

# The Drumming Crane

THE NEWSLETTER OF KOREAN FOCUS



Fall – Winter 2006

Volume X, Number 3

The Korean American Youth Association and Korean Focus invite you to join us for a Lunar New Year Celebration

## Welcome the Year of the Red Pig

The Korean American Youth Association, in association with Korean Focus and the Korean American Coalition, is holding its annual Lunar New Year Celebration on **February 10, 2007, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm**. Mark your calendars and plan on attending!

The celebration will be at **Korean United Methodist Church of Greater Washington**, located at **1219 Swinks Mill Road in McLean, VA**. Cost is \$5 per person or \$15 per family. The church is located at the corner of Swinks Mill Road and Lewinsville Road. See page 4 of the newsletter for details and directions.

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## Time to Renew!

**We're going digital in 2007 - be sure to update your email address!**

We're not shy, we'll say it out loud: We need YOU!

Korean Focus is supported almost entirely by your dues contributions. We therefore hope that you'll renew your membership as soon as possible, which will give us the funds to continue our programs and start some new ones. This year, we're grateful to the Korea Foundation for making it possible for us to send you a thank-you for renewing: a complimentary subscription to *Koreana* magazine, a beautiful pictorial journal covering all kinds of Korean topics. **Be sure to check the box on the membership form giving us permission to send your US mail (NOT email) address to the Korean Foundation to start your subscription.**

Of all of our costs, printing and mailing the newsletter is the largest – about \$1200 a year. We are therefore going digital in 2007. The newsletter will no longer be printed and mailed. Instead, an *eBulletin* will be sent with the link to the newsletter's online location. From there, you can download it to read on your PC or print.

To ensure you receive future *eBulletins* and Newsletters, we need your updated email address. When you renew your membership (page 8), simply include your current email address or addresses (multiple email addresses are fine) on the form. And if your email address changes, just send an update request to: [membership@koreanfocus.org](mailto:membership@koreanfocus.org)

You'll also need to add [koreanfocus.org](http://koreanfocus.org) to the ALLOWED domains in your spam blocker.

Thank you for helping us to control our costs!

**Korean Focus**

1906 Sword Lane  
Alexandria, VA 22308

info@koreanfocus.org <http://www.koreanfocus.org/>

**KOREAN FOCUS** 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**

-- Open --

**TREASURER**

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## President's Corner

### *Happy New Year -*

Looking forward into 2007, the Year of the Pig, we expect to be re-energized. Last year we significantly improved our e-bulletin - the look, the notification for events and the frequency of distribution. We expect to keep this up in 2007, as many of you have indicated that we provide a useful link in the network of things Korean. We are making more and more contacts within the various Korean and adoption communities and are glad to pass them on to you.

We will be moving to an electronic newsletter format as well. For those of you who have not given us an email, please do so when you renew your membership. We'll be improving the newsletter by adding restaurant, book and movie reviews, in addition to information that you can use to maintain your links to Korean culture. We'd love to hear from you about your favorite neighborhood restaurants - so many Korean restaurants are local strip mall places that others don't know about.

This year we welcome new Board members and we thank you to Board members who are "retiring:" Brian Hattery and Jim Omans. We've spent significant time recruiting this year so that we can build a Board with younger children, which will better reflect the make-up of our membership. The slate of directors is available for your votes on page 9; more information about our new Board members is on page 3.

We appreciate our volunteers and their commitment to Korean Focus. This year we will be initiating a policy of requesting each Board member to sponsor at least one program of any kind. This is a common responsibility in many 501(c)(3) organizations. Over the past few years most of the programming activity has been done by Katie Zeigler, Margie Perscheid and myself. As parents and working mothers we haven't had enough time to implement as many programs as our imaginations can think up. We hope that this change will offer lots of new energy and programs.

