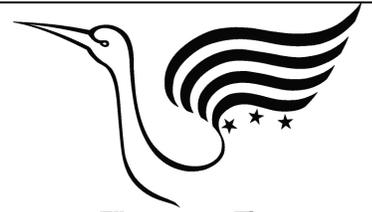

The Drumming Crane

THE NEWSLETTER OF KOREAN FOCUS FOR ADOPTIVE FAMILIES



KOREAN FOCUS
FOR ADOPTIVE FAMILIES

Winter 2004

Volume VIII, Number 3

Join Us for the “Year of the Rooster” Lunar New Year Celebration

The Korean American Youth Association, in association with Korean Focus for Adoptive Families, is holding its annual Lunar New Year Celebration on **February 12, 2005, from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm**. Mark your calendars and plan on attending!

Similar to last year, we’ll kick off the celebration with performances featuring Korean drumming and dancing. We’ll fold paper, color and draw, tell stories, learn to drum and dance, learn to cook, and (a parent’s favorite) learn to bow and show respect. We’ll end with a Taekwondo demonstration and group photo.

The celebration will be at **Korean United Methodist Church of Greater Washington, located at 1219 Swinks Mill Road in McLean, VA**. The church is located at the corner of Swinks Mill Road and Lewinsville Road. See page 4 of the newsletter for details and directions to the celebration.

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INSIDE

ARIRANG - The Movie

100 Years of Korean-American History

This outstanding movie tells the history of the first 100 years of Korean American History in the compelling first person style of Ken Burns’ (Civil War and other Documentaries.) Korean Focus is proud to be a distributor for the movie and feels it is a story that all of our children should know.

Early Korean Americans struggled with a host of immigrant problems including prejudice, language barriers and the disappearance of their country. Yet they forged a place in American Society and played a crucial role in keeping alive the successful struggle to free Korea from Japanese occupation. They continued to be involved in the events that led to the separation of the nation into the North and South Korea we know today.

More recent Korean American history tells of the successes in American society, the history of Korean adoption, the continuing racial issues, particularly the LA Korea Town riots, and the Korean American relationship with the now strong economic power of South Korea.

Korean Focus sells DVDs of the movie for \$35 plus \$3.00 shipping cost if mailed. Copies can be mailed in time for the holidays. Send your Checks, made payable to Korean Focus to:

Mike LaBelle
7213 Burtinwood Drive
Alexandria VA 22307

Korean Focus for Adoptive Families

1906 Sword Lane
Alexandria, VA 22308

info@koreanfocus.org
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

PRESIDENT Debbie Dalton	dalton.deborah@epamail.epa.gov
VICE PRESIDENT Katie Zeigler	zeiglers@erols.com
TREASURER Brian Hattery	brian.w.hattery@irs.gov
SECRETARY Kathy Seikel	seikel.kathy@epamail.epa.gov
MEMBERSHIP Margie Perscheid	mperscheid@koreanfocus.org
NEWSLETTER Jim Omans	omans@erols.com
PROGRAMS Katie Zeigler	zeiglers@erols.com
PROGRAMS Jenny Quinn	jenqteach@aol.com
AT-LARGE Andrea Brenner	artbrenner@aol.com

Korean Focus for Adoptive Families is an affiliate of KAAN:

Korean American Adoptee Adoptive Family Network
P.O. Box 5585
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

kaanet@aol.com
www.kaanet.com

President's Corner

The mission of Korean Focus is to connect families who have formed through adoption from Korea with Korean culture and the local Korean community to learn about Korean culture and history and to network on issues of inter-country adoption. We promote this mission through several means - our newsletter and website, our programs and events, networking of our members and continuing partnerships with other Korean American organizations. **We are an all volunteer organization, running on the energy and imagination of our members. In other words, we need you!**

Our Board is elected each year by membership, this year KF membership will be voting on the Board in January, 2005. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please contact Deb Dalton (dalton.deborah@epa.gov) or call (day) 202-564-2913, (eve) 703-660-6823. There are usually only one or two Board meetings per year. Some Board positions require more hours per year than others. I would like to see most Board members leading or actively participating in at least one program per year.

