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meeting place

A MAGAZINE BY THE COMMUNITY, FOR THE COMMUNITY ... CONFERENCE 2014 EDITION

The Time is NOW ...

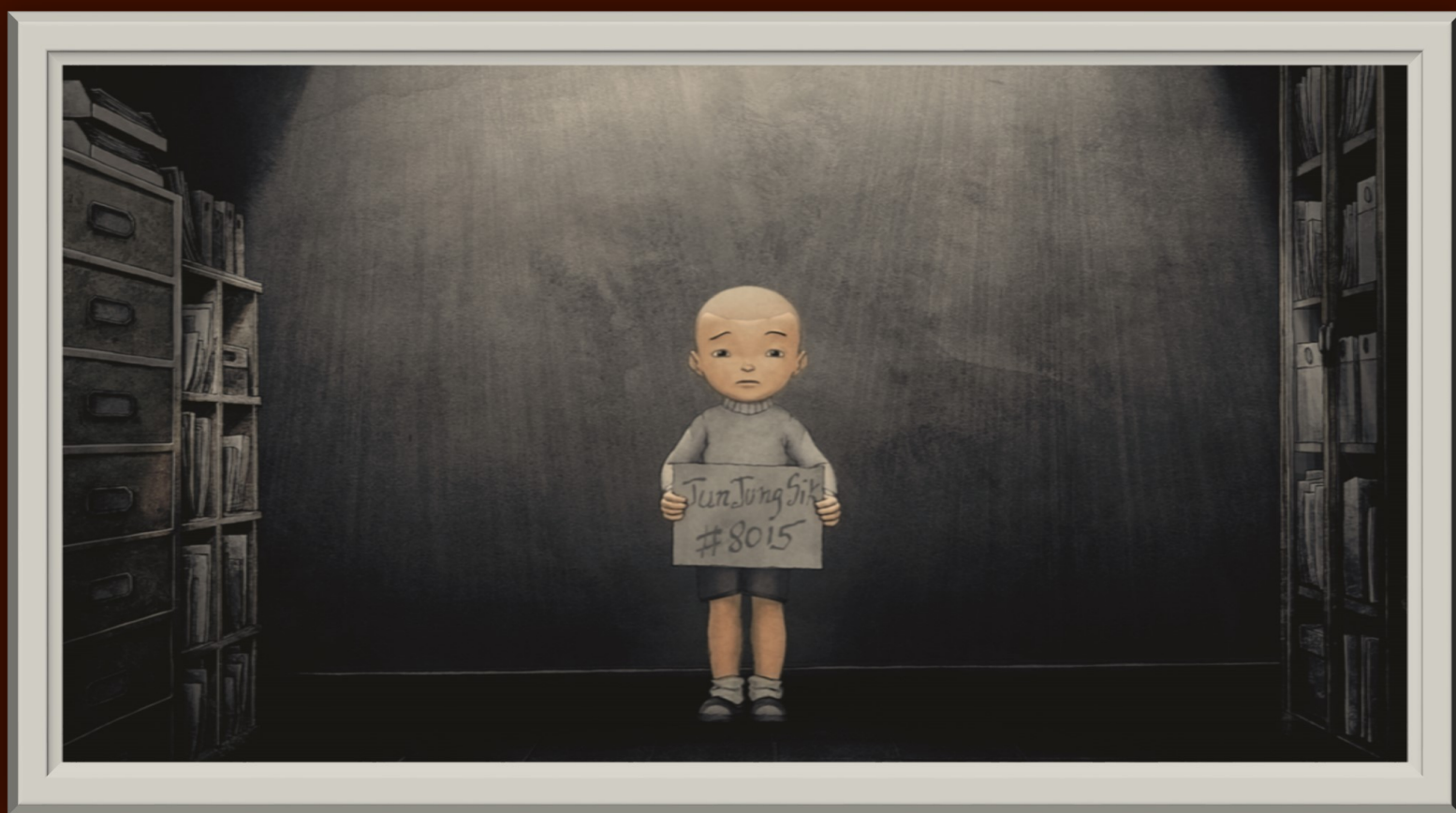


Image from KAAAN 2014 Feature Film *Approved for Adoption*

... the person is you.

JUNE 2014
KAANet.org



Celebrate **KAAN** in a whole new way ...

- Gather with local KAAAN family and friends (or those whom you've been encouraging to attend).
- Go out to your favorite restaurant and have a great time together.
- Post pics and comments via Facebook (tag us!) and Twitter (#KAANnightonthetown); @KAAN_Community during your evening.
- Donate the equivalent of your dinner bill (or the size of the tip, if you are on a tight budget) to **KAAN, Box 714, Camp Hill, PA 17001**. You can also contribute on the spot via PayPal using our website's donate button.
- Connect with friends across the table and across the country ... and help KAAAN conferences stay affordable.

MEET YOU ONLINE SEPTEMBER 26!



Second Annual

NIGHT ON
THE **TOWN**

September 26, 2014
CITIES EVERYWHERE

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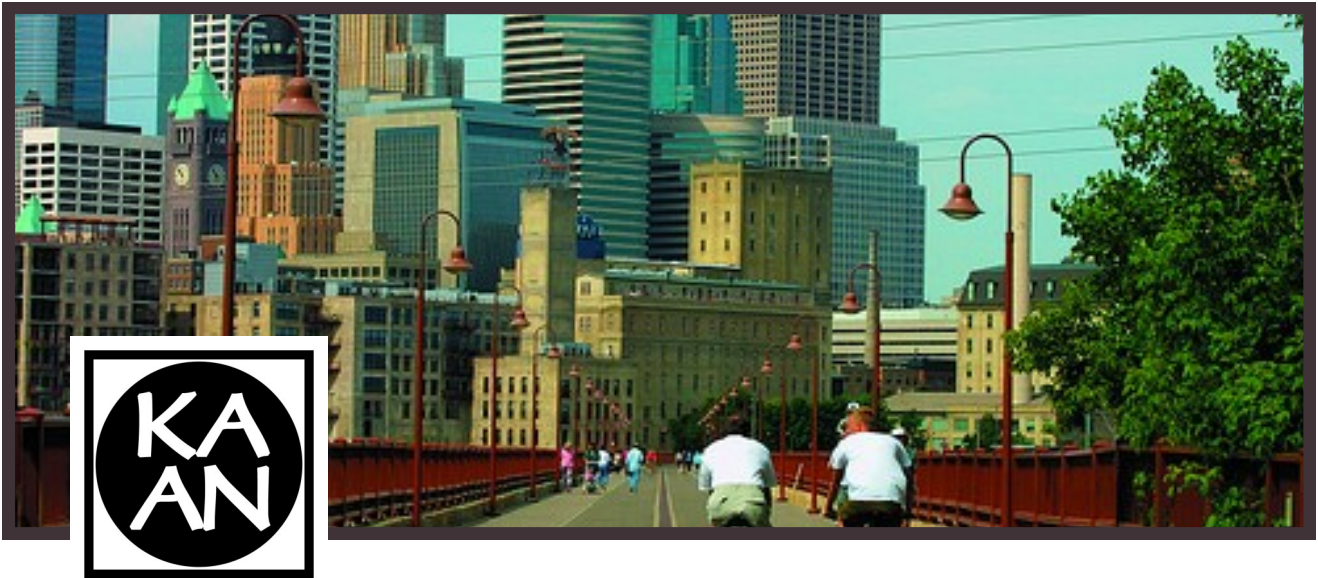
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Information, events and advocacy for metro DC
Korean adoptees, adoptive families with Korean children
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Chapters in Metro DC, Cincinnati, Seattle,
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Kimberly McKee (coordinator).
More on pages 48-49.

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

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IMPORTANT

Refer to the one-page conference schedule insert (called "session matrix" for short) for the most up-to-date schedule and for locations for each event. This insert contains details not available at press time.

ARTICLES

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McKee and her paternal grandmother in 2013



We're experiencing the awakening of an adoptee-led community that is recognized by mainstream media and society.

In many ways, it is fitting that our 16th annual conference is held in Minnesota, the home of the largest number of adoptees per capita in the United States. This year's speakers and performers aim to highlight not only local adoptees, but also the groundbreaking work adoptees are completing in the US and Korea. Without the expertise of these individuals, the con-

versation concerning adoptions from Korea and other nations would be fundamentally altered.

To all adult adoptees, please know that your experiences and lived histories are valued. To adoptive parents, I urge you to continue to pause, listen and reflect on the words of adult adoptees. Yet, this dialogue is not a one way street. I see KAAN as a meeting place for individuals with different perspectives of adoption to come together and create a sustained exchange of ideas and dialogue. We may never agree on particular issues concerning adoption, but what brings us together are the ties that bind our families – adoption. Our individuated experiences can be culled and reflected upon to find common ground. KAAN is one avenue to facilitate a deeper conversation that troubles singular narratives of adoption as the best option.

As we embark on this year's conference, I am also especially aware with how easily our perceptions of adoption may change in less than a year. In Fall 2013 my biological parents contacted me via Eastern Social Welfare Society's post-adoption services. This was a complete surprise, as previous searches yielded no information. We reunited this past December when I traveled to Korea. Meeting members of my maternal and paternal families required me to not intellectualize adoption – my research area of study. As part of this process, I also recognized that this is no longer my story. Rather, the history of my placement and even moments of my reunion are inextricably linked to the lives of immediate and extended members of my Korean family. This process also led me to the realization that reunion is a similarly complex journey as deciding to search or not to search. Reunion is not a finite task to check off on a list of "Things to do as an Adult Adoptee"; it is an on-going process involving a variety of emotions. To this end, I encourage adoptees and adoptive parents to take advantage of the multiple sessions exploring the topic of search/reunion.

Sincerely,

Kimberly McKee, PhD

Local/Regional Conference Coordinator for KAAN 2014

welcome letters

My son turns sixteen this summer, right before the start of our 16th annual conference. Both by age and by our family's involvement, he and KAAN are tied inextricably together. I wouldn't have it any other way.

We all must choose where we deposit our time and finances. There are many more valuable organizations in the world than any one person could ever support. What causes and groups receive your attention? KAAN is on my short list ... is it on yours?

We really have something special here.

In a world that frequently tries to divide, KAAN instead forges a community that sustains. A few personal gifts for which I will forever be grateful to KAAN:

- When I was a young parent just starting out, knowing just enough to know that I didn't know much of anything, KAAN provided essential connections and challenging lessons.
- When my son faced racial bullying in middle school, a veritable army of adoptees and others from across the country stepped forward to march alongside him. I still get a tear in my eye when remembering how his shoulders straightened up and his head rose higher as he armed himself with those notes of encouragement.
- When I see my sisters (two adult adoptees, one adoptive parent) en-

gage in the conference and involve husbands and children as well, it becomes something we share at the holiday dinner table and family gatherings as well. Our

identity and relationships are deepened and colored by what we experience together at KAAN.

My son—and our family—is fortunate that KAAN has been around his whole life. My willingness to volunteer for KAAN is directly affected by both the invaluable gifts we have received and the fervent belief that all adoptees are due the same support and community.

Come, submerge yourself in the intense, exciting, exhausting summer weekend otherwise known as KAAN 2014. I challenge you not to be changed by it. Then go back to your daily life and take something you have learned or felt and use it to make things better.

And, if you should be so inspired, move KAAN onto *your* short list for support. This magazine is loaded with opportunities to get involved. It is a choice you will never regret ... and you just might be the one who is richer for it.

Thanks to all of you who have invested time and money to attend this conference. As I say every year, I hope each of you find something you can give and something that you receive. We're glad that you are here.



Schroeder with her son in 2002

In friendship,

Stacy Schroeder

Stacy Schroeder
Executive Director, KAAN



June 2014

Dear KAAN Attendees:

I would like to welcome each of you to the 2014 KAAN conference in Minneapolis, MN. As I look through the list of sessions and the speakers for this year, I truly wish I could clone myself multiple times so I could attend all of the sessions. I have been to other adoptee conferences but they have been exclusively targeted towards adult Korean adoptees. But the KAAN conference provides an opportunity to learn and grow in so many areas. As someone that has traversed life from being an adopted child to becoming an adult to marriage to having children of my own to divorce to birth family search to reuniting with birth family and now on the brink of having my children becoming adults as half Korean half white, I know this conference will help me better understand and deal with the diverse topics that have and will continue to confront me. And I know you will also find it an interesting, educational, and rewarding conference.

I would like to thank the presenters that will lead the sessions for this year's conference. Without you, there would be no conference. Without your dedication to learning and researching adoption issues, there would be no way for us to sort through our thoughts and emotions to make sense of them. Without your willingness to brave public speaking and exposing yourself to criticism, we would not be able to appreciate the humanity behind the numbers and stats and findings.

I would also like to thank the organizers and leadership of KAAN for bringing this important and needed conference to the city of Minneapolis. I know you have been working tirelessly since last year's conference to make it happen here. You give your time, energy, and sacrifice connection with your family and friends to create an amazing weekend. On behalf of all attendees and presenters, I thank you for this gift.

As president of AK Connection, I've had the privilege of being surrounded by the most amazing Korean adoptees and supporters anywhere. As I travel more and befriend adoptees from around the world, I'm constantly amazed to find connections to Minnesota in almost every case. We have a thriving Korean adoptee community here and AK Connection attempts to provide a connection with each other through social, educational, and cultural events. We try to remain unbiased to any political, religious, or anti/pro adoption views and simply state that we are pro-adoptee. We exist to support you, the adoptee, no matter what the circumstances or your belief is. I thank the current and past board members for their continued service and support of our mission.

For more information on AK Connection, please view our website at www.akconnection.com or find me during the conference. Please enjoy this weekend. Come with an open mind and open heart and your experience of the conference and city will be greatly enhanced.

Sincerely,

David Moschkau

David Moschkau
President, AK Connection
www.akconnection.com



June 2014

Dear KAAN Attendees:

It is my great pleasure as President of AdopSource to welcome everyone to the KAAN conference 2014. It is an exciting time for all of us connected to the adoptive community. As we continue to grow through adapting to trends in the adoption triad, our community benefits as a whole. Our organization is on the verge of many changes and we are open to new ideas as we approach new projects. Part of the globalization of the adoptive circle is that we confront new horizons. AdopSource is proud and humbled to be part of this, and honored to be part of a conference filled with exciting topics, speakers and entertainment.

We join KAAN this year to welcome you to Minnesota, where so many adoptees and their families live. In addition to the resources available to us here, the Twin Cities itself is a fun hub filled with wonderful entertainment and a wide variety of restaurants. We are able to eat food native to many cultures, participate in art throughout the state, and watch film and stage options which are entertaining and challenging. AdopSource wishes you a wonderful time in Minnesota where you will discover new friends, memories and ideas.