In October, I met with the Washington representatives of the Korea Foundation Mr. Kyung-chul Park and Ms. Helen Chong to talk about partnering with us on Korean culture programs. The Board will be considering what programs we would specifically propose for consideration of support by Korea Foundation. They have a number of resources that are particularly useful

### **Subscribe to *Adoptive Families* and Raise Funds for Korean Focus - When you subscribe to *Adoptive Families Magazine* as a Korean Focus member, KF earns \$5!**

It's easy to subscribe. Visit the KF program page at Adoptive Families at <http://www.adoptivefamilies.com> and subscribe online. Or, enter the KF program code P09146 in the GROUP CODE field on the online subscription form. *Adoptive Families* is an award-winning national adoption magazine, and is the leading adoption information source for families before, during, and after adoption.

for school and local libraries and students. Check them out [www.kf.org.kr](http://www.kf.org.kr) and send us any ideas that occur to you.

The Verizon Foundation has given us a grant of \$500 in recognition of the time that our Membership and Organizations Chair, Margie Perscheid, volunteers with us. We have gotten this grant for many years and we thank them (and Margie) for the recognition. It helps us to support our program costs. If you have a similar volunteer award at your company, please consider us.

In November, I was contacted by the Korean Grocers Association to provide names of seniors in high school who were going on to college for the award of \$500 scholarships. They only gave us two days and no particular qualifications. We examined our membership list and considered the names of all children named who were seniors in high school and who had been faithful volunteers at Korean Focus events over the years. After a number of email exchanges of the Board, in which we disqualified Board children, we provided the names of Kevin Taylor and Max Gilbert. Congratulations! The Board will be talking about how to respond to this kind of request in the future.

*Debbie Dalton*

## Introducing the 2007 KF Board of Directors

Following the election of the 2007 Korean Focus Board of Directors, the new board will take office and continue leadership of the Korean Focus Metro DC Chapter, now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year.

Many thanks to outgoing board member Treasurer **Brian Hattery**, who has served the chapter for many years. Brian has maintained our books and checking account, and in 2006 made a significant contribution to the chapter's financial status by obtaining Virginia sales tax exemption. This allows us to extend out budget by eliminating sales tax from our purchases. Thank you, Brian, for your many years of service!

Many thanks as well to outgoing Newsletter Editor **Jim Omans**, who has prepared *The Drumming Crane* for many years. With Jim's tireless help, Korean Focus has provided three to four print newsletters every year. Jim

also helped us name the newsletter, which comes from the drumming groups *Uttummuri* and *Hanguk Eui Sori*, which KF sponsored for several years. Thanks, Jim!

### Four new members are joining the Board this year:

Secretary **Michelle S.C. Howard**, MSW has worked in the adoption field for eight years in the Metro DC area. She is the new President of Korea Homeland Tours and is active with the International Adoptee Congress. Michelle has previously worked with C.A.S.E. and The Barker Foundation, and she is a past President of the Also-Known-As DC Chapter. Michelle was adopted from Korea and enjoys the opportunity to travel back to Korea with Korea Homeland Tours. Michelle and her husband Daniel have two children, Nate and Aly.

Treasurer **David Horn** joins us from our membership. David, wife Karla and their two Korean-born children Kim Soo-Mee and Parker Hyo-Am live in the Annapolis area. Karla and David have been married for more than fourteen years and consider parenthood one of God's true blessings. David is an accountant for the Department of the Interior and is a CPA licensed in the State of Maryland. The family enjoys swimming all year, and most summer activity revolves around pool and beach activities at their second home in Ocean City, MD.

Newsletter Editor **Dan Magnolia** is a designer and creative consultant for Magnolia Design and Communications. Dan was born in Korea and adopted by a family in the U.S. He currently lives in Arlington, VA. Dan will be introducing himself in the next issue of the newsletter, which will be undergoing a design transformation as Dan takes the reins.

The position of Vice President remains open, but we hope to have it filled shortly, as a volunteer has stepped forward. Keep your fingers crossed that we go into 2007 with a full Board of Directors.

