G.O.A.'L NEWS

15 Year Anniversary - Special Edition
December 2013
Season’s Greetings, G.O.A.’L members!

Over the past few years, there have been many changes within our organization. This year has been a fresh start for Global Overseas Adoptees’ Link (G.O.A.’L), and we are celebrating our 15th year of providing services to members and the adoptee community! Thank you to everyone who has provided services, talents and financial contributions.

Read the story of how it all began, told by the founder herself, Ms. Ami Nafzger, in this newsletter.

This summer, we implemented a new mentorship program that allowed us to staff three adoptees, one 2nd generation adoptee and four Korean citizen interns. Our exceptional staff has worked tirelessly to provide the services and events G.O.A.’L has hosted this year and they are directly responsible for this year’s success.

In September, we concluded our 6th First Trip Home program, an annual event hosted by G.O.A.’L and sponsored by the Korean Government that brings adoptees back to Korea to search for their birth families. This year we extended the program from 5 days to 10 days to allow more time for searching and support services. More information and dates for our 2014 First Trip Home are available on our website.

For the second year in a row, we are proud to have shared the personal and professional talents of adoptees through our Share Your Talent (SYT) program. This year’s SYT program featured chefs, musicians and our Global Language program (English and French lessons). We are looking for more adoptees who want to share their talents and languages for next year’s program. If you have a talent you would like to share, please contact our Event Planning Department.

G.O.A.’L continues to provide assistance for the F-4 visa and dual citizenship. In 2009, on behalf of G.O.A.’L, Congressman Kim Chung Hwan submitted a revised version of the
Military Service Law to the National Assembly that would automatically exempt and classify male Korean adoptees into the Article 2 Classification (제 2 국민역) of exemption. Though the clock ran out on the revision, we are preparing to submit the revision again.

We are pleased to announce that G.O.A.'L membership cards will be issued to those who renew their membership starting in 2014. The new cards can also function as a T-Money transportation card, and members can choose between a T-money or non-T-money option. This will be useful for overseas members traveling to Korea who will no longer have to worry about acquiring a T-money card. Our staff is also in the process of negotiating special discounts and offers that will be accessible with your valid membership card. Updates on these discounts will be posted under the “Membership Card.” benefits menu on our website as they become available.

“How low can you go!?” You asked for it, so we brought it back! Our famous limbo contest returns as part of this year’s Annual Christmas Fundraiser!

G.O.A.'L depends on the financial support it receives from its members, so mark your calendars and register online early through the G.O.A.'L website. We’ll see you at the Kaokao Western Bar in Hapjeong on Saturday, December 14, 2013 from 5 - 10 p.m.!

I personally would like to thank the community for your continued support for G.O.A.'L. Contributions come in various forms and whatever it is that you’ve contributed to G.O.A.'L, it has allowed us to provide support for you and hundreds of Korean adoptees for over 15 years.

Happy Holidays,
John Compton,
Internal Advisor

Become a member now and support our common cause!
Help us help you!
Message from Mr. Jaehoon Yoo - BOD Advisor

Having been a part of G.O.A.’L. since 2008, I found my volunteer work at the organization to be very rewarding. Throughout the years, I have learned that reaching out to overseas adoptees not only allows us to help those who are in need of support, but also motivates these talented individuals to make meaningful contributions to the Korean community.

In the coming New Year, I believe we can make significant progress in terms of organizational changes and program development.

I would like to continue my involvement with this unique organization run by adoptees for adoptees. I hope G.O.A.’L. will soon achieve its vision of being a global authority on international adoptee matters.

We are an organization comprised of Korean adoptees and Korean nationals, founded and operated by adoptees in South Korea, for the worldwide adoptee community.

Vision: G.O.A.’L is committed to self sustainability and providing the highest level of service through and by the incredible diversity, expertise and experience of the global adoptee community.

Mission: To be the premier authority on global adoption affairs in serving the post adoption needs of it’s global constituency.
Global Overseas Adoptees’ Link (GOAL) cordially invites you to attend our 15th Annual Christmas Fundraiser

Please come to enjoy dinner,

live entertainment:
★ Tricking “King of Connexion” ★
★ 20th century BBoyz ★
★ Lions on the Beach ★

great gifts in our raffle:
★ Samsung Galaxy Note ★
★ Domestic Travel Package Gift Card ★
★ LG Photo Pocket Mobile Printing ★
★ LG Tone+ Bluetooth Stereo Headset ★

Over **KRW 2,000,000** in prizes!!

