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CRADLE | Calendar

SPRING 2008

- 03/29 ATTACHMENT**
Adoptive Parent Workshop*
The Cradle, Evanston
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
- 04/19 EARLY INTERVENTION & SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES**
Adoptive Parent Workshop*
DePaul University, Naperville
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

- 04/26 A NIGHT OF PROMISE**
Abt Electronics, Glenview
7:00 – 11:00 p.m.
- 05/03 PROMOTING LANGUAGE SKILLS**
Adoptive Parent Workshop*
The Cradle, Evanston
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

**Advance registration required. Register by calling 847.475.5800, ext. 233, by email at registration@cradle.org, or online at www.cradle.org.*



Florence Dahl Walrath founded The Cradle on March 12, 1923.



"ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD" One Family's Story of Adopting from Russia



The McCormick family, Christmas 2007.
From the top: Judy and eldest daughter Jeanne, Mike holding Katie and Michael, and Kelsey.

One afternoon five years ago, Judy McCormick was picking up her daughter Jeanne from school and spied a little boy who caught her eye. Jeanne's classmate, she learned, had been adopted from Russia through The Cradle. Judy couldn't keep the boy's image out of her mind. Even after her third daughter was born in 2005, thoughts of him lingered. "This idea kept coming back to me," Judy said, "so I talked to my husband Mike about adopting a Russian child." Nearly everyone else they talked to tried to discourage them. "Why would you want to adopt?" some asked. Others told "terrible stories" they'd heard about the Russian adoption process. Still, Judy and Mike decided to pursue their dream.

In January 2006 the McCormicks attended an informational meeting about The Cradle Russia program. Assured in their decision to move forward, they began taking pre-adoptive training classes at The Cradle and every online course offered by AdoptionLearningPartners.org. By July they had started their paperwork, and in November, their completed dossier was sent to The Cradle's Moscow office for translation. Judy and Mike were pleased at how smoothly everything was coming together.

The McCormicks' dossier was forwarded from Moscow to Smolensk in western Russia to be matched to a waiting child. Then their smooth process hit a bump. The Cradle's accreditation had expired and the Russian government had suspended all further accrediting of foreign adoption agencies. So they waited, and wondered. Finally, on July 4, 2007, the Russian Ministry of Education reaccredited seven U.S. agencies, and The Cradle was among them.

Just a few weeks later, when Judy was at the pool with her kids on a warm summer day, she received a call from The Cradle telling her to check her e-mail. "Wow, this is real!" she thought, and raced home to open the message that would change all of their lives. Judy and Mike received the referral of a boy, Sergey, who had been born on March 14, 2006. They immediately printed out his picture and put it on the refrigerator.

(Continued on page 2)

CRADLE Events

A NIGHT OF PROMISE

Borscht and Balalaikas: A Celebration of Russian Culture

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2008

Abt Electronics, Glenview

Join us for a memorable evening filled with music and dancing, gourmet food, private shopping and more to benefit children living in orphanages in Russia. Tickets for the third annual *A Night of Promise* are \$75, and all proceeds will go to the Cradle Cares Humanitarian Aid program. For more information, contact Bonnie Krasny at 847.733.3234 or bkrasny@cradle.org.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Baby Georgia is smartly dressed and ready to go home with her proud parents, Heidi and Brad Buza, on October 25, 2007.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

The Cradle Society was officially incorporated on March 12, 1923, and this year, we celebrate 85 years of placing children first. With more than eight decades under our belt, words like “established” and “venerable” come to mind. Long lists of impressive facts and statistics could be enumerated.

The Cradle has indeed set a standard of excellence in adoption practice for many, many years. But we’ve never been content to rest on our laurels.

As we mark this significant milestone, I would also like to highlight The Cradle’s continuing role as a leader, innovator and advocate in the field of child welfare. From our earliest days, when The Cradle Nursery of the 1920s helped to pioneer techniques in infant care that saved babies’ lives, to just a few years ago, when The Cradle led a coalition to fight for adoption reform in Illinois, we’ve been advancing with the times to better serve children and families.

What truly defines The Cradle, I believe, isn’t our building or a list of our accomplishments. It’s our people. It’s every child, woman and man who has had a connection to The Cradle over our long history.

Here’s to a family that’s 85 years old and going strong!

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julie S. Tye".

Julie S. Tye

the Cradle
Celebrating 85 Years of
Placing Children First

WORLD OF DIFFERENCE, from page 1

tor. Although they had some time to decide, Judy knew they would accept the referral. “The decision is made as soon as you look at the picture,” she said.

Within days, Judy and Mike were on a plane to Russia. Meeting their son for the first time at the orphanage in Smolensk was “an overwhelming experience,” Judy recalls. Sergey, whom they later named Michael, was very shy at first, but by the third visit he began to smile. The McCormicks are grateful to the orphanage workers for their dedication to the children despite extremely limited resources. “These people took care of our son with as much love and compassion as they had to give,” she said. After a five-day visit, Judy and Mike reluctantly flew home to complete the final steps in Michael’s adoption. “It’s so hard to leave,” Judy said, “because you know he’s part of your family and you’re leaving him behind.” They weren’t separated for long, though. In early October, Judy and Mike returned to Russia to appear in court, finalize their paperwork and pick up their son. When they landed in Chicago, after 21 hours of travel, they were greeted by friends and three young girls who were very excited to meet their baby brother.

