



Mugunghwa

The Newsletter for Members of Korean Focus NW
Providing support for families with children of Korean heritage - through
social activities, educational programs and cultural celebrations.
Fall 2006

Korean Focus NW

Welcome to **Korean Focus NW (KFNW)**, which locally calls itself "Mugunghwa," in honor of the beautiful and resilient Korean national flower.

Korean Focus NW is a local chapter of the national Korean Focus group based in Washington DC. Our mission is to provide support to families with children of Korean heritage through social activities, educational offerings, and cultural events. Membership and event information can be found on our website www.koreanfocusnw.org.

KOREAN FOCUS NW BOARD MEETING

The next Korean Focus NW board meeting will be held Tuesday November 28, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. at a location to be announced. Our board meetings are open to all members. We are in the process of nominating new board members, so please join us at the meeting if you are interested. Our meetings provide us with some nice adult time together - please consider getting involved!

Celebrate Adoption

November is *Adoption Awareness Month*--a time for all of us to foster positive and accurate thinking about adoption in our children and communities. This year's theme is "Answering the Call - You don't have to be perfect to be a perfect parent. There are thousands of teens in foster care who would love to put up with you." KFNW honors and celebrates all families formed by adoption.

Ahn nyoungha seh yo, ne Chin-go
(Hello and Good Day, My Friends)

I hope this Fall 2006 issue of the KFNW newsletter *MUGUNGHWA* reaches you all in good spirits and health. November is National Adoption month and for many of us school is in full swing now for our kids. Having our precious children start school is a mixed blessing - we want them to get a good education and learn those valuable social skills gained at school. With that also come the concerns of what our children might be faced with in terms of class assignments (the dreaded ancestry report) and perhaps classmates saying hurtful things about their racial identity or adoptive status.

With these issues in mind, we are planning a workshop for parents to help support and advocate for our kids in the sometimes-challenging world of elementary school. This workshop will be held on Saturday, January 20 at the Eastshore Unitarian Universalist Church in Bellevue. More details inside.

KFNW members have been enjoying 2 Korean culture classes - one for younger children in Shoreline on Thursday mornings and one for elementary kids in Kenmore on Sunday afternoons. There will be other opportunities - cooking classes, Hanji Korean paper art craft class, kite making...once dates are set for these, we'll be sure to send out an announcement to KFNW members first so you can reserve your space early.

The last weekend in August brought our annual family camp out at Bay View State Park. Many thanks to Eileen Aker for her wonderful planning and for offering to coordinate again for next year. Mark your calendars now - the date is set for the weekend of August 18th. We also celebrated a very special occasion - the 1st anniversary of the creation of Korean Focus NW!

KFNW members and friends celebrated Chusok with great food, storytelling, music and Korean dance and drumming performances. Some of our members hosted Korean American friends and FIUTS students,

which made the experience more meaningful and memorable for all involved.

We've accomplished so much in our first year, and had lots of fun doing it! I look forward to more wonderful events to build on our friendships and welcoming new members as the years go on. Wishing you all a bountiful, healthy and enjoyable fall filled with Sarong!

Kamsa hamnida and in community,

Lauren Soliday
Chair, Korean Focus NW
admin@koreanfocusnw.org

Korean Play and Learn Class

“Ko. Ko. Ko,” the teacher says as she taps her nose. Children and parents focus their attention and soon Sunsangnim* June Sohn, a Washington state certified teacher, is leading these English-speakers in “Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes,” in Korean!

The class, Korean Play and Learn, was held on Thursdays between 10:30 and noon at the Family Support Center in Shoreline. It lasted 10 weeks from September 14th to November 16th. It targeted 2 to 5 year olds –and you could find Kate Astion, Rachel Garand, Josie Hofstead, Thomas Peach, Malia Schroeder, Archie and Alyda Faugno, and Lulu, Jack, and Sophie Hanscom there. Class members under age 1 include Jason Griffith, Davin Hofstead, and Timmy Landay.