Saturday, December 14, 2013
Doors open at 5:00 pm
“KaoKao” (Hapjeong station exit 7) – Tel: 02-325-5353

Ticket Prices:
KRW 35,000 for G.O.A.’L members
KRW 45,000 for non-members

Each ticket includes dinner, one free drink, and a free raffle ticket.

Raffle: KRW 1,000 for 1 ticket.

Please register via http://goal.or.kr/christmas

We hope you can join us!

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Global Overseas Adoptees’ Link is an NGO based in Seoul, founded in 1998 by and for adoptees. We offer services such as birth family search, assistance acquiring F4 visa, language scholarship, community events, and more.
In celebration of G.O.A.'Ls 15 year anniversary this year, the founder and former SG, Ami Nafzger, here shares her story of how it all began.

G.O.A.'Ls First Steps & the Beginning

I came back from the open market and put the groceries on the counter. I looked around my apartment and realized something. I was not living the life of a woman that grew up in America. I was living a life of a native Korean woman, who was trying to fit into the Korean culture, but I was not a native Korean. I was bored, unhappy, and felt so disconnected from Westerns and other Korean adoptees. I had been traveling to Seoul on weekends to meet with other adoptees, to connect. I realized that in trying to connect with other adoptees, we all struggled to find each other because we physically blended in with the other Koreans.

That was in January of 1997. I had been living in Korea for a year. I had seen that adoptees were experiencing similar issues such as we were taken advantage of by hag won owners, we were treated differently as foreigners, and we were not accepted because we didn’t speak the language. Each day, trying to live, trying to communicate in Korean, was a struggle. Even trying to remain in the country without a way to sponsor myself on a visa was hard. I relied on others to sponsor me so that I could stay in the country.

Some Adoptees Ami Nafzger met traveling back and forth from Gumi to Seoul

That day in my apartment, feeling alone, I sought for some meaning. I decided there needed to be a place where adoptees could connect. A home base, if you like, in Korea for Korean adoptees around the world that provided them a resource. Many nights were spent writing the mission statement (a home away from home), with goals and objectives. I envisioned that the place would provide post adoption services for adopted Koreans returning to Korea. Sadly, there were none, and to think that was what I needed most when I returned to Korea.
I had identified partnerships and collaborations with Korean universities and language divisions to learn the language, Korean tourism, translation services, home stay resources, employment services, birth searches, and ways we could have small gatherings and activities.

I also researched and worked with the Korean government to determine how many children were adopted out of Korea. We divided it by per adopting country and per year. After several months of researching and validating with the Korean government, I found the number to be around 200,000 plus children had been adopted out of Korea, formally and informally, since the Korean War.

The many weekends of traveling back and forth to Seoul from Gumi, made me realize I needed to relocate myself to work and live in Seoul, so I could be closer and find adoptees to help me roll out these services. In January of 1998, I found 12 adoptees to meet with me to start this organization’s services. In March of 1998, I organized the first meeting. After meeting twice, I quickly realized that these 12 adoptees were unable to commit because of personal indifferences. Beyond that indifference, some had to leave the county as their visas were expiring, and some adoptees were not able to commit their time. Two adoptees said they would stay and help me for three months to organize the first adoptee get together for Korean adoptees living in Korea.

Mee Hee Lemoine helped me create the first newsletter. Because she was an artist and activist for adoptees, I asked her to help me create the organization’s name and logo. Her friend Lee Gutwirth helped and stayed to support as a volunteer.

Ami Nafzger, a Korean government worker from the national assembly, and Mee Hee Lehmoine

In June of 1998, for the first gathering of adoptees, I organized a domestic adoptee to come and speak about her experience. There were 30 adoptees that attended this gathering; it was a success for a first meeting. After the first gathering Mee Hee unfortunately was not able to continue as a volunteer.

For years there has been confusion of who all founded G.O.A.L. G.O.A.L started back in January of 1997, when I...
conceived of the idea and started the paper work. In March of 1998, the first gathering of adoptees and the organization’s services started. I was pleased to see so many adoptees in Korea, and appreciated people like Mee Hee and Lee Gutwirth for their help.

I had reached out to some of my Korean friends and my work place, Dong Soong Hag Won, to allow me to hold general meetings for adoptee volunteers and native Koreans. Television media, magazines, and newspapers flooded me with interviews; hundreds of phone calls came to me from all over Korea of native Koreans wanting to volunteer and to help Korean adoptees.