Korean Focus had a great year in 2004 and I am really excited about the coming year for Korean Focus. Our website (www.koreanfocus.org) has been redesigned and has a TON of information. We have a new electronic event notice system that connects all of you, our members, with Korean culture and adoption events in the Washington, Baltimore metro area. Our many thanks to Margie Perscheid for establishing and managing both! When you send in your renewal form please make sure we have an up to date email so you can get the latest notices of events in the area. Frequently Korean cultural events get limited advance notice, so if you notice announcements of events or exhibits on Korean culture at local museums, cultural centers, or school systems - send the information to us at info@koreanfocus.org so we can pass the word to all.

We are planning a number of really interesting programs and events. As always, our premier event is the Korean Lunar New Year, which we present in partnership with the Korean American Youth Association (KAYA). This always exciting event is described later in the Newsletter - so mark your calendars. Last year we had more than 320 people attend the afternoon celebration of music, games and workshops. This year the KAYA/KF planning team is hoping for even more!

Korean Focus continues to sponsor two traditional drumming groups: Uttummuri - a group of teens who

present traditional farmers' drumming and marching and who practice on alternate Sundays, and Hanguk Eui Sori, a group of parents and younger children who play at Korean Focus events and practice alternate Saturdays.

We are also hoping to present a program on the Korean Turtle Boat (the world's first armored boat dating to the 1600's) in partnership with Washington Navy Yard, and to repeat programs on cooking, fashion/make-up for girls, and panel discussions for parents on preparing for the various challenges unique to the adoption experience.

We're always looking for ideas for events and workshops. Please contact the Program Coordinator, Katie Zeigler at zeiglers@erols.com if you have ideas that you wish someone would present, or if you have a program you would like to work on.

We had a full and busy year during 2004. It was great to see so many of you at the:

- Lunar New Year Celebration co-sponsored with the Korean American Youth Association (KAYA) on February 7.
- Adoptism and Racism: A Mother-Daughter Journey with Marcy Gitt, a panel discussion with an adoption social worker and adoptive parent on March 28.
- Korean Focus Cooks: Cooking with exchange student Woo Ri at the home of Kathy Seikel on May 16.
- KFAF Craft Sale at the Catholic Charities Summer Picnic in June.
- Korean American Coalition National Conference: KF organized a panel on the face of Korean Americans in the 21st Century in July.
- Girl Stuff - An Afternoon of Hanbok Fashion and Make-up on November 7.

I think you'll agree that 2004 was a busy year for Korean Focus. I hope to see you at our upcoming events in 2005, starting with Lunar New Year!

- **Debbie Dalton**
President, Korean Focus for Adoptive Families

ASIA CHUSOK CELEBRATION

by Brian Hattery

On Saturday, October 23, 2004, ASIA celebrated the traditional Korean harvest festival, *Chusok*, at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, MD with separate programs for children and adults.

The children (8 through 12) learned how to say in Korean some simple expressions such as "hello" and "thank you". They also used origami to make flowers and made a spicy rice cake during a cooking lesson. In addition, they listened to the story of Shim Ch'ong, the faithful daughter of a Korean folktale, who helped her blind father regain his sight.

For the adults, there was first a one-hour cooking lesson. We tried to learn to make *jun* or *chun*, a Korean dish consisting of egg, flour, chopped spring onions, and imitation crabmeat or fish. The best part was sampling what we made, very tasty!

During the second hour, four young adults, adopted as children from Korea, spoke on their experiences as Korean adoptees and answered questions from parents on a number of topics. For example, all four agreed that the parents of Korean adoptees should be ready to help their children try to learn about the culture of their birth country when they express an interest in it. They also discussed their successes and difficulties in dealing with the cultural differences between themselves and other members of the Korean-American community. They seemed happy to talk to us about their personal experiences. It was interesting to note the different times when each young adult felt ready to search for his or her birth parents. One adult adoptee said that he wasn't ready yet, but what was most important is that all four said that they had supportive parents/families.

