

# Monthly Calendar

## June 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. 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. 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)

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

June 8, 7-9 pm ET led by facilitators Kim & Denise

**\*Special Topic: Maintaining Healthy Boundaries\***

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

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

June 23, 8-10 pm ET led by facilitators Barbara & Dan

#### Special Topic in June

While most of our General Discussion Meetings have an open discussion format, the June 8 meeting will have a special topic, **"Maintaining Healthy Boundaries."** Healthy boundaries are necessary for all relationships, especially in relationship building among all members of the triad or previously unknown family members. Connections among DNA relatives, reunions between birth family and adoptees from closed adoptions as well as today's practice of open adoption require healthy boundaries for everyone. We will discuss how to acknowledge our boundaries and those of others and work to establish and honor boundaries that work for everyone. Space is limited to maintain the ability of those registered to participate in the discussion.

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

#### Birth Mother Support Group (Virtual)

**Wednesday, June 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, June 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 donorconceived 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 and is not meant to replace conventional therapy or 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.

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

**Family Ties Monthly Group (In-person)**

**Friday, June 24, 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, fun activities, and leave with new resources. Register on our calendar: <https://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

**Tough Talks on Race (Virtual)**

**The Talk - An Imperative for Transracial Parents of Children of Color, presented by Mark Cardwell**  
**Thursday, June 9, 2022, 7:30-9:00 pm ET**

The Talk is widely understood as somber, sacred, and serious in Black families. Preparing your children for the realities of racism is generational and for the safety of our children is not considered optional. This presentation is designed to help adoptive or foster parents raising a child of a different race or ethnic background learn how to address the realities of racism with their children. During the discussion, I will also share my personal experience on how I handled having The Talk with our children. Register on the calendar: <https://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

**Spotlight Discussion - The Queen's Gambit (Virtual)**

**Tuesday, June 21, 2022, 7:30-9:00 pm**

The Spotlight Series uses art and entertainment mediums as a jumping-off point for discussion on adoption, foster care, and kinship care topics. The whole family is invited to attend and participate, including kids ages 11+. If you enjoy book groups, then you'll love this! This series is structured just like a book club but includes books, film, TV series, podcasts, social media platforms, musical artists, theatre, and the like. Register: <https://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

**Teen Tea (In-person)**

**Friday, June 3, 2022, 5:00-6:00 pm**

Youth who are adopted or living with extended family or in foster care, ages 11+ are invited to join our monthly peer support group! This will be a safe place for youth to share their truth, advocate for and support one another, and learn more about themselves. Snacks will be provided, and each attendee will be entered in a door prize raffle. Parents, there is space for you to hang out while the teens meet! Come check out our new space and enjoy some in-person comradery. Register to attend at: <https://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

**Monday Eveing Speaker Series (Virtual)**

Our Monday Evening Speaker Series is full of topics that are of interest to a broad audience impacted by adoption, kinship, and foster care. June 6 will be the last scheduled presentation before we take a hiatus for the summer.

**Monday, June 6, 2022**

**8:00-9:00 pm ET**

**An Agency Transformation: Bethany Christian Services presented by Donna Nicholson, LPC**

Bethany Christian Services has long been known as the largest adoption agency in the US. Join us at this Monday Evening Speaker Series presentation to learn about their commitment to transformation. They admit, "We must come to grips that we have not been the best at elevating the voice of the Adopted Person. We know better, therefore we must do better." Register on our calendar: <https://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

**Ohio Justice Bus - Free Legal Clinic (In-person)**

**Friday, June 10, 2022, 10:00-2:00 pm**

**Fairhill Partners Campus**

**12200 Fairhill Road, Cleveland, OH 44120**

The Ohio Justice Bus is coming to Cleveland! The bus is a mobile legal aid office and technology hot spot that allows legal aid and pro bono attorneys to travel to locations to provide legal services to Ohioans at no cost to individuals. They are partnering with OhioKAN, Adoption Network Cleveland, and Fairhill Partners to offer free legal advice to parents and caregivers. Individuals will have the opportunity to talk privately with an attorney about family law issues related to adoption and kinship care.

Information on resources and programs of area organizations will also be available. Services will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Please bring any relevant documents.

This event is hosted by OhioKAN, Adoption Network Cleveland, and Fairhill Partners.

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