While working with the media and native Korean public, I realized there were myths about Korean adoptees and misunderstandings of Korean adoptees. At this time I had one hundred plus Korean volunteers. I held monthly general meetings to help educate native Koreans about who Korean adoptees were and the needs and assistance they needed. I also talked a lot about cultural differences. Additionally I worked with volunteers delegating volunteer assignments of where each volunteer would be able to help contribute to G.O.A’L.

At that time there were just a few dozen of us living in Korea, however I needed to communicate that there would hundreds of us residing and thousands of us visiting Korea in the near future. Many of these adoptees would be returning from Denmark, Sweden, Norway, the Netherlands, Belgium, France America, Canada, and many other adopting countries. At the same time, I was trying to educate the Korean public through the media that adoptees were individuals and that we were not all the same. We may all have one thing in common, we were adopted and we were born here in Korea, but that is all. I asked of the Korean people to please not have pity on us and to please
At first the four Korean adoption agencies in Korea did not respond to us well, as G.O.A’L was establishing its services. Historically in 1994 there were bad relations made with previous adoptees trying to create an organization similar to G.O.A.L. Additionally the agencies kept on referring us as children, as well as the public. I met with the four agencies in Korea several times, and the initial response I got back was “G.O.A.L is just a GHOST organization, and will not exist for long.” I responded “we are here to stay, and many thousands of adoptees will continue to return back to Korea to reside or visit. I would really like to work to gather and maintain a good relationship while I am here. I am not here to create bad relations with you. I believe your support would mean a lot to adoptees as they return to Korea. Please partner with us and give us an opportunity”. The four adoption agencies did eventually reach out their hands to assist and partner. They became one of our closes partners and sponsors.

I kept on asking the volunteers why we were still called children. I was told “Ami there was no such word for Adoptee Adults, only Adoptee children.” I educated the Korean volunteers and the public through the media that we were no longer children; ipyunga is how you say it in Korean. Today we are now referred as adults.

I held general meetings for adoptees to learn about the do’s and don’ts in Korea, learning the Korean culture, and to talk about the services that G.O.A.L offers. I talked about how it was important to respect the Korean culture even though it may be very different from the culture we were raised in. Some adoptees appeared to be angry and frustrated with the Korean Culture. I tried to communicate that we didn’t have to love the culture, but we should be open and mindful.

There were many beautiful partnerships and people I met and worked with while establishing G.O.A.L’s services. Kang Dong Ku Chung and their mayor Kim were amazing and extremely kind to help offer their services and resources to G.O.A.L. The district even sponsored G.O.A.L’s first year anniversary of services with a celebration. Additionally, Mayor Kim was our first board chair when we became a legal entity as the first foreign NGO in Korea.

Dr. Rhee and Mr. Kim from the Korean National Assembly were conducive to assisting G.O.A.L to petitioning a
special visa for adoptees and all foreign Korean. This visa is now called the F-4 visa, and went into effect 1999. Additionally they played a big role in guiding us to become the first foreign organization in Korea to become an NGO, run by foreigners & Native Koreans together.

Konkuk University, professor Choi was instrumental in letting us hold our general meeting, and the Korean language classes we offered to adoptees were free. Additionally we held our second and third conferences at the university. I also met some amazing Korean volunteers that helped me assist adoptees to have a voice in the government and media.

UNESCO, was wonderful in reaching out to us to provide us free office space, and space to their conference rooms for our general meetings, conference gatherings, Korean tours and a resource center with a computer lab for adoptees to access internet anytime.

These events is just a summary of how G.O.A.L’s services established itself. There were so many more monumental events that occurred that G.O.A.L has accomplished. It is amazing how so many adoptees, their biological families, and adoptive families were helped, through birth searches, reunions, translations, homestays, scholarships, employment, translations, counseling, navigating the day to day, and so much more. All of this happen, because so many people came together to partner and support these services to help adoptees and their families.

Thank you to the many partners, adoption agencies, hundreds of Korean and adoptee Volunteers. With you we have accomplished a lot.

It is my hope G.O.A.L will be able to expand their services to assist native Koreans, in relation to unwed mothers, orphans, birthmothers & families as well.

Thank you to the current staff and volunteers of G.O.A.L today, some days you may not know it, or sometimes feel it, but you are an inspiration to many and really make a difference.

11.24.2013
Written by Ami Nafzger
Organizational Update

Membership Fee

As announced in the previous newsletter, starting 2014, our annual membership subscription will increase to 60,000 won for new members. If you are a current member paying through automatic, recurring PayPal payments, or register through PayPal prior to January 1, 2014, your membership will be grandfathered into $45 USD/45,000 won as long as your membership does not lapse.

