



## Korean American Youth Association Invites You to Welcome the Year of the Sheep at Its Lunar New Year

**Bring family and join friends to welcome the New Year!** Join us on February 8, 2003, from 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm at the Shining Star Community Church in Falls Church, Virginia. Enjoy performances of Korean music, *taekwondo*, crafts and games for kids of all ages, *sebae* (traditional Korean bowing ceremony), and a taste of Korea. This year's crafts and games include old favorites like *yut*, *konggi* (Korean jacks), paper flipping, and *samulnori* (drumming), as well as new activities: Korean knotting and egg painting. A donation of \$10 per family is requested, additional donations are very welcome!

Many thanks to our friends at the Korean American Youth Association (formerly the Korean YMCA), without whom this event would not take place. Thanks also to Green World Enterprise, Mr. Clifford Lee, and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea for the generous donations that make this event possible.

**VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS NEEDED!** If you can help on the day of the event, please call Katie Zeigler at (703) 820-1171 or send an e-mail to [info@koreanfocus.org](mailto:info@koreanfocus.org). Help is needed to set up, clean up, help at the crafts and games tables, and man the tasting stations.

**DIRECTIONS:** Shining Star Community Church is off Arlington Boulevard / Route 50 between Graham Road and the Beltway. **From the Beltway:** Beltway 495 to Arlington Boulevard / Route 50 East. Turn left onto Strathmeade Street to the church. Before reaching Graham Road you will need to make a U-turn to cross 50 to reach Strathmeade Street. **From DC or Arlington via Arlington Blvd:** Arlington Boulevard past Graham Road to Strathmeade Street on the right. Right on Strathmeade Street to the church.

What:	Lunar New Year Celebration
When:	February 8, 2003 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm
Where:	Shining Star Community Church 2937 Strathmeade Street Falls Church, Virginia
Registration:	2:30 to 3:00
Program:	3:00 to 5:00
Donation:	\$10 per family

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## Korean Focus for Adoptive Families

1906 Sword Lane  
Alexandria, VA 22308

[info@koreanfocus.org](mailto:info@koreanfocus.org)

[www.koreanfocus.org](http://www.koreanfocus.org)

KOREAN FOCUS FOR ADOPTIVE FAMILIES is an all volunteer, Federal 501(c)3 non-profit organization funded and directed by adoptive parents. We are committed to providing cultural and educational programs to help adoptive families support one another and to learn more about the Korean culture to which they are so closely bound. We welcome families from all stages of the adoption journey.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## President's Corner

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe another year has gone by and even harder to believe that Korean Focus will be entering its eighth year in 2003. The past seven years have been a lot of work, but a lot of fun. The best part has been the opportunity I've had to meet new people among Korean adoptive families and in the Korean American community. These friendships are what Korean Focus is all about.

As Korean Focus moves into 2003, we are piloting a new membership approach. When we started in early 1996, we initially adopted a typical "pay your dues" model, which was very successful in establishing the group and creating a treasury. We are trying something new in 2003: no-dues membership. We hope to increase our outreach to more families and into other communities, including the non-adopted Korean American community and Korean adoptees, specifically to improve communication across organizations and individuals.

This is not to say that we are no longer in need of financial support! As always, we look primarily to our members for support, and hope that anyone that has paid dues in the past will support us at the same level. We hope, too, that new individuals and businesses will offer their support, and that our members will look for creative ways to fill our coffers. As a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, we also have opportunities to participate in corporate and other grant and annual donation programs. In 2003 we will be investigating these opportunities more carefully.

Our 2003 Board is almost complete. Two positions remain open - Secretary and Vice President. The position of Secretary has a one-year commitment and requires very little time weekly. The position of Vice President will take more time on a weekly basis, but offers an opportunity to not only lead this organization in new directions, but to make strong connections across the Korean adoption community. Please contact Debbie Dalton at 703-660-6823 if you would like to take one of these roles.

This year, I am stepping down after several years as President of Korean Focus, and handing the baton to Debbie Dalton. Debbie is a dynamo, as she has tons of great ideas and the energy to follow through on them. She has been very involved in program planning over the past several years, has worked with Program Coordinator Katie Zeigler and the Korean American Youth Association (formerly the Korean YMCA) to found the Family Drummers, and (by virtue of the fact that her husband is Craft Sale Coordinator Mike LaBelle) works hard on the craft sale, too. Debbie, you will do a great job!