We welcome back President Debbie Dalton, Membership Coordinator Margie Perscheid, Program Coordinators Katie Zeigler and Amy Caiazza, and Member-at-Large Andrea Brenner, all of whom continue to serve in the same roles as last year.

**Many thanks to all past and present board members for your contributions to Korean Focus' success!**

# KAYA and Korean Focus Invite You to Celebrate the Year of the Red Pig

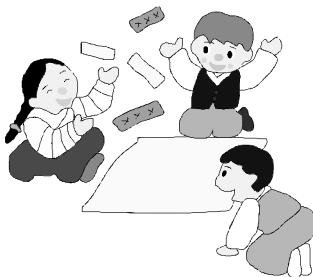


**February 10, 2007 1:00 - 4:00 PM**  
**Korean United Methodist Church of Washington**  
**1219 Swinks Mill Road, McLean, Virginia**

**\$5 per person, \$15 max per family - Children 3 and under FREE**

**Come and enjoy!**

- Crafts and activities for the children
- Story-telling with *Chingoo*
- Performances of traditional Korean music
- Photo op in Korean wedding clothes
- Hanbok exchange
- Korean craft sale
- Korean games
- Cooking workshop
- Sebae (Korean bowing) ceremony
- Taekwondo demonstration
- Korean food
- Lots of fun and time to socialize



## **Attention Teens!!**

We need YOU to help the little ones with crafts and activities! There are lots of volunteer opportunities! Don't miss this great opportunity for community service credits AND a lot of fun! Training will be provided. Email [info@koreanfocus.org](mailto:info@koreanfocus.org) if you would like to help.

**Adult volunteers needed, too!** Contact [info@koreanfocus.org](mailto:info@koreanfocus.org) to volunteer.

## **Directions to KUMCGW:**

- Exit the beltway (I-495) onto Route 123 north towards McLean.
- Turn left (west) onto Lewinsville Road (VA Route 694).
- Follow Lewinsville Road for about 1.5 miles.
- Turn right onto Swinks Mill Road
- Church on the right near the corner of Lewinsville Road and Swinks Mill Road.

**Saehae bok mani paduseyo!**

**!**

## 2007 Korean Language Courses at KORUS House

KORUS House, the Information Service Center at the Embassy of Korea, is offering Korean language classes to the Washington, DC area community.

Instructors are native speakers with extensive teaching experience. Korean courses for Winter 2007 consist of two levels for beginners without previous knowledge of Korean. Classes meet for 12 weeks on each Monday evening. Classes have a typical enrollment of 12 to 14 students. Tuition is non-refundable after the first week of classes. Registration is being accepted now until January 29, 2007.

### **Korean for Beginners: Level I & II**

*For those with little or no experience with Korean*

Mondays, 6 – 8 pm

February 5 – April 30, 12 week session

Textbook : Student Book 1 (Korean for Foreigners)

Tuition : \$225 includes textbook and instructional materials

### **Course Descriptions**

#### ***Novice Beginning Level I***

***Instructor: Dr. Younghi Ramsey***

This course is designed for those who want to learn Korean from the very beginning. Students with non-Korean Heritage are suitable for the course. Each class session is focused on teaching Hangul vowels, consonants and spelling. Pronunciation, sentence structure, as well as basic grammatical patterns like particles and verb tenses are also taught. Korean I is offered as the prerequisite course to Korean II.

#### ***Novice Beginning Level II***

***Instructor: Dr. Young A Jung***

This course is a continuation of Level I and also called 'Survival Korea.' The course places primary emphasis on oral (speaking and listening) skills, expanding on basic grammar skills, vocabulary, irregular verbs, and 'informal' speech patterns. Additionally, through class works, students will develop broader understanding and appreciation for Korean culture. At the conclusion of Level II, students will be able to comprehend and use basic Korean such as simple greeting, self-introductions and essential everyday expressions.

