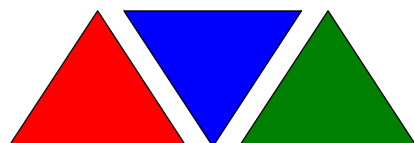


September 2008

www.afteryouadopt.org



After You Adopt, Inc.

Volume X, Issue 46

Newsletter Editor: Keith Hughes

Dear AYA Families,

I hope everyone had a wonderful, fun and restful summer! The Lewis family had a very busy summer. This was our 5th summer of organizing and directing Camp Mabuhay/North, a Filipino culture camp that provides education and networking for families who have children adopted from the Philippines. Inside this newsletter, my daughter, Catie, wrote up her impressions of the camp. If your family participates in cultural programs or has attended events, festivals, camps, etc. that have enriched your lives, please share this with AYA. Sometimes hearing about something from another family is just what you need to get you to try something new. Please consider writing something up for our December newsletter.

This summer our Board of Directors met to brainstorm ideas for our calendar and how to keep spreading the word about AYA and what it has to offer adoptive families. Lisa Wetjen and Mariana Milheiro have done a tremendous job reaching out to agencies, schools and churches leaving information for interested families. Trish Hablutzel has already scheduled our meetings and family socials for the year. Please put them on your calendar now, so that you don't miss out! We are meeting in Farmington this year for many of our general meetings but would also like to bring back our in-home meetings that were so successful in the early days of AYA. If you would like to host a meeting in your home, please let Trish know.

I am very grateful to Keith Hughes, another Board member, for taking over the tremendous task of putting out a newsletter. We need your input!! In the past, a family has submitted their adoption story. These are very touching stories, that although all are unique experiences, the same struggles and joys have affected us all. Please consider writing your family's story for our next newsletter and send it to Keith. We are also looking for book reviews and any other articles relevant to adoption and families. Please contact Keith if you can help us out with the newsletter. jugglejoy@sbcglobal.net.

For the past 2 years, I have been back to full-time teaching, and I love it! Nine years ago, when I had stopped teaching to stay at home with my children, I joined forces with Paula Montes to co-direct AYA. Five years ago, I took over directorship and it has been a very gratifying experience. As you all know, time and effort in life is limited. With 3 children, 2 dogs, and my husband and our careers, we are a very busy family, like everybody else. AYA has a great Board of Directors full of enthusiasm and dedication. I am so thankful for their passion and desire to continue AYA's goals.

I will continue to give support and guidance to our Board, but AYA's future is contingent on the participation of ALL its members. I need to step back a little and give my time to my work and family. Please consider your special gifts that you may be able to offer to AYA's future. We are always looking for fresh thoughts and ideas on what we are all so passionate about-our children.

Thanks! **Bunny Lewis**

General information about AYA is available by contacting Lisa Wetjen at 860-408-9082 or lisa_aya@comcast.net

Membership information is available by contacting Mariana Milheiro at 860-561-9624 or crianca@sbcglobal.net

Information about educational and family events is available by contacting Trish Hablutzel at 860-652-5720 or at

trishk@hablutzel.com

Newsletter articles can be submitted to Keith Hughes at jugglejoy@sbcglobal.net

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 Mariana Milheiro at crianca@sbcglobal.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

Mariana Milheiro

Beth Kandryasawtz

Mark Your Calendars!

2008—2009 AYA Educational and Cultural Programs

***Please take note of the new meeting place. ***

Meetings will be held at the Farmington Public Library, Board Room 2, 6 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT unless otherwise specified. Please RSVP for all meetings at rsvpmeetings@gmail.com or by calling Mariana Milheiro at 860-561-9624.

Cost: free to paid members, \$5 for non-members.

Sunday, September 14th, 3:00-6:00 p.m., Summer Picnic and Cultural Exchange, Fernridge Park, West Hartford, \$5/members or \$8/not members, RSVP Trish Hablutzel at trishk@hablutzel.com or (860) 652-5720 for details, rain-date, 9/21.