This year we say thanks to two outgoing Board members: Member-at-Large Erin O'Keefe, a strong supporter of the Lunar New Year celebration, and Peter Delaney, Secretary. Erin has been on the board since 2001 and has

provided many excellent ideas for programs and activities. Peter Delaney came to the Board last year as Secretary, and has also offered lots of ideas and support for our programs. To Erin and Peter, thank you for your hard work and ongoing support!

Some additional Board changes include Brian Hattery's move from Membership Coordinator to Member-at-Large and craft sale assistant, and my move to Membership Coordinator. Brian has been in the Membership Coordinator role since 1999 - THANK YOU, Brian, for all you have done to build and maintain our database!

2003 is going to be a GREAT year in the DC Korean adoption community. In addition to our usual programs, especially the upcoming Lunar New Year celebration on February 8th, Korean Focus will continue to support the Family Drummers and Uttummuri Drummers, and will serve as local host for the 2003 KAAAN conference.

The KAAAN Conference (July 25-27 in Arlington) is not to be missed - in addition to great sessions and programs for kids and teens, featured speakers include Helie Lee (author of "Still Life with Rice" and "In the Absence of Sun"), Adam Pertman (author of "Adoption Nation"), and Washington State Senator Paul Shin. The day before the conference, the Smithsonian Institution is sponsoring a program on Korean adoption on Thursday July 24 as part of its year-long celebration of the Korean immigration centennial. And a tentative reception is planned for the Sunday following the conference. The entire weekend promises to be an exciting opportunity to learn more about Korean adoption, the Korean American community, and to simply have fun! Look for information about all of these elsewhere in the newsletter, and at the following websites: [www.koreanfocus.org](http://www.koreanfocus.org), [www.kaanconference.com](http://www.kaanconference.com), and <http://www.apa.si.edu>.

I wish everyone the happiest of New Years, and hope to see all of you at a Korean Focus event and the KAAAN conference!

- Margie

**Korean Focus needs two volunteers to complete its 2003 board:**

**VICE PRESIDENT** - Two year commitment; leadership position; weekly time commitment is medium.

**SECRETARY** - One year commitment; takes and distributes meeting minutes, participates in program planning as desired; weekly time commitment is very low.

If you are interested in either of these positions, please contact Korean Focus President Debbie Dalton at 703-660-6823. Or pass this message on to someone you know who might want to get involved! Thanks in advance for your support.

## Katy Robinson Speaks to DC Families

On November 17th, 2002, Korean Focus for Adoptive Families was honored to bring Katy Robinson to the Washington DC area for a reading and discussion of her book, "A Single Square Picture."

"When I was seven years old, my mother and grandmother took me to the airport and watched as I boarded a plane for America. With time, I became convinced my life began the moment I stepped off the airplane on the other side of the world."

With these words, Katy begins her story. Adopted at seven by a couple in Salt Lake City, Utah, Katy's story shares her experiences growing up as an Asian Catholic in a Caucasian Mormon environment, her sometimes-stormy relationship with her adoptive family, and her ultimate decision to search for her birth family. Her journey brought her back to Korea, where she was quickly reunited with her birth father. Their relationship, broken for so many years while she grew up in the United States, developed quickly into a close one, yet had its own challenges. Overcoming the cultural differences that lay between them was challenging and from time to time led to frustration on both sides.

Katy also spoke with honesty about her relationship with her adoptive family. Her adoptive parents' marriage ended in divorce, and Katy does not remain close to her adoptive father. Although her relationship with her adoptive mother experienced its own challenges, Katy remains close to her. She also ultimately united her adoptive mother and birth father in Korea.

What comes through Katy's story very clearly is the importance of both families in Katy's life. Like Deann Borshay, who eloquently told her story in her film "First Person Plural," Katy did not seek to replace one family with the other, rather to unite her birth and adoptive families and break down the barriers between them.

Katy is returning to Washington for the KAAAN conference, and is presenting a session entitled "Search, Reunion and Afterwards: Issues for Adoptive Parents." For adoptive parents whose children are considering a birth family search, have begun one, or have already been reunited with birth family, Katy's insights will be invaluable.

"A Single Square Picture" is available at area bookstores and bookstore websites, and can also be purchased on Katy's website at [www.asinglesquarepicture.com](http://www.asinglesquarepicture.com).

