A Family Day of Apple Picking
Art in the Orchard with Adoption Journeys

Sunday, September 30th
11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Park Hill Orchards, Easthampton

Join us for apple picking followed by fresh cider treats and a stroll through the outdoor large-scale sculpture installation “Art in the Orchard” in a picturesque setting overlooking the hills! Art In the Orchard is a walking sculpture trail which winds through productive fruit gardens. You can also walk the labyrinth or stop at the farm stand for other fall treats.

Bring a picnic basket and a blanket and enjoy a family picnic afterwards if you’d like.

Please arrive at 11:00 a.m. so we can head into the orchard together.

Learn about the orchard at http://parkhillorchard.com/
Pre-registration is Required
Cost is $10 per family
Fee includes your entrance and one peck of apples!
(How many apples in a peck? About 30 apples or 10-12 lbs)

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Apple Picking at Park Hill Orchards on Sunday, Sept. 30th
Registration Form

Pre-registration and payment is required by Monday, September 24th
Fill out the info below and return with your payment! $10 per family.

Family Name: _____________________________________ # people attending _______

First Names of those attending (Please include kids’ ages): ______________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

Total amount enclosed: $___________  Daytime Phone Number: ______________________
Creative Writing Group
For Youth
A 6-Session Workshop
for ages 11-14
Hosted by Adoption Journeys
Thursdays starting October 4th

Unsure? Join us for our Try-it-out Workshop
Saturday September 22nd, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
See what a writing group is like and see if it’s your thing. A one-time 2-hour workshop where you can try out some creative writing ideas and just relax and experiment a little and take some time just for you. If you are curious, this is the perfect thing. Sign up in advance so we know you’re coming! Just email or call us. No Fee.

We all have creative parts of ourselves, and everyone deserves a safe place to express who they are. Using general topic writing prompts, you can experiment with stories, poems, letters, songs, or illustrations that speak from your unique voice. Sometimes serious, sometimes silly! (Sharing your writing is always optional.)

What: Six weekly 1-hour writing workshops just for adopted youth. Participants agree to attend all dates in the 6-week cycle.

Dates: Six Thursday evenings: Oct. 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th, and Nov. 1st, 8th.

Time: 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Cost: $30 for all six Thursday evening sessions. Payable on first night to instructor.

Where: Adoption Journeys office, 140 Pine Street, Florence 01062

Pre-registration is REQUIRED.
Call or email Lisa at the Adoption Journeys office to reserve your space.
Adoption Journeys announces the launch of our new short documentary film -- the third in a trio of short films depicting an honest portrait of family relationships affected by adoption.

**Siblinghood in Adoption: Things we don’t often talk about**

View and share this new film, along with other Adoption Journeys films. Watch it here: [http://child-familyservices.org/florence/](http://child-familyservices.org/florence/)

This 12-minute film brings to light the varied narratives of brothers and sisters touched by the adoption experience, underscoring the aspects of those relationships that don’t often get talked about, but should. Sixteen people from adoptive families (ages 13-30) created the messaging for this film. Participants came to their families by birth or by adoption. Please follow the link above to listen to the words of siblings as they reflect on their joy, fear, resentment, grief, hope, anger, love and longing.

This mini-documentary film was produced by Adoption Journeys, and directed by filmmaker Ali Pinschmidt, in collaboration with The Transformative Culture Project, a creative arts and community development nonprofit. We are grateful for the generous support provided by the Jason Hayes Foundation, The Stone Family Adoption Assistance Fund, The Madden Family, and Northampton Community Television.

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November is Adoption Awareness Month!

Adoption Journeys is acknowledging the importance of sharing accurate information about adoption by reading in local libraries during “storytime”. Please keep your eyes open for our announcements about the public libraries we will be visiting so you can spread the word and join us. Of course these events are open to the public.

If you have found particular books helpful to you and your young children, please feel free to pass along your suggestions to us. We hope you can join us for these events in Western Mass.
Join us for two special parent evenings:

**Preparation for Bias:**
Helping families navigate the micro-aggressions adopted children can experience

**Two Wednesdays, October 10th and 17th**
6:00-8:00 p.m., Adoption Journeys Office in Florence

These two sequential parent evenings will be valuable opportunities to discuss how to prepare adopted children for the biases they might face in a variety of contexts. We will explore experiences of bias due to racial difference, ethnic difference, differences in family composition -- and of course the difference of being a person who was adopted. We will address how to have these difficult conversations with kids so they can better understand their experiences and ask parents for help when they need it. Each of the two Wednesday evenings will include a presentation by Dr. David Scherer followed by a facilitated Q & A.

Our guest presenter, Dr. David Scherer, is a UMass Professor, clinical psychologist, and adoptive parent with a passion for engaging in this dialogue with parents. David also leads our Dads Discussion Group.

Please email or call to reserve your seat for these two sequential evenings. Space will be limited. Light refreshments. No fee.

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**Grandparents Raising Your Grandchildren?**

If you are a grandparent who has full guardianship of your grandchildren, please be in touch with us! If you would like the support and camaraderie of other grandparents who are faced with the challenges of parenting a second time, please join us for a monthly daytime support group just for grandparents. Come share your perspectives on parenting at this stage of life, find connection and support. Upcoming dates to be announced soon.