With June Sohn the class learned more songs than they could remember. Handouts of the songs in the Korean alphabet hangul (along with an American alphabet version and English translations) were passed out at each class to help everyone learn and remember. When Ms. Sohn

had to leave for a full-time teaching position in the middle of October, the group banded together and made use of their various talents to continue on.

The Shoreline Korean Play and Learn is taking a break for the holidays but expects to return January 11. We have opted to continue on as a teacher-less study group until we have mastered the songs we already know. We will continue learning with the help of practice CDs and handouts (the new ones are put together by Lindsay Nathan.) If you are interested in joining the group or would like more information, contact Leslie Frank at leslie51706@gmail.com.

*an honorific used with teachers and people of importance

In Memory - Ted Schroeder

Sadly, we honor the life and memory of Ted Schroeder, who died at 48 years old from complications of Leukemia on Sunday, August 23, 2006. Ted will always be remembered for his love of his family, his dedication, passion and willingness to help out with our Korean Adoptive family events over many years, and his sincerity and sense of humor. Ted leaves behind his wife, Cindy, daughters Emily and Malia and a loving and large extended network of family and friends living here in the Pacific NW and in California. KFNW members helped Cindy and the girls through these difficult times by providing meals during the month of September and organic vegetable deliveries will continue for another 4 months with ongoing donations from friends and family. If you would like to make a personal contribution to this ongoing support, please contact Lauren at hanbok@verizon.net.

Mark Your Calendars! Korean Focus NW Events

Korean Focus NW sponsors educational events, including museum visits and Korean language and cooking classes; organizes informal picnics, playgroups, and a popular family camping trip each August; and celebrates Korean holidays, including Lunar New Year, the fall harvest festival Chusok, and Children's Day in the spring. *Please join us!*

Saturday, January 20, 2007, 3-5pm

ADVOCATING FOR YOUR CHILD AT SCHOOL

Eastshore Unitarian Universalist Church, Bellevue
This 2 hour workshop will address issues you and your children may face in school and will offer tools to help make this experience a positive one. **Suggested donation \$10.00.**

Yolanda Comparan launched Adoption Referral & Information Service (ARIS) to meet a critical need in the adoption community linking pre-adoptive families, adoptive families and professionals to the resources that can best serve them. Sign up now by sending an e-mail to admin@koreanfocusnw.org.

Sunday, February 11, 2007

4:30 p.m.

KFNW Lunar New Year Celebration

Shilla Restaurant, 2300 8th Avenue, Seattle
206-623-9996

Please join KFNW for our annual celebration! The buffet dinner will cost \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children (plus drinks and tip). Please RSVP to: jenastion@earthlink.net and let her know the number of adults and children in your party. Limited seating, so make your reservations

March – Hanji Paper Craft class

Date, Location and Time to be announced.

\$30.00 per person, includes material to make a finished Traditional Korean hanji paper box.

Saturday, May 5, 2007

Childrens Day Celebration! Mark your calendars now for an afternoon of fun games and activities for children of all ages. Location and other details will come as planning progresses. If you want to help, contact admin@koreanfocusnw.org.

Friday August 17 - Sunday, August 19, 2007
KFNW 4th Annual Campout, Bayview State Park.

Community Events

October 20 - November 18, 2006:

"Cowboy Versus Samurai"

A play written by Michael Golanco

Fridays at 8:00 p.m.

Saturdays at 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Richard Hugo House

1634 11th Avenue (Capitol Hill), Seattle

Reservations strongly encouraged.

SIS Productions: 206-323-9443

tickets@sis-productions.org, www.sis-productions.org

A politically edgy and exquisitely written romantic comedy, "Cowboy Versus Samurai" explores the sexual dynamics that surface around race when an attractive Korean American woman moves to town. Golanco's social commentary examines interracial dating and identity through irony and laugh-out-loud humor. A hit around the country, "Cowboy Versus Samurai" will be published in "New Playwrights: Best Plays of 2006". Rated PG-13. Contains some mature language.