Korean Focus would like to thank the members of the Asian American Book Club for selecting "A Single Square Picture" as their November reading choice, and for participating in the program. The group generally meets monthly in Northern Virginia to discuss the selection of the month. If you are interested in Asian American literature and would like to participate in the club, contact Judy Deane at [judydeane@comcast.net](mailto:judydeane@comcast.net) or Kathy Seikel at [seikel.kathy@epa.gov](mailto:seikel.kathy@epa.gov).



# The Kids Page

## Welcome Year of the Sheep!

2003 is the Year of the Sheep in the Korean zodiac. Sheep have an artistic personality and great patience. They pay great attention to detail and are not afraid of hard work. But they can be disorganized. They get on well with others and try for perfection, find it hard to admit their own faults. If you were born in a Year of the Sheep, does this describe you?

Animal	Years
Rat	1924, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996
Ox	1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997
Tiger	1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998
Rabbit	1927, 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999
Dragon	1928, 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000
Snake	1929, 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001
Horse	1930, 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002
Sheep	1931, 1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003
Monkey	1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004
Rooster	1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005
Dog	1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006
Pig	1935, 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007

Each lunar year in Korea is named after an animal, running in 12-year cycles, after which they start all over again. Koreans believe that a person has the character of the zodiac animal, or *tti*, of the year in which he or she was born. Koreans also believe that living for five full twelve-year cycles of the zodiac, called *yukgap*, is very important. A person's 60th birthday or *hwangap* is especially important because it marks the completion of a full cycle of 60 years.

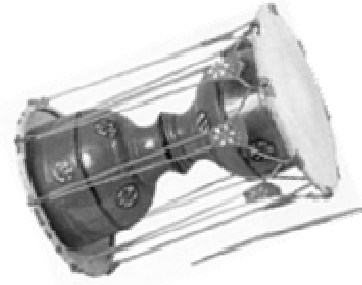
Learn more about the Korean zodiac at Korea Infogate:

<http://www.koreainfogate.com/fortune/fortune.asp?code=ganji&src=ganji>

# The TEEN Page

## Uttummuri: The Best Group!

by PJ Perscheid



In the Korean language, *Uttummuri* literally means "the best group". The group, which usually meets twice a month, learns the art of *samulnori*, playing Korean percussion instruments. The percussion section of Korean traditional music consists of four instruments: the *changgo*, the *buk*, the *kkwaenggari*, and the *ching*. The *changgo* and the *buk* are drums, while the *kkwaenggari* and the *ching* are gongs. The majority of us play *changgo*.



Uttummuri has seven members, not counting the three instructors. The group's *SangJangGu*, or lead player, is Ryan Freed. The other six members of the group are PJ Perscheid, Max Gilbert, Brett Gallagher, Ian and Sarah Gordon, and Owen Knight. Our ages are late elementary school to high school. Uttummuri's three instructors are Hyun-Sook Cho, Sae Park, and Chi Young Park. They belong to the KACC, or Korean American Culture Center, of Annandale.

Uttummuri performs several times a year at various locations. One such performance is *JiShinBalGi*. In this annual *Sol* (Lunar New Year) performance, the group parades around Annandale with other members of the KACC. The combined group plays in front of stores, driving away the bad spirits and bringing in good luck. The storeowners make a donation in return. After we finish performing, we return to the KACC center and have a late lunch to celebrate.

If you're interested in joining Uttummuri, e-mail Korean Focus at [info@koreanfocus.org](mailto:info@koreanfocus.org). The group meets about twice a month, usually Sundays at two thirty. Each lesson costs twenty dollars. After joining, you can purchase a drum or uniform through the KACC. **New members are always welcome!**

# KOREAN FOCUS FOR ADOPTIVE FAMILIES

## Annual Fundraising and Membership Drive



In celebration of the centennial of Korean immigration to the U.S., annual membership for 2003 is FREE (although donations are VERY welcome!) Please help us update our records by sending the following information via e-mail to [info@koreanfocus.org](mailto:info@koreanfocus.org) or via U.S. mail to the address below.

