



meetingplace

A MAGAZINE BY THE COMMUNITY, FOR THE COMMUNITY ... CONFERENCE 2012 EDITION



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Future Food Network Superstar?

A Piece from KAAAN's Unofficial "Poet Laureate"

JULY 2012
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May 21, 2012

Dear Citizens, Adoptees and Families!

Welcome to Albany, New York! We are honored to host you in the great state capital to celebrate the 14th Annual Korean American Adoptee Adoptive Family Network (KAAN) Conference.

KAAN has provided an invaluable service to Korean adoptees, adoptive and birth families, and the Korean American community. They build understanding, create open dialogue and foster relationships by making genuine connections and providing resources about Korean culture, adoption, and related issues.

Albany is proud to host such a dynamic group of caring individuals and families dedicated to bettering our community. We encourage visitors to also take some time to enjoy the unique capital attractions such as the Capitol Building and Empire State Plaza. Albany also offers an excellent mix of historic sites, phenomenal restaurants, museums and other entertainment venues

Best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable conference. Please come and visit us again soon!

Sincerely,

Daniel P. McCoy

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MISSION

To improve the lives of Korean-born adoptees by bringing together the community for dialogue, education, and support.

VISION

- ◆ To provide annual conferences that renew and connect individuals and organizational leaders, especially Korean-born adoptees and also including other Koreans and Korean-Americans as well as family members through birth, adoption, marriage, or parenthood. We also welcome members of other international or interethnic adoptive communities.
- ◆ To offer an ongoing source of community information and conversation through our website, e-newsletter, blog, and social media options;
- ◆ To serve the community with a spirit of collaboration and respect.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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KAAN is nonprofit as a project of fiscal sponsor The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (www.tfec.org). The official registration and financial information of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1.800.732.0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

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REMEMBER

Check the one-page conference schedule insert (called “session matrix” for short) for the most up-to-date schedule and location for each event. This insert contains information not available at press time.

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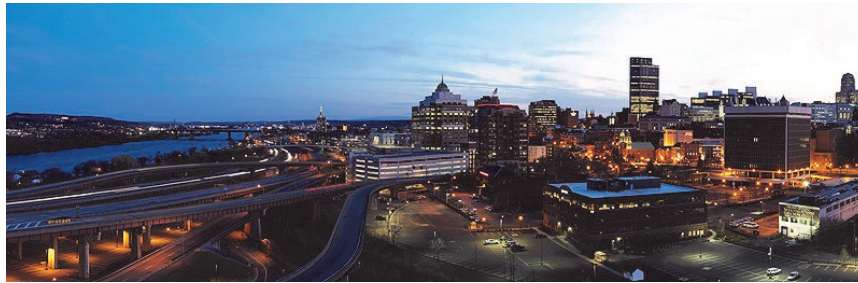
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GERALD D. JENNINGS
MAYOR

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CITY OF ALBANY
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Dear Conference Attendees,


On behalf of the City of Albany, I am honored to welcome you to the 14th Annual Korean American Adoptee Adoptive Family Network (KAAN) Conference, being held at the Marriott Hotel.

Our Capital City recognizes the important contributions KAAN has made to our community. For over twelve years, this organization has worked diligently to improve the lives of adoptees and their families through education and support. In addition, KAAN has helped to enhance appreciation of our City's cultural diversity and worked to strengthen the bonds of the adoptive family community.

I extend my best wishes for a successful weekend. After the event, I encourage you to discover all Albany has to offer, including our fine dining establishments, beautiful parks, excellent shopping, and numerous museums and historic sites. I hope you enjoy your stay in our Capital City and come back to visit again soon.



Sincerely,


Gerald D. Jennings
Mayor, City of Albany



Had fun this weekend?

Stay connected.

"Like" KAAN on Facebook *and* make sure we have your contact information!

The Ties Program

Korean Ties
 June 24-July 6, 2012
 June 23-July 5, 2013*
(*includes optional extensions)

Korea Connections
 July 6-15, 2012
 October 19-28, 2012

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Geographies of Kinship –
The Korean Adoption Story a film by Deann Borshay Liem

**Support the
Geographies of Kinship
Kickstarter Campaign!**

Geographies of Kinship – The Korean Adoption Story is the latest film from award-winning documentarian, Deann Borshay Liem (*First Person Plural* and *In the Matter of Cha Jung Hee*). The film follows several Korean adoptees on their journeys to reconnect with their birth country and piece together their past. Deann is raising funds for the production phase of the project. Please check out the Kickstarter trailer at www.mufilms.org and join our campaign today!

To support this project, please visit www.mufilms.org, www.katahdin.org, or contact info@mufilms.org.

director's notes

Welcome to Albany, New York and to KAAN's 14th annual conference! We are excited to add this magazine to our list of conference traditions and offerings.

I remember my first KAAN Conference in 2000. As I stood in the registration line, I saw friends greet one another with hugs. Children in a performance group squirmed excitedly in their hanboks, an occasional rattle escaping from their drums. Laughter filled the space yet tears rose in my eyes. I could feel the strength of the community already, the depth of the emotion waiting to be tapped. The weekend began, packed with reports and research, films and feelings, stories and support. I didn't say much. There was too much to learn.

I still feel that way. We are fortunate to have forged a community where so many voices are present and heard.

Last year, we introduced our new **Advisory Council** and discussed the need to expand our marketing and development efforts if KAAN was to remain viable. We've been hard at work behind the scenes doing just that. This weekend, you'll get a sneak peek at part of our **revised website** plus other materials (like this magazine). You'll also see a **professional photographer and videographer** at work documenting this event for future publications. Our updated website will feature a searchable **directory of resources** from across the nation and other parts of the world, thanks to the efforts of our new **regional resource persons**. You'll also hear about our **Team of 100 initiative** and a **possible online auction**.

Many, many people come together to make this conference and organization happen ... just look at the masthead on our inside cover. Let me call out a few who have gone well beyond: **Michael Stanley**, whose title of treasurer actually diminishes the breadth of his commitment, **Carolyn Hathaway**, who devoted the better part of this last year to restructuring our website, and **Rachel Hye Youn Rupright** for her dedicated pursuit of ways to promote the conference in the greater Albany area. The conference you experience this weekend would be a different, lesser event without their hard work and vision. Thanks also to **Martha Crawford** for jump-starting our new childcare program, to **Lindsay Nor-**



man and **Alex Wager** for planning for and mentoring the youth, and to **Mark Hagland** for his ongoing creative vision and support.

This magazine is chock-full of conference information as well as other items that reflect the needs and interests of our community. Our hope is that this new format is not just a fun surprise but a meaningful keepsake, a useful tool, and a solid introduction to KAAN for those new to our community.

In addition to tending to our own needs and planning, KAAN has always sought to support the community through promotion of other events and efforts as well. We are proud to serve as an outreach partner for the *Geographies of Kinship* **Kickstarter Campaign** (details at left). Please contribute to this worthy cause if you can, then join us in viewing the film at a future KAAN.

Thank you for investing the time and money to attend this conference. This is a powerful, meaningful, emotion-laden weekend. Take care of yourself and those around you. We're glad that you are here.

In friendship,

Stacy Schroeder

CITIZENSHIP MATTERS: Intercountry Adoption and U.S. Citizenship

by Margie Perscheid

Many of you have probably heard about adoptee deportations on the news and within the various online communities to which you subscribe. In our newsletter and Facebook pages, KAAN has posted links to numerous articles on the subject. We recently joined over forty organizations in signing a letter sent to the President of the United States (see AdopSource link near the end of this article) As we meet for KAAN 2012, a group of adoptees in DC are gathering with legislators to affect improvements. Here, from DC-based community activist Margie Perscheid, is a basic primer on what you need to know.

The most important legal safeguard that can be provided to an intercountry adoptee is citizenship in the country to which he or she has been adopted. Although the notion of the “forever family” and the passage of the Child Citizenship Act of 2000 (CCA 2000) lead most people to believe that intercountry adoptees have citizenship and obtained it automatically, this is not the case. The result is that even with this important law, adoptees have been left without citizenship or proof of it. KAAN therefore provides a few basics to help you understand your rights, responsibilities and recourse should you find you or your child lacks citizenship.

U.S. Department of State: The USDoS Bureau of Consular Affairs provides country-specific informational adoption notices and warning alerts for prospective adoptive parents and adoption agencies at its adoption site <http://adoption.state.gov/>. It is a starting point for all prospective adoptive parents.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services: USCIS maintains up-to-date information on visa and immigration requirements for intercountry adoption at its website at <http://www.uscis.gov/adoption>. Every prospective and new adoptive parent should become familiar with these requirements, especially their impact on their child’s future path to U.S. citizenship.

Child Citizenship Act of 2000: The passage of the CCA 2000 simplified the process of obtaining and documenting citizenship for some intercountry adoptees who were under the age of 18 years on February 27, 2001, the effective date of the legislation. However, this law did not provide blanket citizenship for all children entering the country after its passage or for those who were 18 and older on the effective date. Adoptive parents and adoptees alike should therefore understand its provisions and limitations:

- Children arriving in the U.S. on IR-3 visas automatically receive Certificates of Citizenship within 45 days of admission into the U.S. The majority of intercountry adoptions to the U.S. fall into the IR-3 visa category.
- Children arriving in the U.S. on IH-4 or IR-4 visas automatically acquire U.S. citizenship, if they are under 18 years of age as of the date of their full and final adoption in the United States. In these adoptions, the child does not automatically receive the Certificate of Citizenship. Adoptive parents should therefore file USCIS Form N-600 as soon the adoption is finalized to ensure that this important proof of legal status is available to their children whenever it may be needed, for example in completing college applications.



The Citizenship Act of 2000 simplified things for many young adoptees but check the fine print with regards to your – or your child’s – personal situation

· Children and adults who fall outside the age requirements of the CCA 2000, which are all intercountry adoptees 18 and older on February 27, 2001 receive no benefit from the CCA 2000. Adopted individuals who have not received citizenship through the provisions of the CCA 2000 may or may not have citizenship, depending on the actions taken by their adoptive parents. Because the risk of deportation is real, all adult intercountry adoptees should confirm their citizenship status and obtain proof of citizenship. Those who determine they are not citizen should seek legal assistance to the appropriate applications.

More information about the CCA 2000 is available in the FAQs section of the USDoS Adoption website: http://adoption.state.gov/adoption_process/faqs/child_citizenship_act_of_2000.php.

Guide to U.S. Citizenship for Adult International Adoptees: For a variety of reasons, from the complexity of immigration law to the failure of adoptive parents to complete the necessary citizenship paperwork, some intercountry adults have found in adulthood that they lack citizenship. Ethica's Guide to U.S. Citizenship for Adult International Adoptees <http://www.ethicanet.org/citizenshipguide.pdf> provides an overview of actions adopted adults can take to confirm their citizenship status and protect themselves from deportation by filing for citizenship.

Citizenship for All Intercountry Adoptees: Adoptee deportations and adoptee statelessness have galvanized the intercountry adoption community into action. As of KAAN 2012, there are several initiatives underway to move the U.S. Congress to whatever action is necessary to grant all intercountry adoptees citizenship regardless of their age when the CCA 2000 went into effect, and to reunite deported adoptees with their families in the United States. Here are several recent initiatives for your review and adoption:

AdopSource Adoption Community Letter to President Obama to stop the deportation of Kairi Shepherd and all intercountry adoptees: http://www.adopsource.org/Shepherd_Community_Letter_%20final.pdf

AdopSource Petition to Stop the Deportation of Russell Green and Other Adoptee Immigrants: <http://www.change.org/petitions/stop-the-deportation-on-russell-green-and-other-adoptee-immigrants>

Korean Focus Petition for Citizenship for All U.S. Intercountry Adoptees: <http://www.change.org/petitions/citizenship-for-all-us-intercountry-adoptees>



Attendees at the KAAN 2011 Adoptee Dinner ... not present is Matthew Scherer, an intended conference presenter on citizenship issues who could not attend due to problems with his own citizenship.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Sappy for Sapsaree



Who wouldn't fall for this beautiful dog? The Korean Sapsaree Foundation is now seeking individuals and families in the United States who might want to bring one of these wonderful dogs into their homes. They are particularly interested in connecting with Korean adoptees and have asked KAAN to publicize their mission.

