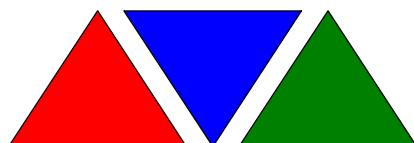


February 2008

www.afteryouadopt.org

(860) 219-9573



After You Adopt Inc.

Volume IX, Issue 45

Newsletter Editor: Keith Hughes

Dear Families,

Happy New Year! I hope that you had a wonderful holiday season and are enjoying some wintertime activities.

AYA has a newly designed website at www.afteryouadopt.org. Please check it out! You'll find newsletters, calendar, adoption resources, and a member chat forum, just to name a few. Through the website, you can sign up for the After You Adopt listserv on yahoo. This is the only way that you'll receive emails from AYA. It also gives you the opportunity to post messages or questions to other adoptive parents.

AYA hosted a bowling event this past Sunday that was enjoyed by several families. We plan to arrange another bowling date later this winter.

Our spring social is planned for Sunday, March 30th. We have enclosed information and the invitation with this mailing. We need lots of help before and during this popular event. Please give Trish a call at 313-0201 if you can help out. Remember that we hold a silent auction during the social, so please consider donating something to this event.

We welcome and encourage member participation. Please consider stepping up. This is your group. It's survival depends on everybody's help and support!

Stay warm & healthy! Bunny Lewis

afteryouadopt@comcast.net

www.afteryouadopt.org

Special thanks to the following members who have volunteered to lend a hand this year to AYA: If you have ideas or wish to help, please contact them.

Saturday Playgroup/Family Outings: Farmington Valley– Mariana Milheiro 860-561-9624

In the Manchester area, Maggie Bierbaum (860) 432-3111

Kids Club—Open, needs facilitators

Publicity: Diane Lipari Liparidj@aol.com

Mailings: Mariana Milheiro

Spring Cultural Potluck—Trish Habluttzel (860) 313-0201

MEMBERSHIP

AYA is open to all. Annual dues are \$25.00

Membership cycle: January thru December

Please call Mariana Milheiro(860) 561-9624.

if you need an application or online at
www.afteryouadopt.org

Dues include a quarterly newsletter, a membership directory, monthly meetings and materials.

Non-members are asked to give \$5 per meeting.

DISCLAIMER

This newsletter is meant as a resource only and is not intended to be used as a definitive guideline for any matter. Views expressed are solely for information purposes only. The authors and editors will not be responsible for any loss or damage due to its content or readers' actions thereof.

Bunny Lewis

Please address all correspondence to:

AYA

P.O. Box 270352

West Hartford, CT 06127

If you have an email address, please send it to me so that I can keep you posted on upcoming AYA events and meetings. Email Bunny at afteryouadopt@comcast.net.

Join the AYA listserv:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/afteryouadopt/>

AYA'S GOALS

The goal of the After You Adopt Support Group is to assist parents who have adopted with parenting/adoption issues for both domestic and international adoptions.

AYA'S OBJECTIVES

To provide families formed through adoption: support, education, information and resources.

To provide an opportunity for children to meet one another.

For children to make a connection with others from their native country.

To draw from each person in the AYA group so that all persons have equal opportunity to share information that is helpful and positive.

To enlighten adoptive parents regarding developmental issues and specific milestones concerning both birth and adoptive children.

To recognize a healthy balance between adoption issues and basic developmental issues.

AYA Board of Directors:

President: Paul Lewis

Vice President: Keith Hughes

Treasurer: Margaret Glinn-Fontaine

Secretary: Michele Gnazzo

Bunny Lewis

Trish Halbutzel

Diane Lipari

Beth Kandryawsawtz

Mark Your Calendars!

AYA 9th Annual Cultural Potluck

A place for families to get educated while having fun!

Sunday, March 30, 2008 3:00-6:00 p.m.
Valley Community Baptist Church
590 West Avon Road, Avon CT 06001

Games and crafts for the kids, Games in the gym for kids (8+),
Get to know you game and Silent Auction for the grown-ups
Family photo, Entertainment, Plenty of delicious food!

Open to all adoptive families and prospective adoptive families.

Come meet other families with children from around the world!

Fun for the whole family!

Paid AYA members- \$5 paid in advance / Non-members- \$10 paid in advance

\$10 for all families paying at the door

[Invitations will be available on the AYA web-site](#)

We need lots of Volunteers (Trish Hablutzel is coordinating volunteers)

(please sign up to organize an activity):

games and crafts— coloring, play dough, cut & paste activities

crafts for the older kids 8+ - we need your ideas

purchasing supplies— tablecloths, paper goods, cutlery, beverages, centerpieces (AYA will reimburse)

setting up— tables, chairs, crafts, decorations, etc.

Silent auction items ([e-mail Keith Hughes-jugglejoy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Keith.Hughes-jugglejoy@sbcglobal.net))

(by facilitating an activity you will help ensure success of our event)

Please contact Trish Hablutzel at 313-0201 or e-mail trishk@hablutzel.com if you can help.