Parent(s) names: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home tel: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Mom's work tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Dad's work tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Children's name(s) Birth Date(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Your donation can make it possible for Korean Focus to provide current and new programs:**

- \$ 10 supports printing and mailing of the newsletter for one member for a year*
- \$ 50 purchases refreshments for a program*
- \$100 pays for room rental at a local church for a program*
- \$250 supports our web page for a year*

***Your time can also make it possible for us to do new programs. Please let us know if you would like to help in any way:***

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Korean Focus IS its member families. Thank you on behalf of all of our members for your generosity. If you are able to include a donation, please make your check payable to Korean Focus for Adoptive Families and send it with your form to the address below. Call Margie Perscheid at 703-799-4945 for additional information.**

**Korean Focus for Adoptive Families  
Attn: Margie Perscheid, Membership Coordinator  
1906 Sword Lane  
Alexandria, VA 22308**

## Korean American Centennial Commemoration at the Smithsonian

In commemoration of the Korean American Centennial, the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program will present a series of monthly events throughout 2003. The programs, including tae kwon do with Jhoon Rhee; a world premiere modern dance performance by Dana Tai Soon Burgess and his company, Moving Forward; and a world premiere film, will highlight various aspects of the Korean American experience. The programs are open to the public and free of charge.

The *S.S. Gaelic* arrived in Honolulu Harbor carrying the first Korean immigrants in 1903. Most of them would become laborers on Hawai'i's sugar cane plantations. Hawai'i remained home to the largest Korean American population in the United States until the revision of immigration laws in 1965. Today, Korean American populations exist throughout the United States, with the largest groups residing in Los Angeles, New York, Chicago and northern Virginia. The 2000 U.S. Census reports that the population of Korean Americans is well over 1 million.

Every month throughout 2003, a variety of public programs will celebrate the contributions to American society made by Korean Americans throughout the past century. For updated program schedule and information, visit [www.apa.si.edu](http://www.apa.si.edu) or call (202) 357-2449 or (202) 357-2700.

### Schedule

**January 23—Journalism dialogue.** Participants will include K.W. Lee, the nation's foremost Korean American print journalist; Jeannie Park, executive editor of *People* magazine; and Alice Rhee, producer of *The News with Brian Williams*.

**February 21—Theater.** Sung Rno, a New York-based playwright whose productions have been seen throughout the country, will present two of his one-act plays. The Washington, DC-based Asian American theater company, ASIA: Asian Stories in America, will stage Rno's work. The presentation will be followed by an informal discussion about Korean Americans in the theater.

**March 13—Film and television discussion.** Actors Soon Tek Oh (M\*A\*S\*H, *Mulan*, *East of Eden*) and Sandra Oh (*Double Happiness*, *Arli\$\$*, *Barrier Device*) will discuss the changing face of multicultural American media, the struggle for more positive roles for Asian Americans, and gaining greater control of how Korean Americans are represented in film and on television.

**April 10—Filmmakers.** Filmmakers Christine Choy (*Who Killed Vincent Chin?* and *Sa-I-Gu*), Greg Pak (*Asian Pride*

*Porn*) and Grace Lee (*Barrier Device*) will discuss making films in a Hollywood-dominated industry.

**May 1—Film screening: *Arirang, The Korean American Journey*.** May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, and this month's feature will kick off the heritage month festivities around the Smithsonian. Tom Coffman's *Arirang: The Korean American Journey*, a film in two parts, will screen in its entirety. The screening will be the world premiere of the film's second half. The director will be on hand to discuss his film

**June 14—Tae Kwon Do.** Jhoon Rhee, one of the most influential innovators to bring martial arts to the American public, will offer a history of tae kwon do, followed by a demonstration of the sport.

**July 24—Korean American adoptees dialogue.** The national Korean adoptee group, KAAN (Korean American Adoptee Adoptive Family Network: [www.kaanet.com](http://www.kaanet.com)) will have its annual conference in Washington, D.C. in July, and the Smithsonian's program is a "pre-show" of the conference. Participants will include Deborah Johnson, one of the most respected experts on transracial adoption; filmmaker Deanne Borshay (*First Person Plural*); and Chris Soentpiet (award-winning children's book illustrator).

**August 15—Religion dialogue.** Sang Jin Choi, the only Korean pastor in Washington to work with homeless African Americans; Sang Park, an attorney who is a church elder in the largest Korean church in northern Virginia; and Professor Kyeyoung Park, an anthropologist from the University of California, Los Angeles, will explore why Korean churches have virtually exploded in numbers to become a vibrant presence in most major cities throughout the US.

**September 13—Children's books.** This program will be divided into two sections. Young adult writers will include Linda Sue Park (2002 Newbery Medal winner) and An Na (2002 Michael L. Printz Excellence in Literature). Children's book writers will include writer/illustrator Yangsook Choi (*New Cat*, *The Name Jar*) and Frances and Ginger Park (*Where in the World Is My Bagel*, *The Royal Bee*, *Freedom Trip*).