October 21, 2006-January 7, 2007

Eugene, Oregon A Way with Words: The Calligraphic Art of Jung Do-jun

Calligraphy in Korea was traditionally viewed as the highest of the visual arts. Contemporary master calligrapher Jung Do-jun has exhibited widely in Korea. Learn more about the exhibit at

<http://uoma.uoregon.edu>

Friday, November 17, 2006, 7:00 p.m.

University Bookstore, 4326 University Way NE, Seattle
Jill Smolowe will discuss her new book (co-edited with Pamela Kruger) A Love Like No Other. Twenty adoptive parents including single, gay, blended, and divorced families offer their views on adoption and the expected and surprising ways it changed their lives.

WACAP' 30th Anniversary Gala and Auction

November 18, 2006 -- Seattle Sheraton Hotel, Seattle
5:30 p.m. This special event will help WACAP raise \$300,000 to assist children across the globe! For more information about the WACAP gala and auction, contact Diane Tilstra at 206-957-2956 or dianet@wacap.org.

KIDS Lunar New Year Celebration

January 27, 2007 in Bothell. 2:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
www.koreanidentity.org

FRUA'S (Families with Russian and Ukranian Adoptions) 2007 National Conference will be held in Redmond next spring. They plan to have sessions that are applicable to families who have adopted domestically and internationally. They will have national and local experts presenting. For more information go to www.frua.org.

9th Annual KAAAN Conference

July 20 - 22, 2007 Royal Sonesta Hotel, Boston, MA
Building Bridges: Ways to Strengthen Our Community
KAAAN is now accepting workshop proposals. Please download a proposal form from the KAAAN Conference website at www.kaanconference.com and **return it by November 19th** via email to. In addition to subjects designed for general audience, KAAAN is interested in proposals for small groups, i.e. sessions for Korean American attendees; sessions for parents of young adoptees; sessions for adoptive parents of adult adoptees; sessions for adult adoptees, young adult adoptees, teens, etc.

Ongoing: Free First Thursday of the Month

Admission to the **Wing Luke Asian Museum** is free every first Thursday of the month. For more information please contact Joann Natalia Aquino at (206) 623-5124 ext. 106 or jaquino@wingluke.org.

Classes / Discussions:

Multiracial Interracial eXperience or MIX

(www.mix-seattle.org) is a Seattle area community group for multiracial people, transracial adoptees, interracial couples and all of their families, sponsored by MAVIN Foundation (www.mavinfoundation.org). MIX meets every other month to play with the kids, share snacks and discuss experiences we share.

Visit the KFNW website!

www.koreanfocusnw.org

With our Thanks

Korean Focus NW sends a heartfelt thank you to **Jeni Skuk** and **Lauren Soliday** for their wonderful work coordinating the 3rd Annual Chosuk Festival. KFNW members enjoyed a fabulous evening of delicious Korean food, drumming, storytelling, a presentation about the history of the holiday, and singing at the beautiful Morningstar Korean Culture Center. Our thanks to **Mrs. Cheh** for sharing her beautiful facility and to all who volunteered to make the event a great success.

Children's Books

by Allie Fee

Korean Focus NW is considering the possibility of sponsoring a story hour at the University Bookstore or inviting a bookseller to present selected readings and bring books for sale at a "Mom's Night" before the holidays. Wouldn't it be great to be able to purchase some quality books as gifts and have a fun social time as well? If you think this is a good idea and would be interested in attending something like this, please contact Allie Fee allief@u.washington.edu and let her know. If we get a good response, we'll set something up!

Allie met Anna Minard at the University Bookstore last summer and Anna sent a list of books. Anna reports she is always happy to do extra research for customers and she encourages our members to ask for help. You may contact Lauren Mayer or Anna Minard: ubs_childrensbooks@earthlink.net Kids' Book Dept., (206) 545-4363. The books listed below represent just a sample of the complete list. See our website (www.koreanfocusnw.org) for the complete list!

Books for Children and Young Adults with Korean or Korean-American Themes

Picture Books (ages 0-8)

Bee-Bim-Bop!

Linda Sue Park

Playful picture book about making the dish, with a pretty good (basic, kid-friendly) recipe in the back.