Upcoming AYA Events

All meetings are held from 7:30-9:00 p.m. at the Valley Community Baptist Church, 590 West Avon Rd. Avon. Please RSVP for all meetings to Bunny at 860 219-9573 or afteryouadopt@comcast.net.

Cost: free to paid members, \$5 for non-members. Room 410 balcony room

Thursday, February 28th “Educating family members and non family members about adoption.” Speaker: Lynn Gabbard, social worker and adoptive mother of 7.

Sunday, March 30th 9th Annual Family Cultural Gathering & Potluck, 3:00-6:00 p.m. Valley Community Baptist Church, 590 West Avon Rd., Avon. Open to all adoptive families.

Thursday, April 17th “Honoring your child’s birthparents.”

Thursday, May 15th Panel of “seasoned” adoptive parents sharing their experiences with raising adopted children. Domestic and International adoptions will be represented.

July 12th Camp Mabuhay/North-Filipino Culture Camp sponsored by AYA (one day event)

Family Outings for 2007-2008

Several activities are planned throughout the year for families to enjoy. Please visit our website to see upcoming events. www.afteryouadopt.org

In the Farmington Valley, activities are organized by Marianna Milheiro, (860)561-9624

In the Manchester area, Maggie Bierbaum (860) 432-3111

Story Hour Is Fun !

AYA sponsored two Story Hour meetings for the membership in November. Everyone had a lot of fun! Here are some pictures for you! Mariana Milheiro and Maggie Bierbaum are responsible for organizing "AYA Story Hour" events for this year and would like to have your input about your preferences. If your family is interested in attending this type of event, please answer the following questions and e-mail your reply to Mariana at crianca@sbcglobal.net:

- 1) Do you prefer Saturday or Sunday?
- 2) Morning or afternoon? What time?
- 3) How many times per year?
- 4) We currently plan to have story hours in West Hartford, Farmington, Canton, Windsor and Manchester. Do you suggest another town that is closer to your area?

Your answers will help us better plan for 2008. We will do our best to meet the differing needs of our various member families.

Thank you very much, Mariana and Maggie



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Please note: Renewals extend current subscription.

Suggested Books

The Red Thread- An Adoption Fairy Tale, by Grace Lin This is a perfect book for children who were adopted from China, but any child adopted internationally or domestically can relate to this story. This story is about the Chinese belief that "an invisible unbreakable red thread connects all those who are destined to be together." (*The Red Thread- An Adoption Fairy Tale*, by Grace Lin) The book is beautifully illustrated and it tells the story of a King and Queen who lived in a magnificent kingdom. They had lots of friends and everything to be happy, but they felt that something was missing. One day, they felt a pain in their hearts, but no one could help them. Then, an old peddler came to the castle and told them about a red thread that was connecting them to what was missing in their lives. So, they traveled in a difficult journey and finally arrived in a village and found what was on the other end of the thread! My son is 3 years old and he was adopted from Russia. We have lots of books that specifically talk about Russian adoptions, but he can also see himself in this story! As we read the story, we tell him that the King and the Queen are traveling to Moscow, so he loves listening to it! I believe that any adoptive family will enjoy reading it!

Reviewed by AYA member—Mariana Milheiro

Outsiders' Within: Writing on Transracial Adoption, edited by Jane Jeong Trenka, Julia Chinese Opera and Sun Yung Shin, is written by transracially adopted adults for transracially adopted adults.

Through essays, poetry and art, it gives voice to the feelings and thoughts of adopted adults. It powerfully covers a range of topics including identity formation, self-esteem, family dynamics, and the social and racial history surrounding trans-racial adoption both domestically and internationally. It is a "must read" for adoptive parents interested forging a deeper understanding of some of the challenges facing their children. Challenging, enlightening and difficult to read at times, the insights gained from this book make it worth its weight in gold.

Reviewed by AYA Board Member — Trish Hablutzel



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Fun AYA Family Events

Sunday January 13, 2008



Six AYA families gathered at Blue Fox Rock & Bowl in Simsbury for an afternoon of Excellent Bowling! Everyone who came had a great time. The parents were able to visit and the kids did not have to worry about gutter balls with the special bumpers that the alley provides. Some adults even bowled, but unfortunately were beaten by the middle-schoolers. Good Food and Good Times!

Please join us the next time we bowl!



Sunday September 16th 2007 was another GREAT AYA Event!!!! 13 Families had a Great Time racing in sacks, hula hopping, running around with eggs on spoons! Deli platters were provided along with juice, soda and waters. There was plenty of food for everyone. Plan on coming to the picnic next September! We'll keep you posted!

www.afteryouadopt.org



LOOK INSIDE FOR:

- AYA Cultural Potluck
- Book Reviews
- AYA Schedule of Meetings
- Cool Photos
- Story Hour News

AYA

P.O. Box 270352

West Hartford, CT 06127