At noon, the children joined the adults for a special *Chusok* bowing ceremony. After we learned the proper way to bow, we finished up with a delicious Korean lunch of *kim bab*, *bulgogi*, and *chop chae*, very tasty!

Celebrate Lunar New Year

with

Korean Focus and the Korean American Youth Association

**Saturday
February 12, 2005**

1:30 - 5:00

Food, hanbok exchange, craft sale, dancing, little kids' crafts, storytelling, drumming, calligraphy, paper folding, traditional games, cooking, bowing ceremony, Korean wedding ceremony, group photo, Tae Kwon Do demonstration, and prize drawing. Can you do them all?

Teen volunteers, please call Katie Zeigler at 703-820-1171 or send email to info@koreanfocus.org. Dates for volunteer meetings (minimum of one) Saturday, January 15th, late afternoon, and Saturday, January 29th, with Saturday, February 5th, snow day, if needed.

Cost: \$5 per person/\$15 per family

Korean United Methodist Church of Greater Washington
1219 Swinks Mill Rd., McLean, VA 22101
(Corner of Swinks Mill and Lewinsville Rds., just off the Beltway North of Tysons)
Map and directions at www.kumcgw.org



First Person Perspective: Mara Perscheid

My name is Mara Perscheid, I'm thirteen years old, and I'm from Alexandria, VA. I've gone through many phases of "obsession" throughout my life, but there's one that I'll never be able to get over. It's my love for the Korean sport of Taekwondo. Ever since I was about four years old, I've loved this sport. You might have guessed that my parents first got me into it, but it was actually my older brother, Paul Perscheid. When he was six years old he started taking Taekwondo at Yoo's Martial Arts, and I watched every one of his classes. I really got into it, and I told my parents one day that I wanted to take Taekwondo. They signed me up when I turned five, and I've been doing it ever since then. I'm now a third degree blackbelt, and I also attend Yoo's Martial Arts.

Whenever I tell people that I take Taekwondo, they right away assume that it's the same thing as Karate, but it's really a lot different. Taekwondo is probably a whole lot more physical when it comes to fighting, traditionally known as sparring, or in Korean Gyorooqi. Taekwondo also involves forms, in Korean Poomse, which is basically a long phase of different techniques put together in one. Now as more and more different cultures have gotten into the sport, the traditional Korean way has sort of been pushed aside and many new features have been added. We try to keep the tradition going, but it tends to be difficult at times.

I'm probably one of the most competitive people you'll ever meet, and like most people, I hate losing. That's why Taekwondo is my kind of sport. It takes a lot of effort, a good attitude, and a strong heart to become a great player and a good sport. Taekwondo has taught me a lot in life, especially discipline and the way I look at life now. My Grand Master, Grand Master Jun Saeng Yoo, and my coach, Master Jason Yoo, have brought me to where I am now, and I don't think I could've ever gotten this far without them. I would really like to thank them for all that they've done for me these past eight years.

I plan on continuing Taekwondo until the day I die, and by biggest goal right now is to make it to the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, China. I know I'm going to have to work hard for it, but I want it enough that I'm willing to go to any limit.



Master Jason Yoo, Coach, with Jonathan Yoo, Joy Yoo, Mara Perscheid, and Natalie Saramiento, all Grand Champions at the 2004 Virginia State Junior Olympics & Open Championship

Editors Note: We hope you like this new feature to the newsletter, please submit your first person perspective to me at omans@erols.com

Korean American Coalition (KAC)

National Convention

by Mike LaBelle and Margie Perscheid

KAC-DC hosted the second annual convention of the Korean American Coalition in Washington DC in September 2004. Korean Focus actively supported the event by placing an ad in the program, active KF board member involvement in convention planning and through KF members buying (most of) a table at the awards banquet.