Middle Readers (ages 8-14)

A Single Shard

Linda Sue Park

Newbery Medal-winner about a boy in 12th century Korea who wants to be a potter's apprentice. Lots of great history.

Young Adult (ages 12+)

A Step from Heaven

An Na

A poetic novel and Printz Award winner, it follows Young Ju, who moves to the US from Korea and faces discrimination and poverty, while dealing with an abusive father.

Nonfiction

Land of Morning Calm

John Stickler

Picture book for older readers, lots of informative text on topics ranging from the flag & the alphabet to more obscure things like the ten longevity symbols *Ship Jang Seng* and Celadon pottery.

Chi-Hoon, a Korean Girl

Patricia McMahon

Photographs illustrate this week in the life of an 8-year-old Korean girl living in Seoul.

Folktales

Tales of a Korean Grandmother

Frances

Carpenter Classic Korean folktales.

The Firekeeper's Son

Linda Sue Park

Sang-hee's father is one of the men who light fires at the top of a mountain to tell the king that all is well in the land. When his father breaks his ankle, Sang-hee must carry on the tradition.

More Good Reads

by Lauren Soliday

Somebody's Daughter

Marie Myung-Ok Lee

Adopted and raised by Scandinavian-American parents in Minnesota, a Korean teenager returns to her native country to find her mother. The story follows both the daughter's life in American as well as the mother's life in Korea – finding herself pregnant, having the baby and then realizing she has to make a hard choice. This book is hard to put down once you start.

Traveling to Arizona soon??? The First *Korean*

Folk Village, located in Sedona, AZ opened in September 2006!

[http://dynamic-](http://dynamic-korea.com/culture/view_culture.php?main=LEC&sub=&uid=200600058969&page=1&keyword)

[korea.com/culture/view_culture.php?main=LEC&sub=&uid=200600058969&page=1&keyword](http://dynamic-korea.com/culture/view_culture.php?main=LEC&sub=&uid=200600058969&page=1&keyword)

Renew your KFNW membership!

Did you know that Korean Focus NW is 100% funded by member dues and donations? That means that your membership or renewal check means a lot to us! Membership renewals are due January and forms can be downloaded at our website www.koreanfocusnw.org. Dues are \$20 per year and due in January 2007. Thank you for your support!

Recipe

Taegu Spinach Salad

Submitted by Jeni Skuk

1 bunch cleaned horensen spinach
1 package (10 ounces) bean sprouts
1 large tomato, diced
1 block (20 ounces) firm or extra-firm tofu, cubed
1 tub (3 ounces) taegu (Korean seasoned shredded codfish)

Dressing:

3/4 cup soy sauce
3/4 cup vegetable oil
2 tablespoons sugar
1 tablespoon minced garlic

Combine dressing ingredients in small saucepan. Bring to a boil and cool.

Combine salad ingredients in large bowl. Just before serving, toss with the dressing. Serves 8. Approximate nutritional analysis, per serving: 330 calories, 27 g total fat, 3 g saturated fat, 5 mg cholesterol, greater than 2,000 mg sodium, 13 g carbohydrate, 3 g fiber, 8 g sugar, 16 g protein.

Birth & Arrival Announcements!

Che Lee Won and his wife, **Eunhee**, just had a baby! Che has assisted us with many events and provided translation services to a member who received a letter from her daughter's Korean foster mother. **Jayden Saejoon Lee** was born on Saturday, September 23, 2006 at 10:02 a.m. He weighed 5 lbs., 12 oz. and he was 19.5 inches long.

Patty Pomplun and **Jeff Cook** celebrate the arrival of their daughter! Her name is Kayla Anne Cook and she was born on September 28, 2006 at 11:21 p.m. At birth she weighed 6 lbs., 11 oz. and was 19.5 inches long. Baby, mom and dad are doing fine! Patti was our fabulous Hip-Hop instructor at last year's Children's day festivities!

Cheri, Matt, Cloe and Thomas Peach are enthusiastically awaiting the arrival of their son **Joel** from Korea. Joel should be joining their family on November 21st!