Sincerely,

Dawn Tomlinson

President, AdopSource
www.adopsource.org

PO Box 18435, Minneapolis, MN 55418



MINNEAPOLIS

Photo Credit: Meet Minneapolis

Heart & Soul of the

ADOPTEE
Renaissance

Adoptee Revolution? Adoptee Renaissance? Whatever people want to call it, an important movement lead by adoptees is afoot. Adoptee professionals, clinicians, researchers, educators, writers, performers, artists, activists, and filmmakers are challenging, elevating, and ultimately changing how adoption is practiced, how it's viewed, and where it's going. We see examples of the movement everywhere, and we are seeing examples of the movement right here in Minnesota at this year's KAAN Conference: the amazing adoptees attending and presenting who are coming from throughout the US and other countries; the performances by renown and award winning adoptee artists; and the second to none talent of Minnesota adoptees on full display.

As an adoptee, I feel incredibly fortunate and honored to be involved in the community at this time. The history we are witnessing is truly exciting and unprecedented. It's not everyday we get to see a paradigm shift transpire right in front of our eyes.

—Kevin Haebeom Vollmers, founder of *Gazillion Voices* magazine and Land of Gazillion Adoptees



To learn more about *Gazillion Voices* Magazine, visit:

www.gazillionvoices.com



SUN MEE CHOMET

KAAN 2014 Friday Evening Performer

How to Be a Korean Woman is a hilarious and poignant award-winning one-woman show about one adoptee's reunion with her birth family and how this affected her sense of what it means to be a woman. Using text, music, and movement, Chomet explores the questions: "What happens after reunion? What needs are met and left unmet?" Specifically, Chomet shares her own reunion story. Universally, the play is about human longing to know one's past.

How to Be a Korean Woman was created under the guidance of Twin Cities' artist, Zaraawar Mistry, who served as the director & dramaturg. This groundbreaking play was first presented at Dreamland Arts in St. Paul, Minnesota as part of *The Origin(s) Project*, an evening-length pairing of two one-woman shows told from the adult adoptee perspective. *The Origin(s) Project* was recently recognized among the "Top Ten Shows of 2012" by Minneapolis' Star Tribune and *How to Be a Korean Woman* was voted "Best Solo Performance of 2012" by Lavender Magazine.

— More @ www.sunmeechomet.com.



MAYDA

KAAN 2014 Saturday Gala Dinner Performer

Mayda is a young yet seasoned Korean Adoptee multi-musician/artist/producer from the land of 10,000 Lakes. "Her R&B-infused pop is undeniably fresh, as she swings between pared-down acoustic struts, full-band funkadelic blasts, and electronic drumbeats and synth flourishes that would make the Purple One proud. The result is a slick, expansive, and evolving pop sound, aided in part by producer and mentor Michael Bland (who drummed with Prince in the early '90s and currently plays with Nick Jonas), whose Sonic Matrimony Collective label released Mayda's first full-length, *The Interrogation*, last year. The prolific young soul singer is just beginning her journey, but it's hard not to anticipate big things from the petite yet larger-than-life pop songstress." -Andrea Swensson, *The Current*

Mayda's music has been featured locally as well as internationally. Numerous of Mayda's songs have been on Rachael Ray show, Good Morning America, KFC youtube, Reebok Seoul commercials, Jersey Shore, and cable networks such as Showtime and MTV.

Recently, Mayda has just signed with South Korean Indie Label, Musicaroma/Feel Good Inc. On a her 3-week tour in Seoul, Mayda was able to meet her birth parents for the first time. In lieu of the performances, her trip was documented on public television as well

as media print. In the middle of March, Mayda then went on a 2-week tour debuting in Europe from Ireland, Germany, Copenhagen, Spain, to Sweden! On returning to the US, Mayda is releasing a brand new batch of songs in the beginning and end of this year in addition to collaborating with Mu Theater Arts.

— More @ www.imaydasong.com.

SPOKEN WORD ARTISTS

As a special addition to our gala dinner, we sought out artists from the Twin Cities' rich spoken word community. The following performers agreed to share their work and serve as the opening act for Mayda's concert.



*Photo credit:
Kaamil Haider*

Eva Song Margolis: You can read some of Margolis' work in *Gazillion Voices* magazine (www.gazillionvoices.com).



*Photo credit:
Dan Markworth*

Sun Yung Shin: Learn more about Shin's writing at sunyungshin.com.

DR. ELIZABETH RALEIGH

KAAN 2014 Saturday Luncheon Keynote

Liz Raleigh (BA Brown University, MA and PhD University of Pennsylvania) is an assistant professor of sociology at Carleton College in Northfield, MN. Her research interests include race, the family, and transracial adoption. She is currently working on a project that examines how transracial adoption serves as a lens into the demarcation of the American color line. Her work also examines adoption through a market perspective, exploring how 'non-traditional' adoptive parents face more constraints in the adoption marketplace.

As a 'mixed methods' scholar, Professor Raleigh routinely analyzes large-scale data sets such as those from the US Census, as well as conducts in-depth interviews with respondents. Liz teaches courses in social statistics, race, the family, and the introduction to sociology.

—More @ <http://apps.carleton.edu/curricular/soan/faculty/raleigh/>



DR. SARAH PARK DAHLEN

KAAN 2014 Saturday Breakfast Keynote

Sarah Park Dahlen is an Assistant Professor of Library and Information Science at St. Catherine University in St. Paul, Minnesota. She teaches courses on children's and young adult materials, children's and young adult library services, storytelling, social justice, and library and information science. Currently, she is examining representations of transracially adopted Koreans in children's literature and the information behaviors of transnationally adopted Koreans. She co-edited a children's and young adult multicultural literature textbook with Dr. Jamie Naidoo titled *Diversity in Youth Literature: Opening Doors Through Reading* (ALA Editions, 2012). Her next project examines race in the Harry Potter series.

"The purpose of my research is to critically analyze stories portraying Korean diasporic experiences so that parents, educators, librarians, and readers can understand the content and contexts of our stories," says Dahlen. "I hope my research will encourage authors, illustrators, and publishers to produce socially and culturally conscious children's stories."

Dahlen is a Korean-American married to an Korean-American adoptee. See her list of book recommendations on page 22-23.

— More @ www.sarahpark.com.



RAINBOW WORLD

What's the local connection for this film? Minneapolis-based Rainbow World, along with its commercial partner GKIDS, is the licensed U.S. distributor of *Approved for Adoption*.

Rainbow World is a 501.c.3 nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting, creating and distributing multimedia educational content about the international/transracial adoption experience. Its founder, Jennifer Arndt-Johns, is a Korean-born adoptee who lives in MN.

"While films, books, academic research, musicians, and artists continue to explore the subject of adoption — finding and accessing these resources can often be challenging. It is our hope to change this," says Arndt-Johns.

Under Arndt-Johns' leadership, *Approved for Adoption* has opened in select theaters across the nation and was screened at the United Nations on May 16, 2014.



APPROVED FOR ADOPTION (French: Couleur de peau: miel)

KAAN 2014 Feature Film

Animated Documentary, Laurent Boileau/Jung Henin France, 2012. 75 minutes In French with English subtitles

This remarkable animated documentary traces the upbringing of filmmaker Jung Henin, one of over 200,000 thousand Korean children adopted by Western families since the end of the Korean War. It is the story of a boy stranded between two cultures. Sepia-toned animated vignettes – some humorous and some poetic – track Jung from the day he first meets his new blond siblings, through elementary school, and into his teenage years, when his emerging sense of identity begins to create fissures at home and ignite the latent biases of his adoptive parents. The filmmaker tells his story using his own animation intercut with snippets of super-8 family footage and archival film. The result is an animated memoir like no other: clear-eyed and unflinching, humorous and wry, and above all, inspiring in the capacity of the human heart.

KOREAN DRUMMING PERFORMANCES

KAAN 2014 Friday afternoon performances and Sunday AM youth program

Minneapolis has a multitude of talented Korean drumming groups. Three of those groups are sharing their talents at KAAAN 2014.

Mu Daiko and Jang-mi Korean Dance & Drum will perform on Friday afternoon.

Mu Daiko is a prestigious performance group founded in 1997 as

part of Mu Performing Arts (www.mupperformingarts.org).

Jang-mi Korean Dance & Drum was created in 1984 as a way for Korean adoptees to learn about their heritage and have weekly community with families like their own. You can read more about the group at www.koreanheritagehouse.com/jangmi.php.

Shinparam is a Korean traditional drum troupe which was founded in 2004 and is cosponsored by Korean Quarterly newspaper. This group will join the Sunday morning youth program for informal instruction and performance.



KAAN 2014
PRESENTS
NASHVILLE RECORDING ARTISTS

Chasing Lovely

FRIDAY • JUNE 27 • 3PM
PARK BALLROOM #1
CHASINGLOVELY.COM

CHASING LOVELY

KAAN 2014 Friday afternoon concert

Sisters Taylor and Chloe Turner (and manager/mom Kat Turner, who is a Korean-born adoptee) called Minneapolis home until July 2011, when they headed to Nashville to further pursue their music career.

This close-knit family has always had music as a part of their lives. "Our life is like a living musical. We sing around the house, in the car, at the grocery store...people don't believe us until they hear us harmonizing under our breaths when we're out to eat. When we were little, Mom played Broadway tunes in the car, we went to sleep to Bible songs and Beethoven, and sang karaoke to Hilary Duff and the Dixie Chicks," say the sisters on their website.

Chasing Lovely released their first album in November 2012 and went on their first independent tour last year. Visit www.chasinglovely.com for more information on this duo's impressive accomplishments and for links to some of their songs.



THE RABBIT HOLE

Site of the KAAN 2014 Adoptee Dinner

Guests have been raving about this restaurant since it opened late last year. Creative go-getter owners Thomas Kim and Kat Melgaard launched this eatery as a Kickstarter-funded outgrowth of their popular Mid-Town Global Market booth *The Left-Handed Cook*. Thoughtfully renovating the space with many personal and hands-on touches (including a graffiti wall for customers and custom woodwork), the couple opened the restaurant the same month their first child was born.

"The Rabbit Hole brings our interpretation of Korean pub food with bold flavors and modern techniques. Our goal is to expose our guests to some of our favorite Korean dishes we like to enjoy while having a drink," say the owners on their Facebook page. The menu features a wide range of drinks and the couple's spin on modern street food, from traditional fare like japchae and bulgogi to fusion dishes like kimchi mashed potatoes and goober burgers (such as the Omma, topped with seared pork belly, parmesan, crispy onions, bacon jalapeño jam, lettuce, tomato, and pickled watermelon rind, that have won the Rabbit Hole a listing on Eater.com's "The 19 Hottest Burgers in the United States Right Now").

Thomas is a second-generation Korean-American; Kat is a Korean-born adoptee. The couple speaks animatedly in their monthly column in *Gazillion Voices* magazine about the powerful way food ties them to Korean culture and heritage.

Visit the aptly named Rabbit Hole and fall into a wonderland of delightful cuisine and atmosphere. Congrats, Thomas and Kat, on conceiving a fresh and delicious addition to the rich food culture of the Twin Cities.

DUCK DUK BOKI

(a la The Rabbit Hole)

- 1 tbsp. Duck Fat
- 6 oz. Rice Cake (Tteokbokki/Dukboki)
- 1 cup Dashi or any broth or stock
- 1 tbsp. Cooking Sake
- 3 oz. Gochujang
- 2 oz. Duck Confit, shred (Or sub out for Beef or Chicken)
- 1 tbsp. Onion, caramelized
- 1 tbsp. Kimchi
- 1 tea Scallions curls, garnish
- 1 pinch Sesame seed, garnish
- 1 pinch gochugaru, garnish

Heat duck fat then sear rice cake until starting to bubble. Add dashi and bring to a boil. Add sake, Gochujang and mix until well incorporated.

Cook until rice cake is al dente.

Add duck confit, kimchi and onion. Warm through. Plate. Garnish with sesame seed and gochugaru.

Then drizzle gochujang on top then garnish with scallion curls.

Dashi:

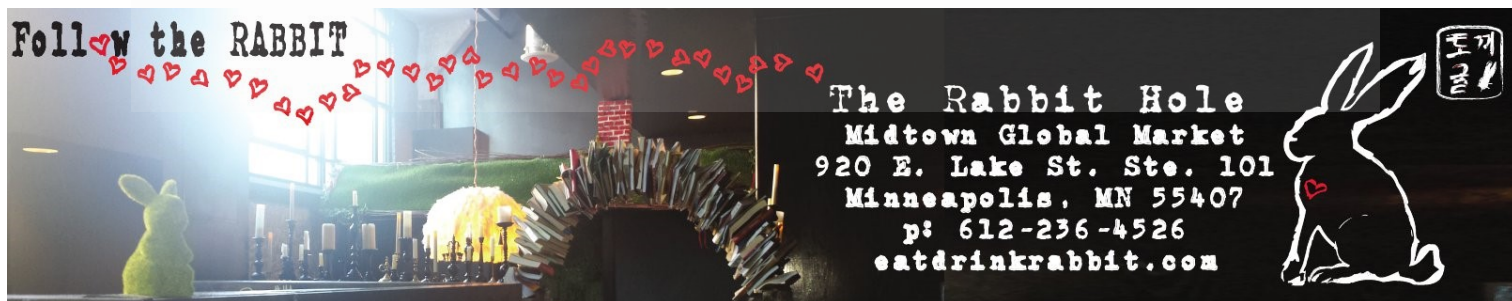
- 2 cups water
- 1 3x6 inch Kombu (Dried Seaweed for Stock)
- 1 oz. packed Katsuo Bushi

Bring water to a boil. Add kombu. Turn off heat. Add katsuobushi. Steep for 10 minutes. Strain. Reserve

Duck Confit

- 1 part salt
- 1 part black pepper
- 1/2 part sugar
- Duck Thighs (however much you would like to make)
- Duck Fat or olive oil (enough to cover duck thighs)

Mix the salt, pepper and sugar together for cure. Liberally coat duck thighs with cure mix and let sit for 4 hours. Rinse off cure and put duck into a pot with enough space to add oil without crowding. Cover completely with oil or fat and cook in preheated oven at 250F for 4 hours or until thigh reaches 150F internal temperature. Let the duck cool and then shred.





You missed your
chance to see

YOUR DESIGN
HERE!!

Get Involved

Why Volunteer?

Because, if you have found value in this weekend, you should have a vested interest in keeping this organization going.

KAAN is your community. The more people who get involved and share their time and expertise, the stronger our organization will be.