**October 24—Literature.** The Korean Studies Department at George Washington University will present a conference on Korean literature and, in recognition of the 2003 Korean American Centennial Commemoration, the focus in 2003 will be on Korean American literature. The first night of the conference, October 24, will take place at the Smithsonian with readings by Elaine Kim (foremost Korean American and Asian American literary scholar from the University of California, Berkeley), Nora Okja Keller (*Comfort Woman*,

(Continued on Page 9 – see Smithsonian Program)

## Colors & Korean Culture: A Quick Look at a Very Complicated Subject

by Katie Zeigler

It takes children years to develop the ability to perceive colors. Part of this is developmental, but a big part is cultural. Even though the wavelengths of light are the same all over the world, and the dye pigments used to produce colors are often the same, layers of social, emotional, and symbolic meanings make people from different cultures actually see things differently.

White is a color that signifies purity in many cultures. In the West it is used for brides, debutantes, first communicants and for other reasons connoting purity/newness. In Asia, white is used for funerals, meaning purity/completion. The color for weddings in Asia is red, signifying happiness. Asian color symbolism often contains multiple, even opposite meanings, so red, the color of happiness also repels evil. The red dots on a Korean bride's face are there to protect her, not to make her happy.

In Asian cultures, though visibly different, green is thought to be a form of the color blue. In other places, pink and purple are thought to be the same color. In the West we have a rainbow of seven colors in which black and white are implied but not present. The traditional Chinese rainbow, which Korea inherited, has 5 colors: black, white, blue, red and yellow. The 5-color theory dovetails with a lot of other traditional theories about the world. These associations are never far from the mind of the Asian artist or observer.

Koreans use all 5 colors of the rainbow as a symbol of harmony. Harmony or balance is a big concept in Korean culture. The 5-color striped sleeves on a child's *hanbok* and on a bride's jacket are uniquely Korean decorative touches, but decoration with meaning. The 5-colors show up in other kinds of painting, e.g., stylized clouds and mountains with bands of color. The 5-colors were (and are) used in cooking. The tastes, visual presentation, even the placement of the food on the table all have their own significance and matter. Blue morphs conveniently into green in cooking. *Kimchi* provides the red on many tables, rice the white, green vegetables are the green/blue, mushrooms can be the black, egg yolks supply the yellow. The 5 colors and 5 tastes are things every Korean

cook thinks about at every meal. At holidays, such as Chusok, every detail must be perfect, including where and how the food is placed on the table (yellow in the center, red below, black above, white to the left, blue to the right).

White in particular has a special significance in Korea. Up until the 1950's, ordinary people wore white even though white is the color of mourning across most of Asia. There are numerous theories about why this is the case, e.g., a royal decree put everyone in mourning, poverty was so extreme plant dyes were unavailable, white symbolized Buddhist ideas of emptiness. No one really knows for sure.

Another suggestion is that white was worn by choice. In multicultural China, Mongolian tribal people worshipped a Sun god who was associated with the color white. Some anthropologists believe that this preference for white migrated with them to Korea. Whether there is a pre-historic origin or not, in present-day Korea, there is a definite preference for white. White is the top selling color for cars in Korea and it is still a perennial favorite color choice for clothing in even in modern day fashion-conscious Korea.

Last summer, the "in" color was red with the "Red Devils," the Korean national soccer team in the World Cup. The "devil" in the name is really a *tokkeibi*, that rascally gnomish practical joker from folk tales, not the personification of evil. The choice of the color red was not surprising, since it had been used (intermittently) since the 1930's for Korean national sports. In this context, however, most Koreans associated the color red with communism and North Korea. The team's unexpected success on the soccer field set off a mania of red tee-shirt wearing, and a national shortage of red cloth. The slogan "Be the Reds," with its double-edged sports/political meaning didn't just resonate with Koreans, it sent them into hysterics.

Visitors to Korea are struck by the *tanchong* painting (allegedly meaning red/blue in Chinese) in palaces and temples. It doesn't appear everywhere on buildings, but makes a riot of color of temple eaves and pillars. It's meant to be invisible from afar, but as you approach the building, the colors emerge from the shadows. Mineral-based pigments in the paint produce luminous colors and also help preserve the wood. Color combinations, based on the 5-colors, juxtapose complementary, primary/secondary, hot/cool colors to create

### Korean Color Associations

Color	Direction	Element	Mythical Animal	Taste	Season	Virtue
Black	North	Water	Tortoise	Salty	Winter	Wisdom
White	West	Metal	Tiger	Spicy/Hot	Autumn	Righteousness
Blue	East	Wood	Dragon	Sour	Spring	Benevolence
Red	South	Fire	Phoenix	Bitter	Summer	Politeness
Yellow	Center	Earth	Emperor	Sweet	Revolving of the Seasons	Fidelity



swirling eye-popping patterns. Lines of black and white make the colors sparkle. *Tanchong* painting is an ancient art form dating back to the Three Kingdoms era.