KAC is a national organization dedicated to developing present and future Korean American community and political leadership and strengthening ties of the KA community to American society as a whole. It now has fourteen chapters around the U.S. and is adding new cities to this list. The convention was opened by Honorable Han Sung Joo, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the United States and it honored Dr. Sammy Lee, the first Korean American Olympic Medalist, and the first man to win diving titles at two consecutive Olympics (1948 and 1952). In addition to his gold medals, Dr. Lee also won the bronze medal in the springboard competition. A documentary of his journey to the Olympics introduced the attendees to a man of incredible humor and strength. Dr. Lee, who is now in his mid 80s, both entertained and inspired the audience. His message was clear - that we all need to go for our dreams. His example proves what can happen when we do.

Awards

The KAC-DC chapter used the convention as the venue for its annual Award Gala. The dinner brought all the conference attendees, plus many members of the local and national Korean American community, together. This year's awardees included Don H. Liu of IKON in the Business Leadership category, Dr. and Mrs. Luke and Grace Kim for Community Service, the American Jewish Committee in the Bridge Builder category, and Verizon for Corporate Leadership.

Changing Face of Korean Americans

Aside from being Board Members of Korean Focus, Margie Perscheid and Mike LaBelle are also Board members of KAC-DC. They organized a breakout session at the convention entitled the Changing Face of Korean Americans. We were very pleased with the content and the attendance at the session. It was clear

that it was well received based on the requests that were made asking that the session be repeated at the convention in Atlanta next year.

The idea of the session was that Korean Americans come in many shapes and sizes and that this will become more true in coming years. The panelists included an adoptee married to a Caucasian who is also a parent of a new born child, an adoptive parent with late teen children, a Korean-American married to a Scandinavian-American who is the parent of a newborn and a Korean American-African American woman who does spoken word performances about racial identity.

Most Korean-Americans and most adoptees don't know that fully 10% of Korean-Americans are adopted. In addition, many others who are part of the Korean American community do not fit the traditional mold of the community: a person who speaks the language, is of pure Korean heritage and has close ties to a community that looks like they do. Besides adoptees, there are now many who consider themselves Korean American who are members of the second and third generation and who have fewer ties to the Korean American community than they do too many other aspects of America. There are interracial marriages where parents and children have close ties to other ethnic heritages and many who live in areas of the country that have few if any Koreans or Asians.

If some of this sounds familiar to you—that is the point. As Margie and Mike have forged ties with the (non-adoption) Korean American community, it has become apparent that many questions that our families and our children face are not unique to the adoptive community. For example, many in the Korean American Community have expressed a wish that their children would have the kind of contact with Korean culture that Korean Focus has introduced to our children. Similarly first generation parents wonder what the role of Korean heritage should be in America; their children respond to the issue very differently from their parents and, of course, there is a great difference from child to child.

Other Sessions

The convention had sessions covering a broad array of other topics for the attendees. These included: Building Bridges to Other Communities, Breaking through the Glass Ceiling, Emerging Korean-American Artists, Portrayal of Korean-Americans in the Media, as well as the Korean-American vote, Korean-American churches and many more.

Boat Cruise and Karaoke

The convention had many light moments but the best of these was a boat cruise sponsored by Annheuser-Busch on the Potomac River featuring the fine Karaoke singing of both convention participants and the boat wait-staff. Unfortunately, we have to report that none of the Korean Focus attendees had enough gumption (beer) to brave the crowds and show off their musical talent.

We hope that Korean Focus families find that ties to the Korean community through organizations such as KAC help them to experience all of the Korean American community. Check out the KAC website at: www.kacdc.org

CHINGOO

by Andrea Brenner

Hello! We are CHINGOO- a group of undergraduate students at American University in Washington, DC, who have initiated a program to give young Korean adoptees (up to approximately age 4) a chance to experience Korean culture with “big brothers/sisters” who become one-on-one mentors. We are a mix of Korean American, Korean International and Korean Adoptee college students, ages 18-22. As the name CHINGOO, or “friend” implies, we hope to form irreplaceable bonds between ourselves, your family, and your child.