There are a range of ways you can get involved, from large-scale things like pulling together local support to host the conference in your area or organizing a fundraiser to benefit KAAN to inviting a friend to attend or making a financial donation. You can share your expertise as a speaker, serve as an adoptee mentor in the youth program, assist with registration on-

site, take photographs, write for our blog (to become more active this fall), and help us to find advertisers, vendors, and exhibitors.

Right now, we are entirely volunteer-run, from our speakers to our executive director to our webmaster. This makes us both cost-efficient and very vulnerable. As we continue to build KAAN's infrastructure and resiliency, our goal is to be able to provide stipends for those who work year-round for the organization so that it is easier to find new leadership as needed.

KAAN has grown and adapted over the years based on the skills and time offered by various leaders. How might you help to shape our organization and our time together?

CALL FOR SESSION PROPOSALS

for

KAAN 2015

June 26-28, 2015 / St. Louis, MO

**** Submission period Aug 15–Nov 1 ****

Details at www.KAANet.org

Some of our best sessions have grown out of conversations at previous conferences. Got a topic you feel should be addressed? Jot down your thoughts and submit a proposal for KAAN 2015. We'll be looking for proposals that address important and exciting actions and activities that are beginning or happening now.

with KAAN



WANTED

If you would like to get more involved with KAAN, there are many opportunities listed on our website, especially on our "Donate" page.

Here are several specific volunteer positions we want to fill right now:

Photographers: Professionals or skilled amateurs willing to take candid and posed photos at our annual conferences.

Internet researchers: Online wizards willing to surf the Internet on KAAN's behalf to flesh out our website's resource directories.

Fundraising partners: Organizers willing to coordinate an event in their area that benefits KAAN. Ideas at www.KAANet.org/donate/html.

Sponsorship team members: Friendly individuals willing to help contact businesses and organizations for sponsorship opportunities within KAAN.

Contact KAAN at info@KAANet.org or 717.574.3629 if you are interested in serving in any of these roles.

Support KAAN
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www.KAANet.org.



Single Moms' Day



THE 4TH SINGLE MOMS' DAY CONFERENCE SINGLE MOMS ARE PARENTS TOO! FROM ABANDONMENT TO CHILD-REARING

Single Moms' Day is an event that was started by TRACK in 2011 to challenge the (Korean) government's Adoption Day. We were inspired by the First Nations people in the U.S. who celebrate "Native American Day" on Thanksgiving in order to challenge the dominant narrative and draw people's attention toward a different center of gravity.

Since we started four years ago, we have gained more support from Korean society and have used the annual event to reduce discrimination against unwed mothers and their families, push for legislative changes, invite scholars to research our issues, and raise public awareness about the factors that pressure unwed mothers to abandon or relinquish their children for adoption.

Media response to the 4th Single Moms' Day seemed more positive than ever. We hope that this

positive response is a sign that our message that family preservation is the best choice for children has finally taken root in society.

With the closing of the 4th Single Moms' Day, TRACK hands over the leadership of the holiday to the Korean organizations that support unwed moms. We are happy to entrust this holiday to its true owners, and hope that Korean society will embrace our message as much as adoptees and adoptive families have already.



The events of Single Moms' Day are thoughtfully recorded in a hefty 180-page "booklet," written in both Korean and English. It contains copies of the spoken remarks from the leaders of KUMFA, KUMSN, TRACK, and KoRoot as well as other women's and single parent groups.

Preparing policy to prevent child abandonment was the discussion focus this year with presentations from various professors, activists, and community presidents. Also featured was a powerful "human library," a series of personal stories told by Park Young-Mi (KUMSN Board chair), Jeong Su-Jin (child-rearing unwed mom), Jeon Me-Sook (Seoul Single Parent Association), Andrea Kim Cavicchi (American adoptee), a member of Dandelions (organization of adoptees' families of origin), and Margie Perscheid (adoptive mother of Korean children).



Perscheid, an active KAAAN presenter and volunteer who is also the co-founder and current president of Korean Focus of Metro DC, said she was too moved by the stories shared at Single Moms' Day to give voice her own prepared remarks.

She later wrote in her blog, *Adoption Paradigm Shift*, that she was even more convinced of the importance of collaboration and support of the mothers and adoptees working to change society's views. "I am choosing not to be silent. But I am also keenly aware of the fact that speaking out is not enough. Each and every adoptive parent of a child from Korea must become an active supporter of women's rights there." Read more at (<http://adoptionparadigmshift.blogspot.kr>).



THE POWER OF LONG-TERM COLLABORATION

Although KoRoot is mostly known as a guesthouse for returning adoptees, it also engages in publishing translated books on adoption and serves as a "microphone" for adoptees in Korean society. In addition to the annual Single Moms' Day, KoRoot has collaborated with TRACK for a 2009 Adoption Day puppet show, a 2010 art installation at the National Assembly, and a year-long human rights program for first parents. In addition, KoRoot collaborated with adoptees, unwed mothers, and first families to revise the Special Adoption Law, which was amended in 2011. Pastor Do Hyun Kim, the director of KoRoot, lives in the guesthouse together with his wife. They and the KoRoot staff are cherished friends of many adoptees.

Here is photo of Pastor Kim and Jane Jeong Trenka on the day that they first met, when Trenka was invited to read from her book *The Language of Blood* at KoRoot.

+++++

Want to support the unwed mothers in Korea and some of the adoptee groups who work with them? Here are a few organizations that Trenka recommends:

Korean Unwed Mothers' Families Association (KUMFA)
www.kumfa.kr.or

Korean Unwed Mothers Support Network (KUMSN)
www.kumsn.org

TRACK (Truth & Reconciliation for the Adoption Community of Korea)
www.adoptionjustice.com

KoRoot
www.koroot.org



RECOMMENDED READING for Youth and Families

by Sarah Park Dahlen

3,000-5,000 children's books are published every year, yet fewer than 100 depict Asians or Asian Americans. There is a severe shortage of representations of the Asian diaspora in children's literature, and this results in our Asian American young people not seeing their lives reflected and validated in literature. As well, non-Asians are left without opportunities to see the richness and diversity of Asian cultures and experiences. Additional problems are that some existing books contain factual inaccuracies, have offensive illustrations, or are told in a patronizing tone. While many in the industry are working toward equity and better representations,

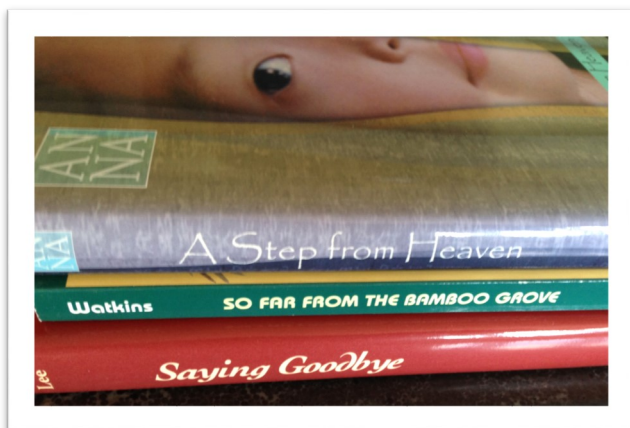
readers may need help finding the quality books that do exist. The following list contains children's and young adult books depicting the Korean diaspora both today and in history. It is a starting point - inclusion here is not necessarily endorsement. Because books speak to different readers in different ways and at different points in their lives, I encourage you to read them with a critical eye. If you like a particular book, consider buying it as a gift for another reader in your life to demonstrate to publishers that you support diverse books. Happy reading!

Picture Books

- Avraham, Kate Aver. *What Will You Be, Sara Mee?* Illustrated by Anne Sibley O'Brien. Charlesbridge, 2010.
- Bae, Hyun-Joo. *New Clothes for New Year's Day*. Kane/Miller Books Publishers, 2007.
- Choi, Yangsook. *The Name Jar*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2001.
- Czech, Jan M. *An American Face*. Illustrated by Frances Clancy. Child & Family Press, 2000.
- Czech, Jan M. *The Coffee Can Kid*. Illustrated by Maurice J. Manning. Child & Family Press, 2002.
- Heo, Yumi. *Ten Days and Nine Nights: An Adoption Story*. Schwartz, 2009.
- Jeong-saeng, Kwon. *Flap Flap*. Illustrated by Kim Yong-cheol, translated by T. Yun Hee Lee. Koryo Press, 2005.
- Kim, Derek Kirk. *Same Difference and Other Stories*. Top Shelf, 2005.
- Kraus, Joanna Halpert. *Tall Boy's Journey*. Illustrated by Karen Ritz. Carolrhoda Books, 1992.
- Lee, Suzy. *Mirror*. Seven Footer Kids, 2010.
- Lee, Suzy. *Shadow*. Chronicle Books, 2010.
- Lee, Suzy. *Wave*. Chronicle Books, 2008.
- Lee, Suzy. *The Zoo*. La Jolla, CA: Kane/Miller Book Publishers, 2007.
- Lee, Uk-Bae. *Sori's Harvest Moon Day: A Story of Korea*. Soundprints, 1999.
- Pak, Soyong. *Dear Juno*. Illustrated by Susan Kathleen Hartung. Viking, 1999.
- Shin, Sun Yung. *Cooper's Lesson*. Illustrated by Kim Cogan. Children's Book Press (now Lee & Low), 2004.
- Yoo, Paula. *Sixteen Years in Sixteen Seconds: The Sammy Lee Story*. Illustrated by Dom Lee. Lee & Low Books, 2005.

Chapter Books

- Choi, Sook Nyul. *Year of Impossible Goodbyes*. Houghton Mifflin, 1991.
- Han, Jenny. *Clara Lee and the Apple Pie Dream*. Little Brown, 2011.
- Kent, Rose. *Kimchi & Calamari*. HarperCollins, 2010.
- Park, Linda Sue. *Archer's Quest*. Clarion Books, 2006.
- Park, Linda Sue. *Project Mulberry*. Clarion Books, 2005.
- Park, Linda Sue. *A Single Shard*. Clarion Books, 2001.



Young Adult

- Kim, Derek Kirk. *Same Difference and Other Stories*. Top Shelf Productions, 2005.
- Lee, Marie G. *Saying Goodbye*. Houghton Mifflin, 1994.
- Na, An. *A Step from Heaven*. Speak, 2002.
- Yoo, David. *Girls for Breakfast*. Delacorte Press, 2005.
- Yoo, Paula. *Good Enough*. HarperTeen, 2008.

Additional Resources:

"Asian Pacific American Librarians Association Bibliography for Children's and Young Adult Books" by Dr. Sarah Park Dahlen on the *Talk Story: Sharing Stories, Sharing Culture* website
<http://talkstorytogether.org/asian-pacific-american-book-list>

"Cover Story Windows and Mirrors: Reading Diverse Children's Literature" by Dr. Sarah Park Dahlen in *Gazillion Voices*
<http://gazillionvoices.com/cover-story-windows-and-mirrors-reading-diverse-childrens-literature-by-dr-sarah-park-dahlen/#.U39w6V5Hzuc>

FROM OUR SPEAKERS:

Authors & Books That Have Most Shaped My Perspective on Adoption

Liz Raleigh

Somebody's Children by Laura Briggs
Adoption in a Colorblind Society by Pamela Quiroz
Shattered Bonds by Dorothy Roberts

Sara Docan-Morgan

Language of Blood by Jane Jeong Trenka
Adopted Territory by Eleana Kim
Deann Borshay Liem's films (not books, but still huge to me)

Ian Hoffman

Jane Jeong Trenka

Jan Dunn

A Single Square Picture by Katy Robinson was the very first adoption book I read long ago. It was the beginning of the shaping.

JaeRan Kim

This one is hard to answer, there are so many. I would say Regina Kunzel's book, *Fallen Women, Problem Girls*.

Terra Trevor

Yellow: Race in America Beyond Black and White by Frank H. Wu





Ni Hao Ma

by
Stephen Johnson

Stephen D Johnson (정은기) was born in Korea, adopted at the age of four months, and grew up in Texas. In 2011, Stephen reunited with his birth family, and he is currently in Korea meeting them for the first time. Upon his return, Stephen and his wife, Whitney, will reside in New Haven, Connecticut.

Like a shock to my senses or a splash of water to my face
And I just stared straight ahead

Ni hao ma?

The words came again
This time with a twinge of a question
Like the speaker was somehow second guessing herself
All the similar moments rushed through my head
The micro-aggressions and internal suppressions
Years of isolation and castration
The expectation for me to be
Something that I'm not

And I wanted to scream

And so I turned to her
Smiling politely and said,
"Sorry, but I'm Korean"
And my feet took me traversing towards an exit
Apologizing as if I was wrong by my own existence

You see, I like to imagine myself as a beacon of normative
behavior
A savior for the haters and traitors
But the truth is
In the heat of the moment
I often don't know what to say
And so I retreat to my room
And write poetry
Imagining all the things I'd like to say

In that moment I wanted to round up all of Asian America
To show that we are more than oriental objects
For you to propitiate and propagate
An agenda built upon the backs of servants and slaves
Your shining stars to show how bootstraps can be pulled
up properly,
a property for your monopoly.

What if I told you ...

That not all Asians are Chinese.

And hear me out,
There's nothing wrong with being Chinese.

It's just that...
I'm not.

You see, it's really hard for me
To be Chinese
When I'm already Korean.

So, the other day
I was in line at the bookstore
And I heard the foreign yet familiar
Words from a friendly female behind me

Ni hao ma!