Registration is easy. Email [sjung@koreaemb.org](mailto:sjung@koreaemb.org) and request a copy of the registration form. After completing it, return it in one of the following ways:

1. E-mail: [sjung@koreaemb.org](mailto:sjung@koreaemb.org)
2. Fax to: 202.387.0413 or 202.667.0168
3. Mail to: KORUS House, 2370 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20008

You may also register by phone at 202-797-6346.

For details about registering and how to submit payment, please call Sue Jung at 202-797-6346 or 202-939-5688, or email [sjung@koreaemb.org](mailto:sjung@koreaemb.org).

## Korean Cuisine at George Mason Regional Library

The George Mason Regional Library is offering a free special program titled "Carrying on With Korean Cuisine" on February 3, 2007 at 11:30 am. Watch the renowned Korean chef Jae-ok Chang as she demonstrates the art of Korean cooking, then taste the results! We welcome everyone, especially those who are interested in learning about Korean culture.

Ms. Chang is the author of the bilingual cookbook *Vignette of Korean Cooking: Three Volumes*. She will demonstrate how to prepare three popular Korean dishes and will provide other pre-prepared dishes. Everyone can sample a dish after the demonstration. The cooking demonstration will be followed by a brief PowerPoint presentation about Korean cuisine and the New Year's tradition.

Registration is necessary and begins two weeks before the event. Call the library at 703-256-3800 to register, and for more information about the program.

### **Details:**

Date: February 3, 2007, 11:30 am

Location: George Mason Regional Library, 7011 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA 22003

Phone number: 703-256-3800

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/libevents/evntform.asp>





Korean Focus presents

# Korean Ceramics

Saturday, March 3, 2007, 4:00 - 6:00

No entrance fee - participants pay for the pottery they decorate

Clay Cafe Studios, 101 N. Maple Ave., Falls Church, VA

Behind Doodlehoppers 4 Kids at the intersection of Broad St., (Rte. 7) and Maple.  
Plenty of free parking in the back. More info at [www.claywire.com](http://www.claywire.com) or 703-534-7600.



What is Korea's most significant contribution to the history of art? An art historian would probably answer, "Ceramics." If you wanted to learn about Korean ceramics, though, you'd have a tough time finding anything that isn't meant for graduate students; forget about anything for kids! The Newbery book, *A Single Shard*, with a great story, and an informative appendix, is actually a good place to start.

But, let's learn more about Korean ceramics by making them. We'll decorate pots with real Korean and Korea-related designs. We'll have stamps, stencils, lots of pictures, and a short (but fascinating) lecture to inspire you. You'll learn to recognize the classic Korean ceramic colors, shapes and patterns.

Advance registration required. Attendance is limited.  
Please call Katie Zeigler, 703-820-1171

Children over 7 only, please. This is a challenging and messy craft activity. We will have some helpers, but participants will work independently, and parents must stay with young children who are unable to work on their own. KF members are also welcome to attend without children.



**KOREAN FOCUS**

Participants will pay Clay Cafe directly for the ceramics they decorate. Prices range from \$5 to \$15, and up. Fired works will need to be picked up a week after the workshop.

## New Year Message from Ambassador Lee Tae-Sik

*Following is an excerpt from the 2007 New Year message from Ambassador Lee Tae-Sik to Korean Americans*



**Dear Respected  
Koreans in the U.S.**

Korean-American communities have earned high approbations and we

can witness their esteem grow year after year. Furthermore, it is an encouraging sign for the community that in the November 2006 mid-term election, more Korean-Americans have been involved in the political process. Thus, it goes without saying that further involvement in the American political process is needed in order to further gain recognition and have stronger voice in the American mainstream society. Korean-American communities can no longer remain apathetic and aloof. Ergo, I urge all of you to further involve in the political process at your local elections.

The issue of Inter-generation cooperation in the Korean-American community is another urgent matter. I hope that the community leaders and members can work to close the gap between the generations by opening the doors and renovating participation process to further include the new generation in the community activities. I also urge the next generation to not lose your identity as Koreans and inherit the foundations of your previous generation to use them as your springboard for your future.