Kelly, Mike, and Joe Black just welcomed their new son Lee Benjamin into their family. Lee is 21 months old and hails from China!

KFNW sends congratulations to all four families!

Pepero Day - November 11

Pepero Day is an unofficial holiday in South Korea similar to Valentine's Day or Sweetest Day. Named after the Korean snack Pepero, it is held on November 11, since the date "11/11" resembles four sticks of Pepero. The holiday is observed primarily by young people and couples, who exchange Pepero sticks, other candies, and romantic gifts.

According to the story, Pepero Day was started in 1994 by students at a girls' middle school in Busan, where they exchanged Pepero sticks as gifts to wish one another to grow "as tall and slender as a Pepero" (Pepero means "thin like a stick"). However, it is more likely it was initiated by Lotte, the company that produces Pepero.

While in most countries of the world, November 11th is a day of remembrance (since it signaled the end of World War I), in Korea it is a day of romance, gaudy cardboard packaging emblazoned with butchered English love lines, and massive fortunes earned by convenience stores and Wonkaesque entrepreneurs. Many students are truant on this day to celebrate with their friends.

~Source: Wikipedia

HELP WANTED: Person to co-edit and help with layout and graphics for this newsletter 4 times a year. Contact Kristen Glenn at glennmk@olympus.net

A Note of Thanks

Our family sends our sincere thanks to KFNW for a wonderful Chusok celebration. The food was fabulous, the drumming, dancing, stories and presentation just wonderful, and our 5 year old daughter Emily was in heaven sitting on a pile of pillows with the "older girls." Emily made a book from our photos, wore her hanbok to school, and spoke to her class about Chusok. She taught the class some Korean words and felt so proud of herself. We are grateful to you for the special evening and for all that followed.

Warm regards,
Mike and Kristin Glenn

ADOPTION INFORMATION RESOURCES

Since its establishment in 1996, the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute has been a pre-eminent, independent voice for improving adoption for everyone it touches - particularly children - through innovative programs, educational initiatives, research and analysis, and advocacy for better practices, policies and laws. Our award-winning web site, www.adoptioninstitute.org, is a popular and reliable source for accurate adoption information.

Read past e-Newsletters at:

<http://www.adoptioninstitute.org/research/enewsletter.php>.

Sign up for the Adoption Institute e-Newsletter.

<http://www.adoptioninstitute.org/mail.html>

Join the Eastside Playgroup!

There is a new site and e-mail list to post event and activity details for people interested in participating in the Eastside Playgroup. All new group activities will be posted in a calendar feature to make it easier to find out when things are happening and to contact each other for play dates.

This is a very dynamic group with lots of activities planned for younger children and their families. If you are interested in having access to this calendar and participating in the activities AND you have not already received instructions to join, contact Tammy DeRoche at tam.deroche@verizon.net, and you will be sent a link to join. You can also visit and click on "Join This Group" at:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SKA_EastsidePlaygroup/

Below is a list of the playgroup activities that are planned for November and December. There is also a weekend family event planned each month.

Weekend Family Events:

Saturday, Nov. 18th @ 10:00- Seattle Science Center (Sea Scroll Exhibit)

Sunday, Dec. 10th @ 6:00 PM- Garden of Lights at the Bellevue Botanical Gardens

November-

321 Bounce- November 20th

Kidsquest Museum- November 28th

December-

Reindeer Festival at the Cougar Mountain Zoo- December 1st

Hosted Playgroup- December 8th

Holiday Crafts for Kids- December 15th

NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH RESOURCES

Resources for National Adoption Awareness Month (November) are available on both the Child Welfare Information Gateway and the North American Council for Adoptable Children (NACAC) websites. On NACAC's website is a National Adoption Awareness Month Guide. A printed copy of the guide may be purchased for \$10 or can be accessed online.