The words rattled in my head before I realized what was
happening

I wanted to tell her about dynasties and comfort women
Displaced lives and internment prisons
Visions of millions of immigrant decisions
We are more than laundromats and funny fats
Tattoos on frat dudes
More than fried rice and slanted eyes
Mulan and Ching Chang Chong

And I wanted to call upon all the adoptees I know
And rain down with the full force of our diversity
To show her that we are not what you think
I wanted to sit down
To share coffee and spill education
To tell her that I can't drive
But it's not because I'm Asian

We are more than a model for other minorities
Shit, we are a model for everyone

We are narratives and ancestors
We are loss and reconnection
We are displaced and disaffected
We are people
Complex, happy and savvy
Like Glenn is to Maggie
A collection of intersections
The reflection of a new direction
And just because you can't pronounce our family names
Doesn't mean we all look the same

And I've been called some terrible things in my life
Chink, Jap, Charlie

To name the pain reclaims the shame
But the funny thing is that race isn't a thing
A social construct to calculate our conduct
Based upon the color of our skin
And yet it feels like the most powerful thing in the world
The fact that somehow people are more valuable than
others
Based on specimens of melanin

And yet we wear privilege like an apron
Draped to our napes like Paula Dean is to bacon
And I'm tired of mistaking and faking
As if I'm not just as guilty

As everyone else in the room
Because if silence is approval
Then my lack of words is an oppression
A digression from the progressive lessons
We never seem to learn

It's like me walking up to a Russian
And saying Bonjour, wi wi monsieur
And she would look at me
With the absurdity of societies and proprieties
Being lumped into the melting pot
Of our so-called American Dream
Where to assimilate
Means we must give up all of our identities
And that is the best part of me
America, you are missing out
On the best part of me

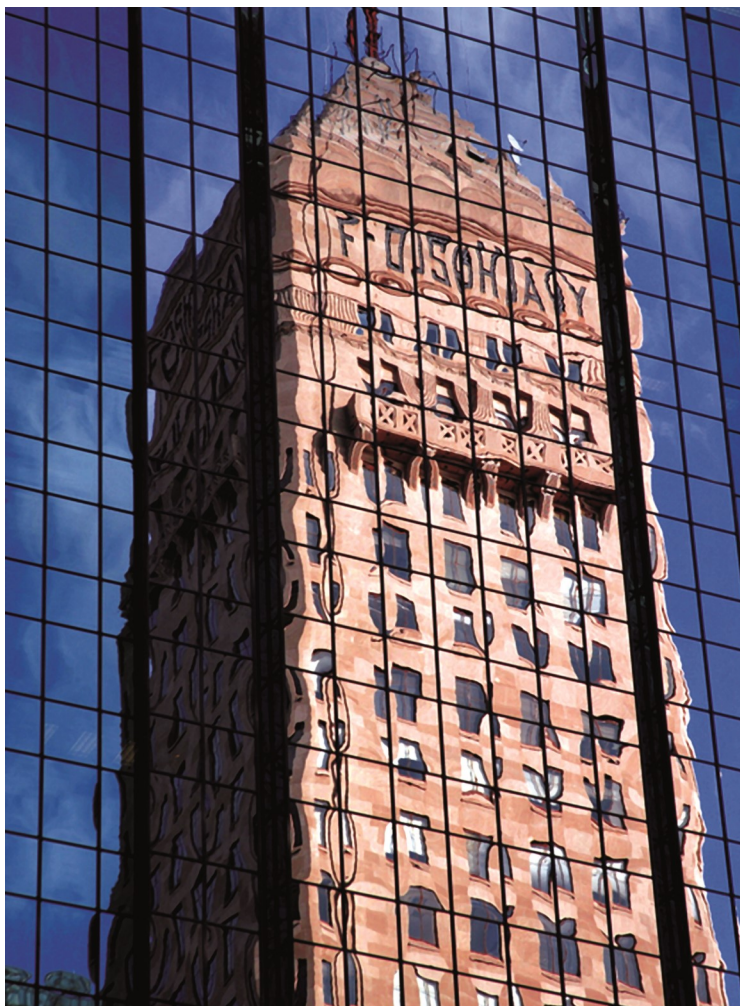
And it's not just us of the Asian persuasion
If you're Latina, you're nothing more than an illegal alien
AFRICA IS NOT A COUNTRY.
It's a continent with complex cultures
And let me be the first to tell you
That not all black men are out to get you
Your innocent ignorance sends us to therapists
And how did Sikh's somehow become terrorists?

And yet life is more complicated
And the only way to change the world
Is to let your stories breath free

Ni hao ma!

Are you as much a fan of Stephen's work as we are? To read previous pieces he has written for KAAAN, look up the our last two conference magazines on our website under the About Us/History tab. *Right Now* (2013) and *Small Talk* (2012) were written specifically for KAAAN.

Earlier writings *Letter to an Adoption Nation* (2011) and *The Souls of Clear Folk* (2010) are listed under the notes section of our Facebook page.



FROM OUR SPEAKERS:

How to Get the Most Out of the KAAN Conference

Alyson Yost: Make your best attempt at being outgoing. Talk to as many people as you can because they will all bring something unique to the weekend.

Jan Dunn: Meet people where they are at and listen.

Kim McKee: Recognize that KAAN attendees come with a myriad of life experiences. Their intersectional identities are unique, which means we may not all agree on adoption issues. Remember to step back and listen, before you make strong judgments about an individual.

JaeRan Kim: If you tend to be on the shy or introverted side like I am and it's hard to reach out to new people, volunteer. Having a "job" connects you to people you might have been too shy to reach out to on your own.

Terra Trevor: Have an open mind, throw out any stereotypes, and listen to what adoptees and adoptive parents have to say. While adult adoptees and their parents have something meaningful to share with young families, their own journey is not over. KAAN's programs have evolved so parents of adult adoptees can continue to learn and grow. Adult adoptees who are parenting, raising a new generation of children whose mothers and fathers were adopted from Korea offer wisdom and insights.

FRIDAY, JUNE 27

1:30-4:30PM

Registration

2:00-4:00PM

Exhibit Hall

Music Showcase

4:30-7:00PM

Adoptee Dinner (*offsite; adv. reservation necessary*)

Dinner on Own

7:00-8:00PM

Registration

Exhibit Hall

8:00-9:30PM

Performance — *How To Be A Korean Woman*

Film Screening — *Larva*

PLEASE NOTE

Schedule accurate as of press time.

Check your magazine insert for the most up-to-date listing of each session time and for specific room assignments.

Detailed session descriptions begin on page 29.

Adoptee-only sessions are marked in italics.

schedule

SATURDAY, JUNE 28

7:00-8:30AM Continental Breakfast

- ◆ 7:30 Youth Breakfast Meetup
(Field trip 9-4:45PM)
- ◆ 7:30 Registration & Exhibit Hall Open
- ◆ 8:00 Keynote: Sarah Park Dahlen

9:00AM-10:15AM/ Session Block 1

- ◆ Korean/Chinese MIL
- ◆ G.O.A.'L.
- ◆ What Happened to Dad?
- ◆ Hank Aaron's Daughter
- ◆ *Transracial Commonalities*
- ◆ Childcare

10:30-11:45AM/ Session Block 2

- ◆ *Divorce*
- ◆ Legal Issues in Korea
- ◆ First Trip Home
- ◆ *Second Losses*
- ◆ Scholars
- ◆ Heritage
- ◆ Childcare

12:00-1:30PM Luncheon

Keynote: Elizabeth Raleigh

1:45-3:00PM/ Session Block 3

- ◆ Not Finding Family
- ◆ Books for Kids
- ◆ *Life After Reunion*
- ◆ Transracial Commonalities
- ◆ Parenting Teens
- ◆ Childcare

3:15-4:30PM/ Session Block 4

- ◆ Voice of the Spouse
- ◆ Gazillion Voices
- ◆ Birth Family Reunions
- ◆ *Dating and Relationships*
- ◆ Adoptee/Parent Dialogue
- ◆ Siblings
- ◆ Childcare

4:45-5:30PM

Support Forums

6:00-8:15PM Gala Dinner

Recognitions, Anniversary Celebration,
Spoken Word Performance *feat.* Artists Eva Song
Margolis and Sun Yung Shin; Concert by Mayda

SUNDAY, JUNE 29

7:00-8:30AM Continental Breakfast

7:30-8:00AM

Prayers and Candlelighting (*drop-in*)

8:30-9:45AM/ Session Block 5

- ◆ Film Screening: Approved for Adoption
- ◆ Multiracial Parenting
- ◆ DNA
- ◆ Let's Learn Korean
- ◆ *Search for Birth Family*
- ◆ What Are You Looking At?
- ◆ Youth Program Medley
- ◆ Childcare

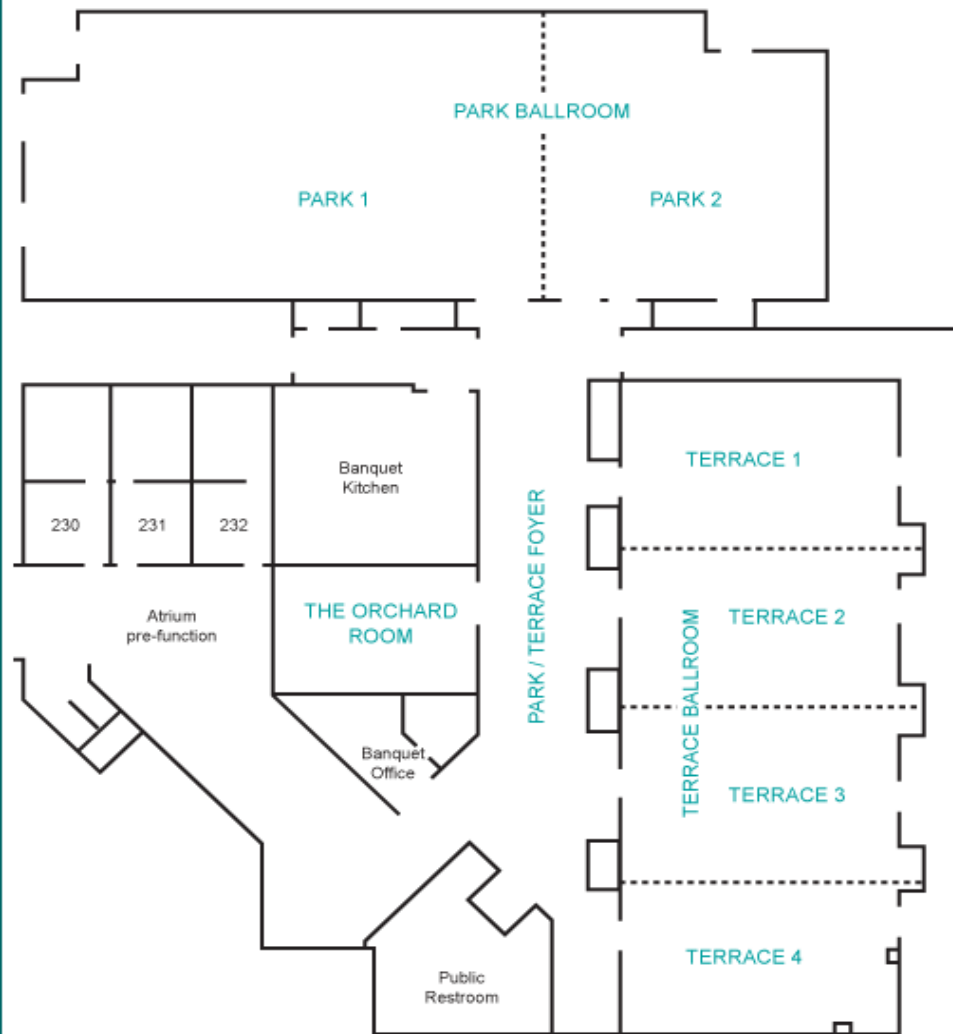
10:00-11:30AM

- ◆ Closing Performance: Susan Harris O'Connor
- ◆ (Ages 7-17) Youth Medley followed by Good-bye Party
- ◆ Childcare



Photos on these two pages courtesy of Meet Minneapolis.

DOUBLETREE MINNEAPOLIS-PARK PLACE SECOND FLOOR



Program

Locations

Most events take place on the second floor (top map at left).

REGISTRATION & EXHIBIT HALL

Park / Terrace Foyer

MEALS

Park #1 Ballroom

ADULT SESSIONS

Park #1-2

Terrace Rooms #1-4

Summer (*first floor*)

YOUTH/ CHILDCARE

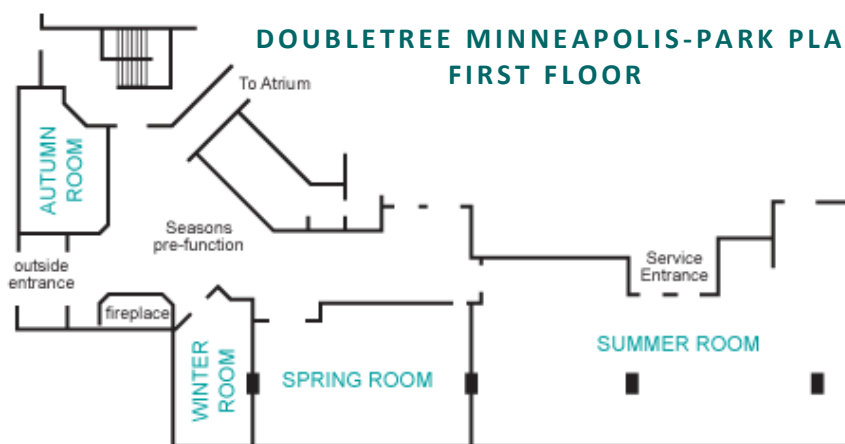
PROGRAMS

(down one flight on first floor)

Spring

Summer

DOUBLETREE MINNEAPOLIS-PARK PLACE FIRST FLOOR



session *notes*

friday @ 2:00pm

Music Showcase

Mu Daiko, Jang-mi Korean Dance & Drum, Chasing Lovely

Enjoy a two-hour concert by these three powerhouses ... two Minnesota-based drumming groups and a Nashville-duo with Minnesota roots.

friday @ 4:30pm

Adoptee Dinner

Kimberly McKee, Kye Nicholls

Those who pre-registered for this adoptee-only dinner at the Rabbit Hole should meet promptly in the lobby for the shuttle. Traffic will be heavy on a Friday heading to this phenomenal restaurant, but the journey will be worth it!

Community Dinner including Spouses/Partners and Parents of Adult Adoptees Dinners

We've blocked off a section of the hotel restaurant for newcomers and others who want to connect with other participants early on in the conference. Stop by at 4:30 if interested.

friday @ 8:00pm

Performance:

How To Be A Korean Woman

Sun Mee Chomet

How to Be a Korean Woman is a hilarious and poignant one-woman show about an adoptee's reunion with her birth family. Using text, music, and movement, celebrated Twin Cities' actress Sun Mee Chomet explores the questions: "What happens after reunion? What needs are met and left unmet?" "How does one's idea of family change?" Specifically, Chomet shares her own reunion story. Universally, the play is about family and human longing to know one's past.

Family Film: Larva

Martha Crawford, host

Did you know that the animators of the Simpsons, Family Guy, Justice League Unlimited, and The Legend of Korra are ALL from South Korea? It is true. Tonight we feature another family-friendly series—Larva—that was both written and animated in South Korea. Larva explores the misadventures of Red and Yellow (two hungry maggots) and their friends. You can preview the series at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxqSpnqgfEc>. We expect to show episodes 1-20 and will provide drinks and snacks as well. Come hunker down for an evening of giggles and munchies.

saturday @ 8:00am

Conference Welcome/ Remarks Opening Keynote

Sarah Park Dahlen

Dr. Dahlen will provide an overview of how adopted Koreans are depicted in children's and young adult literature, particularly in the context of changing adoption ideologies, policies, and practices and the changing landscape of children's literature. She will also provide some insight into problems and progress in this literature, and how adoptive families can advocate for better representations of their stories.

saturday @ 9:00am

White Privilege for the Transracial Adoptive Family

Jen Hilzinger, Mark Hagland, Terra Trevor, Chad Goller-Sojourner

This is a guided discussion about race, racism, white privilege, and white culture led by a multiracial panel.