Though there may have been a preference for white among all classes of Koreans, bright colors were worn exclusively by the upper classes. Traditionally yellow was for the King (who seems to have used it mostly for accessorizing, preferring to dress in brilliant red), deep red for the upper aristocracy, blue for gentlemen, and white for the common people. Later this evolved into bright colors for the aristocracy and muted colors or pastels for the common people, except for wedding clothing, which resembled aristocratic clothing. In modern times, it has become bright colors for young people, muted and pastels for the elderly, bright colors for girls, and muted or pastel colors for boys. This is why you'll see ballet pink for boys', not girls', *hanboks*.

In Korea, hemp was the traditional fabric for mourning clothes. Its natural color is in a parallel tradition of quiet subtle complex muted colors often associated with Korean art – the blue/green colors of celadon ceramics, the colors of jade, and the grays of ink. Hemp could be considered white or yellow in the Asian color cosmology, but these subdued colors also transcend the whole color-organizing idea and express a reverence for the natural world and simple things left simple. This is a separate cultural tradition in which subtlety is most highly prized.

The next time you go to taekwondo class, see the Korean flag, or dig into a bowl of bib-bim-bab, I hope the colors will look a little bit different to you!

## ASIA Mother's Retreat

The annual ASIA Mother's Retreat will be held on Friday evening, January 31<sup>st</sup>, through Sunday morning, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, at Camp Letts in Edgewater, Maryland. Cost of the program is \$100 per person and includes lodging and all meals. Participants may arrive Friday evening at 7:00 pm or Saturday morning at 9:00 am. For more information, or to register, contact Grace Song at ASIA at (301) 587-7068 or at [gsong@asia-adopt.org](mailto:gsong@asia-adopt.org).

The program this year will include presentations on life books by Karin Price and creative memories by Lorna Davis, a discussion on parenting and adoption topics, an Asian arts workshop on Friday evening, and a Korean Adoptees Ready to Education (KARE) teen panel sharing their experiences.

ASIA's annual cultural camp will be held August 14 – 16, 2003 at the Korean Fellowship Church in Germantown, Maryland. The church is only 15 minutes away from the American Legion Bridge on the beltway. Mark your calendar!

## Smithsonian Program (continued from page 7)

*Fox Girl*), Heinz Inzu Fendl (*Memories of My Ghost Brother and Kori*, the first Korean American anthology) and Don Lee (*Ploughshares* editor, *Yellow: Stories*).

**October 30, Nov. 6-7—Modern dance.** Renowned modern dancer Dana Tai Soon Burgess, in conjunction with his company Moving Forward, will present the world premiere of a Smithsonian-commissioned piece depicting the dancer's mother's family's journey from Korea to the new world. Burgess' mother's family was one of the first families to arrive in 1903 on the first ship carrying Korean immigrants to Hawai'i. A co-production of the performance by the Smithsonian and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts will be presented. The pre-performance event (Oct. 30) will take place at the Smithsonian, one week before the full productions at the Kennedy Center (Nov. 6-7).

**December 4—The next 100 years.** Angela Oh, attorney and Korean American activist; Shinae Chun, the highest-ranking Korean American in the Bush administration as director of the Women's Bureau at the Department of Labor; and Jeannie Hong, the first Korean American female judge in Maryland, will explore race issues, business and political issues that face Korean Americans in the next century.

The Smithsonian Institution's Centennial programs also feature an exhibit, "A Korean American Century," on view in Baird Gallery, National Museum of Natural History from January 22, 2003 to June 2003. This exhibit was curated by Paul Michael Taylor and Chang-su Houchins of the Asian Cultural History Program in the Natural History Museum. It includes photographs documenting early U.S.-Korean contacts and images of Koreans in America, 1903-present. The Museum also plans a series of films relating to the Centennial.