Wednesday, October 15th, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., "How Adoption Affects the Adolescent." Speaker: Laurie Landry, adoptee, adoptive parent, and therapist specializing in Reactive Attachment Disorder, will discuss how adoption affects the adolescent.

Thursday, November 6th, 7:00-8:30 p.m., "Adoption In School." Where does it affect your child and when? How to address adoption with your child's teacher and/or classmates.

Sunday, January, 18th, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Bowling at The Blue Fox Rock-n-Bowl, a chance to connect and have fun! 1603 Hopmeadow Street (Route 10), Simsbury, RSVP Trish Hablutzel at trishk@hablutzel.com or (860) 652-5720 for price and details.

Wednesday, February, 25th, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Panel of Adult Adoptees will share their own experiences growing up as an adopted person.

Sunday, March 29th, 3:00-6:00 p.m., 10th Annual Family Cultural Gathering and Potluck, Valley Community Baptist Church, 590 West Avon Road, Avon. Open to all adoptive families. RSVP Trish Hablutzel at trishk@hablutzel.com or (860) 652-5720.

Thursday, April 23rd, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Coffee and Conversation: Raising Adopted Children. Location TBD

Wednesday, May 20th, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Panel of "Seasoned" Adoptive Parents will share their experiences with raising adopted children. Domestic and international adoptions will be represented.

July 18-19: Camp Mabuhay/North-Filipino Culture Camp sponsored by AYA.

Summer Picnic is Sept. 14, 2008

Play, Visit, Have Fun!!!!

Fernridge Park in West Hartford is the perfect place to get together with AYA friends and make new ones.

Last year we had sack races, egg races, hula hoop contests, great food, and lots of fun!

Families and children get to renew old friendships and make new friendships in a very friendly atmosphere.



Please join us on Sept 14, 2008 from 3 PM to 6 PM.

Send in the form on the next page or contact Trish Hablutzel or Lisa Wetjen with any questions. We hope to see you there!



AYA Summer Picnic

Sunday, September 14th, 3:00-6:00 p.m. (raindate, 9/21)

Fernridge Park 567 Fern Street, West Hartford

Cost: \$5/family for paid AYA members

\$8/family for not-yet AYA members

Please bring: Last name –

(A-L) a salad (M-Z) dessert or appetizer

AYA will provide deli trays, rolls and beverages. The park has a playscape, basketball courts, fishing pond, tennis courts, and picnic tables. We will have games for the kids.

Please fill out this slip and return it by September 5th

to Trish Hablutzel c/o AYA POBox 270352, West Hartford, CT 06127-0352.

Any questions, please email at trishk@hablutzel.com or lisa__aya@comcast.net

Name: _____ -- _____ AYA member? _____

Phone #: _____

attending: ----- _____

I will bring _____ salad or _____ dessert/appetizer

____ I can help with set up at 2:45 p.m.

____ I can help clean up

____ I will plan an activity/game for the kids

A Child's Eye View

Going to a Culture Camp

Five years ago, my family started going to Camp Mabuhay. Camp Mabuhay is a Filipino culture camp for families who have children adopted from the Philippines. We go for a weekend and it's right at the University of Hartford Magnet School. We go there to learn about what life is like in the Philippines. What have I learned from camp? I've learned about the different traditions, special dances, music, language, and most importantly I've gotten to try different foods. My favorites are pansit, lumpia, chocolate rice, and halo-halo.

I like going to camp because I've gotten to meet kids just like me. We can talk about the country we were born in and being adopted there too. The whole place is full of kids and families who look just like me and my family. Our camp has camp counselors, we call them



Catie (2nd from right) dancing at Camp Mabuhay July 2008.

ate and kuya which means big brother and big sister. Although most of them have been born in the United States their parents were all born in the Philippines like me. The ates and kuyas know a lot about the Philippine customs while their parents, the titos and titas which means aunt and uncle, teach us history, music, food, art, dances, and songs.