Am I a Korean/Chinese Mother-In-Law?!

Chris Winston, Terri Sheridan

When we adopt, we are told that our family picture will be changed forever, but it is so difficult to anticipate what that means. How do we anticipate, prepare for, and understand where the future may lead? Presenters will share their stories of exploration and discovery of where they fit in supporting their children's identity through the lens of becoming mother-in-laws to Korean/Chinese nationals.

What's Happening with G.O.A.'L?

Mee Joo Kim, John Kalani Compton

Get the latest on what Korea's oldest adoptee-run organization is doing including its future plans! From offering cooking lessons to establishing mental health programming and conducting birth family searches, Global Overseas Adoptees' Link (G.O.A.'L) has continuously served the adult adoptee community in Korea with a variety of programming since 1998.

What Happened to Dad?

Glen Hilzinger, David Amarel, Jennifer Ferro

There's one figure often missing from discussions of birth family origin - Dad. The adoption triad has no room for the birth dad and oftentimes the adoption process has little presence by the adoptive dad. Why? We'll discuss the varying roles and responsibilities of fathers in adoption from birth to parenting.

A Reading/Discussion of Hank Aaron's Daughter

Shannon Gibney

A short reading of an excerpt from YA novel HANK AARON'S DAUGHTER, which explores issues of adoption, family, kinship, and identity through the lens of a 16-year-old mixed Black girl adopt-

ed into a white family. Discussion to gather critical feedback and responses following.

Transracial Adoptees: Finding Commonalities Across Countries

*** ADOPTEEES ONLY ***

Sumitra Dorner, Kripa Cooper-Lewter, Adam Chau, JaeRan Kim

As the authors of the book *Parenting as Adoptees* have shown, adult transracial international adoptees have a huge amount in common, wherever they were born. Identity, birth search, the narrative burden, and other issues all present common challenges. Adoptees from Colombia, India, Vietnam, and South Korea will lead a discussion of common issues.

saturday @ 10:30am

Divorce and How It Hits Us

*** ADOPTEEES ONLY ***

Jan Dunn, Jamie Comstock, Kevin Haebeom Vollmers

Divorce is something that most everyone in the US has been touched by in one way or another. Does divorce hit adoptees in unique ways that only we can understand? Join a panel of peers who will share about how divorce has impacted their lives in regards to the seven lifelong issues of adoption.

Legal Issues for Adoptees in Korea

Mee Joo Kim, John Kalani Compton

As the organization behind the successful F-4 visa and dual citizenship campaigns, Global Overseas Adoptees' Link (G.O.A.'L) assists adult adoptees with minor and major legal issues. Find out more about the F-4 visa and dual citizenship, as well as the work G.O.A.'L has been doing with deported and incarcerated adoptees.

"Our First Trip Home"

Alyson Yost, Marjorie Bourqui-Fleury, Ian Hoffman, Chae Haile

Are you considering making your first trip home to Korea? Hear stories from U.S. and international adoptees on what it was like re-

turning to Korea for the first time since their adoption. You will listen to thoughts, feelings, and suggestions that may transform your idea of a trip back to Korea.

Second Losses

*** ADOPTEEES ONLY ***

Kerry Bondy

How do adoptees experience the loss of our adoptive parent(s) in addition to the loss of our first or (birth) parent(s)? Panelists will share their experience surrounding the loss of an adoptive parent and facilitate an open discussion about this potential second loss in a supportive, non-judgmental environment.

Perspectives from the Inside: Adoptee Scholars and Adoption Research

Kimberly McKee, JaeRan Kim, Elizabeth Raleigh, Oh Myo Kim

This roundtable discussion features adult adoptee researchers in the fields of History, Psychology, Sociology, Social Work, and Gender Studies. Panelists will discuss how they negotiate their locations as adoptees and researchers in their work on transracial, domestic, and/or international adoption. They will reflect on how their scholarship is considered by non-adoptees in academia and consider how adult adoptee scholars are impacting mainstream understandings of adoption.

The Heritage Conundrum: What Can Transracial Adoptees Claim?

Mark Hagland, Martha Crawford, David Amarel

International adoptees grow up in environments different from their original heritage and culture. To what extent can adoptive parents impart any heritage to children, given the distance from birth culture, as well as barriers around claiming birth culture? A collaborative discussion of how adoptive families construct identities around multiple, often elusive, family heritages.

saturday @ 12:00pm luncheon & keynote

Is Asian Adoption Less of a Transracial Adoption? Racial Hierarchies in a Post-Racial World

Elizabeth Raleigh

Between 1999 and 2011, 43% of all children adopted from overseas to the United States were Asian. Explaining this trend, one adoption social worker said that white parents seemed to feel that adoptions from Asia were "less of a transracial adoption." How do we make sense of this? Drawing on her research interviewing adoption providers, Liz Raleigh will explore how racial hierarchies in adoption play out in a supposedly post-racial world.

saturday @ 1:45pm

Not Finding Birth Family

Dawn Tomlinson

The popular environment for discussion weighs heavily toward the adoptee who reconnects with birth family. But what about the adoptees who decide to search and cannot find the birth family? How does this impact relationships with their adopted family, their friends, and themselves? Kate and Dawn speak to their own stories.

Books for Kids

Kye Nicholls, Kari Johnson

A sister team who are both educators (one pre-K and one elementary) want to share their love of literature with the adoption community. As an adoptee and now parent, Kye often looks to her sister Kari for advice on children's literature that is racially relevant and age appropriate. The resources have grown and are worthy of sharing with the community.

Where Do We Go From Here?: Reflections on Life after Reunion

*** ADOPTEEES ONLY ***

Soojin Pate

This adoptee-only session examines the experiences of adoptees who have reunited with their birth family and have sustained a relation-

ship with them for several years post-reunion.

Looking at Adoptee Commonalities Across Countries

Mark Hagland, Kripa Cooper-Lewter, Adam Chau, Sumitra Dorner

Several authors of the book "Parenting As Adoptees—born in South Korea, Vietnam, India and Colombia—will lead a panel discussion in which they address the commonalities that transracial-international adoptees have across country and cultural origins, including issues around identity development, relationship to birth country and culture, birth search, and the narrative burden.

Parenting Adopted Teens

Katie Naftzger

Katie will discuss the needs and struggles of adopted teens, especially as it relates to what they need from you, their adoptive parents. She will talk about how adopted teens may differ from non-adopted teens and use the model that she has developed to illustrate her perspective.

saturday @ 3:00pm

Presenter Book/Product Signing

Various Speakers and Presenters

Gather at the conference bookstore to get signed copies of items purchased from our speakers and presenters.

saturday @ 3:15pm

Adopted: Voice of the Spouse

Uhriel Edgardo Bedoya, Jannie Kruse, Mike Tavenner, Jenn Tavenner

Korean adoption combined with adult relationships and marriage create specific and unique complexities. For these two couples, KAAAN has been critical in bringing to light issues of privilege and of burden. We will focus on concepts such as control, frustrations and conflict, and our journeys to overcome.

Gazillion Voices: Changing the Adoption Discourse?

Kevin Haebeom Vollmers, Shannon Gibney

Members of the Gazillion Voices magazine team will discuss the role, impact, and trends set by the first ever adoptee driven adoption magazine. In doing so, they will also offer thoughts and perspectives about the importance of expanding the adoption discourse into the mainstream.

Birth Family Reunions and Relationships

Sara Docan-Morgan

In this session, adult Korean adoptee and communication studies professor Sara Docan-Morgan will share her research on Korean adoptees' reunions and relationships with their birth families, as well as the importance of support from adoptive families and/or friends during this process. Practical implications will be discussed. Questions and comments will be welcomed, and discussion will follow.

Dating, Relationships, Marriage For Adult Adoptees

ADOPTTEES ONLY

Katie Naftzger

Katie will discuss the questions that adult adoptees grapple with in their intimate relationships such as deciding when to stay or when to go and choosing a partner who is right for them. She will explore how adoption status might factor into their difficulty being happy, settled and connected in their relationship, and suggest ways to change the course of their relationship.

Beginning the Adoptee/Adoptive Parent Dialogue

Karen Benally, Charlie Teixeira

Using examples from our personal story and from interviews with adoptees and adoptive parents, we will explore specific themes and issues emerging from our research project, *Stories of Adult Transnation-*



al Adoptees and their Adoptive Parents. Our goal is to foster dialogue and encourage us all to "listen with our hearts."

Sibling Panel

Kye Nicholls, Kari Johnson, TBD

Nuture vs. nature. How much does it make a difference? Welcome to a discussion about sibling relationships. We will examine relationships with each other, with parents and with other members of the family. Come ready to participate and share your story.

saturday @ 4:45pm

Support Forums

A quiet place to decompress and process feelings from the day. No formal session ... just a safe place to talk. Separate spaces for adult adoptees, parents of adoptees, and partners and siblings of adoptees.

saturday @ 6:00pm gala dinner

Enjoy a nice dinner and conversation with your tablemates before we begin our evening program and festivities. Program will include recognition ceremony and entertainment by spoken word artists Eva Song Margolis and Sun Yung Shin as well as a closing concert by

Mayda Miller. An adoptee group photo will be taken at 7:15; cash bar opens at 7:45.

saturday @ 7:45pm youth pool party

Members of our youth mentor team will chaperone any registered youth who want to take a break from the second half of the evening program to join them at the hotel pool from 7:45-9:30PM. Parents are in charge of dropping off and picking up their children within this timeframe.

sunday @ 7:30am

Prayers and Candlelighting

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 @ 8:30am

Film: Approved for Adoption

Jennifer Arndt-Johns

We are excited to share this powerful autobiographical documentary that traces the upbringing of its filmmaker, Jung Henin, a Korean-European adoptee. His story is the telling of a boy stranded between two cultures. The filmmaker tells his story using his own animation intercut with snippets of super-8 family footage and archival film. The result is an animated memoir like no other: clear-eyed and unflinching, humorous and wry, and above all, inspiring in the capacity of the human heart. Approved for Adoption is distributed in the United States by Rainbow World. See the subtitled trailer at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QTz4nWpL5DI>.

Parenting Multi-Racial Children

Jenn Tavenner, Mike Tavenner

Being parents of multi-racial children is hard enough without adding the multi-racial aspect into it.

As parents we are trying to balance raising our children to have acceptable values and contribute to society, at the same time helping them understand their part in society.

Family Ties: How DNA Tests Work

Heewon Lee, Richard Lee, Bonnie LeRoy, Mary Jarvis Ahrens

Genetic testing is a method of finding medical and birth family history. The purpose of this session is to learn about research and trends, discover which tests are best to take, understand how to interpret results and listen to stories about the process of taking the tests and finding relatives.

Let's Learn Korean Right Now

Grace Euna Ko

Language is reflection of time and stories of certain people and nation. Learning Korean would be the best bet for the future of your child since we humans have longing for our origins. The first part of the session will deal with the Korean Alphabet system. The second part will be guidance for further learning.

The Search for our Birth Family

ADOPTEE ONLY

Alyson Yost, Marjorie Bourqui-Fleury, Ian Hoffman, Chae Haile

Have you ever wondered whether you want to start a birth family search? Maybe you are currently in the process? Hear the details of how adoptees searched for their birth family and their results. Hear about reunions and searches that have come up without answers. Question and answer session will conclude the session.

What Are You Looking At?

David Amarel, Kevin Haebeom Vollmers, Jen Hilzinger, Eric Sharp

Transracial adoptees get stared at. Transracial adoptive parents also receive all kinds of looks, ranging from sweetly adoring to derisive. Every member of the adoptive family needs to cope with the extra

attention that comes with being part of a different-looking family. Sometimes we aren't treated like families at all. In this session, the panelists and attendees will discuss experiences resulting from the appearance of the transracial adoptee and adoptive family, and the different ways we learn to cope. Additionally, special attention will be given to deliberate choices we make in regard to appearance: ranging from tattoos to fashion. Discussants include adoptive parents with children ranging from elementary to college age, as well as adoptees who bring a rich and often poignant perspective to the question: "What are you looking at?"

Youth Ages 7-17 Program

Activity Medley

Rachel Rutigliano, Heidi Jaehne, Joe Meyer, Ben Henze, Elana Meesun Schuster, Nicole H.

Youth can choose from a variety of options, including an informal drumming class led by local group Shinparam, crafts, and an opportunity to explore with adoptee mentors about age-appropriate issues related to adoption identity, first/birth families, and race.

These activities will conclude with a closing party from 10:30-11:30PM.

sunday @ 10:00am closing keynote

Susan Harris O'Connor

Wrap up the conference with a stirring dramatic reading and discussion by Susan Harris O'Connor from her book/memoir *The Harris Narratives: An Introspective Study of a Transracial Adoptee*.

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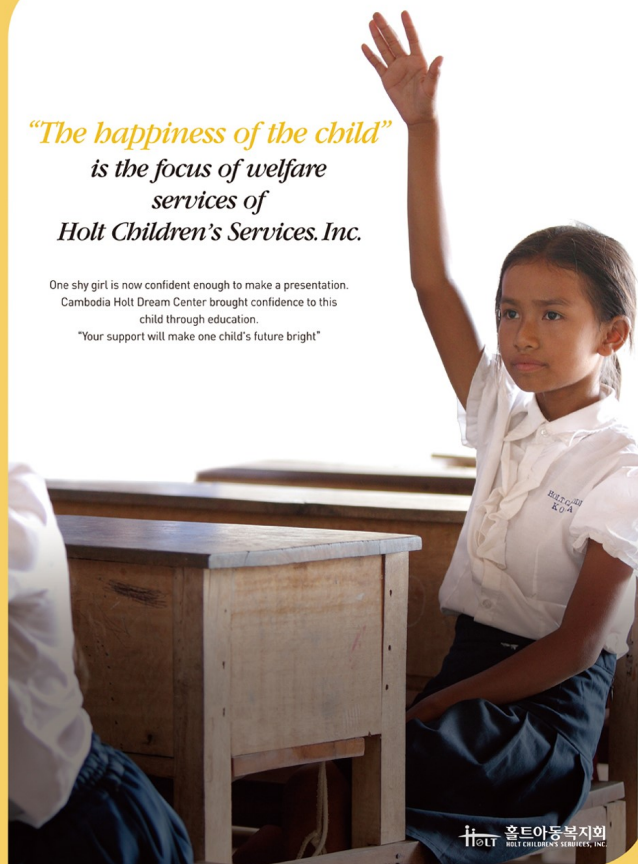


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CHILDCARE PROGRAM (AGES 3-7)



the coordinator and adoptee mentors:

Rachael Rutigliano (*coordinator*), Caitlin Bright, Nicole H.

the program:

This 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.