The *sapsaree* 삼살견 is a rare Korean breed of dog that served as guardians for the Korean people in ancient times. The literal meaning of *sapsaree* is "one that roots out evil spirits." During ancient times, *sapsaree* were only kept and bred by royal families. During the Japanese colonial period, *sapsaree* were slaughtered by the Japanese government due to their symbolic nature as protectors of the Korean people.

Today, according to the Foundation, there are only three thousand Korean *sapsarees* available, and only recently have people outside of Korea been allowed to own this rare breed. In America, there are only about a hundred so far. The Foundation is devoted to building up the population and wants to educate others about the *sapsaree*.

For more information, contact koreansapsaree@sapsaree.org or visit:
<http://eng.sapsaree.org> (the organization's website)
<http://koreansapsaree.weebly.com> (includes photos and videos)



RESOURCES



Must-Read Blogs

The Internet puts a wealth of information at our fingertips but sometimes that plethora obscures the good things amongst the chaff. We asked prominent bloggers **Kevin Ost-Vollmers of Land of Gazillion Adoptees** and **Margie Perscheid of Third Mom** to help narrow the list by recommending a few of their favorite blogs related to Korean adoption. These blogs will challenge, inspire, and perhaps change you. Enjoy!

From Margie/ thirdmom.blogspot.com

(who also recommends *adoptionechoes* and *Harlow's Monkey* from Kevin's list at right):

[Birth Mother,] First Mother Forum (firstmotherforum.com) - American first mothers share experiences and opinions.

Cooking Korean Food with Maangchi (maangchi.com) - Korean food isn't optional.

Fleas Biting (fleasbiting.blogspot.com)—David Smolin, Desiree Smolin and Usha Rengachary biting against adoption injustice.

Korean American Story (koreanamericanstory.org)—Technically not a blog, but a must-read.

Land of Gazillion Adoptees (landofgazillionadoptees.com)—All things adoption brought to you by a butt-kicking team of adoptees, including Kevin Ost-Vollmers, Shelise Gieseke and Amanda Woolston.

Racialicious (racialicious.com) - The intersection of race and pop culture.

River, Blood and Corn (riverbloodandcorn.blogspot.com)—A community of voices led by Terra Trevor.

The Chucklehut (chucklehut.org) - Dan, an adoptive dad, blogs. It could be a book.

Joy's Division (joy21.wordpress.com) - Joy Madsen tells her story, which defies conventional labeling

From Kevin/ landofgazillionadoptees.com:

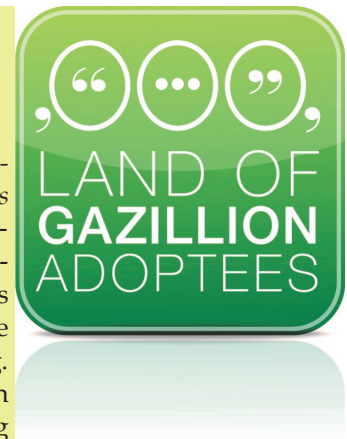
Joy Lieberthal's *adoptionechoes* (adoptionechoes.com) - Even though she describes it as such, there's nothing boring or "in the middle" about Joy's blog. I always walk away with something after reading her posts.

JaeRan Kim's *Harlow's Monkey* (harlowmonkey.tyepad.com) - JaeRan doesn't update the blog frequently anymore. However, much of what's in her first blog was way ahead of its time and thus remains absolutely relevant.

Amanda Woolston's *The Declassified Adoptee* (declassifiedadoptee.com) - Amanda, who's not even 30 years old, covers a lot of ground in this prolific blog. And, as one of LGA's editors, she's one of my favorite folks.

John Raible's *John Raible Online* (johnraible.wordpress.com) - John is one of my idols in adoption (that's saying something because I only have a few). I'll yell "success!" if I achieve half of what he has in his lifetime.

Slanty's *Slant Eye For The Found Eye* (slanteyefortheroundeye.com) - He's crass and this blog isn't for everyone. With that said, Slanty consistently has something relevant to say. I would strongly encourage adoptive parents with Asian children to take a look.



Elias Amarel's Soybean Paste Soup

Doenjang Jigae

Eli Amarel is a KAAN regular and young Brooklyn-based cook who regularly prepares meals for his family. He recently entered a Food Network magazine contest and also baked a wedding cake for a friend's wedding. With these talents and a name easily confused with Emeril, he surely has a culinary future!



INGREDIENTS:

5 tbs soybean paste (doenjang)
1 tsp red pepper paste (gochujang)
1 med daikon radish (mu)
1 medium head bok choy
14oz firm tofu
1/2 cup snow peas
3 scallions
5 dried anchovies - optional

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Wash/clean/prep vegetables..
2. Remove outer leaves of the bok choy, and thick part of the stems near the heart, leaving white narrow stem and green leaves.
3. Peel daikon radish.
4. Finely slice bok choy stems and leaves crosswise.
5. Slice snow peas into small strips.
6. Chop scallions - white and light green part.
7. Cut daikon length-wise then slice into thin half-moons.
8. Cube firm tofu into 1/2 or 1/4 inch cubes.
9. Add 5 level tbs of doenjang and 1 tsp of gochuchang to 5 cups of water, and simmer until paste dissolves.
10. If you are using anchovies - you may add them whole, chopped, or in broth "tea bags" to the broth.
11. Add rest of the ingredients_ simmer soup until vegetables are tender.
12. Serves 4 with leftovers. Serve with rice.

Enjoy!
~ Eli



A Kitchen Full of COOKBOOKS

On KAAN's new website debuting later this year, you'll find a directory of over 400 books related to Korea and or adoption., including a number of cookbooks (several published within the last year). The Korean Wave is roaring toward shore and chefs are taking notice. Nearly every cooking magazine or show references Korean food; Korean fusion food and restaurants are becoming exciting elements of the American experience. Here are some cookbooks you may want to check out, whether you are a Korean foodie or someone just "testing the waters":

- * **Authentic Recipes from Korea** by Injoo Chun, Jaewoon Lee, and Youngran Baek.
- * **Cooking the Korean Way** by Okwha Chungg and Judy Monroe.
- * **Dok Suni: Recipes from My Korean Mother's Kitchen** by Jenny Kwak.
- * **Flavors of Korea** by Marc and Kim Millon. Korean cooking with a Hawaiian influence.
- * **Growing Up in a Korean Kitchen** by Hi Soo Shin Hapinstall.
- * **Journey Home: A Collection of Korean Recipes and Cultural Memories** edited by the Mothers Association of Korean Americans.
- * **The Kimchi Chronicles: Korean Cooking for an American Kitchen** by Marja Vongerichten. Companion to the PBS series of the same name starring a Korean adoptee.



- * **Korean Cooking** by Hilaire Walden.
- * **The Korean Kitchen, Classic Recipes from the Land of Morning Calm** by Copeland Marks.
- * **The Korean Table: From Barbeque to Bibimbap, 100 Easy-To-Prepare Recipes** by Taekyung Chung and Debra Samuels.
- * **A Korean Mother's Cooking Notes** by Chang Sun-Young. Easy to follow; reads like a journal.
- * **Seoultown Kitchen: Korean Pub Grub to Share with Family and Friends** by Debbie Lee. By Food Network star contestant and owner of the popular Los Angeles food truck Ahn-Joo.
- * **Trail of Crumbs** by Kim Sunee. This memoir by a Korean adoptee and cook includes mouth-watering recipes.



Small Talk *by Stephen Johnson*

I went to the store, just the other day
To pick up some products at my convenience
Convenience stores have a funny way of fooling
us:
The facetious façade of filling up,
All for the price of freedom

And like any other day
I engaged in a kind of banal banter
Disproportionally labeled as small talk

An innocuous litany of daily discourse...
A simple ritual for the sake of social construction...
A candid comment or question stating the aptly
apparent...

Hey, how ya doin
Good to see you
Nice to meet you
I'm _____. What's your name?
Where're you from?
Where've you been?
Is it supposed to rain today?

But you see, for me
small talk is nothing but small
It's gargantuan
Slightly more salacious than simple similes
Small talk often leaves me stranded
Backed into a corner
where I'm supposed to share the most sincere
parts of myself

"What is your name?"

"Stephen," knowing that if I can just stick to the
script,
My first name can pass as a prototypical match for
my face
Stephen Kim, Stephen Park, Stephen Cho

And yet, the second someone sees my last name
another box has been opened that I've been trying
to keep closed
After all, I'm just trying to buy a tank of gas

"How did you get *that* name?"
And the questions continue,
"Where are you *from*?"
"No, where are you *really* from?"
"No, I mean where is your *family* from?"
"Korea," I say, beginning to feel anxious already

"North or South?"
As if people from the North get out

"Where in Korea are you from?"
"Busan," I say, although I've never been.

"Do you still have family there?"
"Yes," I say, although I've never met them.

Here's to hoping that one-word vaguery
will stop the invasive inquiry

"Where are your *real* parents?"
To which I think, *they live in Texas*
although I know what they mean
and my answer is that I really have no answer
And this is the part where I begin to feel

Debased, defensive and deceived
Sometimes I just don't feel like going there
But I'm the one left looking rude
Written off as just another angry Asian

Sometimes my life feels like a game to you
And in order for you to have your aha! moment
A piece of my past gets tossed around in the process

You see, for me, there are some things best left unsaid

Small talk becomes tall talk in a hurry.
And if I had a dollar for every time someone said,
"I don't mean to pry, but..."
"I don't mean to intrude, but..."
"I don't mean to be rude, but..."

Well, then don't.

Because if we play by the rules of logic,
Then you're either a liar or you just don't care
And that seems to be the problem there
All of us agree upon
The surreptitious shuffle to singlehandedly settle
on the best interests of the child...
But the question remains: who gets to decide?
Certainly not I
Because I'm standing here in a corner store
Telling some tattooed teen about the deepest parts
of me

And you want to call this *small* talk?

You see, sometimes I feel like Joseph Kony
Or some other kind of moral phony

Not to question my morality
But rather for want of my vitality
This duality of my totality

Can feel a little fake
And simply for convenience sake
It's easy just to fabricate

To be a child, and say whatever gets the most at-
tention
To be in high school, and say whatever helps you
to blend in
To be in college, and convinced that you're not
really Korean
To be in Korea, and say that you're Chinese

Because, believe me
Small talk can get deep in a hurry.

*This is the third year that Stephen Johnson, a member of
KAAN's Advisory Council and presenter at this year's
conference, has shared his special brand of poetry and
powerful message with the KAAN community.*

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CourageInStone has kindly donated a supply
of the beautiful stones above, plus some oth-
ers, to KAAN to sell as a conference fundrais-
er. You'll find them at our book sale table near
the registration desk. What a great keepsake
to place on your desk or nightstand or even
incorporate some way in your garden!

Thank you, CourageInStone!

KAAN ANNUAL REPORT

KAAN: By the Numbers

KAAN is a community organization ... our program each year directly reflects the talents and interests of those who attend. Our direction is largely influenced by feedback and support we get from you. In that spirit, we give a report on events of the last year as well as answers to some frequently asked questions about the organization.



What makes KAAAN unique? How is it different from other adoptee and adoptive family groups out there?

There are many fine organizations out there doing excellent work — adoptee groups, activists, adoptive family support groups, cultural organizations, and first/ birthparent coalitions. We do our best to be aware of this work and share it with the community. KAAAN's role, however, is different than many of these groups. We do not represent one demographic or one perspective. It is our hope that, through bringing people of many backgrounds together, we can find some common ground. In a world that is increasingly polarized, a place like this is valuable. Our programs are strong, as is our ability to incorporate new ideas and viewpoints..

What does KAAAN do, exactly?

Our mission: To improve the lives of Korean-born adoptees by bringing together the community for dialogue, education, and support.