After going to Camp Mabuhay I have made a lot of new friends. It's fun to go there every year because I learn a little bit more every time. I am proud to be involved with learning about the Philippines and I hope my family travels there some time soon.

Submitted by Catie Lewis, 10½ years old

If your family has had an experience that has enriched your family: a camp, language classes, festival, museum exhibit- please share it with our group in our next newsletter.

Either have your child submit a short summary, or a parent can submit the piece.

Check Out Adoptivefamilies.com

Adoptive Families Magazine has a very user friendly web-site with lots of helpful information to adoptive families. The magazine is friendly to our After You Adopt group sending us samples and discount offers. On the next page of the newsletter is a subscription offer. Each magazine contains helpful information by age group, country of origin, topics about school, topics on questions adoptive children ask, etc. Our family reads each issue from cover to cover.

If you get a chance, log onto www.adoptivefamilies.com and scroll down to click and save articles. There you will find such articles as: “Dear Teacher”, helpful advice on talking to your child’s teacher about adoption; “Explaining Adoption to Classmates”, a handout that is aimed at sharing information about adoption with other parents in your child’s class; and “Talking with Your 9-12 Old About Adoption”, which gives ideas on the parent’s role as advocate and life coach.



This is a great resource for adoptive families. On the next page is a subscription form for the magazine. You can also subscribe on-line at www.adoptivefamilies.com.

Make sure you mention code Q09136 when you subscribe, this ensures a \$5 donation from Adoptive Families Magazine to AYA.

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- Complete this form and **FAX** to: 646-366-0842.

Please note: Renewals extend current subscription.

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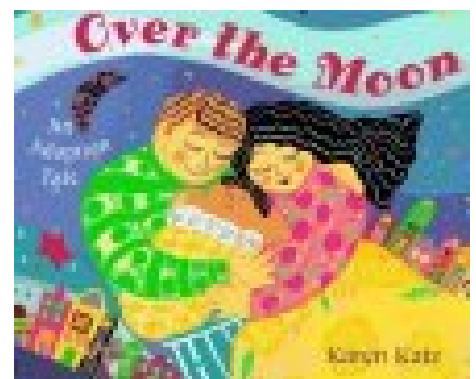
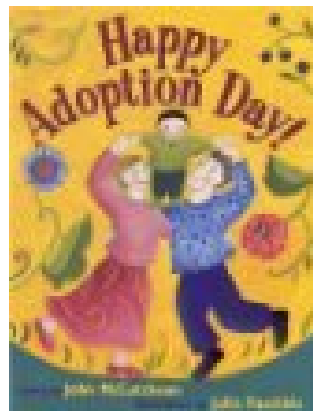
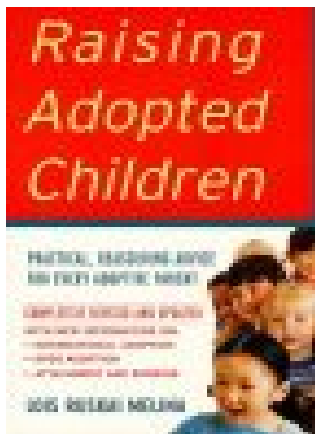
After You Adopt has teamed up with Amazon.com to bring you a multitude of books on the subject of adoption. AYA will receive a small portion of the sales made by Amazon by entering through our website. We thank you for supporting Amazon.com

Look for the **red lettered** Amazon link on the left side of AYA Home Page.

You will find it 3/4 of the way down the left side, below the green **Affiliates** tag.

Note: Each book's link will open up a new web browser window. To return to this site, simply close the Amazon.com window.

Below are just a few of the books that you can link to with Amazon, giving After You Adopt a small donation by using www.Amazon.com, thanks.



www.afteryouadopt.org



LOOK INSIDE FOR:

- AYA Picnic
- AYA Schedule of Meetings
- Cool Photos

AYA

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