YOUTH PROGRAM (AGES 7-17)

the youth planning team and adoptee mentors:

Rachael Rutigliano (*coordinator*), Nicole H., Ben Henze, Emily Hilzinger, Heidi Jaehne, Joe Meyer, Elana Meesun Schuster.

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.

Friday afternoon: youth activity table with snacks

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

Saturday field trip: Mall of America with mini golf and aquarium visits. 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.

Sunday morning: drumming class, games, teen counseling, and closing party.

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





youth spotlight



Q&A with Ethan Hilzinger

AGE: 16

BIRTHPLACE: Seoul, S. Korea

CURRENT HOME: Troy, Michigan

WHY YOU CHOSE THE DRUMS: Mainly because I took drumming in Korean School and my mom thought I would like to take lessons for 5th grade band. I watched my teacher play drum kit and I wanted to try it.

FAVORITE DRUMMERS/BANDS: There are so many - too many to say really...two of them would be Linkin Park and Rise Against... but there are many more.

OTHER INSTRUMENTS PLAYED: I play lots of percussion equipment from band.

FAVORITE BRAND OF DRUM: Pearl Kit is the best. I don't have that yet, but someday I hope to have one.

NAME OF CURRENT BAND: Distorted Peace

SONG THAT GETS STUCK IN YOUR HEAD: *Just a Little Faster* by There for Tomorrow

WHERE YOU REHEARSE: My basement

WHAT YOU LIKE ABOUT DRUMMING: A lot of it is free flow and when you get good, you can express your own creativity with beats and such. Put twists on old and new stuff.

ONE THING PEOPLE NEVER UNDERSTAND ABOUT DRUMMING UNTIL THEY TRY:

They have misconceptions that they can just sit down and play. Happens all the time actually. People sit at my kit and grab sticks and think they can figure it out right away. You still have to learn basic techniques and then more advanced techniques and then there's lots of styles, etc.

HOW MANY DRUMSTICKS HAVE YOU BROKEN: OMG its gotta be at least 9 or 10. They are very hard to break really, but they get nicks in them from cymbals and stuff. One time I was playing cymbal in my right hand and realized the half the stick was on the other side of the room. My hand seemed much lighter but I didn't hear it crack or see it or anything.

FUNNIEST DRUM STORY: At one concert at Omaras (local restaurant where we play frequently) I actually dropped a stick and was only playing with one stick and my foot pedal. I kept drumming but had to lean over and pick up the stick with my right hand. It was pretty funny, but my mom said she didn't notice. The guitarist did, though, and we both cracked up.



MUSIC GOALS: Nothing really specific - I just want to be as good a drummer as I can be.

ADVICE TO YOUNG KIDS INTERESTED IN DRUMMING: Practice - always practice. No matter how confident you feel practice everyday. I practice everyday at least 45 minutes to an hour.



CONNECT-A-KID

Adoptee Mentor Program Partners With KAAN

Brian Conyer, the founder of Connect-a-Kid, and several other CAK leaders presented at KAAN 2013. At the end of the conference, this group and a few others sat in the lobby of the Grand Rapids Amway Grand Hotel waiting for their rides to the airport. When KAAN executive director Stacy Schroeder dropped by to chat, the ensuing conversation led to an offer by Conyer that Connect-a-Kid support KAAN by coordinating the youth and childcare programs at KAAN 2014.

"After experiencing the incredible 2013 conference firsthand, it made perfect sense to partner with KAAN in the future," says Conyer. "We are honored to have the opportunity to lead the youth program at KAAN and look forward to supporting the conference in every other way possible. I hope the synergy be-

tween KAAN and Connect-A-Kid will inspire other organizations within the adoption community to work collaboratively."

"Our youth programs are different from culture camps or language schools, though we have some of the same goals," Schroeder says. "Bringing a group of teens and children of varied ages together for a weekend in a hotel has its challenges, but also the powerful benefit of program happening alongside adult programming for so many adoptees. This is made even more affirming when some of those adoptees chose to spend their time as mentors to younger adoptees. We have been blessed over the years by many great mentors and are excited that Connect-a-Kid has chosen to become a part of this."



The Scoop on Connect-a-Kid

Connect-A-Kid is an organization that provides team-based mentoring to internationally adopted children. The team-based approach to mentoring gives adopted children the unique opportunity to connect with multiple adult adoptee role models and to develop relationships with other adopted children in the area. The program was started with the vision to connect every adopted child to an adult adoptee, who will be more than just a mentor, but a lifelong friend. Founder, Brian Conyer, comments, "Almost every Connect-A-Kid adult adoptee applicant stated in their application that they wish they had this program growing up. The power in this data cannot be overlooked. This type of program is long overdue and the Connect-A-Kid team is determined to make our program available to ALL adopted children".

Since the launch of the Denver pilot program in January of 2013, the Connect-A-Kid staff has worked relentlessly to launch nine subsequent cities across the country. In addition to sustaining organic growth, the organization hopes to partner with adult adoptees, adoptive parents, adoption agencies, and other adoption affiliated organizations to make mentorship programs like Connect-A-Kid a standard post-adoption service.

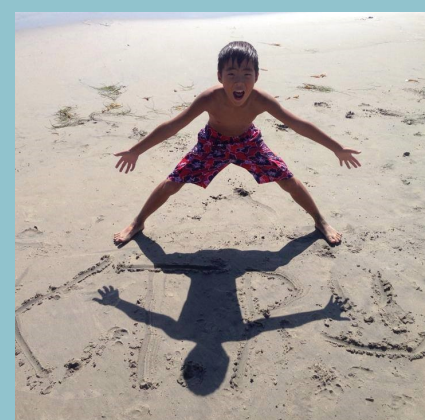
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FUNCTIONING CITIES: Los Angeles, CA; Orange County, CA; San Diego, CA; Denver, CO; Orlando, FL; Chicago, IL; New York City, NY; Hartford, CT; Rochester, NY; also Toronto and Ottawa, Canada, in partnership with Children's Bridge International Adoption Consultants.

UPCOMING CITIES (target 2014): Minneapolis, MN; Detroit, MI; Philadelphia, PA; Atlanta, GA; Washington DC; San Francisco, CA.



CAK founder Brian Conyer with a happy program participant



Contact:

www.connectakid.org

919.280.1378

info@connectakid.org



First issue, Fall 1997



Fall 2012 anniversary issue



Summer 2003

Korean Quarterly

is your award-winning newspaper reporting on the diversity of the Korean American community!

Korean Quarterly was formed in 1997 by adopted Koreans, 1st, 1.5/2nd generation Korean Americans and adoptive parents. Our mission is to be a voice for people and ideas not represented in the mainstream media and provide independent and alternative reporting on issues of identity, racism, politics and the arts and be a forum for the ideas and creativity of the entire Korean American community.

Korean Quarterly focuses on the place where identity, creativity and culture intersect. From the Twin Cities to Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, Honolulu, Europe, Seoul and Pyongyang, we have been there to give voice to a variety of viewpoints and issues.

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Korean Quarterly welcomes your ideas, letters, opinion pieces, short stories, poetry, photography, and other prospective articles

speaker bios

Mary Jarvis Ahrens, MS, CGC
Mary (MS in Genetic Counseling, Sarah Lawrence College; BS, University of Minnesota) has been a genetic counselor over 20 years at the University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview. During the time she has worked at the University of Minnesota Medical Center, she has seen patients in a variety of clinics such as genetics, prenatal, and cancer. Mary is also a clinical supervisor with the University of Minnesota Genetic Counseling Graduate Program.

David Amarel, PhD
David is a clinical psychologist in private practice in New York City. David has received over ten years immersive training in adoptive parenting from Eli (In Beom) and Lucy (Sunghee). Along with his wife, Martha Crawford, the family of four resides in Brooklyn. David and Martha are columnists for Gazillion Voices magazine (gazillionvoices.com) as well as co-founders of SubText Consultation (subtextconsultation.com), a clinic and consultation service for writers.

Jennifer Arndt-Johns
Jennifer is a mother, filmmaker and activist. She is the Founder/Director of Rainbow World, a 501.c.3. nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting, creating and distributing multimedia educational content about international adoption. The organization's inaugural film release, "Approved for Adoption" is currently in release in North America and work is in progress on "Voices of Adoption: Video Oral Histories from Minnesota's Korean Adoption Community". She received her M.F.A. in filmmaking from Temple University and is the writer, director, producer of the pioneering

documentary, "Crossing Chasms," which chronicled her first journey back to South and the collective testimonies of other adopted Koreans from around the world.

Uhriel Edgardo Bedoya
Uhriel is a native of Panama and has lived in the US for close to two decades. An international banker by trade, he has done business in over 15 countries and has traveled to over 35, including his first trip to Korea in 2011. In his spare time he likes to perform with his classical chorus and spend time with his Little Brother from Big Brothers Big Sisters. He and wife Jannie reside in Miami.

Karen R. Benally, PhD
Karen (Associate Professor of Anthropology Emeritus, San Juan College, New Mexico; PhD in Cultural Anthropology, Northwestern University; BA and MA in Education, Michigan State University) co-directs with daughter Lisa the research project Stories of Adult Transnational Adoptees and their American Parents. Over the past three years, Lisa and Karen have interviewed over 120 adoptees and parents about their adoption experience. The themes and issues that are emerging from those stories are the focus of their ongoing work. In addition to her research activities, Karen continues to teach part-time. She and her husband also run a small bed and breakfast on the Navajo Nation.

Kerry Bondy, MS, PA-C
Kerry is a Korean adoptee whose participation in several past KAAAN conferences has included volunteering, facilitating sessions, and organizing bone marrow donor registration drives. She works as a Physician Assis-

tant at the University of Michigan in Hematology/Oncology.

Marjorie Bourqui-Fleury
Marjorie was adopted at age two by a Swiss family. She has found her birth family, an amazing experience that changed her deeply. She has no children and has been a widow for almost 2 years, but has been ready to be a parent since she came to Korea and found the answers to her birth.

Caitlin Bright
Caitlin was adopted from South Korea at 4 months old. She grew up just outside of the Twin Cities with her parents and one adopted brother. Caitlin has a B.A. in Political Science from Arizona State University. Currently, she lives in San Diego, California, with her husband and son. She volunteers as a Connect-A-Kid mentor and is also a part of the Connect-A-Kid Social Media Team.

Sara Campbell, LMSW
Sara is an adult adoptee who has been involved with KAAAN since 2003. She has also been on the Advisory Council since 2010. Sara is a senior manager of a mental health crisis home in Flint, MI.

Chasing Lovely
Blending country with pop, rock and Americana influences, this sister duo has a refreshingly unique sound that can't be tamed! Chasing Lovely's debut EP was fan-funded through a Kickstarter campaign in March 2012. Chloe (18) and Taylor (20) are thrilled to have Grammy and CMA award-winning musicians on the record. One fan describes Chasing Lovely's music as "Family roots splendor with a vibe and energy that will leave you wanting more." Another

said their music has a, "Fantastic grasp of reality." One used just three simple words: "Beauty, harmony and grace." Originally from Minneapolis, Minnesota, the Asian American sisters relocated to Nashville, July 2011. Chloe graduated high school May 2013 and Taylor completed her second year at Belmont University. Learn more about their story and music at chasinglovely.com.

Adam Chau

Adam has had the pleasure of serving on four adoptee organization boards; had his thoughts posted up on blogs for MPR, MyxTV, Hyphen, Slant Eye For The Round Eye, and Gazillion Voices; helped program two local film festivals showcasing APIA and adoptee community members; taken up space on a panel with the Los Angeles Times; and is helping to publish and edit books by adoptees and authors of color.

Sun Mee Chomet

Sun Mee has worked with the Guthrie Theater (The Burial at Thebes, Macbeth, The Intelligent Homosexual..., The Two Gentlemen of Verona, After 100 Years); Cincinnati Playhouse/Hartford Stage/Repertory Theatre of St. Louis/Kansas City Repertory (Mary Zimmerman's Metamorphoses); Syracuse Stage (M. Butterfly); California Shakespeare Company (Measure for Measure, 'Tis Pity She's a Whore, Oedipus Rex); Mu Performing Arts (Cowboy vs. Samurai, Asiamnesia [playwright and actor], WTF, Circle Around the Island); Ten Thousand Things Theater (A Midsummer Night's Dream); History Theatre (100 Men's Wife); Penumbra Theatre (for colored girls...); Mixed Blood Theatre (Elemeno Pea); Walking Shadow Theatre (36 Views) and many other theaters locally and nationally. How to Be a Korean Woman has received numerous honors including "2012 Best Solo Performance" (Lavender Magazine) named in the "Top Ten Shows of 2012" as part of The Origin(s) Project (Star Tribune). Sun Mee's first play, Asiamnesia (actor and

playwright) received "Best New Script of 2008" honors (Star Tribune) and she was chosen as one of City Pages' 2008 Artists of the Year. Sun Mee is a Playwrights' Center McKnight Theater Artist Fellow, TCG Fox Fellow. She is also a grateful recipient of funding towards the development of her work from the Jerome Foundation, MRAC, Minnesota State Arts Board, and Rimon Foundation (2009 Norman Akerberg Artist Travel/Study Grant). Upcoming, in 2014, Sun Mee will be in Othello at the Guthrie and the world premiere of Kira Obolensky's Dirt Sticks with Ten Thousand Things Theater. www.sunmeechomet.com

John Kalani Compton (오명석)

John, a Korean adoptee, grew up in Hawai'i and has been living in Korea since 2010. He has held several positions within Global Overseas Adoptees' Link. Currently, he is an Internal Advisor and captain of the G.O.A.'L soccer team. He was part of the first group of thirteen Korean adoptees to gain dual citizenship in 2011. In his free time, he enjoys snowboarding, mountain biking, scuba diving, and traveling.

Jamie Comstock

Jamie is an adult adoptee born in Seoul, South Korea. She is a proud mother of very creative 7-year-old daughter. Graduated with a degree in graphic design, she currently works for Dillon International as an intake specialist and in the Search Program. She resides in Tulsa, OK.