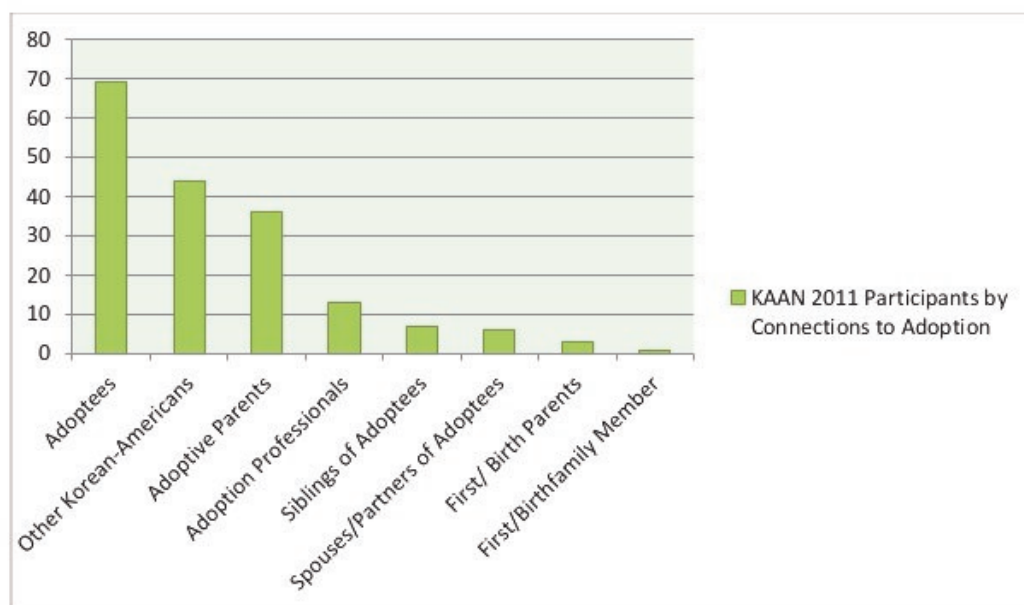
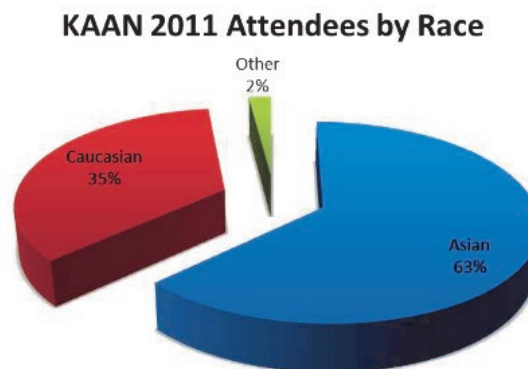
Our main project, of course, is our conference. Site selection begins two years out, followed by a visit to scout hotels and negotiate a contract. We spend time with local citizens to learn about the area and help to improve connections within the community. A conference theme is chosen, followed by a session selection process that invites people throughout the world to submit proposals. At the beginning of each conference year, the focus turns to program and marketing (with plenty of administrative tasks too). Because our rates are discounted, fundraising is necessary. Usually we are at work on more than one conference at once. Through the submission process, surveys, evaluations, and other communications, we give the community plenty of opportunities to express topics of interest. We look for keynote speakers, authors, and films that represent current thought as well as highlight regional site strengths.

We also support the community in the following ways :

1. Build relationships with other adoptee and adoptive community organizations
2. Participate in community events and discussions (including some speaking and writing)
3. Gather information to share via our newsletter, Facebook, Twitter, and other media outlets
 - Important issues and articles
 - New books, films, surveys, research, and petitions for change
 - Other community events
4. Respond to individual requests for information and support
 - Connect adoptees with birthsearch organizations
 - Assist adoptees and family members with finding resources within their local areas
 - Listen to personal stories and challenges
5. Raise funds for discounted registrations, scholarships, and other community support

Who attends KAAN conferences?

We have a core group who attends almost every year, no matter what location, and others who attend when the conference is within their region. In 2011, 59% of our attendees were returning participants and 41% were first-timers. We have a strong yet intimate youth program each year with about 25 youth participating alongside adults who attend. As you can see from the accompanying graphs, our largest demographic is adoptees. The “other Korean-American” total includes local youth program chaperones and gala dinner attendees. However, non-adopted Korean-Americans also attend the conference proper every year because they care about adoptees and want to be involved.



Why the recent emphasis on fundraising? What is going on?

Like the rest of the United States, KAAN has been affected by changes in the economy. We are particularly vulnerable because so many of our attendees must fly in order to participate and often weigh attendance against vacation time in tightening budgets. Families wishing to attend are particularly hard hit since their expenses are multiplied over additional members.

Pre-9/11, our average attendance was in the 300s with a record high of 400; in recent years, we have been totaling in the low 200s. Our conference rates were designed to break even at the higher numbers. In light of our situation, this year we raised our fees by \$30 per person for the first time. However, at current attendance levels, the true cost per paying attendee (approx. \$400 per person) is still much higher than the \$229 charged. As of press-time, while there is still much variable income and expenses to process related to the conference, we estimate we will need another \$8-10,000 to break even this year. We have a small reserve that we have been dipping into for the last few years but this will not last forever. That is why we are making a concerted effort to make the community aware of KAAN's financial needs.

We have used the economy to our advantage in hotel contract negotiations the last few years and saved money, but that window may be closing. Flight costs are rising again as well. For the next few years, we plan to look at conference sites in the midwest and central parts of the United States with accessible airports to reduce the cost burden on those who wish to attend.

There is not a developed culture of giving financially at KAAN because there has not needed to be in the past. Only a handful of individuals contribute regularly (though many volunteer). Since the staff donate their time and office space/equipment, we have a lean budget without the traditional places to tap for cuts. We are making some cautious investments in marketing to boost attendance and donations over time and to use in applications for grants. However, we expect the best source of support will come from the community. Just like you (the community) have a voice in the programming of this organization, we also look to you to help support the debt created in serving you (the community).

INCOME IN 2011

\$40,189.68

EXPENSES IN 2011

\$43,880.38

FINAL BALANCE

\$-3,690.70

All right. You've got my attention. Now what is being done about it?

Fortunately, we've got a few years to turn this around. The first pieces — items that tell our story and make our case — are in place or will be soon: we have this magazine to share with potential donors; a video and expanded website are due out later this year. We're getting set up with donor database software and email management programs that will enable us to reach out more easily to our constituency.

TEAM OF 100 DONORS

(January 1-June 15, 2012)

The following individuals have generously responded to KAAN's challenge to contribute \$100 or more to KAAN's efforts in 2012. There's still room on the team ... won't you join us?

**Evans, Margaret & Mark
Ferszt, Ginette & Edmund
Ko, Grace
Morton, Jeremy
Schroeder, Allison
Schroeder, Stacy & Matthew**

Please see page 43 for a listing of businesses and organizations that have contributed to KAAN's work through direct donations, purchase of advertisements, dinner reservations, and other efforts. Our volunteers are listed there as well.

We are grateful for support in all forms.

This year we have applied for and received grants from Morgan Stanley and from the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Health, Welfare, and Family Affairs. Depending on reactions at the conference, we are considering the hosting of an online auction to raise funds. We also encourage motivated individuals and organizations to consider hosting a fundraiser on KAAN's behalf ... perhaps a dinner or performance or other activity that brings the community together. Anyone who has ideas in this area should contact us to discuss them further.

With our Team of 100 initiative, we are beginning to publicly gather and thank those who get on board to make a difference by contributing \$100 or more in 2012. If half our conference attendees, 25% of our mailing list, or 21% of our Facebook fans join the Team of 100 in the remaining six months of this year, we will meet — and defeat! — the projected \$10,000 deficit. Will we make it? That is up to you.



KAAN 2012 Advisory Council

Front: Carolyn Scholl, Jennifer Cox, Sara Campbell, Jen Hilzinger

Back: Mark Hagland, Hyaekyung Jo, Stacy Schroeder, Sook Wilkinson, Michael Stanley.

Missing: Kimberly McKee, Stephen Johnson

How can I get more involved with KAAN?

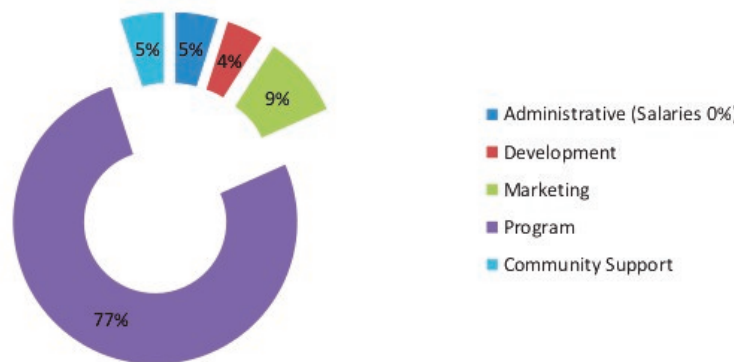
Make sure you are on our mailing and email newsletter lists and connected to our Facebook and Twitter sites so you hear about upcoming opportunities. Here are some positions for which you can apply. Visit our website or talk to KAAN's leaders to find out more:

- ◆ Regional resource representative
- ◆ Advisory Council member
- ◆ Adoptee mentor for conference youth
- ◆ Conference speaker or presenter
- ◆ Conference performer
- ◆ Conference volunteer (help with sign-in, greeting new attendees, taking photos, moving supplies, and other jobs)

- ◆ Local planning team member

One of the most significant ways you can assist is to be an advocate for KAAN right where you are. Invite your friends and family to attend. Pass on ideas. Contribute as you can. We appreciate every bit of help.

KAAN 2012 Budget Breakdown



Got ideas?

We're listening.

Fill out the evaluation form after this year's conference, or send a recommendation, question, or event promotion to us anytime at info@kaanet.com. KAAN is your community!

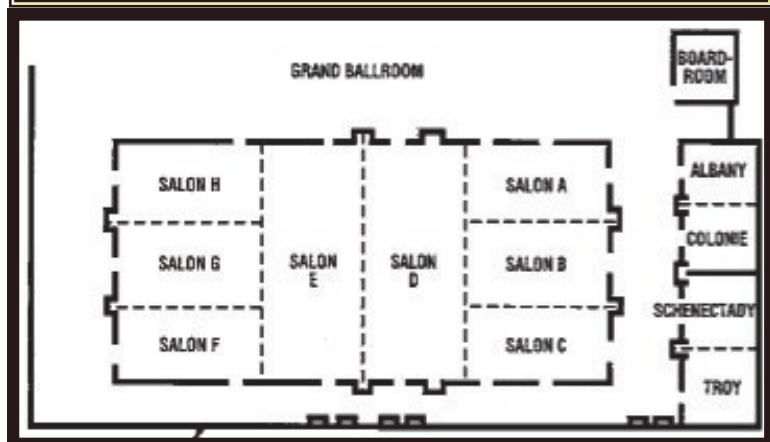
Welcome to Albany, NY and to KAAN's 14th annual conference, an event *by* the community and *for* the community that reflects the interests, skills, and priorities of those who participate. It is a hallmark of our group that we maintain a climate of respect despite bringing together passionate people with a variety of strong opinions.

Please let us know if you need anything to help you settle in. Our registration/ information table will be staffed for most of the conference. Announcements will also be made at mealtimes.



MAP OF CONFERENCE ROOMS

We're using Salons E-H as our ballroom. Empire, site of some of our youth/childcare programs, is just up the hallway past the Boardroom (towards the restaurant and lobby).



*** Schedule accurate as of press time. Please check magazine insert for the most up-to-date listing with room assignments. **Adoptee-only sessions are marked with an asterisk.*****

FRIDAY, JULY 27

2:00-5:30PM

Registration

Vendors/Exhibitors

3:00-4:15PM

Short Film Screening/Discussion –
When Your Daughter Makes Adoption
Her Work: One Adoptee's Routes & Roots
Intergenerational Craft (drop-in)

4:30-7:00PM

Adoptee Dinner (offsite)

Mixer; Dinner on Own

7:30-7:45PM

Conference Kickoff

8:00-9:30PM

Film Screening – *Finding Seoul*
Family Film Screenings – *Juxtaposed*;
My Beautiful Girl Mari

SATURDAY, JULY 28

7:00-8:45AM

Continental Breakfast

7:30AM

Youth Breakfast Meetup

(Field trip 9:00-5:00PM)

Registration Table Opens

8:00AM

Opening Keynote: Kimberly McKee

9:30AM-10:45AM/ Session Block 1

- ♦ ** Raising Our Children **
- ♦ Where Do Heritage Connections Take You?
- ♦ Betwixt and Between: Navigating Identity Development
- ♦ The Core Issues of Adoption

schedule

11:00-12:15PM/ Session Block 2

- ◆ Understanding and Supporting Mental Health in the Family of Adoption
- ◆ Fifty Wonders of Korea
- ◆ Guiding Journeys: Adoptee Mentorship Programs
- ◆ Korean Language: A Powerful Aid for Your Journey
- ◆ ** Creating Ties That Bind: A Discussion on Relationships for Adoptees & Their Partners **

12:30-2:00PM

Luncheon & Keynote: Hannah Song

2:15-3:30PM/ Session Block 3

- ◆ ** Finding Your Identity **
- ◆ Bringing Kimchi Into Our White Bread World
- ◆ Don't Wait 'Til Mommy Gets Home
- ◆ Starting a Support Group
- ◆ Who Owns the Information?