### Got A Name?

This newsletter doesn't have one but could use yours! We've a great logo of an emerging crane taking flight. We need a great name for the newsletter worthy of the logo! Send your ideas to [koreanfocus@hotmail.com](mailto:koreanfocus@hotmail.com), or to the newsletter editor at [omans@erols.com](mailto:omans@erols.com). Winning entry gets bragging rights and a big thank-you in the next newsletter. Send your names today!

## KAAN Conference in DC in July 2003

The 2003 KAAN Conference, "One People, Two Histories: Adoption As Part of 100 Years of Korean Immigration" will take place on Friday, July 25th through Sunday, July 27th at the DoubleTree Crystal City Hotel in Arlington, Virginia. The 2003 conference will celebrate 100 years of Korean immigration to the United States, and will mark the 50th anniversary of the armistice that ended the Korean War. The 2003 KAAN keynote speaker will be Helie Lee, author of "Still Life with Rice" and "In the Absence of Sun," the incredible story of her family's effort to bring nine members of their family out of North Korea to safety in the south.

Adam Pertman, author of "Adoption Nation," and Washington State Senator Paul Shin, adoptee and respected member of the Korean American political community, will be featured speakers.

The 2003 conference sessions cover a wide range of subjects, some focusing on Korean

adoption and others on Korean American history and the Korean American community. Representatives from many US and Korean adoption agencies will attend, providing wonderful opportunities for dialog. Programs for children and teens are being planned, and will include opportunities to discuss their Korean adoption experiences, cultural activities, and just plain fun.

Flanking the conference are two events that will no doubt be of interest to conference attendees. On Thursday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, the Smithsonian Institution is sponsoring one of its year-long dialogs on Korean Immigration: Korean Adoptee Dialog with Deborah Johnson, filmmaker Deanne Borshay (*First Person Plural*); and Chris Soentpiet (award-winning children's book illustrator). The program will take place on Thursday, July 24 at 6:30PM at the Carmichael Auditorium, National Museum of American History. See the Smithsonian's Asian Pacific American Program website at [www.apa.si.edu](http://www.apa.si.edu) for details about the program.

The conference hopes to arrange a reception with the Korean Embassy following the conference, on the afternoon or evening of Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup>. This is tentative at this time, so visit the conference website often for details. Additional information about this event will also be included in the conference brochure.

Support for the KAAN conference has come from a variety of local community sources, including the Korean American Coalition, the Korean American Sharing Movement, the Centennial Committee for Korean Immigration of Greater Washington, and the Korean American Youth Association, to name just a few. The Overseas Koreans Foundation is providing significant financial support, as they have done for several

years. Local conference planning is being performed by Korean Focus for Adoptive Families and the Association of Asian Adoptee Professionals (AAAP-DC).

KAAN's mission is to connect organizations and individuals involved with Korean adoption, and the conference is an excellent example of its success.

**What: KAAN Conference**

**When: July 25 – 27, 2003**

**Where: DoubleTree Hotel Crystal City  
300 Army-Navy Drive  
Arlington, Virginia**

**Website: [www.kaanconference.com](http://www.kaanconference.com)**

The DoubleTree Crystal City Hotel is located at 300 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22202. The conference rate, which is available for three days before and after the conference, is \$85 per night. Call 800-222-TREE (800-222-8733) for reservations, and reference the conference code KAN. Local residents will be able to park in the hotel lot at a reduced rate for the two days of the conference.

Details about the conference are online at [www.kaanconference.com](http://www.kaanconference.com). You can view the conference sessions, plan your schedule, register and pay from this convenient website. Conference brochures are forthcoming, and will also include registration forms.

Don't miss this conference! It will be one of the best opportunities for metropolitan Washington families to meet members of the Korean adoption community from around the country and the world!

# Make A Korean Flag Bead-Pin

by Debbie Dalton

For the Korean people their flag of T'aeGuk-Ki is a source of pride and inspiration. During the Japanese occupation the Korean flag was outlawed in public places and the T'aeGuk flags were kept hidden until Liberation Day in 1945. The Korean flag has been a symbol of Korea's struggle for independence and freedom.

The Korean flag is called taegukki. It was adopted officially in January 1950. Its design symbolizes the principles of the yin and yang in Oriental philosophy. Yin and yang are opposite and struggle each other while they cooperate in harmony. The circle in the center of the flag is divided into two equal parts. The upper red section represents the positive cosmic forces of the yang. Conversely, the lower blue section represents the negative cosmic forces of the yin. The two forces together embody the concepts of continual movement and the balance and harmony that characterize the sphere of infinity. The circle is surrounded by four sets of trigrams or three black lines, one set in each corner. These symbols are called Kwae. Kun (three unbroken lines, upper left) means heaven, Yi (two unbroken lines separated by a broken line, lower left) means fire, Kam (two broken lines separated by an unbroken line, upper right) means water, and Kon (three broken lines, lower right) means earth.

