

# Monthly Calendar

## August 2024 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. For more information on General Discussion Meetings and a list of upcoming special topics, please visit our website.

#### General Discussion Meeting Dates: (Virtual unless noted otherwise)

Aug. 1, Thurs., 7-9 PM led by facilitators JJ & Rosemary

Aug. 8, Thurs., 7-9 PM led by facilitators Kim & Denice

Aug. 15, Thurs., 7-9 PM led by facilitators Dottie & Estes

Aug. 17, Sat., 12:30-2 PM **In-Person | Annual Cookout**  
led by facilitators Kim & Dottie

Aug. 22, Thurs., 8-10 PM with facilitators Barbara & Dan

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

#### Special Topic: The Realities of Birth Motherhood Wednesday, August 7, 7:00-9:00 PM ET

This birth mother support group is open to all members of the adoption constellation as we explore a special topic this month. Join us for a discussion that dispels common misconceptions and stereotypes about birth mothers, explores the unique postpartum and mental health challenges they face, and addresses the misunderstandings and insensitivity that often surround their experiences.

Come to share, listen, or both! **All are welcome!**

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

#### Birth Mother Support Group (Virtual) Wednesday, August 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. This month, the group offers a special topic discussion with everyone welcome. Typically, the meetings are open to only 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. Register at <http://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

#### DNA Discovery Support Group (Virtual) Tuesday, August 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>.

## FAMILIES & YOUTH

### Transracial Adoptive Parent Support Group (Virtual)

Thursday, August 15, 7:00-8:00 PM ET

Adoption Network Cleveland and Transracial Journeys have joined forces holding a series of co-hosted monthly support groups for parents who have adopted children outside of their own race. This group provides an intentionally structured and supportive space where parents can hear from leaders with lived expertise and share their experiences, challenges, and successes in raising transracially adopted persons. This support group meets virtually via Zoom.

### NAMI Family Support Group (Virtual)

Monday, August 19, 6:30-8:00 PM ET

In partnership with NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), this Family Support Group is peer-led and intended for parents and caregivers of children and youth (18 and under) who are experiencing behavioral or mental health symptoms. This group allows your voice to be heard and provides an opportunity for your personal needs to be met. Please join us virtually via Zoom the 3rd Monday of each month.

### Family Ties Monthly Gathering & Teen Tea Special Event: Annual Cookout (Saturday, Aug. 17)

In August, we are excited to join together at the Annual Cookout, so there will be no regularly scheduled Family Ties Monthly Gathering or Teen TEA.

In September, we will return to Michael's Daycare in Bedford Heights before moving to a yet-to-be determined location in October. Stay tuned for more details!

### Adoption 101: Where Do I Begin? (Virtual) Saturday, September 7, 8:30-12:30 PM ET

Considering becoming a parent or expanding a family through adoption 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 workshop intended for people looking into adoption for the first time. The workshop is designed to help prospective adoptive parents prepare, build confidence, and make a decision about the best route for their adoption journey.

Register for all events at <http://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

## ALL

### Annual Adoption Network Cleveland Cookout & General Meeting (In-Person)

Sat., Aug. 17 at Edgewater Park East Pavilion  
12:30-2:00 PM - General Discussion Meeting  
2:00-5:00 PM - Annual Cookout

Everyone connected to Adoption Network Cleveland and their families are invited to join us for our Annual Cookout! This includes anyone who has participated in programs - past or present, volunteers, donors, board members, staff, community partners, and family members. There will be food, games for the kids, entertainment, music, community and fun!

### What's New in Adoption? Panel Presentation

Wednesday, August 28, 7:00-8:30 PM ET  
Maltz Museum, Beachwood, OH

Presented in partnership with the Maltz Museum; this event requires a small registration fee. Join us at the museum for an insightful presentation from adoptive parents, adult adoptees, and birth parents. Moderated by Betsie Norris, this session focuses on personal experiences, social justice, and adoption issues. The panel will include people on all sides of adoption sharing their stories and experiences.

### Monday Evening Speaker Series

Thank You! Our 2023-24 Monday Evening Speaker Series was a success. The series pauses for summer and will return in September. These programs are made possible by donors and presenters volunteering their time and they thrive thanks to the active participation of attendees. Our fall lineup has just been announced, check out the great presentations we have planned [here!](#)



**Creating Futures Benefit & Silent Auction**  
Saturday, September 14, 6:00-10:00 PM ET  
Pickwick and Frolic, 2035 E. 4th St, Cleveland