3:45-5:00PM/ Session Block 4

- ◆ Twenty-Five Years of Camp Mujigae
- ◆ Korean Folktales
- ◆ Racism and White Privilege
- ◆ Compromised Attachments: What Parents Need to Know
- ◆ ** Safe Haven **

6:00-8:15PM

Gala Dinner Program

Piano Trio Concert: *feat.* Young Kim

7:00-8:30PM

Youth Chill Zone

8:30-9:30PM

Supporting Each Other sessions

- ◆ ** Adult Adoptees **
- ◆ Partners and Siblings of Adoptees
- ◆ Parents of Adult Adoptees
- ◆ Parents of School-Age Adoptees
- ◆ Parents of Preschool Adoptees
- ◆ First/Birthparents

SUNDAY, JULY 29

7:45-8:15AM

Prayers and Candlelighting (*drop-in*)

7:45-8:45AM

Continental Breakfast

8:45-10:00AM/ Session Block 5

- ◆ ** Don't Hate My Face **
- ◆ The Shift from Color Blind to Color Conscious
- ◆ Themes of Motherhood and Grandmotherhood Explored and Honored
- ◆ Our Journey to Wholeness
- ◆ Good Enough Parenting
- ◆ Youth (7-17) Adoption Forum: Exploring Identity

10:15-11:30AM/ Session Block 6

- ◆ ** Giving Ourselves the Respect We Deserve and Never Received **
- ◆ Experiencing Korea Together to Change America
- ◆ Look at Me, Don't Look at Me: Race, Culture, and Image
- ◆ Talking About Adoption
- ◆ Youth (11-17) Chat: You Are Not Alone
- ◆ Youth (7-17) Program: Journal-Making

11:45-12:30PM

Closing and Keynote: Stephen Johnson



YOUTH (AGES 7-17) PROGRAM



the coordinators:

Lindsay Norman, Alex Wager, Martha Crawford

the program:

The youth program is an integral part of KAAN's conference. Many who attend are young adoptees; the program is open to siblings and children of adoptees as well. Our most important goal is to connect youth to the community. We progress from casual activities to ones of deeper conversation. Friendships are frequently forged. A number of adult adoptees attending KAAN this weekend grew up through the youth program.

Friday afternoon: an intergenerational drop-in craft activity

Friday evening: a family-friendly film festival running alongside the adult documentary

Saturday field trip: Korean cooking class, mini golf and ice cream, swimming. These activities are designed to give participants time to get to know one another in a fun, non-threatening environment and to give them a positive experience of traveling in a primarily Asian-American group.

Saturday Night Chill Zone: a space where youth can hang out together with supervision but no structured activities. A movie will be playing; books and games are welcome.

Sunday morning: three program choices within two time slots focus on identity, dealing with school challenges (teens), and a nice send-off journal making activity.

For more info, look up each program in the Session Details section.



CHILDCARE (AGES 3-7) PROGRAM

the coordinator:

Martha Crawford

the program:

This new offering provides the chance for younger children (and their parents) to participate in the conference in a modified way. Parents take shifts working in a childcare room where age-appropriate activities are offered and adoptee mentors engage the children. It is our hope that the relationships built here will be sustaining ones for the children and parents alike. We also hope that this "beta" model will evolve into a regular conference option in future years.

session details

friday @ 3:00pm

Short Film and Discussion/ When Your Daughter Makes Adoption Her Work: One Adoptee's Routes and Roots

Kimberly McKee, Nancy Herbert

The session will screen Kimberly's digital narrative, tracing her experience returning to Korea and exploring her location as an adoptee and a scholar studying adoption. Following the screening she will comment alongside her mother Nancy, who will share her reaction to the narrative. Nancy will also discuss her understanding of adoption as a parent.

Intergenerational Craft Activity

Lindsay Norman, Alex Wager

Drop by to meet crafty KAAN youth program leaders Alex and Lindsay. Sketch a picture and find out something new about some of your neighbors for the weekend.

friday @ 4:30pm

Mixer

Jen Hilzinger

For first-time attendees and others wishing to make connections, this upbeat half hour will get you talking to other conference participants and making friends in no time flat!

Adoptee Dinner

Rachel Hye Youn Rupright

Feast with other adoptees at Mingle, a great new Albany restaurant featuring Korean fusion food.

friday @ 7:30pm

Conference Kickoff

Rachel Hye Youn Rupright, Stacy Schroeder, Michael Stanley

Meet KAAN's leaders, hear some expectations for our time together, and more.

friday @ 8:00pm

Family Film Screenings

Alex Wager, Martha Crawford

View Alex Wager's animated short *Juxtaposed* and the Korean animated film *My Beautiful Girl Mari*. *Juxtaposed* (7 min.): A small lightbulb, given up by his mother to live in a world of water faucets, begins to feel the weight of being different. He decides to set out on a journey to find his "real mother" only to find she was with him all along. This is a personal story and serves as a visual depiction of my experiences in dealing with my own adoption and the acceptance of others. *My Beautiful Girl Mari* (80 min.): This film follows the story of a young boy during summer vacation and ascends into flights of surrealistic fantasy, which may or may not be dream sequences.

Finding Seoul: One Man's Journey

John Sanvidge

Born in Korea and raised in the Albany, New York area, John Sanvidge wanted to search for his birth parents. As a film producer, John decided to record his journey in film. What he found, surprised everyone.

saturday @ 8:00am

The Politics of Community and Coalition Building

Kimberly McKee

This keynote will examine how adult adoptees, adoption practitioners, adoptive parents, birth parents, and other stakeholders construct the adoptive community. I will then situate the location of KAAN within these wider conversations. I argue that instead of representing a specific strand of the

adoption experience, KAAN seeks to create a sustainable community that represents various adoption stakeholders. This community cannot be viewed as a static concept that situates adoptive parents against birth parents or adult adoptees and divides adoptees into two groups of "grateful and happy" and "ungrateful and angry." Change will occur only if commonalities are found. Consequently, this keynote will underscore the importance of individuals' personal reflexivity to aid such coalition building. In other words, I am invested in increasing our ability as a collective community to critically reflect on our own lives and judgments. In addition, coalition building does not mean we all have similar beliefs or understandings of adoption. Instead, I believe organizations such as KAAN exist to facilitate a dialogue that bridges multiple and sometimes divergent voices across the community.

saturday @ 9:30am

Raising Our Children: New Chapters in the Adoptee Journey

*Kathy Damiano, Mark Hagland, Brad Plaster *ADOPTEEES ONLY**

In this session, adult adoptees will discuss with one another one of the more complicated and little-discussed issues unique to them: explaining their adoption journey to their children. In addition to having to live the "narrative burden" of being required to explain who they are to the larger world, transracial adoptees face special issues once they become parents: they have to explain to their young children topics that are complex and difficult even

for adults to understand. For example: *why do none of my grandparents look like me? What is a birthparent? What happened to your birthparents?* In addition, they face challenges around potentially giving their children a culture they never grew up with themselves, and explaining race and ethnicity to their children in ways that most parents don't have to. What's more, having children often pushes adult adoptees forward in their own individual adoptee journeys, meaning that sometimes, such issues as travel to Korea, birth search, and other topics come up in new ways once adoptees become parents.

Where Do Heritage Connections Take You?

Eyoungsoo Park, Chris Winston, David Winston, Nayoung Lee Winston

The Winston family made extensive Korean heritage connections from the time their children were small, mostly through the efforts of David's mom Chris. In Fall 2009, David returned to live and work in Korea. The connections from his childhood came together in interesting and sometimes unexpected ways. In May 2011, David married a Korean girl, Nayoung Lee, whom he met when he first arrived. The vows were facilitated by Eyoungsoo Park, long-time Winston family friend. David Winston, Nayoung Lee Winston, Eyoungsoo Park, and Chris Winston will share their perspectives on the experience. What is it like for an adoptee to return to live and work in Korea? What is it like for a Korea girl to marry an adoptee? What has it been like as a Korean-American to watch an adoptee reclaim his heritage? What is it like for a mom to share her son's journey? Come learn and share with us.

Between & Between: Navigating the Identity Develop-

ment Process in Transracially Adopted Korean-Americans

Erica DeBlase, Holly Grant-Marsney

This workshop will provide educational materials, resources, and an opportunity to ask questions and dialogue about the challenges unique to Korean adoptees during their identity development process. The identity development process includes the formation of one's racial, ethnic and adoptive identity. This process is often complicated by experiences of racism and stigmatization.

The Core Issues of Adoption as Normative Response to Adoption

Marie Dolfi, LCSW

Most members of the adoption triad will experience similar feelings and issues because of how adoption and relinquishment affected their lives. Often these issues are referred to as the core issues of adoption. This workshop will discuss the original core issues identified by Silverstein & Kaplan (loss, rejection, guilt and shame, grief, identity, intimacy, control), and additional issues (claiming, abandonment, entitlement, fitting in, loyalty) as normative feelings towards being adopted and the adoption experience. Discussion will also look at how these issues might be experienced in opening a closed adoption, open adoption relationships in addition to closed adoption relationships.

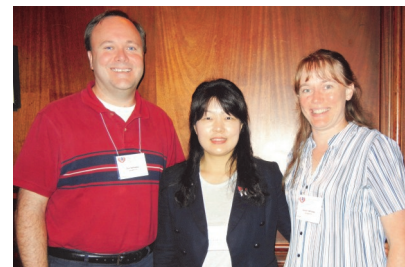
saturday @ 11:00am

Korean Language: A Powerful Aid for Your Journey

Grace Ko

Sooner or later, many adoptees might have desire to be connected with Korean culture and society. Journeys begin, but a great obstacle is the language barrier. Since there is no relationship between Korean and English language, it is very hard for adoptees to master Ko-

rean. The good news is that Korean is a phonetic language, so it is relatively easy to learn the alphabet system. The first part of the session will deal with the Korean alphabet, praised by linguists around the world as the most scientific and logical writing system. The second part will include some success stories in Korean learning from Korean adoptees of different ages. It will also suggest ways and resources to learn Korean language in the U.S. and the responsibility required from the Korean government and society. This session is inspired by some adult adoptees who went through the difficult process of learning and adoptive families passionate enough to send their kids to weekend Korean schools.



Fifty Wonders of Korea and Korea Today

Korean Spirit & Culture Promotion Project

Watch two short films, the first about South Korea's successful IT industry and the second about a relatively unknown but truly unique Korean artifact: Sokkuram, a stone grotto built as a Buddhist shrine approximately 1,200 years ago. Reenactment of Korean traditional wedding will follow.

Understanding and Supporting Mental Health in the Family of Adoption

Sara Campbell, Martha Crawford, Suzanne d'Aversa, Sook Wilkinson

Adoption begins on a foundation of loss. In addition, adoptive parents and their children are often faced with a lack of

medical information and history. While most mental health issues in adoption are normative reactions to the losses inherent in adoption, at times there are also genetic predispositions to mental health challenges. Four therapists representing different perspectives will discuss mental health issues and how they are impacted by adoption. Panelists include a Korean psychologist and three social workers – an adoptive mother, an adoptee, and therapist specializing in adoption issues. Particular focus will be paid to understanding the impact of grief and loss for teens and young adults as it impacts their emotional health. This workshop should be helpful to parents trying to support their children whether teens or adults as they both launch into adulthood and meet their mental health needs. The panel will also look at how these issues affect parents seeking to support their growing children and the feelings it can arouse in them as parents.

Guiding Journeys - Adoptee Mentorship Programs

Susan Becker, Marissa Martin, John Santamore

Also-Known-As, Inc., began in early 1996 out of a desire to create an organization that recognized and celebrated the community of people whose lives, through adoption, bridge nations, cultures and races. Recognizing the invaluable resource and experience of adult intercountry adoptees, in May of 1996, a small group of Korean adoptees and friends in the New York metropolitan area, began planning a mentorship program targeted to a new generation of intercountry adoptees. This session will give an overview of the Also-Known-As Teen and Youth Mentorship Programs and answer questions

about the elements needed to start your own program.