If you are paying cash, bank transfer or any other method than through recurring PayPal payments, the fee will rise to 60,000 won. New members who register December 31st at the latest will get the 45,000 won membership fee.

Also please note that our assistance requires valid membership and paid membership fee.

The G.O.A.L office is run solely based on membership fees. However, our assistance for birth family search, obtaining F4 visa or dual citizenship requires a lot of work hours. By keeping your membership valid you do not only support yourself but other adoptees needing assistance.
A new volunteer Stian is volunteering once a week at the office.

Hello!
My name is Stian and I am 16 years old. I am originally from Norway, but I have spent most of my life living abroad including living in Japan, Sweden, Australia and now Korea.

I am currently enrolled at Seoul Foreign School where I am taking a range of different classes for the IB diploma. School life is a bit busy at times, but I am glad to be able to set some of my time working for G.O.A.’L.

In the little spare time that I have I like to read books and watch television. The reason why I volunteered working for G.O.A.’L is that I wanted to know more about how adoptees start finding their biological families as this is a tough process for many. I also wanted to gain some experience in a working environment as I have not had any prior working experience.

In the first week of November I was in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The reason for this travel was to work at an orphanage providing service for the children there.

I hope I can contribute to this community with a positive attitude as I love meeting new people. In the first week of November I was in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The reason for this travel was to work at an orphanage providing service for the children there.

In the next newsletter I will share my experience in Mongolia.
Activities

Upcoming Events

Remember to check out our upcoming events! We have a lot of events up our sleeve for 2014!

Christmas Party and 15th Year Anniversary!

Can you believe that G.O.A.L turned 15 years this May! Come celebrate this fantastic event with us December 14th. at Kaokao.
We expect nothing less but having the party of the year! We have fabulous entertainers and performances, raffles and great prizes. **Sign up already now!**

Cooking Classes @ HoyaCooks

Come learn how to make your favorite dishes on a budget without losing any of the authentic taste. Learn recipes that require 6 or less ingredients taught by famous cookbook author Kang Ji Soo and Hoya Cooks. Instructions and menu translations will be provided, fee covers ingredients 10,000 won.

**Cooking classes in December, Tuesday the 10th and 17th at 7 PM ~ 9 PM.**

First Trip Home 2014

First Trip Home 2014 is scheduled to take place from August 27th to September 6th 2014.
Scholarships

Language scholarship application apps are up for entire 2014. Check them out!

Applications for Spring quarter opened on December 2nd.

If you submit the documents later, your application for scholarship will not be taken into consideration.

Please note that you have to submit the required documents to G.O.A.'L no later than one day after your online application.

NIIED Scholarships - Study in Korea for Free with the NIIED

Interested in a year of free Korean language courses or free undergraduate/postgraduate studies in Korea? The Korean Government Scholarship Program (KGSP) sponsored by the National Institute for International Education (NIIED) offers the opportunity to do both! If selected, the NIIED will also cover your roundtrip airfare and pay you a KRW 900,000 living stipend for the duration of your studies.

For more information about the scholarship please visit the NIIED's website: http://www.niied.go.kr/eng/contents.do?contentsNo=78&menuNo=349. The following timeline, taken from the 2013 KGSP Guidelines, should give you a rough sense of what to expect:

Selection Schedule

- Application Period : Feb.4th ~ Mar. 31st (decided by the 1st Selection Institution)
- The 1st Selection : The end of March (decided by the 1st Selection Institution)
- Deadline for Recommendation to NIIED : April 12th (All documents must be received by NIIED.)
- The 2nd Selection : Mid to End-April (NIIED Selection Committee)
- Announcement for the Results of the 2nd Selection : April 30th (posted on GKS websites)
- Admission Procedures for the Korean Embassies’ candidates: May 1st~May 31st
- Announcement for Final Successful Candidates : June 17th (KGSP website www.studyinkorea.go.kr)
- Visa Issue and Air ticket purchase : June 18th ~ July 31st
- Entry into Korea : August 26th ~ August 28th
- NIIED Orientation : August 29th ~ August 31st
- Korean Language Course : September 2nd
Past events...

Banquet Français

As part of our Share your talent event series, Belgian adoptee chef, Geoffrey shared his passion for cooking French cuisine. He prepared a fixed 5-course French menu for guests. It was fine dining at its best and totally sold out.

Concentration!

Pumpkin soup with ravioli

Filet mignon

Deepfried icecream
Banchetto Italiano

At our third Share Your Talent dinner series, "Chef D" Christian Morales prepared a hearty Italian/Sicilian style dinner for his guests. The warm, friendly dinner and a fun and comfortable atmosphere made the "banchetto" a great success.

