

Monthly Calendar

December 2021 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. December 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

December 2, 7-9 pm ET led by facilitators Linda & Jim

December 8, 7-9 pm ET led by facilitators Kim & Denice

December 14, 7-8:30 pm ET led by facilitators Marni & Mindy

December 16, 7-9 pm ET led by facilitators Dottie & Estes

December 23, 8-10 pm ET led by facilitators Barbara & Dan
Special Topic: Stress and the Holidays



Birth Mother Support Group (Virtual) Wednesday, December 1, 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, December 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 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, December 9, 7:30-8:30 pm ET

Tough Talk: Let's Talk About Sex

A part of supporting children is helping them grow and understand big ideas and tough topics. These topics may be awkward, or uncomfortable to start but we are here to help. Join us as we learn how to tackle these conversations with children of all ages.

More than just "The Birds and the Bees," December's Tough Talk will highlight important sexual health information and sharing that sexual health information with your children. The approach will be a relaxed, open, sex-positive dialogue. Studies show that open, honest, and fact-based communication about sexuality between parents and youth leads to delaying first sexual experiences in youth, increased protection use when sexually active, and a reduction in unintended outcomes from sexual activity. Do you know some of WHAT you want to say, but are worried about HOW you're going to say it, and for that matter, WHEN? Let's Talk!!

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

Parent Trainings (In-Person)

Monday, December 6, 6:00-9:00 pm

Everyday Ethics

#950-32 with Trainer Anthony President

Monday, December 13, 6:00-9:00 pm

ADHD Among Children and Adolescents

#983-2 with Trainer Stacy Simera

To register for either training contact Julius Jackson at: julius.jackson@adoptionnetwork.org or (216) 482-2324. Trainings will be held in person at Adoption Network Cleveland, 4614 Prospect Avenue, Ste. 550, Cleveland.

Deck the Halls - Family Virtual Winter Holiday Party

Friday, December 17, 7:00-9:00 pm ET

Get out your favorite silly winter jammies, ugly holiday sweaters, and party attire – it's time for a party! Join Adoption Network Cleveland staff and families for a virtual celebration filled with music, games, and a family talent show! All adoptive, kinship, and foster families are invited to join in the fun, with cool prizes. Children of all ages are welcome!

Thanks to two very generous donors, we will have fun prizes and gift cards for families to shop for the ingredients for their sweet treat. Please register by



MONDAY EVENING SPEAKER SERIES

Adoption Network Cleveland

Monday, December 13, 2021, 8:00-9:00 pm ET
"Let's Talk About It" presented by Mark Cardwell

Hindsight, they say, is 20/20. After my adoption, I grew up in a loving home. Still, I remember the tense times connected to any discussion of my life pre-adoption and birth family. I wish I could go back and help my parents through those difficult talks with me. Even as an adult post-reunion my adoptive mother and I struggled to communicate around these issues. In the discussion "Let's Talk About It", I share my personal experience and perspective on how we might manage the uncomfortable or tough conversations that come up in all stages of the adoption journey. Registration is required: <https://bit.ly/ANCMondays21>

Coming in 2022

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, his twenty-two-year search for the identity of his biological father and the siblings he discovered in the process, what he learned about the multi-billion-dollar Assisted Reproductive Technology industry along the way, and how all of it led him to advocate for a Donor-Conceived Bill of Rights. 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, March 7, 2022, 8:00-9:00 pm ET
Taking the Show on the Road presented by
Jennifer Ghoston

Join us for this Monday Evening with Jennifer Ghoston and hear about her work in the adoption space. 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>