Creating Ties That Bind: A Discussion on Relationships for Adoptees and Their Partners

Sara Campbell, Kathy Damiano, Mark Hagland, Stephen Johnson, Whitney Johnson * **ADOPTees & PARTNERS ONLY** *

While each adoptee journey remains unique, there are often common themes that many adult adoptees find challenging and even baffling to deal with. For example, how do spouses and partners fit into the adult adoptee's experience, and what does it mean to have to explain oneself in a romantic partnership? How can we grow closer, especially as our own narratives continually shift and change? Come join us for an intimate group discussion on committed relationships within the framework of the particular issues experienced by adoptees and their partners. The purpose of this session is to provide validation for all, while also encouraging and enhancing our relationships. All adoptees and their partners are invited to share stories, ideas, and constructive dialogue in a safe environment.

saturday @ 12:30pm luncheon & keynote

Changing North Korea

Hannah Song

The death of Kim Jong-il has brought renewed focus on North Korea. But too often that focus is dominated by concerns over nuclear weapons or security issues or on the attitudes of its reclusive leaders. But despite changes at the top of the leadership in Pyongyang, the harsh reality of life for ordinary North Koreans goes on. The North Korean people are living under the most ruthless system of political repression

ever assembled. They have suffered through humanitarian disasters, crippling poverty, chronic food shortages and a denial of even the most basic freedoms, which has led hundreds of thousands of North Koreans to leave behind their families and homes to escape their beloved country. But for more than a decade, changes have been happening inside North Korea at the grassroots level being driven by the people. We have an opportunity shift our attention from the politics of North Korea to the people and to empower them to continue increasing these pressures for change inside.

saturday @ 2:15

Finding Your Identity

Amanda Nestleroth

* **ADOPTees & SIBLINGS ONLY** *

Amanda Nestleroth will share her personal experience of adoption with a sibling into a family and the experiences which led to the acceptance of her adoption and Korean heritage as well as a desire to help others on their own journeys.

Bringing Kimchi Into Our White Bread World: Adoptive Families Embracing Korean Culture and Language

Erica Engler, Michelle Miller

This session will give concrete ideas and encouragement to adoptive parents and adoptees about how to integrate Korean culture and language into their lives in a deeper and more personal level that is also manageable. We will present research findings and testimonies of adult adoptees expressing need for greater connection to their birth heritage and talk about how that shapes our parenting choices. We will also give examples from our families of how we each got started and offer advice and resources (documentaries, blogs, and

websites) that have been helpful in our learning process as adoptive parents. Our goal is to help inspire adoptees and adoptive parents to reach beyond a museum level appreciation of Korean culture and then draw a roadmap for them on how to get started.



Don't Wait 'til Mommy Gets Home: Striving for Collaboration in Co-Parenting the Transracially Adopted Child

David Amarel, Michael Burdan, Martha Crawford, Glen Hilzinger, Jen Hilzinger

The adoptive family is comprised of multiple intersecting relationships that function continuously, occasionally, or purely in imagination. These include: adoptive parent/child, birthparent/child, adoptive parent/birthparent, etc. In this session we will focus on the relationships of (and between) adoptive co-parents and how these can divide and overlap along differing roles and genders. How are the practical and emotional tasks of parenting shared or divided? How are relationships with the extended family impacted? How are outside relationships brokered and nurtured, e.g., with the Korean and Korean adoptee community, or with the broader adoption community? This discussion will be led by two pairs of adoptive parents and a young adult Korean adoptee. We will explore congruence and conflict in co-parenting transracially adopted children.

Through an exchange of ideas and experiences with session participants, we aim to learn from (maybe even laugh about) our missteps, and also to reinforce and celebrate diverse aspects of collaborative parenting.

Starting a Support Group & Keeping A Support Group Strong

Marie Dolfi, LCSW

Workshop will address the nuts and bolts of starting a support group and fundamentals of support group structure and organization. Topics discussed will be how to use email, the Internet, marketing the support group and defining roles for group leaders. The benefits of membership, incorporation and the need for insurance will also be reviewed.

Who Owns the Information? Adoptees, Adoptive Parents, and Protecting Adoptee Information

Mark Hagland, Margie Perscheid, Terra Trevor

Long before birthfamily search becomes a topic of serious discussion, adoptive parents and adoptees must come to terms with the information or lack of information about the adoptee's history. Adoptive parents may actively seek more information than was offered by their adoption agency, for a variety of reasons: to ensure their child has access to all the information that exists about him or her; to help meet their child's desire to know more; or to satisfy their own curiosity. Is it appropriate for adoptive parents to gather information on behalf of a young child? If so, what boundaries and responsibilities should they respect? If not, what can they do to protect the information that exists and ensure their children have access to it when they reach adulthood? This session will consider these questions

from the perspectives of an adoptee and an adoptive parent whose different experiences provide different insights into this complex topic.

saturday @ 3:45

Twenty-Five Years of Camp Mujigae

Kathleen Duda, Bart Goldstein, Joel Goldstein, Wook-Jin Hwang

Founded in 1986, Camp MuJi-Gae has built a strong program and that has survived changes in leadership and actively incorporates adoptees, adoptive parents, and other Korean-Americans in its programming. Over the last quarter century, camper numbers have grown from 25 to 300, with programs for infants through teens. Come learn about this program and gets ideas for your own organization.

Learn About Korea Through Its Folktales

Korean Spirit & Culture Promotion Project

Watch several animated Korean folktales highlighting traditional values that the Koreans considered important, such as filial devotion, loyalty, respect and benevolence. In addition, young children can try on traditional Korean clothes (hanbok) and learn how to do sebae, which is a New Year's bow and greeting to the parents and the elders.

Racism and White Privilege for the Adoptee and the Transracial Adoptive Family

April Callen, Mark Hagland, Jen Hilzinger, Terra Trevor

This is a guided discussion about race, racism, white privilege, and white culture led by a multiracial panel. Some of the topics we will explore we will relate personally from our own lives and experiences. No quick fixes or to-do lists here. For those of us brave enough to 'go there,' conversations of

race among multiracial groups often get complicated and sometimes even heated. This session endeavors to provide a safe space for a short time in our lives to share and explore journeys within families comprised of white adults who choose to adopt kids of color. Anti-racist ally-ship, education, diversifying our personal lives and sincere reflection will be explored and encouraged.



Compromised Attachments: What Parents Need to Know

Suzanne d'Aversa, LCSW

The groundwork is laid for healthy attachments in children during their first year of life. Children who form healthy attachments during this time typically fare better. A healthy attachment can be transferred, but a child whose needs are not consistently met during this first year will likely struggle with issues of trust. This workshop will review what parents can do to promote healthy attachments even when a strong attachment was not made during that first year. Parents often will notice the unhealthy attachment when their child is engaging with strangers or superficial people in their life but is rejecting or aloof with his or her parents. This workshop will help participants identify when there may be attachment problems and when this is not the issue. Once an attachment problem is identified, understanding the child's core hurt allows parents to respond differently, focusing on the relational experience rather than just the behavior. This can provide a corrective emo-

tional experience for the child, even a teen or young adult, so that child can enjoy the connection of a reciprocal relationship with their parent.

Safe Haven

Kerry Bondy, Sara Campbell

*** ADOPTEEES ONLY ***

This session will provide a safe, nonjudgmental forum for adult adoptees to share experiences with their peers including, but not limited to, adjustment and identity issues, feelings of depression or anxiety, and other mental health issues. We will discuss personal experiences with various treatments and explore avenues to obtain any needed help post-conference.

saturday @ 6:00pm gala dinner

Stacy Schroeder, Michael Stanley, Stephen Johnson, Rachel Hye Youn Rupright, Young Kim, and others

Enjoy dinner and conversation with your tablemates before we begin our evening program and festivities. Program includes a recognition ceremony, short concert, and several other additions. Saturday Gala Dinner guests are welcome to arrive anytime after 5:30PM and stay through the evening's activities.

Piano Trio:

*Spring in my homeland/ Nan-Pa Hong
You were born to be loved / Min Seop Lee
Longing for Geumkang Mountain/
Young Seop Choi*

Performed by:

*Young Kim, piano
Rachel Jisoo Sohn, violin
Helene Ryu, cello*

saturday @ 7:00pm Youth (7-17) Chill Zone

Martha Crawford and others

A space where registered youth can hang out together from 7-8:30PM (second half of the gala) with supervision but no structured program. A movie will be playing; books and games are welcome.

saturday @ 8:30pm

Supporting Each Other Sessions

A quiet place to decompress and process feelings from the day. No formal session ... just a safe place to talk. See matrix for locations and groupings.

sunday @ 7:45am

Prayers and Candlelighting

Suzanne d'Aversa

Visit this quiet place for prayer, meditation, and reflection. Come and go as you want ... candles and soft music will be available, but there will be no specific service or structured gathering.

sunday @ 8:45

Don't Hate My Face: Adoptees Explore Facial and Body Image Issues

*Sara Campbell, Becky Cioppa, Mark Hagland *** ADOPTEEES ONLY ****

Adult adoptees will find a safe, welcoming forum in which to discuss one of the "taboo" issues transracial adoptees face throughout their lifetimes: the psychological problems associated with facial and body image dysphoria/dissatisfaction. Most transracial adoptees grow up feeling "not right" about their faces and bodies, comparing them to the majority-white norm and feeling socially marginalized because of hurtful comments and taunting. As adults, they find lingering issues around self-acceptance of their own faces and bodies. What's more, adult adoptees often feel reluctant to discuss these issues with their own families, partners, and friends, sensing that they won't truly understand. Adoptees will share stories and support each other on the journey to wholeness and integration in this crucial area.

The Shift from Color Blind to Color Conscious

Kathy Crissey LMHC

This workshop will explore re-

cent recommendations by leading child welfare advocates to revise federal laws dealing with transracial adoption. With concerns that the needs of black children are not met by a "colorblind" approach to placement, adoption advocates are recommending that race should be considered in selecting adoptive families and that race-oriented pre-adoption training be a necessity in transracial adoption. This workshop will focus on assessing family's needs when adopting transracially and methods to assist in developing cultural competence and awareness of "color consciousness" in raising their child. Implementing a Cultural Continuity Plan should be the responsibility of every organization involved in domestic and international transracial and transcultural adoptions. This workshop will help you to develop plans for children and their families that illustrate that every child has a right to build racial pride within his or her home and community.



Theme of Motherhood and Grandmotherhood Explored and Honored

Kerry Bondy, Karen Budka, Jennifer Cox, Jen Hilzinger

We will look at the definition of mother, all the different types of mothers, and how the expectations between mothers and kids are different in adoptive families. What are the responsibilities and roles of an adoptive mother? How is she alike and different from a birth mother?

What about: Mother guilt? The 'perfect adoptive mother syndrome'? Adoptees as mothers? (Grand)mothers of adoptees? Do adoptive moms make their adopted kids crazy with perfection expectations? What's a mom to do when the dream child meets the real child? We're going to explore these topics empathetically, honoring the journey.

Our Journey Towards Wholeness

Jennifer Fero, Stephen Johnson, Alyson Yost

Our session will be a panel discussion on each of our individual journeys towards wholeness. Adoption is a unique experience and a life-long process. Each adult adoptee will share his/her personal story followed by a question and answer session. Stories shared will describe our personal and unique experiences as adult adoptees and our own journeys: physically, psychologically, and spiritually. Our stories shared will describe how unique each of our journeys have been with the hope the audience will realize how special each adoptee's journey towards wholeness really is. Emphasis will also be placed on the involvement of each panel member with the Korean/Asian community.

Good Enough Parenting

Maggie Dinneen, Carolyn Scholl, Michael Stanley, Chris Winston

While all parents should be encouraged to explore the myriad of means available to address the adoption and ethnic issues of children who join their families by birth or adoption, there is no manual. Two parents of adopted adults and two adoptees who are now parents will share their stories and thoughts on what makes a "good enough" parent. Perhaps it is not so much about the outcome but the effort. Serious issues and challenges will be dis-

cussed, along with resolutions of challenges. Relationships continue to evolve through our lives. What can we do to make them the best that they can be? How can we accept our limits and those of our parents or grown children?

