



Summer 2015

Boston Korean Adoptees, Inc. <info@bkadoptee.org>

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Boston Korean Adoptees Newsletter

July 2015



Hello BKA:

Greetings from our brand new board! Welcome to our new and improved Summer 2015 newsletter. We're excited to welcome four new board members this year, including Jenny Lee, Becky Kay, Danielle Godon-Decoteau and Breanne Wagner. Tony Cova and Sarah O'Neill are our new co-presidents.

In our refreshed newsletter, we'll keep you apprised of upcoming events and recent events, and will also bring you news/viewpoints about Korea and about adoption. In addition, we'll feature new members and will share with you the plan for the next newsletter. Please interact and provide your comments/feedback and ideas.

Thank you and happy summer!



BKA Board - Tony Cova, Sarah O'Neill, Laura Knuttunen, Jenny Lee, Becky Kay, Danielle Godon-Decoteau, Breanne Wagner

- Upcoming Summer Fun -



Film Screening of Adoptees in the Wild: Season 1

Join us this summer for a fascinating documentary film screening of "Adoptees in the Wild." about adult adoptees in the New York City area.

Watch the website and [Facebook page](#) for more details.

You can preview it [here](#) with the trailer from Gazillion Voices.



Annual Family BBQ

BKA is hosting its annual summer BBQ on Sunday, August 2 from 11 am to 3 pm at [Arsenal Park](#) in Watertown (485 Arsenal Street, Watertown, MA, 02472). We have reserved grills and covered picnic tables, so join us rain or shine!

To sign-up, visit our [Facebook page](#).



KADtalk 2 Year Anniversary Event

Join us on September 12 for a KADtalk Anniversary party with guest speaker and fellow Korean adoptee [Matthew Salesses](#). Matthew was the first author that KADtalk read as a group; during the anniversary event, he will read from his new novel, "The Hundred Year Flood," due out August 11.

Along with a book reading, the event will feature a book signing, socializing and refreshments.

KADtalk members, BKA members, family and friends are all invited to the celebration. More details, including location, are coming soon!

And for those who are unfamiliar, KADtalk is a subgroup of BKA that focuses on exploring the Korean American Adoptee experience through literature and film.

- New Faces Corner -



Featuring Keven Joye

Say hello to new BKA member Keven Joye! Keven joined BKA in October 2014 when he heard a story on NPR about Korean adoptees. The story mentioned an adult adoptee group in New York, and while searching for that group, he came upon BKA. Here are some more details about Keven.

Keven was adopted from Korea while his parents were living in Tulsa, but he was raised mostly in Illinois. Keven has a younger sister who was also adopted from Korea. While growing up in Illinois, Keven spent time with other adopted children from China, South America and Russia, but didn't know other children from Korea.

When he joined BKA in October, Keven said it was an "eye-opening experience" to realize that there are other people who have had similar experiences. He has found BKA to be a place where he can relate with other members about culture and racial identity.

Keven attended the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where he majored in Aerospace Engineering. (Pretty cool, right!) He started out working for Boeing in Wichita, Kansas and in 2008 moved to Boston to work at General Electric Aviation. While here, Keven earned his masters of engineering management at Tufts University. He is now a performance engineer at GE, where he works with the military to make sure their jet engines are running smoothly. Keven enjoys working directly with military customers, including the Navy, Air Force and Army.

Welcome to BKA Keven! Looking forward to seeing you at future events!

- News and Views -

NPR Article on Single Mothers in Korea



In May, right around Mother's Day here in the U.S., National Public Radio ran a story "South Korea's Single Moms Struggle to Remove a Social Stigma" about young single mothers in South Korea and the challenges they face raising children while unmarried.

The article features single mothers who have been ostracized by Korean society and even their families. It also includes quotes from adoptee Shannon Heit about her observations of single mothers and the pressure they often face to put their children up for adoption.

Read the full article [here](#).

- Family Matters -

Congrats Jenny Lee!

Congratulations to BKA board member Jenny Lee, who just graduated from the Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences with a PhD in Virology.

Go Jenny!



- Call for Photos -



Send us your photos from Korea!

In the Fall 2015 issue, our newsletter will spotlight Korea, including details about some of our members' first trip to the country. To help us prepare, please send us digital photos from your trips to Korea to breanne@bkadoptee.org by October 1.

Want to submit a story? Have comments or questions? Contact the editor at breanne@bkadoptee.org

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