Access the Child Welfare Information Gateway at:

<http://www.childwelfare.gov/adoption/nam>;

To obtain the NACAC guide online, go to:

http://www.nacac.org/resources_adoptionmonth.html

ADOPTION IN THE SCHOOLS

The Adoption Institute released a new report at the end of September calling on schools to be more responsive to the needs of adopted and foster children and to increase their knowledge about adoption. The report, "Adoption in the Schools: A Lot to Learn," brings together research and years of broad experience on a range of issues and offers recommendations for how educators can better meet those challenges.

In a related article, "Creating a Classroom for Adopted and Non-Adopted Students," by Elizabeth Hunt, published on the website RainbowKids.com, Adoption Institute Executive Director Adam Pertman states that adoption is a "prism through which to view American families today."

Read the press release on the Institute report at:

http://www.adoptioninstitute.org/media/20060927_a_doptionschoolsbrief.php For the report, go to:

http://www.adoptioninstitute.org/policy/2006_09_adoption_in_the_schools.php;

To read the RainbowKids article, go to:

<http://www.rainbowkids.com/ArticleDetails.aspx?id>

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Greetings in Korean

To say Hello **안녕하세요?**

An Nyung Ha Se Yo

(The other person will probably say the same thing back to you.) By the way, the word **안녕** means "peacefulness" or "well-being"; this phrase means generally, "Are things peaceful for you?"

The next thing to ask, obviously, is "How are you?"

어떻게 지내세요?

Uh Ddut Kay Ji Ney Se Yo

With its response of "Fine" or I'm staying very well.

잘 지내요.

Jjar Ji Ney Yo

Here are the Korean phrases for "Goodbye".

If you are saying goodbye to someone who is **staying** (you're leaving their house or place of business, for example), you say this:

안녕히 계세요. (to person who stays)

An Nyung He Geh Se Yo

The first one has **계**, which sort of rhymes with "stay." This phrase means, "Stay in well-being."

If, on the other hand, you're saying goodbye to someone who is **going** away (they're leaving your house or place of business), you say this:

안녕히 가세요. (to person who goes)

An Nyung He Gah Se Yo

It means "go in well-being." If you meet someone on the street, you're both leaving after the conversation is done, so you use this second phrase.

Help with pronunciation on these and other words can be found at this link:

<http://www.langintro.com/kintro/bphrases/parting.htm>

In The News

Personal Journalism: Race, Adoption and the Father-Daughter Bond

Butch Ward wrote a letter to his adopted daughter, Caitlin, addressing her Asian heritage. It was a letter that she urged him to publish, and one that received a strong response from readers. Below are some of their reactions to "Letter to Caitlin," followed by Butch's thoughts on the power of personal journalism.

<http://www.poynter.org/column.asp?id=58&aid=101270>

More sites with books about Korean adoption.

http://www.yeongandyeong.com/korean_adoption_books.htm

<http://www.comeunity.com/adoption/books/0korea.html>

<http://www.comeunity.com/adoption/interviews.html>
(interviews with adoption authors)

<http://www.lifeinkorea.com/clubs/books.cfm?ClubID=8>

Adoption Day

Korea marked its first Adoption Day. It was designed to enhance people's awareness of the need to promote domestic adoption. Read More:

<http://times.hankooki.com/1page/opinion/200605/kt2006051121320054050.htm>

Childcare allowance to be introduced in Korea in 2010 to boost birthrate

About 80 percent of families raising children under the age of five will get a childcare allowance beginning in 2010 to help boost the birth rate.

The government on Wednesday (June 7) announced a package of measures to cope with the rapidly falling birthrate and the soaring elderly population. See more information at

http://www.korea.net/news/news/newsview.asp?serial_no=20060607023

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Korean Focus NW Board of Directors And Volunteers

Lauren Soliday, Chairperson
Karen Barrett, Vice-Chairperson
Kathryn Gardow, Secretary
Patti Miller, Treasurer
Allie Fee, Member at Large
Jeni Skuk, Events
Cindy Schroeder, Events
Vic Bloomfield, Membership
Gary Soliday, Website
Steven Hsu, Website pictures
Kristin Glenn, Newsletter Editor

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