Youth (7-17) Adoption Forum: Exploring Identity

Susan Becker, Marissa Martin, John Santamore

Join Also-Known-As adult adoptee mentors for a modified version of the mentorship adoption forum. Adoptee youth will participate in age appropriate activities that explore their identity as transracial adoptees.

sunday @ 10:15

Giving Ourselves the Respect that We Deserve and Never Received

*Joe Soll * ADOPTEEES ONLY **

Many adoptees were never given the respect of their losses. Learning how to give ourselves that respect now will help us to grieve, heal, and be able to demand respect from others. Come discuss ways we can give ourselves this gift of the respect that we deserve.

Experiencing Korea Together to Change America

Clinton Carbon, Hyaekyung Jo, Justin Park, Ellen Pickleseimer

An adoptee social worker, an American educator, and a non-adoptee Korean American student will share their experiences of a trip to Korea with adoptive families. The documentary and the discussion will show the direct benefit of the diversity within the traveling group to bring back a raised awareness and cultural understanding of one another.

Look at Me, Don't Look at Me: Race, Culture, and Image in the Trans-racial Adoptive Family

David Amarel, Ellie Conant, Kathleen Dunham, Mark Hagland

We live in a social world. Self-

image and self-esteem are interactive as well as intrinsic. Appearance-based comments, queries, glances, or stares leveled at the adoptee and adoptive family can range from positive, quasi-positive, to explicitly hostile or racist - but frequently reflect the perception of difference, of deviation from the expectable, the norm. Relatively benign responses may indicate the viewer's cognitive need to categorize the adoptee and adoptive family. The breadth of the topic is well-matched by the diversity of our panel. One is a clinical psychologist and white adoptive parent of school-age Korean children. Two panelists are adult Korean adoptees who came to the U.S. in the first wave of transracial, international adoptees and whose life experiences have been shaped by growing up with white parents in the dominant white culture. The third panelist is a younger Korean adoptee who has presented at KAAN numerous times about her experiences of self-discovery in both the U.S. and Korea. Our fifth panelist offers a unique perspective: growing up "hapa" (mixed race Korean); she will discuss the ways her experience both mirrors and differs from that of the transracial adoptee. In providing a forum to discuss perceptions of appearance in the context of transracial adoption, we will illuminate how identity is (also) a socio-cultural construct - one that can be especially complex for the adoptee and adoptive family.

Talking About Adoption

Kathy Crissey LMHC

This session introduces the importance of developing a comfort level with "talking about adoption" with your significant other, with family members, friends and most importantly, with the child you adopt. It also identifies when and how to

communicate with your adopted child based on their age and developmental level. Sometimes adoption stories may include background issues such as incarceration, drug abuse, violence, abandonment, etc. How and when do these issues get discussed with our children? Adoption adds complexity to parenting adolescents. Teenagers may need extra support in dealing with certain issues. This workshop will provide very specific examples to answering difficult questions from our teens.

Youth (11-17) Program: You Are Not Alone

Michael Burdan, Sara Campbell

Have you been picked on at school because you are Asian? Tried to ignore it but it won't go away? Gotten angry with the same result? Join several Korean adoptees who have been there, done that. Listen to their stories and share your own (only if you want). You'll leave with ideas of how to handle different situations when they happen to you.

Youth (7-17) Activity: Korean Journal-Making and Signing

Lindsay Norman, Alex Wager

Join Alex and Lindsay to make a scrapbook journal of your time at KAAN. Draw or write down your favorite activities and collect signatures from your friends. Create a keepsake you can pull out every time you miss your KAAN buddies!

sunday @ 11:45am closing keynote

The Road Less Traveled

Stephen David Johnson

As we gather to conclude another impressive conference, we are left with a wealth of knowledge, new networks of support, and fragments of hopeful anticipation. For some, KAAN continues to be a community where friendships are

fostered year after year; and yet for many of us, our journeys have only begun. In an increasingly dichotomous environment, how can we reconcile the paradoxical conundrum that is international adoption? As we wrestle with our individual identities, what will become of our corporate narrative? More importantly, where do we go from here?

Stephen will share segments of his personal story in an attempt to inspire movement inside all of us. May we envision a place where justice and peace embrace, where women possess enough power to retain their children, and where poverty and racism exist only in museums. In a world of shortcuts and efficiencies, may we all take the road less traveled.

Don't forget!

Call for Session Proposals

We begin accepting session proposals for KAAN 2013 this fall and close the submission process in December.

Jot down those session ideas while they are fresh!

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speakerbios

amarel, david

Dr. David Amarel is a clinical psychologist from New York City. He was born in NJ in 1961 to Holocaust survivors. David and wife Martha live in Brooklyn with their children, Elias Kim and Lucy Park. Both parents flew to South Korea in 2003 to adopt four-month-old Eli; all three traveled again in 2004 to meet six-month-old Lucy. More recently, the entire family enjoyed a much more relaxed trip to Seoul and Gyeongju where Eli ate like a pro and Lucy re-imagined herself as a Shilla princess. Back in NYC, David specializes in couples counseling and psychotherapy for adults. David receives ongoing training in matters of adoption, parenting, and race from his friends, his patients, and his kids.

becker, susan

Susan Becker was adopted from Seoul, Korea at 4½ months. She was raised in northern New Jersey with strong ties to the Korean-American adoptee community, attending regional cultural events and camps since she was a baby. Susan visited Korea for the first time in 1995 and has returned seven times since, most recently to study Korean language at Ewha University and to attend the 2007 and 2010 IKAAG Gatherings. Susan is volunteering for her fourth year on the Also-Known-As Board of Directors and has been a mentor in the Youth Mentorship program for five years. She currently works as a business analyst/project manager in Hoboken, NJ.

bondy, kerry

Kerry is a Korean adoptee whose participation in past KAAN conferences has included volunteering, facilitating sessions, and organizing bone marrow donor registration drives. She works as a physician assistant at the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center.

budka, karen

Karen became a grandmother for the first time in 2005 when daughter Jen and son-in-law Jeff Cox adopted Seong Tae. Since then she has eaten Korean food, listened to Korean children's and pop music, attended Camp Mujigae to see their grandchildren, cheered for Korean athletes in the Olympics and the FIFA World Cup, and most importantly continue to support Jen and Jeff through the adoptions of all three children. Their home phone number was the second phone number Seong Tae memorized as he calls often to talk.

burdan, michael

Born in S. Korea and adopted at 2½ years, Michael grew up in Reading, PA. He visited Korea with his adoptive parents in 2005 on a tour comprised of adoptees and their families. Michael graduated from Swarthmore College in 2009 and received a master's degree in counseling and mental health services from the University of Pennsylvania. He has previously presented at KAAN.

callen, april

April Callen is a writer and cultural critic living in Chicago. Currently a master's candi-

date in the Media, Culture, and Society program at DePaul University's College of Communication, April specializes in media representations of people of color, women, and other marginalized groups and how those portrayals impact the larger society's understanding of those groups—affecting social/governmental policies, relationships, and the spotlighted individual. Her writings can be found at aprilscissors.com. April is a regular guest and contributor at Vocalo.org, 89.5FM in Chicago.

campbell, sara

Sara is an adult adoptee and licensed social worker in the mental health field. She has attended seven KAAN conferences, contributing her knowledge and personal experiences to other adoptees and to adoptive parents. Sara enjoys serving on KAAN's Advisory Council to help keep KAAN a vital part of Korean adoption.

carbon, clinton l.

Clinton L. Carbon serves as the Director of Multicultural Affairs at Dwight-Englewood School in Englewood, NJ. Carbon is a graduate of Howard University and received an MA from the University of Michigan. During his thirty-seven-year career, Carbon has held positions as teacher, department head and administrator in four independent K-12 schools and one university. At each, he integrated the arts with a fervent interest in social justice issues. His community work includes serving on diversity committees for the National Association of Independent

Schools, the Independent Schools Association of the Southwest, and the Houston chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. He served on the Board of Directors of the Independent School Alliance for Minority Affairs in Los Angeles. Carbon currently serves on an advisory board for the Vice-President of Equity and Justice Initiatives for the National Association of Independent Schools.

cioppa, becky

Becky Cioppa is an adult adoptee born in Daegu, South Korea. She is a mom of two children, aged 8 and 6, and last year became a Certified Classical Homeopath. She lives and works in central MA.

conant, ellie

Ellie Conant was born on a US Army base in Germany to a Korean mother and an American father. After relocating to Seattle during her adolescence, Ellie graduated high school and headed to New York City to pursue...life. She has been producing queer parties for eight years and has received accolades from the Stonewall Democratic Club of NYC, GO Magazine, and AfterEllen.com. Although Ellie is not adopted, she believes there is a profound parallel between the "hapa" and Korean adoptee experience. She is interested in further exploring how these unique experiences can correspond and relate to each other.

cox, jen

Jen and husband Jeff adopted three children from Korea. Their journey to becoming a family of five started with a referral of a little boy named Seong Tae who is now eight. Daughter Eun Seong is nearly seven and their youngest, Tae Hee, is almost 5 ½. Jen is a stay-

at-home mom and homeschools the children. She has volunteered for several years with Camp Mujigae in Albany, NY as a coordinator for the youngest group of campers, Rising Stars. She is part of KAAN's Advisory Council and this year's local planning committee. Jen and Jeff have educated their families (and others) on adoption and Korea and still feel there is more to learn themselves about both subjects.



crawford, martha

Martha M. Crawford, LCSW, is an adoptive parent and psychotherapist in private practice in New York City. In her seventeen years of practice, she has worked as a clinical consultant for adolescents in foster care and group home settings, with adults who have survived trauma and abuse and bereavement, and has been honored to work with adult adoptees and with adoptive parents. She is also the founder of "All Together Now," a multicultural peer/play group for adopted kids facilitated by adult and adolescent adoptees. Martha is the author of the blog "what a shrink thinks," a psychotherapist's journal.

crissey, kathy

Kathy Crissey, MS, LMHC, has been affiliated with Adoption STAR for many years. Kathy is a licensed mental health counselor and adoptive mom of four children born in China. Her professional and personal life experiences and kind heart make it no surprise that she is a

much loved and enjoyed adoption professional. Kathy provides homestudy and post-placement services and clinical counseling for all members of the adoption triad.

d'aversa, suzanne

Suzanne is a social worker in private practice who has worked with members of the adoption triad for over thirty years. She became involved with Korean adoption when she was a clinical supervisor for an International Adoption Program. She also leads support groups and is active in an agency-run Post Adoption Resource Center and Camp Mujigae.

damiano, kathy

Kathy was adopted at eight months of age from Korea and grew up in New Jersey in a large Italian family. She attended Rutgers University and earned a BA in psychology and also attended Columbia University where she earned a master's degree in social work. She is an LCSW and works as a school social worker with elementary and high school students. Kathy has presented at a New Jersey adoption conference and has attended KAAN for the past two years. Educating others about the issues surrounding adoption has become a passion for her. She currently resides in New Jersey with her husband and two daughters.

deblase, erica

Erica DeBlase was born in Seoul and adopted at five months. She grew up in upstate New York with her parents and three older sisters. Erica graduated from Syracuse University with a BA in English Textual Studies in 1997 and from Smith College with a masters in social work in 2005. Her thesis focused on racial identity development in transracially adopted Korean Americans. She

then worked at a therapeutic boarding school for high school students, running an adoption group for adopted individuals and working with their families as well. She joined Mount Holyoke College Counseling Service staff in 2010 and has recently assumed the role of Counseling Service Outreach Coordinator in addition to being a full-time, permanent staff clinician. A year ago, she also opened a part-time private psychotherapy practice as an adoption specialist in Easthampton, MA, working with adopted individuals, adoptive parents, and families, and providing consultations to adoption professionals.

dinneen, maggie

Maggie Dinneen is mother to three adopted adults. Liz was adopted domestically at age 11 and is now 47. Jennifer was adopted at age 3 from Korea and is now 30. Kathleen was adopted as a baby from Korea and is now 26. Maggie is also stepmother to three, grandmother to five, and great-grandmother to three little ones. While her children were young, Maggie was involved in the creation of Camp MujiGae and served on the board of the Albany area Korean Language School. She's been involved with KAAN almost since its start.