Not all seed beads are the same size and not all of them have the same size hole. Discard those beads whose hole is not large enough to go over the pin easily. Try to choose beads that are about the same size - the bead chart assumes that 12 beads will fit on the 1.25 inch pin.

Now you can put all of the small beaded pins onto the larger pin. Open the large safety pin. Using the flat head screw driver or nail file, slightly pry apart the coils at the end of the pin.

Starting with the pin corresponding to row 12, slip the loop of the beaded safety pin onto the large one. Pull it down and around the loop at the base of the large pin and up the back of the pin. Repeat this for each beaded safety pin. Check to see that your flag pin matches the bead chart once all of the beaded pins are on your larger pin. Use the needle nose pliers to squeeze the loop of the larger pin back together to close it and keep the smaller pins from escaping.

You can now put the pin on your shirt, vest, coat or hat! More information and illustrations for constructing seed bead friendship pins can be found at: [www.familycrafts.about.com](http://www.familycrafts.about.com) and [www.chatsco.com/safety\\_pins.htm](http://www.chatsco.com/safety_pins.htm).

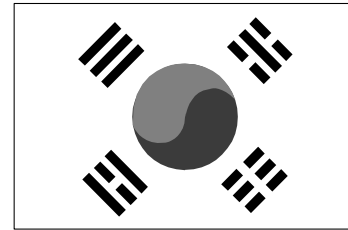
## Supplies & Equipment List

### Supplies

- 1 safety pin 1.5"
- 12 safety pins 1.25"
- 116 white seed beads (10/0)
- 8 black seed beads (10/0)
- 10 blue seed beads (10/0)
- 10 red seed beads (10/0)

### Equipment

- 4 small bowls for beads
- Wash cloth
- Needle nose pliers
- Small flathead screwdriver or sturdy nail file



## Bead Chart

Safety Pin Number											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	K	X	X	X	X	X	X	K	X	X
X	K	X	X	X	R	R	X	X	X	K	X
X	X	X	X	R	R	R	R	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	R	R	B	B	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	R	R	B	B	X	X	X	X
X	K	X	X	B	B	B	B	X	X	K	X
X	X	K	X	X	B	B	X	X	K	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

**Directions:** To make your Korean flag bead-pin, assemble the materials and supplies. Put each color bead into a separate bowl. Place a wash cloth on your work surface to keep beads from falling off. Each numbered column in the bead chart design represents beads on a pin. Color the bead chart with black, red and blue markers to make the pattern easier to follow. Starting with one of the smaller pins, open the pin and slip the seed beads onto the pin following the bead chart. Start at the top of the column and work down. For example, the second pin (column 2) will have 3 white beads, 1 black bead, 4 white beads, 1 black bead, 3 white beads. When all the beads are in place on the pin use the needle nose pliers to pinch the end of the safety pin closed tightly so it will not pop open later.

Repeat this step using the bead chart until all 12 small pins have their beads on them.

*Legend:*

- X – White Beads
- K – Black Beads

- R – Red Beads
- B – Blue Beads

## Family Drummers

by Katie Zeigler

Interested in *samulnori*, the Korean art of drumming and are looking for a family activity? Then come join us! Korean drumming is totally cool. It's loud, happy, infectiously rhythmic, and totally different from Western music. Even though I'm not aspiring to coolness, I've enjoyed learning to appreciate Korean music by doing it. It's an interesting view of culture. It's also more of a group activity than an individual pursuit. There's another cultural message there, but it's mostly a lot of fun.

Max Barrett, one of our talented young drummers, says "Drumming is a good thing to do on the weekend because it is fun and cool! You should join us!" Julia Zeigler, another of our young drummers, says "The rhythms are great and you can't get them out of your head. My feet are always moving around under the table because I'm hearing the music."

The Family Drummers meet on Saturday afternoons at Debbie Dalton's house in Mount Vernon, VA. Our teacher, Sae Park, is very, very patient! While the rhythms we learn are complex, our children pick them up quickly. Ten weeks of lessons cost \$100 per drummer; family discounts are available! Contact Debbie Dalton for more information at (703) 660-6823.

Family Drummers taking a break for a class photo