Therefore, in 2007, I urge you to keep up your effort in elevating the prestige and prominence of the Korean-American community. I firmly believe that the community's bright future for the 21st century can only be secured when you gain respect and recognition from the mainstream American society through your various active participations.

The Embassy staff and I will tirelessly work to achieve such goal for the Korean-American community in America and also back in Korea. We will continue to improve our consulate services to provide more convenient and efficient services. Concurrently, we will work harder to bring the community closer to Korea. Furthermore, we will work behind the scenes to seek closer attention and support from your local and federal governments in the United States.

The upcoming New Year is the year of the “red pig” that comes in every 60 years. Traditionally, pigs symbolize fortune; and the “red pig” represents bigger fortune. Therefore, I wish all of you and your families happiness in this auspicious year of the “red pig.”

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## Year of the Red Pig

In Korea, there are 12 animals that each year is named after. They are the rat, the cow, the tiger, the rabbit, the dragon, the snake, the horse, the sheep, the monkey, the rooster, the dog, and the pig. 2007 will be the year of the pig.

Usually the pig is symbolized as laziness and greed. However, in Korean history the pig is considered a lucky animal, bringing good health and property. Every 60 years, a special year of the pig occurs – the year of the red pig. 2007 is such a year. It is said that a baby who is born in the year of the red pig will have lots of property.

Koreans recognize the solar and lunar new years. On January 1 of the solar calendar, some businesses close to mark the occasion. Seollal, the lunar new year, is a national holiday on which businesses close and families celebrate together.

*Visit the Tour2Korea website at [http://english.tour2korea.com/03Sightseeing/TravelSpot/travelspot\\_read.asp?oid=3399&kosm=for\\_a\\_description\\_of\\_the\\_Seollal\\_celebration,\\_along\\_with\\_beautiful\\_photos\\_taken\\_at\\_sunrise\\_on\\_January\\_1](http://english.tour2korea.com/03Sightseeing/TravelSpot/travelspot_read.asp?oid=3399&kosm=for_a_description_of_the_Seollal_celebration,_along_with_beautiful_photos_taken_at_sunrise_on_January_1).*

# Please Renew Your Membership!



**Time to renew your Korean Focus membership!** As a small organization, your support means a lot to us, so we thank you in advance for renewing! **There are two ways to renew:**

- 1) Send this form, along with your check for **\$20** (or more if you'd like to make an additional donation), payable to **Korean Focus**, to the address at the bottom of the form, OR
- 2) Send the information on this form to us via email at [membership@koreanfocus.org](mailto:membership@koreanfocus.org). Then make your dues contribution at <http://www.koreanfocus.org/membersupport.html> using the *Network for Good* donation link.

**Either way, be sure to send your email address! If you have renewed since 10/1/06, your membership is current through 2007.** If you are unsure of when you last renewed, email [membership@koreanfocus.org](mailto:membership@koreanfocus.org) for your membership status. Also email us if you have moved or your email address has changed. Thanks sincerely for your support!

Her name: \_\_\_\_\_

His name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

**E-mail is used for announcements only and never sold or shared!**

**Please tell us about your children (use another page if necessary):**

Name	Birth date	Birth country
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**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. \_\_\_\_\_

**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

Check here to give Korean Focus permission to share your U.S. Mail address with the Korea Foundation to receive your complimentary subscription to *Koreana* magazine: \_\_\_\_\_



# BALLOT

## 2007 Board of Directors



Dear Korean Focus Member,

Following is the proposed slate of candidates for the 2007 Korean Focus Board of Directors. By indicating your approval or non-approval of these candidates, you participate in the leadership of this organization, which strives to involve its members to the highest degree possible. The Bylaws of the organization allow for approval of the Board based on simple majority of those members who participate in the vote. In the unlikely event that the slate is not approved, a special meeting of the general membership will be called to begin the nominating process again.