dolfi, marie

Marie Dolfi, LSCW, is a clinical social worker who started her career working with teenagers and their families. In 1990 after her first child joined her family by adoption (domestic infant), Marie became very active in local adoption support groups and participated in extensive training in adoption issues. In 2007 Marie began private practice, specializing in counseling for adoption constellation members, prospective adoptive parents, and prospective birth parents. Marie is President of the Adoptive Fami-

lies of the Capital Region, Western Vice President of New York State Citizens' Coalition for Children, and an Advisory Board Member of the Post Adoption Resource Center at Parsons Child & Family Services. www.adoptioncounselingny.com

duda, kathleen

Kathleen Duda has been involved with Camp Mujigae for the last eleven years since the adoption of her daughter MaryTherese Seon in 2000. She has coordinated several areas of camp including Rising Stars, Curiosity, Discovery, and Explorer, campers age birth to age 9. These responsibilities included planning classes and activities for campers as well as volunteers needed for these levels of camp. Kathleen also served as Treasurer for Camp Mujigae for several years. This year she will be serving as the Co-Director of Camp as well as the Secretary for the Board of Directors. In addition to her daughter, Kathleen and her husband have two biological sons who have also been strongly involved with camp.

dunham, kathleen

Kathleen Dunham was adopted as an infant from Seoul. She grew up in upstate NY with very little racial or ethnic diversity. She started attending Camp MujiGae in Albany, NY as a toddler with her mother and was a regular camper for many years. She has two adopted sisters, one also from Korea, and three step siblings. In 2006, Kathleen returned back to Korea with her mother and sister for KAAN's 7th conference. During her trip she reunited with her birth mother. She has been a regular attendee/presenter at KAAN for many years and is very excited to be a local at KAAN this year! Kathleen also is very excited to be getting married this year and becoming Mrs. Gooley.

engler, erica

Erica is mother to two sons adopted from S. Korea. Erica is a licensed clinical professional counselor and clinical director at Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling. Erica has many interests, among them learning Korean language and watching Korean dramas (her favorite: "Coffee Prince"). Her goal is to be able to speak Korean fluently and to continue teaching her sons the language as well.

fero, jennifer

Jennifer Fero was born in Korea and adopted at 4½ months. She grew up in a working class suburb of Portland, OR. She received her Bachelor's from Western Oregon University and her Master's from Portland State University. Jennifer has taught in South Korea, Ghana, and in Oregon. Currently, she resides in Atlanta, Georgia and is an assistant principal in a high school. You may recognize Jennifer from the documentary *Adopted*, produced by Point Made productions. Since the death of both of Jennifer's adoptive parents, she is passionate about educating and working with adoptive parents to heal the wounds and bridge the divide seen and unseen.

goldstein, bart

Bart Goldstein was adopted from Korea at five months. He attended Camp Mujigae from ages five through sixteen as a camper, CIT, and junior counselor. When almost 17, Bart suffered a severe traumatic brain injury in an auto accident. He is the subject and hero of the forthcoming book *No Stone Unturned*, which recounts the family saga of his remarkable recovery from TBI. Friendships forged at Mujigae played a crucial role in his life before the accident as well as in his recovery. More recently he has continued

to help out at Camp Mujigae as a counselor and in helping set up the facilities for camp. He is a graduate of New Paltz High School and attended Maria College. Currently he resides in Delmar, NY.

goldstein, joel

Joel Goldstein is father to two beautiful adopted Korean children, Bart and Cassidy. He has served for many years on the international adoption board of Albany's Parsons Child & Family Center and of Camp Mujigae. Joel earned a BA at Brooklyn College and his master's at the Graduate Faculty of Political and Social Research of The New School. An accomplished speaker and educator, he also co-authored an educational film series for young people. By tragic necessity he became a lay-expert in traumatic brain injury after teenage son Bart suffered severe TBI in an auto accident. Joel resides in New Paltz, New York with his bride of 37 years, Reiki Master Dayle Groudine. Together they have left no stone unturned searching for remedies, both conventional and alternative, to Bart's grave injuries. His book *No Stone Unturned* tells the story of Bart's struggle to regain his life after the accident.

grant-marsney, holly

Holly Grant-Marsney was adopted from S. Korea at four months and raised near Boston, MA with a younger brother, also adopted from Korea. Holly received her BA in Neuroscience and Behavior in 2006 from Mount Holyoke College. She received her M.S. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 2011. Her research focuses on adoptive families and the close relationships within and outside one's family, especially during emerging adulthood.

Holly has worked in many clinical settings and joined the Mount Holyoke College Counseling Service staff in 2010. She has shared her research at several conferences. Currently, she attends the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in pursuit of her doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology.

hagland, mark

Mark Hagland was born in South Korea in 1960 and adopted in 1961 by American parents of Norwegian and German descent. He grew up in Milwaukee, WI, and attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he earned his BA, and Northwestern University, where he received his master's degree in journalism. He has lived in Chicago since 1981, and has been a working journalist for thirty years. He is actively involved in KAAN, in the adult Korean adoptee mini-gatherings, and in writing for *Korean Quarterly*.

herbert, nancy

Nancy Herbert is an adoptive parent. In 1984, she adopted her daughter from Korea. She was involved in Camp Chin Gu, a Rochester-NY based Korean culture camp, when her daughter was a child. Her experience with Korean adoption remains marked by her daughter's academic interest in the subject. In 2007 she accompanied her daughter to Seoul, Korea for a ten-day trip.

hilzinger, glen

Glen Hilzinger is a 43-year-old writer who has lived in the Detroit metro area for most of his life. He and wife Jen have been married for 17 years and have three children; Emily born in China in 1995 and welcomed into the family at five months, Ethan born in Korea in 1997 and welcomed into the family

at six months, and Elliot born in Michigan in 2006 and welcomed into the family at birth. Glen claims no more adoption expertise than simply enjoying the halo effect of his wife's constant involvement in the adoption and Asian communities in the Detroit area and beyond. However, his kids seem happy at least half the time and Glen likes to take partial credit for that.

hilzinger, jen

Jennifer and her husband have three children; two they adopted as infants from China and Korea, and one child born to them. Jen was part of the local planning team that hosted KAAN 2005 in Michigan. She has previously presented at KAAN on making the language commitment with your child, making connections to the Korean American community, racism, and white privilege.

hwang, wook-jin

Wook-Jin Hwang has served Mujigae Camp as the Director of the Cultural Education for the past twenty years. His responsibilities include all the classes during the camp as well as Family Day performances and some evening activities. He has also organized several other local Korean cultural events. Wook-Jin studied political science in the University at Albany, receiving a Ph.D., and currently is working in the New York State Division of the Budget. He also is elected as the president of the Korean Association of Albany for 2012-13 term. He lives in Guilderland, NY with his family including three daughters.

jo, hyaekyung

Hyaekyung Jo has been involved with the Korean adoption community for years. She is a founder and the current

president of President of Sejong Cultural Education and is also a member of KAAN's Advisory Council. Hyaekyung is also a parent educator and a retired public school teacher.



johnson, stephen

Stephen David Johnson was born in Korea, adopted at the age of four months, and grew up in Texas. He graduated from Baylor University with a degree in Social Work, and Eastern University with an MA in International Development. Stephen works for an international NGO, assisting refugees in their resettlement process. He and his wife, Whitney, currently reside in Seattle, Washington.

johnson, whitney

Whitney hails from a small town in Texas. She is a returning KAAN participant and remains committed to a life full of peace and purpose. Whitney has extensive experience in cross-cultural communication, community development, and environmental sustainability. She currently lives in Seattle, WA, and is an avid gardener.

kim, young

Pianist Young Kim is Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Piano Programs at the College of Saint Rose. A Steinway Artist, Kim has performed internationally as a soloist in recitals and with orchestras, in addition to appearing numerous times as a chamber musician. Critics praise her as a "pianist who is truly passionate, sensitive, and musical ... an ex-

tremely polished, expressive, and vibrant pianist." She holds a Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Minnesota, an Artist Diploma from Yale University, Master of Music from The Juilliard School, and her Bachelor of Music from Seoul National University. To learn more, visit her website at www.pianistyoungkim.com.

ko, grace euna

Grace Ko is a Korean Instructor for Atlanta International Language Institute, a Korean evaluator for ALTA Language Services, and a correspondent for OhmyNews, a Korean online newspaper. Grace received a bachelor's degree in social work with a minor in journalism from Ewha Woman's University in South Korea. She worked in Seoul for eleven years as a magazine writer and editor before coming to the U.S. in 1999. She graduated from Berkshire Community College in Pittsfield, MA with perfect 4.0 GPA and later moved to Atlanta in 2007. She was a KAAN 2011 speaker and local planning team member and wrote a column about the event for OhmyNews.

korean spirit and culture promotion project

KSCPP is an independent non-profit organization founded in 2005 and based in Flushing, NY. Since its founding, KSCPP has published almost 700,000 copies of books on Korean history and culture and distributed them free to various individuals and educational institutions. KSCPP has also held free educational programs on Korea approximately 200 times a year at various venues throughout the country. www.kscpp.net

martin, marissa

Marissa Martin (Oh Sun Hee) was adopted from Korea when she was six months old. She grew up in New Hope, PA and graduated from American University with a degree in sociology and communications. Marissa has always been interested in social policy and post adoption services and recently graduated with a masters degree in social work at Hunter College School of Social Work. She also recently joined the Coalition for Asian American Children and Families (CACF), the nation's only pan-Asian advocacy organization, as their Budget Policy Coordinator. Prior to pursuing her graduate degree, Marissa worked as an Operations Analyst at American International Group and volunteered at Holt Heritage Camp and KIDS (Korean Identity Development Society) Camp. Currently, Marissa is President of Also-Known-As, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to creating innovative post-adoption services, educational programs, and community building activities, serving those on their adoption life journey. She has been actively involved in the international adoptee community for over 10 years as a counselor, Assistant Director and Co-Director of the CIT Program at Holt Heritage Camp and Assistant Director of KIDS Teen Camp in Seattle, WA. She has been an active member of the IKAA Committee and helped plan the 2009 IKAA Mini Gathering in NYC and the 2010 IKAA Gathering in Korea.

mckee, kimberly

Kimberly McKee is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies at The Ohio State University. Her research fore-

grounds the voices of adult adoptees as the multiple lived histories of adoptees cannot be treated as a monolithic, homogenous experience. This project is meant to raise new questions concerning how adult adoptees' lived experiences disrupt dominant understandings of adoption practices, the family, and Asian American identity. She currently is a member of the KAAN's Advisory Council and works with The Ohio State University's Buckeye Adopted Student Organization. Kimberly received the U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship to study intensive Korean in Summer 2011. Living in Jeonju, Korea, Kimberly gained beginner proficiency in spoken and written Korean.

miller, michelle

Michele Miller is a stay-at-home mom to 4-yr-old son Dane, adopted from Korea in 2008 by Michelle and her husband Steve. Among her hobbies and interests, she hosts an international college student from Busan, Korea and enjoys learning the Korean language, listening to k-pop music, and feeding an addiction to k-dramas. Her favorite is "Best Love." She looks forward to taking her son on his first homeland tour in the near future and hopes by then to be conversational in Korean.

nestleroth, amanda

Amanda Nestleroth was born in Pusan, South Korea. She was adopted with her sister Jennifer when they were 4 and 5 years old. Amanda grew up in Lancaster County, PA and attended the University of Pittsburgh where she earned a bachelor's degree. She now lives in Philadelphia and is a co-founder of KAAP (Korean Adoptee Association of Philadelphia), an

adoptee-led organization. Amanda hopes that having an organization will help others in the search of their Korean roots and provide guidance to adoptees, especially her two nephews and niece who were also adopted from South Korea.

norman, lindsay

Lindsay Norman is a Korean adoptee from Albany, NY, who has worked on the committee of Camp Mu Ji Gae for Korean adoptee children for the past three years. She has also attended and worked for the camp since she was four. She has a BFA in Illustration and finished her degree with a final series dedicated to the beauty of Korean adoptees of all ages. Lindsey is part of KAAN's youth program team.

park, eyoungsoo

Eyoungsoo Park was born in Korea and emigrated to the United States in 1966. He received his PhD in clinical psychology from Washington State University. From 1971-1994, he was the director of the child and adolescent program for the Country Medical Health Clinics of Sutter, Yuba, Lake, and Glenn counties in California. He is retired from his position as forensic child psychologist for the state of California.