CHINGOO strives to provide adopted Korean children in the DC area with resources to expose them to Korean traditions, songs, games, stories, language, crafts, and people. We expect that this “big brother/sister” relationship will continue for years to come. Through both individual and group activities, CHINGOO will offer your child a nurturing environment in which to spend time with her/her mentor, family, and other same-age Korean adoptees.

The program also serves to develop awareness within the Korean student community at American University. Not only do fellow Korean students get to meet each other, but they are also given the opportunity to share their feelings and perspectives on Korean international adoption. CHINGOO hopes to provide the means by which everyone will bond and thrive to become a strong and connected community. There is a small fee for participating families to cover expenses.

Please contact Jennifer Jung, Student Coordinator, at jennj45@hotmail.com or Dr. Andrea Brenner, Faculty Advisor and Assistant Professor of Sociology at American University at artbrenner@aol.com for more information.

Teens Take Over New Year

Did you go to Korean New Year last year? This year KAYA and KF will coordinate teen--high school and middle school-- volunteers. You can help the presenters with their activities, and still have free time to try out the ones you like. You can help the little kids who need a bit of a hand, and think teens are the coolest thing ever. You can even MC the program! It all counts as volunteer credits for school. You may even get a two-fer...see below.

Have you avoided Korean New Year since you were 10? This is your opportunity to come back, participate in the running of the show, meet other KA teens from around the area, score some volunteer credits, and try your hand at Korean calligraphy (totally optional). While you were away Korean New Year became a huge event. Last year there were over 300 people! Teens from KAYA and KF helped with activities--cooking, bowing, drumming, craft sale, paper folding, Korean games, calligraphy, etc. They did storytelling for the little kids and helped them make norigae out of yarn and pipecleaners. They also seemed to be having a great time--at least jovial giggling and general merrymaking were easily observable by old folks like me.

This year KAYA and KF teens will get cool T-shirts—Mom (and Dad) will not force you to wear a hanbok (we solemnly swear). Teens will meet twice in January to choose their parts, learn their activity, and meet each other. You will need to attend at least one meeting in order to participate in the event. However, you'll get volunteer credits both the meetings and the event. Since January and February are in different semesters (in Fairfax Co., at least), you can check off that requirement for half the entire school year (now that's a two-fer)!

Seriously, we want you back. Meetings are Saturday, January 15 and January 30, 4-6 at KAYA's office in the Bailey's Crossroads area, we may meet on February 5 in the event we have snow one of the other two days. Please contact us at info@koreanfocus.org to sign up.

KAYA: Korean American Youth Association
Culmore Methodist Church
5901 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041
Office phone: 703-820-5292
E-mail: kayouth@hotmail.com.

For directions, contact Wonhee Kang, 703-820-5206

KOREAN FOCUS FOR ADOPTIVE FAMILIES

Membership Renewal for 2005

Dear Members - it's that time of year again! Your membership in Korean Focus is due for renewal.

We're not exaggerating when we say we REALLY need your support! Korean Focus is almost entirely funded by your membership dues. With your renewal, we can continue to sponsor programs, the newsletter, the web page, and the craft sale.

2004 was a year for us to focus on continuing bridge building into the Korean American and adoption community, including co-sponsoring our annual Lunar New Year Celebration with KAYA, supporting the KAC National Convention with a break-out session and a table at the convention dinner, and continuing to support the drumming groups *Hanguk Eui Sori* and *Uttummuri* (which is taught by the Korean American Cultural Center).

In 2005 we will continue these activities, but would like to offer more programs, including a presentation on the Turtle Boat, a program on the Asian American college experience for older teens, and a series of waiting/new parent coffees. We also want to hear from our members so we can plan programs that interest YOU – so with your dues donation, please send us your ideas!!

We hope you will complete the membership form on the next page and send it and your \$20 dues (payable to Korean Focus) to the address below by January 31, 2005.