Please take a moment to review the slate of candidates and follow these instructions to record your vote:

- **If you approve the slate of candidates, take no further action and return the ballot to Korean Focus.**
- **If you do not approve the slate, mark your ballot, and return it to Korean Focus.**

Ballots should be returned to: Korean Focus Nominating Committee, 1906 Sword Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308. **Ballots must be postmarked no later than January 27, 2007 to be considered. Please provide your name and address where noted on the ballot; it will be used to verify your membership status.**

And please consider becoming involved with Korean Focus by participating in Board meetings. Leave a message with your name and call-back number at 703-799-4945 to receive information on how you can participate. The time commitment isn't great - but the rewards are!

### Proposed Candidates for Korean Focus for Adoptive Families 2007 Board of Directors

Mark only if you do not approve this slate: \_\_\_\_\_ DO NOT APPROVE

<b>President:</b>	<b>Debbie Dalton</b>
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>- Open -</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Michelle Howard</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>David Horn</b>
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	<b>Dan Magnolia</b>
<b>Membership Coordinator:</b>	<b>Margie Perscheid</b>
<b>Program Committee Chairperson:</b>	<b>Katie Zeigler</b>
<b>Program Committee Chairperson:</b>	<b>Amy Caiazza</b>
<b>Member-at-Large:</b>	<b>Andrea Brenner</b>

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

## Programs Galore

Visit the websites of the following organizations for details about these and many other programs.

### Center for Adoption Support and Education

<http://www.adoptionssupport.org/>

*Coping with Adopted Teens & Young Adults with Serious Emotional Challenges*

*Beneath the Mask: Understanding Adopted Teens*

*KAN: The Kids' Adoption Network (Burke, VA and Burtonsville, MD)*

*The Importance of Birth Parents*

*Teen Group with Debbie Riley, M.S.*

*Helping Children Make and Keep Friends*

*Montgomery County Post-Adoption Open Meetings*

*Beneath the Mask: Understanding Adopted Teens*

*W.I.S.E. Up! SM*

*Love Is Not Enough: Parenting in Transracial Adoption*

*Understanding Temperament and Promoting Attachment*

*Talking with Children about Adoption*

### Center for Adoptive Families

<http://www.adoptionstogether.org/parenting.asp>

*The ABC's of Adoption*

*Dads Are People Too!*

*Talking to Your Child About Adoption*

*Toddler Adoption*

### CHSFS-ASIA

<http://www.asia-adopt.org/>

*Speaking Out About Adoption: Share your story (for adopted persons)*

*Monthly Dinners for Adult Adopted Persons*

*Book Discussion: The Pumpkin Patch: A Single Woman's*

*International Adoption Journey*

*Workshop: Movie Magic*

### The Barker Foundation

<http://www.barkerfoundation.org/>

*Parents of Adolescents Workshop*

*International & Domestic Information Meeting*

*Birth Parent Support Group*

*Pre-Adoption Groups*

*PWNL Training Sessions*

*Adopted Kid Workshop A for First & Second Graders*

## KAAN Conference 2007 in Boston

### Building Bridges: Ways to Strengthen Our Community

The ninth annual KAAN Conference, Building Bridges: Ways to Strengthen Our Community, will be held July 20 -22, 2007 at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Boston, Massachusetts.

Registration is \$185 per person, and is now available -line at [www.kaanconference.com](http://www.kaanconference.com). A block of rooms has been reserved at \$159 per night (before tax), with this rate available from July 17 through July 24, 2007. Parking is included in the conference rate. Instructions for reserving a room will be on the conference website shortly.

The KAAN Conference is a wonderful opportunity to connect with old friends, meet new ones, and enjoy thought-provoking sessions and dialog. Don't miss it!

## KAC-DC Gala March 23

The Korean American Coalition DC Chapter's Annual Awards Gala, "Embracing a Broader Community," has been rescheduled to March 23, 2007. During the annual event, KAC-DC honors individual and corporate members of the Korean American community that have made significant contributions in the area of business and community service.