park, justin

Justin Park just finished his freshman year at Northeastern University and is back home in Norwood, NJ. He has been a camper, program assistant, and counselor at Camp Sejong for

numerous years where he became familiar with the different backgrounds and tasks of his Korean American peers. He has been on Sejong's Trip to Korea three times, the first as a participant, the second as a mentor, and the third as a leader. He is planning to study Law to better the society in his future.

perscheid, margie

Margie Perscheid is the adoptive parent of two young adults, both adopted from Korea. Margie is a co-founder of Korean Focus, a Korean adoption support organization with chapters in Metro DC, Ohio, Washington, and Indiana. In her spare time from her work as a technical program manager, Margie writes and speaks about adoption and race for local and national publications and events and is a sporadic blogger at Third Mom and Komapseumnida.

pickleseimer, ellen

Ellen Picklesimer was adopted when she was five months old and grew up with her younger sister, also adopted from Korea, in central IL. She received her master's in social work from Washington University in St. Louis and is currently the Family Advocate with the Ferguson-Florissant, MO, Head Start Program. She is grateful to be able to give back to a community that has given her and her family so much insight into adoption and Korean culture. Ellen is currently the social worker for Sejong Cultural Experience and travels on the annual Korea trip each year. In this position, she works with adolescents and has facilitated biological family reunions.

plaster, brad

Brad is an adult adoptee who was born in Korea in 1976,

adopted in 1977, and then raised in a small town in North Dakota. He received his B.S. and Ph.D. degrees in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and was then appointed to a position as a postdoctoral scholar at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech). He is currently a professor of physics at the University of Kentucky, and is married to a neurologist. This is his third KAAN Conference.

rupright, rachel hye youn

Rachel is a Korean adoptee raised near Binghamton, NY. As a member of this year's conference local planning team, she's welcomes attendees to the Capital Region and wishes all a memorable conference. Rachel completed her Master's in Social Work at the University at Albany and undergraduate degree at James Madison University. She lives and works in Albany.

santamore, john

John Santamore was adopted at age two from South Korea. He is the youngest of five children, three of whom were also adopted from South Korea. A graduate from Temple University, John currently works at JP Morgan Chase. He has visited South Korea several times since his adoption and has performed a successful birth search that resulted in meeting his biological father and half brother.

sanvidge, john

John C. Sanvidge was born in Seoul, South Korea and adopted at 4½ months. He was raised in Troy, NY along with two siblings who were also adopted. He received his BFA in Film/Video from the School of Visual Arts and is currently a

freelance editor who has worked for A&E, Animal Planet, National Geographic Wild, and Biography, among others. In 2003, he decided to begin his documentary called, "Finding Seoul." In 2011 he was able to finish the film. He currently resides in NYC.

scholl, carolyn

Carolyn Scholl was adopted from Korea at the age of 22 months in 1971. She is currently serving as President on the Board of the Association of Korean Adoptees-Southern California as well as a member of KAAN's Advisory Council. She has two children and resides in San Diego, CA.

schroeder, stacy

Stacy Schroeder is the current president and executive director of KAAN and lives with her family in Pennsylvania. She also coordinates Ta-ri, a local group that brings together people with ties to Korea for cultural and community-building activities. In 2007, she organized a weeklong camp for young adoptees and their families. Stacy's previous nonprofit experiences include serving as a camp director, working in a library, and co-authoring a book. It brings Stacy joy to see the friendships and community forged at KAAN continue to support people throughout the year, including her son and daughter, who are young adoptees themselves.

soll, joe

Joe Soll 조살, LCSW DAPA, is an adoptee, psychotherapist, lecturer, and adoption educator. He is the author of *Adoption Healing: A Path to Recovery*, co-author of *Adoption Healing: A Path to Recovery for mothers who lost children to adoption* and co-author of *Evil Exchange* and

Fatal Flight. He also facilitates a nightly internet chat and offers adoption healing weekends in New York. He has just finished his newest book *Adoption Healing... Supplement*.

song, hannah

Hannah joined LiNK in 2004 as Deputy Director, managing daily operations and coordinating overseas programs, safe houses and shelters, underground railroad activities, and fact-finding missions. Focusing on refugee needs, Hannah established LiNK's refugee shelter in Southeast Asia and implemented "Liberty House," a refugee resettlement initiative in the US and South Korea. In 2008, Hannah became President/CEO, managing LiNK out of its headquarters office in California. She travels the world to talk about the North Korea crisis and advocates for the rights of North Korean refugees to government officials and institutions. She continues to direct all overseas, underground and field operations while working closely with LiNK's staff to build an unprecedented movement advocating for the lives of North Koreans.

stanley, michael

Michael Stanley is the treasurer for KAAN. He was adopted from Korea when he was six and grew up with his sister Susan, also a Korean adoptee, and parents Joyce and Wray. He is a certified financial planner with Morgan Stanley and chair of Ta-ri, a group celebrating Korean culture and community in south central Pennsylvania. He lives in Elverson, PA, with wife Lisa and three children: Hailey, Ella, and Andrew.

trevor, terra

Terra Trevor is an author, essayist, and memoirist of Chero-

kee, Delaware, Seneca and white ancestry, whose work is shaped and infused by her identity as a mixed blood in both white and American Indian societies. With her husband she raised three children, two of whom were adopted from Korea; a one-year old, and an older child adopted at age ten. Terra is a contributing author of ten books, and her memoir *Pushing up the Sky*, published by KAAAN in 2006, has been widely anthologized.

wager, alex myung

Alex is a 24-year-old Korean adoptee who was born in Daegu, S. Korea. He currently works in NYC as a Technical Designer for Tiffany & Co. and Diane Von Furstenburg, as well as a freelance 2D animator for a number of different studio projects. Alex has been actively involved with the planning stages of Camp Mujigae, an annual Korean culture summer camp for adoptees, for the past five years and has spoken on numerous panels involving the importance of cultural awareness for adoptees. His first animated short film "Juxtaposed" focuses on his own experiences with his adoption. It went on to win a handful of awards at film festivals around the world, as well as a television broadcast for WNET's Reel13 program. Alex is part of KAAAN's youth program team.

wilkinson, sook

Dr. Sook Wilkinson, Ph.D. has enjoyed a wonderful life in America. She came from S. Korea to the US at age 22 with \$100 in her pocket. Since then, she has become a renowned clinical psychologist, author,

and respected community leader while raising a son and a daughter with her husband Todd. A passionate advocate for active community participation, she gladly accepted the opportunity to serve as the Chairperson of the Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission. Professionally, Sook holds the highest level of license to practice psychology in the State of Michigan and has been in clinical practice for over 30 years. A leading expert in the field of international adoption, she authored *Birth is More than Once: The Inner World of Adopted Korean Children* (1985) and co-edited *After the Morning Calm: Reflections of Korean Adoptees* (2002). Her leadership extends to higher education, serving on the Board of Trustees of Northern Michigan University in Marquette. She is also a member of the National Unification Advisory Council in South Korea, appointed by the country's President. Sook is part of KAAAN's Advisory Council.

winston, chris

Chris Winston is founder and former president of KAAAN. She has published articles and presented papers and workshops for numerous adoption and Korea related organizations and conferences. In 2006 KAAAN published her book *A Euro American on a Korean Tour at a Thai Restaurant in China*. She lives in Sacramento with her husband Mark. They have three adult children, two of whom were adopted from Korea.

winston, david

David Winston moved to the U.S. from Korea when he was adopted at age five. He gradu-

ated with a bachelor's degree in computer science, and has lived in Korea for over two years, working as an English teacher. He has recently moved back to the U.S., and will work for the visual effects industry.

winston, nayoung lee

Nayoung Lee Winston was born in Korea and has lived there for over 22 years. She recently moved to the U.S. with husband David and will become a U.S. citizen. She also recently graduated with a bachelor's degree in English literature and language from Hongik University, and has volunteered at InKAS for two years, teaching Korean and assisting Korean adoptees with translation.

yost, alyson thomas

Alyson Yost was born in Korea and adopted at 4½ months. Alyson grew up in Harrisburg, PA. She attended College Misericordia where she received her bachelor of science and nursing degree. She has been working as a registered nurse for the past five years at Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center in Hershey, PA. Alyson traveled back to Korea for the first time since her adoption for a birth family search with G.O.A.L.'s First Trip Home in October 2010. Alyson is an active board member of Ta-ri, a local group that celebrates Korean-American Culture and also an active member of K.A.A.C.P. (Korean Adult Adoptees of Central Pennsylvania). Alyson resides in Harrisburg, PA with her husband, new baby boy, and two step-children.

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Thank You ...

KAAN wishes to thank all the speakers and presenters of this year's conference who are listed elsewhere in this book. We also want to recognize the following people for their additional volunteer efforts in support of KAAAN 2012.

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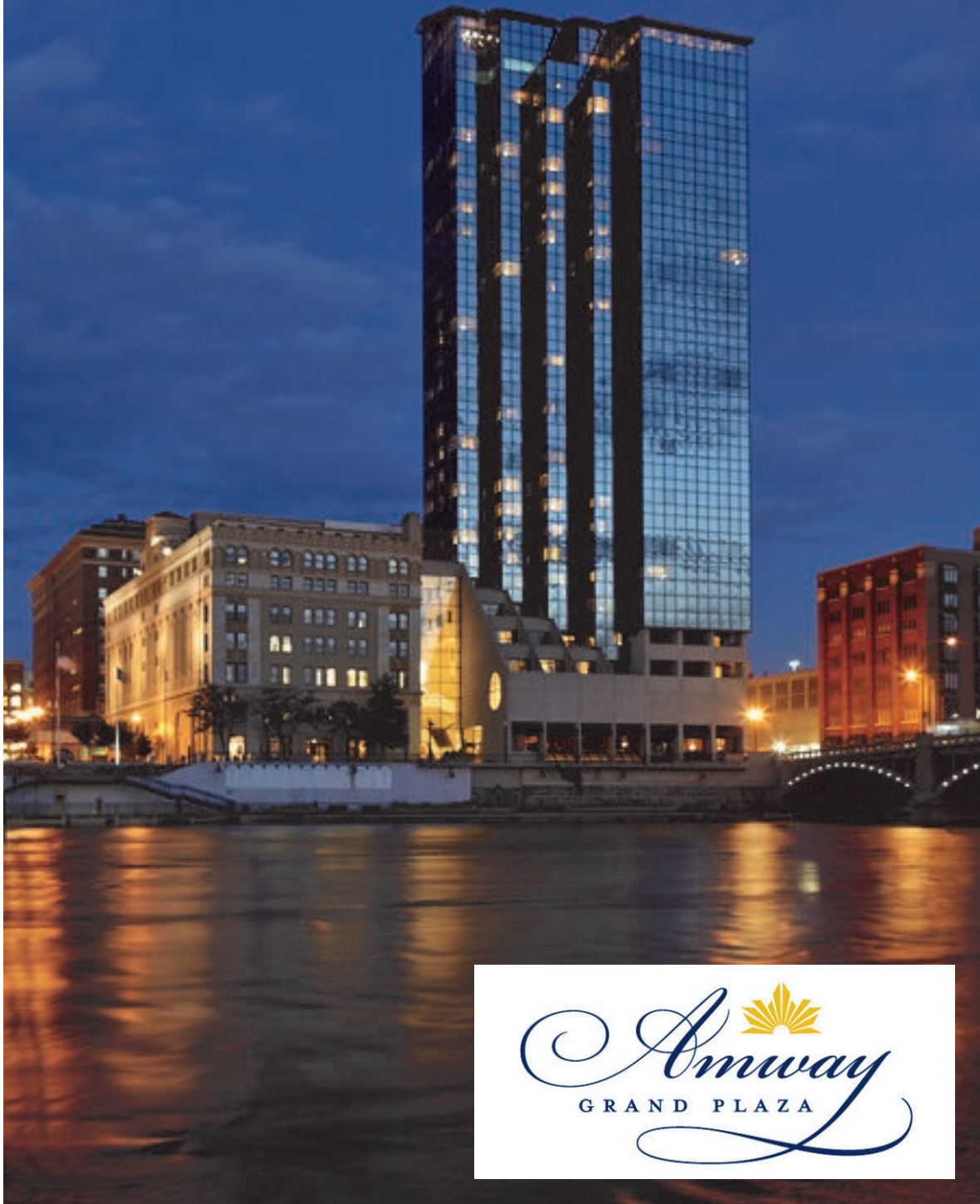
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