We also ask your help with the following:

Please complete all information on the membership form, ESPECIALLY your e-mail address. We are using e-mail more and more to announce events and share information between newsletters. We will never share this information with any other organization, and will use it only for Korean Focus announcements.

Send us your thoughts on new programs that your families will enjoy. So please take a moment when you complete the form to send us your ideas. Of course, you can reach us anytime at info@koreanfocus.org - please send us your ideas!

Please send the completed form to:

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



Membership Form

Please fill out the form below and send it with a check for \$20 made payable to Korean Focus to the address below. The form may also be emailed to membership@koreanfocus.org and dues payment made via the internet at <http://www.koreanfocus.org/membersupport.html>

Her name: _____

His name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, and Zip: _____

Home tel: _____

E-mail: _____

E-mail is used for announcements only, and is never shared!

Please tell us about your children:

Name	Birth date	Birth country or birth child
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Please share any ideas you'd like and let us know if you would like to help in any way:

I would be interested in serving on the KF Board of Directors: _____

I'd like to see Korean Focus work on the following activity or kinds of activities: _____

I can help plan one event or activity. _____

I would like to help on the day of one event or activity. _____

Something I would like to get involved in: _____

ANNUAL DUES: \$20 (Checks payable to Korean Focus)

Check enclosed _____ Dues donation made online _____

**Send forms and checks
(if applicable) to:**

**Korean Focus
c/o Margie Perscheid, Membership Coordinator
1906 Sword Lane
Alexandria, VA 22308**

Kids Page

Happy New Year . . . of the Rooster!



酉 Rooster

2005 is the Year of the Rooster. In the Korean zodiac, people born in the year of the Rooster are proud, honest, and have a strong sense of duty. Roosters also are self-confident and impatient, and like to show off.

Korean New Year is called *Seol*. It is one of the most important holidays of the year. Traditionally, families would get together on *Seol* and perform the bowing ceremony *sebae*, eat a traditional soup called *ttok guk*, and play games together.

But what about New Year's Eve, which is called *sut dal kum mum*? On that night nobody is supposed to sleep. People thought that if you slept on New Year's Eve, your eyebrows would turn white. Lights were put on in every room to keep everyone awake. People would clean their houses and take a bath to remove all the dust and dirt of the old year. One tradition was to burn bamboo sticks to cast out house demons.

새해복 많이 받으세요

Happy New Year!

Say hay boke-mahn he pah du say oh

Rooster years are 1921, 1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005, 2017. Do you know someone who was born in the Year of the Rooster?

Come to the KAYA - Korean Focus Lunar New Year Celebration on February 12. Details will be on the Korean Focus website at <http://www.koreanfocus.org/> as soon as they are available.

Teen Page

Did You Know . . . ?

That Col. Young-Oak Kim led the 100/442nd Battalion, the most decorated unit in U.S. military history, and that this unit was primarily made up of Japanese American soldiers, some of whose families were interned during World War II?



That Dr. Sammy Lee was the first Korean American to win an Olympic gold medal, and the first man to win back-to-back gold medals in diving (in 1948 and 1952)?

That the first Korean Americans arrived on the S.S. Gaelic at Honolulu Harbor on January 13, 1903?



That a Korean American, Hyung-Soon Kim, invented the nectarine?

This and much, much more information about Korean American history can be found on a great resource – the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program’s 2003 Korean American Centennial Commemoration Curriculum Guide. The Guide is on the web at <http://www.apa.si.edu/Curriculum%20Guide-Final/index.htm>.

Have a history paper due? Visit the Curriculum Guide and you’ll be sure to find a great topic and learn something new about the Korean American experience!



“Before”



“After”

“Girl Stuff” was a huge hit and a lot of fun for KF teens & ‘tweens. All the girls had a great time. Many thanks to XXXX for putting the event together.



Korean Focus for Adoptive Families
1906 Sword Lane
Alexandria, VA 22308