Formal notices will be sent out shortly. If you'd like further information about this event, please contact Gie Kim at (202) 296-9560 or [giekim@kacdc.org](mailto:giekim@kacdc.org). To receive regular announcements of KAC-DC programs and events, join the Yahoo list at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kac-dc/>

## Chapter News

Korean Focus is please to announce our newest chapter, Korean Focus Indiana. Under the leadership of Erica Kuchinski and Ruth Buhrt, this newest Korean Focus chapter will serve adoptive families in Indianapolis and surrounding areas. KF Indiana has been conducting programs and activities as an informal group for several years, and is currently working on plans for its annual Culture Camp. If you know someone in the Indianapolis area that would be interested in joining this chapter, please let them know to contact Erica Kuchinski at [ekuchinski@indy.rr.com](mailto:ekuchinski@indy.rr.com).

Here's the latest from other KF chapters around the country:

### **Korean Focus Northern Maryland** **[dna@fred.net](mailto:dna@fred.net)**

KF Northern Maryland sponsors programs in the Ellicott City area and north. Their largest annual event is the Children's Day celebration held each spring. For more information about this chapter, and to receive the announcement of the Children's Day event contact Ann Roberson at [dna@fred.net](mailto:dna@fred.net).

### **Korean Focus Cincinnati** **<http://kfcc.tripod.com/>**

KF Cincinnati will be celebrating their annual Lunar New Year Dinner on February 24, followed by their Children's Day celebration on May 12, and an Ice Cream Social on June 23. Contact Alice and Scott Souders at [Sgs82@juno.com](mailto:Sgs82@juno.com) for more information.

### **Korean Focus Northwest** **<http://www.koreanfocusnw.org/>**

KF Northwest is holding a workshop on the subject "How to Help Your Child Succeed in School" on January 20. Their next event will be a Hanji Paper Class in March. Lauren Soliday leads this chapter – contact her at [hanbok@verizon.net](mailto:hanbok@verizon.net) for more information.

## New President at KHT: Meet Michelle Howard

Korea Homeland Tours is now being run by Michelle Costello Howard, L.C.S.W. Michelle took over ownership and management from Carole Cangiano, who retired after the 2006 tour.

Michelle brings tremendous experience to the tours, and is, to the best of our knowledge, the only adult Korean adoptee running a homeland tour to Korea. Her unique experiences and perspectives offer tremendous insight to families and adult adoptees.

Michelle is an adoption professional with experience in placement and post-placement, as well as extensive travel experience in Korea. She has worked with the Center for Adoption Support and Education (C.A.S.E.) doing educational and post-adoption work, including groups for adopted children and adoptive families. More recently, Michelle was with The Barker Foundation's Korean adoption program and post-adoption department.

Michelle has been with Korea Homeland Tours since 2002 as a social worker, and has also traveled to Korea as a participant in a homeland tour for adult adoptees and with The Barker Foundation.

Michelle's plans for Korea Homeland Tours include the addition of a tour for adult adoptees and the continuation of Korea Homeland Tours' long-standing family tours. KHT's adult adoptee tour differs from other adoptee tours in that family and friends are welcome. Many other adult tours permit only adoptees to travel, which often means that adoptees must travel without their families, including spouses and "significant others."

KHT's 2007 tour program includes:

- June 19 – July 4: Adult adoptee tour led by Michelle with the assistance of Rachael Granico, also adopted from Korea
- July 3 – July 18: Family tour led by Carole Cangiano

For more information about these tours, visit Korea Homeland Tours' website at:  
<http://www.KoreaHomelandTours.com>.

Or contact Michelle at:  
[MichelleHoward@KoreaHomelandTours.com](mailto:MichelleHoward@KoreaHomelandTours.com)

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**Time to renew your membership!**  
**Renewal instructions and form on page 8**

**KAYA – Korean Focus Lunar New Year Celebration**  
**February 10 in McLean, VA**

**Korean Ceramics at Clay Café**  
**March 3 in Falls Church, VA**

**Korean Focus**  
**1906 Sword Lane**  
**Alexandria, VA 22308**