

Monthly Calendar

January 2022 Events and Programs

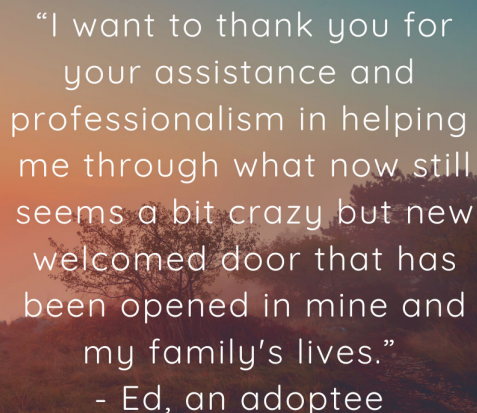
ADULT ADOPTees, BIRTH PARENTS & DNA DISCOVERIES

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. January 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>.

General Discussion Meeting Dates (Virtual)

- January 6, 7-9 pm ET led by facilitators Linda & Jim
- January 11, 7-8:30 pm ET led by facilitators Marni & Mindy
- January 12, 7-9 pm ET led by facilitators Kim & Denice
- January 20, 7-9 pm ET led by facilitators Dottie & Estes, ****Special Topic: Setting Intentions for 2022****
- January 27, 8-10 pm ET led by facilitators Barbara & Dan



“I want to thank you for your assistance and professionalism in helping me through what now still seems a bit crazy but new welcomed door that has been opened in mine and my family’s lives.”
- Ed, an adoptee

If you or someone you know is considering searching for birth family, find out more about our Search & DNA Assistance program by visiting our website or by contacting Traci Onders at traci.onders@adoptionnetwork.org or (216) 482-2323.

Birth Mother Support Group (Virtual) Wednesday, January 5, 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, January 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 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 many other scenarios that are surprising folks with today's widespread commercial DNA testing. This meeting is led by facilitators Becky & Oliver. Register at <http://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

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

FAMILIES & YOUTH

Family Ties Program

Parent Discussion (Virtual)

Thursday, January 13, 7:30-8:30 pm ET

Tough Talk: Talking to Kids About Birth Family

A part of supporting children is helping them understand their histories, including their adoption story and important information about their birth families. Kids look to their parents for accurate information and context delivered in a developmentally appropriate manner to help them understand who they are in relation to both their biological and adoptive families. Our discussion will focus on when, what, and how to share important information with children considering openness, developmental appropriateness, and building trust. Join us as we consider ways to handle discussions about birth family. This topic is presented by our new Director of Programs, Ty Cliffel, LPC.

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

Adoption 101: Where Do I Begin? (Virtual)

Saturday, January 22, 9:00 am-12:00 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. There is so much information available about adoption that people often ask, "Where do I begin?" Adoption 101 is a three-hour workshop intended for people looking into adoption for the first time and will provide a realistic overview of the adoption options and the process involved in each from both professionals and parents. The information and resources offered will help individuals make a decision about the best route for their adoption journey. Adoption Network Cleveland is a neutral source of information, as we are not an adoption agency.

Member cost: \$20 per person and \$35 per couple

Non-Members: \$35 per person and \$55 per couple

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

This Is Us Discussion (Virtual)

Monday, January 31, 2022, 8:00-9:00 pm ET

As the final season of the popular NBC series, *This Is Us* begins, we are excited to continue our discussion group on the show's adoption-related themes. Everyone is invited to attend and share their perspective. No need to have attended previous discussions! The discussion will be facilitated by Barbara Robertson, LMSW and Ohio-born, New York adoptee, and Krysia Orlowski, writer, professor, and transracial adoptive parent. Registration is required: <https://bit.ly/CalendarANC>

Monday Eveing Speaker Series (Virtual)

Monday, January 24, 2022, 8:00-9:00 pm ET

Uprooted: Our Right to Know Our Origins

presented by Peter J. Boni

Author Peter J. Boni will discuss learning near the age of fifty that he was donor-conceived and the confusing and conflicting emotions he felt about it during his twenty-two-year search for the identity of his biological father. There are many parallels between the world of Assisted Reproductive Technology and the world of Adoption. This talk will be of interest to all. Registration is required: <https://bit.ly/ANCMondays21>

Monday, February 14, 2022, 8:00-9:00 pm ET

Ambiguous Loss and Disenfranchised Grief: Processing the Complexities of Experience in the Adoption Constellation presented by Dawn Friedman, MSEd

During this installment of our Monday Evening Speaker Series, participants will have a safe space to learn, share, and process our personal experiences of loss and grief in the context of our adoption stories. Using Betty Jean Lifton's concept of the "ghost kingdom," we will explore the "might have been" that is inherent to adoption for all members of the constellation. Registration is required: <https://bit.ly/ANCMondays21>

Monday, March 7, 2022, 8:00-9:00 pm ET

Taking the Show on the Road presented by Jennifer Ghoston

Jennifer hosts the podcast series *Once Upon a Time in Adopteeland*, giving adoptees a platform to share their adoption journeys. Jennifer is a firm believer that storytelling is healing for both the listener and the storyteller. Jennifer has also shared her story in her book *The Truth So Far...a detective's journey to reunite with her birth family* (2015), and in Jean Strauss's film documentary *A Simple Piece of Paper* (2013). Jennifer will discuss the power of storytelling and host a Q&A. Registration is required: <https://bit.ly/ANCMondays21>.

Monday, March 28, 2022, 8:00-9:00 pm ET

History, My Mother, and Me presented by Kim Heikkila

Kim Heikkila was 26 years old when she learned she had an older sister. Kim's mother had delivered her first daughter at the Salvation Army Booth Memorial Hospital in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1961. She relinquished the baby for adoption, got married, had two more children, and enjoyed a long career in marketing - all the while keeping the story of her first pregnancy a secret. When she died in 2009, Kim realized that she had missed the opportunity to talk to her mother in detail about her experiences as a "Booth girl." So she set out to learn more about her mother by drawing on her skills as a historian. Registration is required: <https://bit.ly/ANCMondays21>.