

Subject: ThinkingOfAdopting.com Newsletter 12/31/06

From: "Robin Bartko"

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Hello Adoption Friends,

My best to you for a Happy New Year! In this edition of the ThinkingOfAdopting.com Newsletter I want to share with you some news and information that I hope will be helpful to you on your adoption journey and beyond. The topics include:

1. Sneak Peeks: January's Live Guests
2. What You Need to Know About the Hague Convention
3. Favorite Adoption Links: FindingYourChild.com
4. Looking for Adoption Announcements?
5. China Adoption Story from "Down Under"
6. Need Personal Answers to Personal Questions?
7. Missed an Issue of the Newsletter?

1) Sneak Peeks: January's Live Guests

Do you want to learn more about attachment in adoption? Do you have questions you would like to ask an international adoption doctor specializing in adoption from countries including Russia, Kazakhstan, and the Ukraine? If so, you'll be able to learn from and talk live with two recognized experts on ThinkingOfAdopting.com in January 2007. Dr. Lark Eshleman, author of "Becoming a Family: Promoting Healthy Attachment in Adopted Children" will present the first offering of her new webinar, "Introduction to Attachment with Adopted Children" on January 14th at 9 PM Eastern. Plus Alla Gordina, MD, Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and CCAI "Angel of Adoption" will host a live 90 minute Q&A tentatively scheduled for January 21st at 9 PM Eastern. Registration will open soon so mark your calendars now. Until then you can register for our other telecourses and webinars by clicking on the following link:

http://www.thinkingofadopting.com/html/adoption_telecourses.html

2) What You Need to Know About the Hague Convention

I've written to you in previous newsletters about The Hague Convention on International Adoption and how it may affect adoption, especially from China and Guatemala. I wanted to let you know that that the US Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs has published an excellent guide on the Hague Convention for prospective adoptive parents that I highly recommend to anyone who is adopting - regardless of the country. The Hague Convention will require prospective adoptive parents to take 10 hours of training on topics including the intercountry adoption process, developmental risk factors associated with children from the expected country of origin, and attachment disorders.

ThinkingOfAdopting.com has and will continue to provide courses that meet these requirements and we will be happy to provide you with certificates of completion or will forward them directly to your adoption agency. You can view the guide by clicking on the following link:

http://travel.state.gov/pdf/Prospective_Adoptive_Parents_Guide.pdf

3) Favorite Adoption Links: FindingYourChild.com

Dawn Davenport, author of "The Complete Guide to International Adoption" (11/29/06 edition of this Newsletter), has a web site with very good information on the various countries that you can adopt from. If you are not sure which country to adopt from you may want to check out the "Country Charts" section of her web site by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.findingyourchild.com/?content=charts>

4) Looking for Adoption Announcements?

If you're looking for adoption announcements to announce the arrival of your new child to all of your family and friends, take a look at "Picture Me Perfect". They have an entire section on adoption announcements. You select a card that you like, email a picture of your new child, and they'll make the announcements for you. We used them for our announcements and were really pleased - we even have a framed copy of the announcement framed in our living room. Click on the following link to go right to the adoption section:

http://www.picturemeperfect.com/adoption_announcements.asp?affid=thinkadopt

5) China Adoption Story from "Down Under"

We've recently posted a link to a new blog on ThinkingOfAdopting.com - "Checking Boxes". It's written by Emma and Aaron, a couple from Queensland, Australia who are hoping to adopt a baby from China. I was fortunate to learn of Emma's blog when she contacted me after listening to the "Thinking of Adopting Podcast". When you read Emma's blog you'll find that while the process of adopting a child from China in Australia is a bit different than in the United States, the hopes and dreams, the ups and downs, and the waiting & joy for those on their adoption journeys are the same. To read "Checking Boxes" and a number of other great adoption blogs, visit ThinkingOfAdopting.com's Adoption Blogs page by clicking on the following link:

http://www.thinkingofadopting.com/html/adoption_blogs.html

6) Need Personal Answers to Personal Questions?

If you want to talk about your personal adoption situation, ThinkingOfAdopting.com is happy to offer free, one-on-one "Adoption Help" sessions. Please send me an email at Robin@ThinkingOfAdopting.com and we can arrange a time to talk via phone.

7) Missed an Issue of the Newsletter?

Good news! We've now posted all of the past issues of the ThinkingOfAdopting.com Newsletter on our website. You can access them by clicking on "Newsletter Archives" in the ThinkingOfAdopting.com navigation bar or by using the following link:

http://www.thinkingofadopting.com/html/newsletter_archive.html

Help Spread the Word

As always, I'd certainly appreciate if you would help spread the word about adoption and ThinkingOfAdopting.com. Please feel free to pass this information on to anyone who you feel would be interested. I'd sincerely appreciate your help in getting the word out. There are so many children who need homes!

My best to you on your adoption journey. If there is anything I can do to help you, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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