Stephanie Kripa Cooper-Lewter, PhD, LMSW

Kripa (PhD, University of South Carolina; Masters, University of Minnesota; BA, Bethel College) has more than eighteen years practice experience in the non-profit, social service, health, educational, and philanthropic sectors. Since 1994, she has served as a speaker for national adoption conferences, heritage camps, adoptive parent workshops, and adoptee-only retreats and gatherings. She has been actively in-

involved in the adult adoptee community in various leadership roles. She was born in India and adopted to a single-parent household in Northern Minnesota in 1975. She returned to India in 2009 with her husband and two children, who are now 21 and 7. She is also a Certified Personal and Executive Coach with a focus on helping women and girls.

Martha Crawford, LCSW

Martha is a psychotherapist in private practice in NYC. She is the author of the blog What a Shrink Thinks, and an adoptive parent columnist at Gazillion Voices magazine with her husband. Together, she and David also offer online coaching, support for writers at Subtext Consultations and Writer's Clinic (Subtextconsultation.com).

Sara Park Dahlen, PhD

Sarah Park Dahlen is an Assistant Professor of Library and Information Science at St. Catherine University in St. Paul, Minnesota. She teaches courses on children's and young adult materials, children's and young adult library services, storytelling, social justice, and library and information science. Currently, she is examining representations of transracially adopted Koreans in children's literature and the information behaviors of transnationally adopted Koreans. She co-edited a children's and young adult multicultural literature textbook with Dr. Jamie Naidoo titled Diversity in Youth Literature: Opening Doors Through Reading (ALA Editions, 2012). Her next project examines race in the Harry Potter series. Sarah is a 2.5 generation Korean American and has one daughter with her husband, an adopted Korean. sarahpark.com.

Sara Docan-Morgan, PhD

Sara (PhD, University of Washington) is an assistant professor of Communication Studies at the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse. Her work has been published in the Journal of Family Communication, the Journal of Social and Personal Relation-

ships, and the Journal of Korean Adoption Studies. Her research focuses on how personal identity and family identity are formed, maintained, and negotiated through discourse in both adoptive and birth families. Sara was born in Pocheon, South Korea, and reunited with her birth family for the first time in 2009. Sara is a mother to twin three year-olds.

Sumitra Dorner, LICSW

Sumitra L. Dorner is currently a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW) therapist at a small medical clinic in Mpls, MN. She obtained her BA from Hamline University in 1992 in Psychology. Her Masters in Social Work in 2001 from St. Thomas University. She has had 24 years of experiences in the social services. Her experiences include residential with children and adults, in-home/direct care, community based services, case management, clinical, and mental health services. Sumitra is involved in the adoption community on social media sites as well as professionally. She has been involved in the Mentoring Program through CHSFS since 2002. Sumitra worked for Children's Home Society for 1.5 years. She enjoyed and found this work satisfying. It came naturally and was a good fit. She herself is adopted from India. She and a few other people have co-founded Lost Sarees which was created to help facilitate connecting and helping South Asians. Sumitra's greatest pride and joy is her son. She has yet to make the birth country journey. This is definitely on her bucket list.

Jan Dunn, CCLS, LCSW

Jan (BS, Family Relations and Child Development; MA, Social Work) has worked in the adoption community for the past nine years. She was adopted from South Korea and currently resides in Oklahoma.

Jennifer Fero, M.Ed

Jennifer is an adoptee whose family participated in the documentary, Adopted, by Pointmade Productions. She resides in Atlanta, Georgia with her daughter. She has worked in public schools for sixteen years. Prior to working for a

school system, she taught English in Andong, South Korea for a semester. Jennifer is passionate about living the change we wish to see in our world.

Shannon Gibney

Shannon is a writer, educator, and activist in the Twin Cities. Adopted in 1975 to a white family in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Shannon has written extensively on transracial adoption. Her critical and creative writing are published in a variety of publications.

Chad Goller-Sojourner

Chad is a Seattle-based writer, solo-performer, transracial adoptee and recipient of a distinguished Washington State Arts Commission Performing Arts Fellowship. Most recently he served as the 2013 Ohio University Glidden Visiting Professor, where his work focused on the social, political and historical dimensions of identity construction and intersectionality. In 2013 he debuted his sophomore solo performance: Riding in Cars with Black People & Other Newly Dangerous Acts: A Memoir in Vanishing Whiteness.

Mark Hagland

Mark is an adult Korean adoptee. He was born in South Korea in 1960 and adopted at the age of eight months, and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin by parents of Norwegian-American and German-American heritage. He has been a professional journalist for over 30 years. He has been involved in the KAAN Conference for 12 years. Mark has been a contributor to a number of adoptee anthologies, including "Outsiders Within" and "Parenting as Adoptees." He lives in Chicago.

Nicole H., PhD

Nicole is a Korean adoptee who grew up and currently resides in Michigan. She has her Ph.D. in psychology and specializes in the assessment and treatment of pediatric neurodevelopmental disorders.

Chae Haile

Chae (BS in Justice Studies, Arizona State University; MA, Public Administration, New York University) is the owner and president of



Speaker Jan Dunn with her son

FROM OUR SPEAKERS: *Top Online Resources*

Liz Raleigh:

www.gazillionvoices.com

US Department of State statistics ... http://adoption.state.gov/about_us/statistics.php

Sun Yung Shin:

<http://harlowmonkey.typepad.com/>

Sara Docan-Morgan:

www.colorlines.com

www.gazillionvoices.com

Twitter (so many great tweets by adoptees)

Ian Hoffman:

www.alsoknownas.org

www.goal.or.kr

www.inkas.org

Jan Dunn:

www.gazillionvoices.com

www.thelostdaughters.com

www.ted.com

Kimberly McKee:

www.racialicious.com

www.angryasianman.com

www.salon.com

JaeRan Kim:

www.gazillionvoices.com

FROM OUR SPEAKERS:

Travel Advice to Korea

Liz Raleigh:

Learn as much Korean as you can beforehand. It will greatly enhance your ability to get around and give you access to more local restaurants, etc.

Alyson Yost:

Go back! Have a translator and a support person.

Jan Dunn:

Cars don't stop for people.

Kim McKee:

Be yourself when you go to Korea and recognize that you may not be viewed as "Korean" by native Koreans due to your Western mannerisms, appearance, etc.

JaeRan Kim:

Because it can be such an emotional trip, I suggest traveling with people who will be able to emotionally support you - things will come up and it will be difficult to worry about taking care of your travel partners if they are not used to traveling overseas or have a different agenda.



Speaker Sarah Docan-Morgan

Funded, a consulting firm specializing in grant writing services for nonprofit organizations, and is also an Adjunct Professor of Business Administration at Broward College. With over ten years in the nonprofit sector, Chae has worked with nonprofit organizations in Phoenix, New York, and Miami. Adopted from Korea at five months old and raised in North and South Dakota, she currently lives in Miami, Florida with her husband and daughter.

Ben Henze

Ben was adopted at the age of 4 from Taegu, South Korea. He currently resides in Chicago and is involved in the Chicago Connect-A-Kid program. Outside of work, Ben likes work out and supports all Chicago professional teams.

Emily Hilzinger

Emily was adopted from China when she was 5 months old. She lives in Michigan with her parents and two younger brothers, one of which was adopted from Korea. She loves learning about the world and its variety of people and cultures.

Glen Hilzinger

Glen is a father of three, one 7-year-old bio child and two teenage adoptees - one keeps him busy, the other two keep him honest. Glen claims no more adoption expertise than simply having "been there, done that." He does have the good fortune of being married to Jen Hilzinger, who continues pushing him to grow and be better informed on all things adoption-related.

Jen Hilzinger

Jen and her husband Glen have been married 22 years and are the parents of three active children. Their first child, age 18, just finishing her freshman year in college, was born in China and adopted at 5 months. Their second child, age 15, was born in S Korea and adopted at 6 months. The third child, age 7, was born to them. They live in a suburb of

Detroit, Michigan. Jen devotes her activism to social justice advocacy causes for underrepresented voices. She is also active at her children's schools, working on issues of diversity and inclusion. She is in her third year as the co-facilitator for the Diversity and Inclusion Council for the mid-sized diverse public school district in which her children are/were enrolled.

Heidi Jaehne

Heidi was adopted at the age of 11 months from Korea. She returned to Korea for her first trip home in 2012 with the Journey program and returned in 2013 to help coordinate on the tour. She attended her first, official, adoptee gathering - KAAN in 2013 in Grand Rapids, MI, as a youth counselor volunteer and presenter for Connect A Kid (CAK). Heidi has been the Director of Mentor Recruiting for CAK since the program began in 2012, is a mentor for the Orlando/Tampa CAK team and has returned to KAAN to help coordinate this year's youth program.

Ian Hoffman-Jin

Ian, who's Korean name is Jin Gyo Joon, was adopted at the age of two. He grew up in a small town in central Pennsylvania with an adopted sister also from Korea. Since graduating with a BFA, he has been working as a designer based in Philadelphia. He has also been involved with Korean adoptee organizations since 2009 and went to Korea in 2012 as a G.O.A.'L participant.

Kari Johnson

Kari is an Early Childhood Educator and has worked in Early Childhood Public Policy. Her sister is a Korean adoptee and she (Kari) is a very proud aunt.

JaeRan Kim, MSW, LGSW

JaeRan (PhD Candidate and Project Coordinator at the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare at the School of Social Work, University of Minnesota) was born in South Korea and adopted to the United States at the age of

three in 1971. Her research looks at adoption displacement and dissolution of internationally adopted children with disabilities.

Mee Joo Kim

Mee Joo is a Korean adoptee who has been living in Seoul for more than six years. She founded and is currently an advisor for the non-profit organization Korean Adoptees of Hawai'i (KAHI), which hosted the first Asian Adult Adoptee Film Festival in 2008. She is also a former Vice Secretary General and Secretary General of Global Overseas Adoptees' Link (G.O.A.'L), where she currently serves as Mental Health Services Coordinator.

Oh Myo Kim, PhD

Oh Myo (postdoctoral fellow at The Emily Program and visiting assistant professor at Macalester College) was born in Gwanak-gu, Seoul, South Korea and adopted at 8 months old. She was raised in New Jersey with her parents and two brothers. Oh Myo's research examines the intersection of culture and identity, and the process of cultural socialization, particularly within international adoptive families. She is a mindfulness-based therapist who specializes in Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, Acceptance & Commitment Therapy, cultural psychology, and eating disorders.

Grace Euna Ko

Grace (BS, social work with a minor in journalism, Ewha Woman's University in South Korea) is a Korean language instructor, culture presenter, and journalist. She works for Atlanta International Language Institute and ALTA Language Services, Inc. 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 has written many in-depth reporting on issues related to Korea and America for Korean newspaper OhmyNews.com.

Jannie Kruse

Jannie was adopted at the age of two from Korea. She returned to Korea for her first trip home in 2011 with her husband Uhriel. She attended her first KAA in 2012 in Albany, NY, and it was a revelation to spend time with other adoptees where often words were not needed in order to be understood. She is looking forward to visiting Minneapolis and seeing many familiar faces and lots of new ones.

Heewon Lee

Heewon was born in Gwangju, South Korea. She is the co-author of "HERE: A Visual History of Adopted Koreans Living in Minnesota." After more than a decade as a graphic designer, Heewon is back in school, studying chemistry and preparing to apply to graduate school. She lives in Minneapolis with her husband and two sons.

Richard M Lee, PhD, LP

Richard (Professor of Psychology and Asian American Studies, University of Minnesota) is Past President of the Asian American Psychological Association. He conducts research on the ethnic and racial experiences of adopted Korean American youth and adults and their families with a focus on its impact on mental health and development.

Bonnie S. LeRoy, MS, CGC

Bonnie (Professor in the department of Genetics, Cell Biology and Development and Director of the Graduate Program of Study in Genetic Counseling, University of Minnesota) is interested in the ethical challenges to genetic counseling practice and educating the next generation of practitioners. In addition, Bonnie has a daughter who was adopted from China. Because of her daughter, the questions about the utility and risks of genetic testing are not only professional but also personal.

Kimberly McKee, PhD

Kimberly McKee (Ph.D in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality



Scholarships

*Korean language scholarships are offered from prestigious universities in Seoul.
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Studies, The Ohio State University) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Liberal Studies at Grand Valley State University. Her current book manuscript, tentatively titled *Markets, Children and "Love": Interrogating the Transnational Adoption Industrial Complex*, interrogates the institutional practice of international adoption and traces the origins of what she terms the transnational adoption industrial complex. In doing so, *Markets, Children and "Love"* challenges the portrayal of international adoption as solely an act of humanitarianism and child rescue. A chapter from her manuscript is included in the forthcoming volume *Critical Kinship Studies: Kinship (Trans)Formed*, edited by Charlotte Kroløkke, Lene Myong, and Stine Wilum Adrian. Her work on the Korean diaspora will also appear in the forthcoming volume *Click and Kin: Transnational Identity and Quick Media*, edited by May Friedman and Silvia Schultersmandl. Her second project explores how racialized and sexualized depictions of Asian/Asian American women circulate within the U.S. as a result of American militarism abroad and its impact on the female adoptee body. She also serves on the Advisory Council of KAAAN.

Eva Song Margolis

Eva is a Korean American adoptee who grew up and currently lives in Minneapolis. From a young age she has been hungry to test boundaries and explore multiple understandings of identity, culture and citizenship. Eva has worked in the nonprofit industry and on grassroots movements relating to the struggle for social and economic justice for over a decade. She loves writing and its ability to transform, heal, unite, and question.

Mayda Miller

Mayda is a young yet seasoned Korean Adoptee multi-musician/artist/producer from the land of 10,000 Lakes. Her music has been featured locally as well as inter-

nationally. Numerous of Mayda's songs have been on Rachael Ray show, Good Morning America, KFC Youtube, Reebok Seoul commercials, Jersey Shore, and cable networks such as Showtime and MTV. "Her R&B-infused pop is undeniably fresh, as she swings between pared-down acoustic struts, full-band funkadelic blasts, and electronic drumbeats and synth flourishes that would make the Purple One proud. The result is a slick, expansive, and evolving pop sound, aided in part by producer and mentor Michael Bland (who drummed with Prince in the early '90s and currently plays with Nick Jonas), whose Sonic Matrimony Collective label released Mayda's first full-length, *The Interrogation*, last year. The prolific young soul singer is just beginning her journey, but it's hard not to anticipate big things from the petite yet larger-than-life pop songstress." -Andrea Swenssen. More at <http://www.imaydasong.com>.