Good food, great company!

Salad buffet

Spaghetti, lasagna, meatballs
Canoe Trip

G.O.A.’L’s final overnight-trip of the year to Chuncheon in Gangwondo for canoeing and site-seeing.

Exploring Chucheon’s 물래길 or “Water Trail” on hand-made wooden canoes, participants saw the countryside’s beautiful autumn foliage from a notably different perspective. The city is of course also renowned for its local 닭갈비 (spicy stir-fried chicken) and hiking in scenic mountain ranges that funnel the many lakes and rivers in the area.
Concert, Club Freebird

As part of our ongoing “Share Your Talent” event series, we were proud to show off some of our best and brightest.

Three of our adoptees play for bands from Seoul and Daegu and they all came together for one night in Hongdae to share their respective euphonious talents.

The crowd was great and the music was even better.

Thanks again to Kevin Prawdzik, Ethan Waddell and Andrew Blad.
Town Hall Meeting 1

G.O.A.'L cohosted a Town Hall Meeting with KoRoot, ASK and TRACK to answer questions about the Special Adoption Act revisions and how the law works. A lot of interested people showed up and Pastor Kim (Koroot) and Jane Trenka (TRACK) spoke on the issues debated in the media. Jane Trenka’s materials can be found on her facebook page.

Kim Stoker moderated the Q & A and a lot of relevant questions were covered. Thanks to all speakers, participants and Hoya Cooks who hosted the event and served yummy finger foods.

Town Hall Meeting 2

At the second Town Hall meeting a lot of interesting matters were presented:

Legal assistance to Korean adoptees by KIM & CHANG

On November 18, 2013, G.O.A.’L signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Kim & Chang, Social Responsibility Department. Kim & Chang will be assisting the adoptee community through our organization.

We have negotiated their assistance in 4 areas which will begin January 2014:

1. Birth Family Search - Record Access
2. Adoptee Rights - Dual Citizenship
3. Adoptees Rights - Deportation
4. General FAQ Forum

Unfortunately, Kim & Chang will not be supporting individual adoptee cases such as labor, housing, criminal, etc; however, if you have a hot topic -- on a time availability basis, we can submit a limited number of questions for review and at the discretion of Kim & Chang, they will provide an answer.

Questions may be submitted to: legal@goal.or.kr
Mental Health Service
International Family Counseling Center – Ms. Min Jung “MJ” Doh, Ph.D. Candidate, Counseling Psychology, Pennsylvania State University, M.A. in counseling Guidance, New York University, Depression, Anxiety, Grief & Loss and Relational Issues presented the services provided for adoptees by the International Family Counseling Center. Group therapy started a few weeks ago and the center still has open spots for individual counseling at a reduced membership price. You may contact her at:

engcounsel@naver.com
www.familykorea.org

NIIED Scholarship
Ms. Kang, the KGSP's Graduate Program Selection Manager, gave a thorough introduction about the NIIED scholarships and answered a lot of relevant questions from the audience about the program, how to apply, and why the government has established a separate quota for overseas adopted Koreans.

Mrs. Hye Young Kang
Korean Government Scholarship Program (KGSP) Graduate Program Selection Manager

wool9911@moe.go.kr
www.niied.go.kr
02-3668-1364
studyinkorea.go.kr

Birth Family Search Stories Project
Andrea Cavicchi and Nik Leschly presented the concept of their upcoming project: a book on post reunion stories including interviews with everyone in the adoption triangle. The book will also contain interviews with adoptees that haven’t searched for birth family. They will send out a formal notification about the project and how to participate.
**Membership Services**

John Compton presented the new membership cards. You can choose between a T-money card and a regular membership card. We have already made a discount agreement with BoA guesthouse and a lot more are on the way.

Keep track by checking out [http://goal.or.kr/content/membership-card-benefits](http://goal.or.kr/content/membership-card-benefits)

The regular card looks like this and your information will be added to it.

![Regular Membership Card](image)

If you renew your membership or sign up as a new member this month you will receive our special 15th year anniversary edition:
G.O.A.'L Contact Information

Global Overseas Adoptees' Link
21 Wausan-ro 19gil, 5th Floor, Mapo-Gu, Seoul
Republic of Korea 121-838

Office: +82-2-325-6585
Fax: +82-2-325-6570
office@goal.or.kr

(서) 해외입양인연대
서울특별시 마포구 와우산로 19길 21 5층 (우) 121-838
전화: 02-325-6585
팩스: 02-325-6570
office@goal.or.kr

www.goal.or.kr/membership