount code.*