Katie Jae Naftzger, LICSW

Katie works with individuals and families in her private psychotherapy practice in Newton, MA, as well as online for those who are long-distance. She specializes in adoption and enjoys running groups and workshops. Katie also brings her experience as a Korean adoptee and as a mother to her work. She is passionate about strengthening relationships in families and understands the importance of everyone in the family feeling empowered and respected. Her blog is <http://www.adoptiontherapyma.com>.

Kye Nicholls

Kye was adopted at 6 months of age. After spending her life in the midwest, she now calls Minneapolis home. There she resides with her family and teaches elementary school.

Susan Harris O'Connor, MSW

Susan Harris O'Connor, author, and national speaker/performer is a graduate of the Boston University School of Social Work. She began working at Children's

Services of Roxbury (CSR) in 1997 as a child-specific worker on the foster care unit. Currently, she is CSR's director of Quality Assurance and Adoption, and a professional coach and social work consultant for the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families. Susan writes about her experiences of being a transracial adoptee and former foster child. Her earliest writings/solo performance narratives were published in 1997 by the Yale Journal of Law and Feminism subsequent to having presented her work at the Yale conference, *Challenging Boundaries*. Since 1996, her autobiographical narratives have been featured nationally and internationally at events and conferences such as the Harvard Medical conference series, the Cambridge Series, Smith College Summer lecture series, the American Adoption Congress conference, The Judicial Branch and the Office of the Child Advocate of the State of Connecticut and the Governor's Commission on Child Placement in Foster and Adoptive Care for the State of Rhode Island. In addition, Susan's racial identity model for transracially and internationally adopted persons was published in the esteemed *British Journal of Adoption and Fostering* volume 36 numbers 3 and 4 (2012). See, The development of racial identity in transracially adopted persons: An ecological approach. In 2012 Susan became the author of her first published book, *The Harris Narratives: An Introspective Study of a Transracial Adoptee*. This book is a compilation of five autobiographical narratives.

SooJin Pate, PhD

SooJin is a Visiting Assistant Professor at Macalester College, where she teaches courses on critical race theory, immigration, and U.S. history and culture. Her book "From Orphan to Adoptee: U.S. Empire and Genealogies of Korean Adoption" is forthcoming with the University of Minnesota Press (March 2014). She is cur-

rently working on a second book project entitled "On Mothering and Motherlessness."

Elizabeth Raleigh, PhD

Liz (PhD in sociology, University of Pennsylvania; undergraduate degree, Brown University) is an assistant professor of sociology at Carleton College. Her research largely focuses on transracial adoption, examining issues such as the market aspects of transracial adoption patterns, the racial socialization of transracial adoptive households, and the heterogeneity of the adopted child population. Her research has appeared in journals such as *Sociological Perspectives*, *Social Science Quarterly* and *Children and Youth Services Review*. Beyond her research, her passion for her subject extends into the classroom where she teaches courses on assisted reproductive technology and adoption, race and ethnicity, and the American family. Born in Korea, and raised in the Northeast, Liz currently lives in Northfield, MN with her family.

Rachel Hye Youn Rupright

Rachel (MSW, University of Albany; undergraduate, James Madison University) is a Korean adoptee raised near Binghamton, NY. She currently serves as KAAN's speaker coordinator and a member of the proposal selection committee. She lives and works in Albany.

Rachael Rutigliano

Rachael was born in Seoul and adopted when she was 7 months old. She grew up in North Carolina attending Camp Moo Gung Hwa and continues to return each year as a program director and teacher. Rachael returned to Korea for the first time last summer with Journey and is already planning another trip back. Rachael is the Program Director for Connect-a-Kid and attended KAAN 2013 as a presenter and youth program volunteer. With the partnership between Connect-a-Kid and KAAN, Rachael is excited to return as childcare and youth program coordinator.

Stacy Schroeder

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 those 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 experience includes serving as a full-time camp director, working at a library, and co-authoring a book. It brings Stacy joy to see the bonds forged at KAAN continue to flourish and bring support throughout the year, including for her son and daughter, who are teen adoptees themselves.

Elana Meesun Schuster, LICSW

Elana Meesun Schuster is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW), Korean American adoptee from Gwangju, and program lead for Adoptive Family Support at Fraser—a



Performer Sun Mee Chomet



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(Resident Camp for grades 7 - 11)

June 30 - July 4, 2014

(Day Camp for grades K - 6)

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For additional information and registration materials, visit our website:

www.campchoson.org



SUSAN HARRIS O'CONNOR

KAAN 2014 Closing Performer

If you google Susan Harris O'Connor's name, you will find a list of esteemed organizations and sites touting her work. From attaining the "Outstanding Practitioner" Award at the recent *St. John's/Montclair University Adoption Initiative* conference to procuring rave reviews by adoptee bloggers and others who have attended her past presentations, it is obvious that O'Connor is at the center of and often driving conversation with her Harris Racial Identity Model, developed in 1999.

O'Connor will present part of this model as a dramatic piece for our closing session at the conference. Her book, *The Harris Narratives: An Introspective Study of a Transracial Adoptee*, further details this theory and will be available for sale at our bookstore.

You most likely will get to meet O'Connor long before her performance, as she will be participating in the whole conference.

Welcome to KAAAN, Susan!

Twin Cities, community mental health clinic, focused on early intervention services. Elana has experience living in Korea, teaching in a Korean Children's Home, and working with youth and families that are in foster care or have been adopted. Elana's extensive personal, professional, and community-based experience anchors her conviction to advocate for family stability and permanent connections for young children across the permanency spectrum.

Terri Sheridan

Terri is a librarian and the mother of four adopted adult children, two of which were born in Korea. She was a contributing editor of *International Families Newsletter* and a parent mentor for regional foster-adopt families. A past KAAAN presenter, Terri lives in Santa Barbara, California with her husband, three of their brood, a daughter-in-law, a grandchild, and various dogs, cats, birds, reptiles, and visiting wildlife.

Sun Yung Shin 신 선 영

Sun Yung Shin is the author of poetry collections *Rough*, and *Savage and Skirt Full of Black* (Asian American Literary Award). With Jane Jeong Trenka and Julia Chinyere Oparah she co-edited the anthology *Outsiders Within: Writing on Transracial Adoption*, and is also the author of *Cooper's Lesson*, a bilingual Korean/English illustrated book for children. Her reviews, essays, stories, and poems have been published in a variety of anthologies and venues, including the *Star Tribune* and *Gazillion Voices* and are forthcoming from anthologies *The Encyclopedia Project* and *Others Will Enter the Gates*. She is a 2014 McKnight Foundation Poetry Fellow and has received grants and fellowships from the Minnesota State Arts Board, the Bush Foundation, the Jerome Foundation, and elsewhere.

Michael Stanley

Michael Stanley is the treasurer

for KAAAN. 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 board member of *Ta-ri*, a group celebrating Korean culture and community in south central Pennsylvania. He lives in Elverson, PA, with his children.

Jenn Tavenner

Jenn is an adult adoptee born in Pusan, South Korea. She has attended three KAAAN conferences and is excited to share her experiences. She currently lives in Pennsylvania with her husband and two children.

Michael Tavenner

Mike comes from a traditional white family and was challenged by some family members about a mixed-race relationship. Over time these challenges were overcome, and a wonderful marriage and two beautiful children followed. Mike also likes to cook and brag about dinner on Facebook.

Lisa Charlie de Moraes Teixeira

Charlie (BA, American University of Paris; MA in International Affairs with a focus on Korean Studies, University of Washington) once worked for an Asian American newspaper in Seattle, writing about Asian American issues such as the adoptee community in Washington State. Since 2007, she has been board member of Korean Adoptees of Hawai'i (KAHI), and currently is co-President. In 2008, KAHI hosted more than 100 adult adoptees in Honolulu for a gathering that included seminars on adoption issues and the first-ever adoptee film festival. In 2009, she completed co-writing a book on Northeast Asia. In conjunction with her mother Karen, she co-directs the research project, *Stories of Adult Transnational Adoptees and their American Parents*. She also is co-directing a mentorship project for transnational adoptees in Hawai'i.

Dawn Tomlinson

Dawn attended the University of Minnesota's Design Department, with emphasis on Graphics and Textiles. Dawn has been an active member of the international adoption community for years. In addition to serving on the Board of Adopt-Source as Treasurer, she has served as a parent volunteer at her daughter's traditional Korean dance troupe. Dawn is also the Parent-Workshop Coordinator at Camp Choson and serves on the Camp Choson Board of Directors. She is a member of the Dakota Arts Board and is a bead artisan. Dawn takes a special interest with the integration of the arts into the adoption community. Dawn is an American Korean adoptee.

Terra Trevor

Terra is a widely published author of Cherokee, 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 who are now adults, two of whom were adopted from Korea. Terra has been actively involved with KAAN since 1999. She is a contributing author of 10 books and writes and speaks on a multitude of topics including race and adoption, multi-racial and multi-cultural identification. Her memoir *Pushing up the Sky*, published by KAAN, is widely anthologized.

Chloe Turner

One half of the musical sister duo Chasing Lovely. See Chasing Lovely bio on page 39 or visit chasinglovely.com for more.

Taylor Turner

The other half of the musical sister duo Chasing Lovely. See Chasing Lovely bio on page 39 or visit chasinglovely.com for more.

**Kevin Haebeom Vollmers**

Kevin, who was adopted at the age of seven, is the founder of Land of Gazillion Adoptees and co-editor of *Gazillion Voices*. He is also the co-publisher of *Parenting As Adoptees*, *The Declassified Adoptee: Essays of an Adoption Activist*, *Hank Aaron's Daughter*, and *Lost Daughters: Writing Adoption From a Place of Empowerment and Peace*.

Chris Winston

Chris is founder and former president of the Korean American Adoptee Adoptive Family Network (KAAN). Chris has published articles and presented papers and workshops for numerous adoption and Korea-related organizations and conferences. In 2006 KAAN published her book, *A Euro American on a Korean Tour* at a Thai

Restaurant in China. Chris lives in Sacramento with her husband Mark. They have three adult children, two of whom were adopted from Korea.

Alyson Yost

Alyson was adopted at 4 months old from Pusan, South Korea. She returned back to Korea with G.O.A.L.'s 1st Trip Home in 2010. She works as a Registered Nurse in Harrisburg, PA where she lives with her husband and 2 year old son. This will be her fifth year attending KAAN.

Thank You

Many thanks to our speakers for volunteering their time and expertise to the community. We value these voices as part of what makes us strong.

*If you are interested in applying to be a speaker at KAAN 2015, see page 18 or visit www.KAANet.org.
Proposals forms will be posted in August 2014.*



One of the many ways we collaborate with other groups, especially nonprofits with similar missions, is the cross-promotion of events. These organizations have actively promoted this year's conference within the community.

We appreciate their efforts and look forward to future opportunities together.

If your organization wants to partner with KAAN in this way, contact us at info@kaanet.org or watch for the new community promoter forms this fall.

KAAN 2014 Community Promoters



OTHER MUCH-APPRECIATED

LOCAL SUPPORTERS:

Jennifer Arndt-Johns, Jackson Buck, Sarah Park Dahlen, Christine Heimann, Denis Jeong, Jenny Johnson, Oh Myo Kim, Thomas Kim, Jane Lee, Rich Lee, Kat Melgaard, David Moschkau, Brooke Newmaster, Kye Nicholls, Alexis Oberdorfer, Kate Mee-Hee Sands, Dawn Tomlinson, Martha Vickery, Kevin Haebeom Vollmers, Stephen Wunrow.

Thank You . . .

To all the local team leadership and community supporters (page 48)

To all of this year's speakers and presenters (pages 39-47)

To this year's youth planning team and adoptee mentors (pages 4, 34)

To all of KAAN's volunteer staff and leadership (page 4)

A special thank you for their generous support

To Korean Adoption Services (KAS)

To the Korean consulates in Chicago and New York

We also express deep gratitude to these additional contributing individuals and organizations, businesses, advertisers, exhibitors, and vendors:

AdopSource	Korean Quarterly
AK Connection	Korean Focus
Bill Andrews	Korean Tourism Organization
Emily Betsill	KoRoot
Camp Choson	Land of Gazillion Adoptees
Children's Home Society & Family Services/	Kimberly McKee
Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota	Matthew Munoz
Connect-a-Kid	Matt/Stacy Schroeder
CourageInStone.com	Morgan Stanley
Eric/Carolyn Hathaway	Mu Performing Arts/Mu Daiko
Holt Korea	North Shore Embroidery – Route 99 Hawai'i
InKAS	Rainbow World
Jang-Mi Korean Dance & Drum	Sejong Academy
Jeffrey Kim	Sejong Cultural Education, Inc.
Gazillion Voices	Shinparam
KFAI Community Radio	The Ties Program / Korean Ties
Grace Ko	TRACK
KoreAm Journal	Sherry Wileman

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AFTERKAAN

FROM OUR SPEAKERS

What to do after KAAN to keep the spirit going & take action:

Jan Dunn: Keep in touch with those you meet and start a project. Who doesn't like a project?

Kim McKee: After you leave the Twin Cities, make sure to like the KAAN Facebook Page to stay in touch until the next conference!

JaeRan Kim: Connect online! And make plans to see new friends at the next KAAN!

Terra: Trevor: Begin a KAAN savings fund so that you and your family will be able to attend future KAAN Conferences. Become a member of the KAAN-related Racism and White Privilege for the Adoptive Family page discussion hosted on Facebook.

+++++

KAAN often gets asked if we have chapters or members. The answer is no to both. We are not an umbrella organization. We have donors, volunteers, and a host of other categories, but we do not assign memberships or charge membership fees. KAAN is for the whole community. We are a network, designed to empower and inspire people to go back and make a difference in their lives.



We invite you to share stories of what you do AfterKAAN.

Email them to info@KAANet.org.

INTRODUCING THE KAAN 2015 LOCAL COORDINATOR ...

Meet me in St. Louie! My name is Ellen Picklesimer and I will be serving as the KAAN 2015 Local Coordinator. With so much to offer, St. Louis is excited to be hosting the KAAN 2015 conference and we hope you are too!

Ellen is a Family Advocate for a Head Start program with the Ferguson-Florissant School District in Missouri. She is also committed to giving back to Korean-American adoptee community, which has given her and her family so much insight into adoption and the Korean culture. Her parents strongly believed in exposing her sister and her to their Korean heritage. Beginning at age eight, she traveled to New Jersey each summer to attend Camp Sejong. This was a huge part of her childhood, and Ellen is now the social worker on the annual Sejong Trip to Korea each year since 2010.

... See you @ #KAAN2015!

Meet us in ...



ST. LOUIS

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