Group is co-facilitated by Pat Keith, a grandparent herself and the Kinship Care & Volunteer Coordinator at United ARC, and is on the state-wide Commission for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren.

Grandparents, let us know you are out there and how to best reach out to you. We will be sure to keep you updated about special Adoption Journeys programming just for grandparents raising their grandchildren.
Three Great Events for Teen Boys, age 13+

We are planning three fun nights just for guys this fall. A night in Easthampton for Ping Pong, a Game Night in Florence and a waterslide night in West Springfield. Meet up with friends from other AJ events! Call or email to sign up and get registration information. $10 per event must be paid in advance with your registration.

Ping Pong Smash in Easthampton, Saturday afternoon, October 27th

Game Night and great snacks in the AJ Library in Florence: Friday evening November 30th

Waterslides and great pizza at the Clarion Hotel in West Springfield Friday night, January 25th

GREAT WOLF LODGE

Adoption Journeys Winter Weekend Getaway in Fitchburg

Saturday, December 1st - Sunday, December 2nd

This family overnight event is available to families by lottery only. Although it is unusual for us to offer programming in this way, we can only accommodate a small group. This winter weekend includes full access to indoor water park, Saturday required parent training component with childcare provided, and Sunday continental breakfast. If you are interested in putting your name in the hat for this December event, we must receive your lottery slip before October 1st. We will let you know if you have a slot by October 15th and send you a registration information letter and request your payment at that time. Cost is $50 per person. www.greatwolf.com/newengland

INTERESTED? Get your name in the lottery by filling out the bottom of this form and mail before October 1st! Send no payment now. We will notify you by October 15th if your family can be offered a slot. This event is open to your household members only.

Costs: $50 per person includes access to large indoor water park, double rooms with fridge and micro, Saturday lunch, parent training, and light breakfast on Sunday. Many other activities available for additional cost.

___YESI would like to have my family included in the lottery for this event. Total number attending __________

Names of each family members who would attend this event: ______________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

Please mail this back by Oct 1st to Adoption Journeys, PO Box 60006, Florence, MA 01062

Adoption Journeys 413-320-4680 lmintz@cfservices.org
Do you know about the Adoption Journeys Library?

Here are a few samples of what is available to you! Books can be borrowed for a month and returned by mail. Please call to have books brought to your next meeting or to arrange a time to come by our library and browse our vast selection. We have a great variety of children’s books too!

**Grandparents as parents: A Survival Guide for Raising a Second Family.**

**The Colors of Grief: Understanding a Child’s Journey through Loss from Birth to Adulthood**

**The Confusing World of Brothers, Sisters and Adoption: The Adoption Club Therapeutic Workbook on Siblings**

**All About Adoption: How to deal with the questions of your past.**

**Outsiders Within: Writing on Transracial Adoption**

**Real Sisters Pretend**

**Being Adopted: The Lifelong Search for Self**

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Note to self: Make time to read...
Adoption Journeys

GROUPS FOR ADOPTIVE PARENTS AND YOUTH

If you are interested in participating in any of the programming below, please contact us to receive more information regarding times and locations.

Groups for Parents

Dads Discussion Group - Florence. This group is offered in the fall and again in the spring. Each cycle is 4 meetings; one Wednesday evening a month. Fathers only. Get involved with a great group of dads and share perspectives on fathering in adoptive families. Call us to register for the fall series.

Parents of children of any age - Amherst. Support and discussion on variety of topics related to adoptive parenting at any stage. Each cycle is 8 meetings; meets twice monthly on Thursday evenings in the fall and spring. Ongoing group. Join anytime. Contact us for dates or more info.


Parents of Children with Histories of Attachment Trauma (P-CHAT) - Northampton. Meets every other month September - June. A group specifically for parents raising children with attachment disorders. Please call for pre-group screening and details.

Groups for Youth

Adolescent Girls Adoption Group (age 13-17) - Amherst. A great opportunity for girls to explore issues of identity, adoption and adolescence in a supportive environment. Pre-group screening required. Meets Thursday nights, twice monthly. Fall session starts on September 14th. Next session begins in February. Schedule your pre-group screening for spring.

Creative Writing Group for Youth age 11-14 - Florence. This 6-session writing workshop meets weekly on Thursday evenings. Fall series begins in October. Join this small group of young creative writers! No writing experience required! Contact the office to learn more. Small fee.

Teen Activity Series for Boys ages 13 and up. A chance for teens to connect with other adopted teens doing a variety of social activities. Contact the office to get on our outreach list.

Adoption Journeys strives to be gender-inclusive in all of our programming. We invite you to speak with us if we can support you in determining which of our groups or programs could be the best support for you at this time.

To participate in any of our groups, please call or email the Adoption Journeys office to register.
Adoption Journeys Newsletter
A seasonal update of our programming for adoptive families living in Western Massachusetts

We’ve got lots going on this fall! Open for more info.

- Apple Picking and Art in the Orchard for all ages
- Parent Training Nights
- Ping Pong, Game Night and Waterslides for Boys
- Writers Group for Youth
- Parent Support Groups
- New AJ Video Launch: Siblinghood in Adoption
- Winter Overnight