Michael McCormick will celebrate his second birthday in March and is thriving in his new home. “He was immediately part of our family,” his mom gushes. “Each day he blossoms more.” Nine-year-old Jeanne reads to Michael and mothers him, while six-year-old Kelsey likes to affectionately tease him. And although there is some sibling rivalry between three-year-old Katie and her brother, she often holds his hand and calls him “honey.” Judy and Mike believe that adopting Michael has been a critical learning experience for their daughters, as it has exposed them to a different culture and taught them to share and be compassionate. For his part, Michael is a wonderful little boy who has brought joy not only to his family, but also to their friends and their community.

Looking back, Judy can state unequivocally how crucial the preparation process was for her and Mike. “Education and awareness are so important,” she affirms, “and we were well-prepared.” They commend The Cradle’s Russia Program staff in the U.S. and overseas for their thoroughness, patience and organization, and appreciate the extensive post-placement support they’ve received. There is always a degree of uncertainty in international adoption, but according to Judy McCormick, “the rewards far outweigh the risks. The Cradle made all the difference in the world.”

BARBARA SEREDA

Profile of an Adoption Advocate



Cradle Board member Barbara Sereda never shies away from a good fight, especially when she's defending a cause that she's passionate about. An attorney by training, Barbara worked for many years in litigation and as in-house counsel for Allstate. With a heavy travel schedule, however, she found herself spending too much time away from home and her young daughters Maddie and Natalie, whom she and her husband Peter had adopted from Korea through Lifelink. Barbara decided to take a leave of absence from her job, and within weeks, she learned that she was pregnant with her son Joey. Then, her life took a turn from which "there was no going back."

Barbara attended a philanthropic meeting in 1999 where adoption was the topic and felt inspired to get involved on a deeper level. She found herself thrust into a heated debate in Springfield over legislation introduced by Rep. Sara Feigenholtz to revamp the 1985 Illinois Adoption Registry. As a participant in that process, Barbara felt strongly that adoptive families did not have a cohesive voice in helping to formulate laws that would impact them. So she decided to act.

Later that year, Barbara founded [Adoption Advocates of America](#), a nonprofit grassroots advocacy group that provides networking opportunities for adoptive parents and a thorough review of adoption legislation. "The more adoptive parents that

are involved," she asserts, "and the more voices that are heard, the better the legislation." There is no paid staff and all members participate voluntarily, making the organization truly an independent voice in the adoption community.

Today, Barbara considers Adoption Advocates her life's calling. The group is working on a variety of issues ranging from measures to improve the Confidential Intermediary Program to easier access to legal counsel for birthparents. She works closely with the Chicago Bar Association Adoption Law Committee in drafting and vetting adoption legislation. Ultimately, this work reflects not only Barbara's skills and interests, but the gratitude she feels as an adoptive parent: "I wanted to do advocacy work that gave back for the gifts I'd received – my girls."

Barbara met Julie Tye in 2004, when both were working on preparation of the Illinois Adoption Reform Act. She joined The Cradle Board in 2007 and became part of the Risk Management Committee, which she loves, because it addresses legal matters involving the agency. Barbara considers The Cradle "a wonderful example of setting the bar very high" in ethical adoption practice.

January 23rd was the 12th anniversary of Natalie Sereda's "gotcha day." That afternoon, Barbara was in a meeting with Rep. Feigenholtz and others to discuss the current hot-button issue of access to records. Barbara believes that it's only in open dialogue that consensus can be built and compromise achieved. As a staunch advocate for adoptive families, she will continue to foster this dialogue and fight for the best adoption laws possible.

For more information about [Adoption Advocates of America](#), e-mail adptadv@msn.com.

NOTEWORTHY

BOARD CHANGES

At the Annual Meeting of The Cradle Board of Directors on December 12, 2007, The Cradle welcomed four new members of the Board: Caryn Rowe Africk, John Luce, Janet McDonald and Elizabeth Parkinson. The Cradle Foundation Board is now comprised of three members. Ten former members of the Foundation Board moved to The Cradle Board and one member is now an Honorary Director.

STAFF MILESTONES

Congratulations to the following staff members who recently celebrated anniversaries of more than a decade of service to The Cradle:

Linda Hageman, Executive Director of Adoption Services – 19 years

Mary Hasson, RN, The Cradle Nursery – 16 years

Carol Truncale, LPN, The Cradle Nursery – 15 years

Julie Tye, President/CEO – 15 years

Brooke Voss, President, The Cradle Foundation – 14 years

Jenny Francis, Adoption Counselor – 11 years

Judy Stigger, Director of International Adoption, Russia – 11 years



YES, I WOULD LIKE TO ADD A PERSONALIZED BRICK TO THE CRADLE'S GARDEN WALKWAY BY RESERVING THE FOLLOWING:

_____ standard brick(s) (4" x 8") at \$150 each.....\$ _____
(quantity)

_____ deluxe brick(s) (8" x 8") at \$300 each.....\$ _____
(quantity)

My total contribution.....\$ _____
Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law. Thank you!

IMPORTANT!

Please provide contact information so that we may reach you if we have any questions regarding your bricks.

Name: _____

Phone: _____ / _____ - _____

If you have any questions, please contact Maureen Kelly at 847.733.3230 or mkelly@cradle.org.

THE CRADLE FOUNDATION ACCEPTS GIFTS THROUGH:

Checks: Please make your check payable to The Cradle Foundation and return it with this reply form.

Credit card:

Visa MasterCard Discover

My account # _____

Expiration date ____/____ Security code _____

Signature _____

PLEASE USE THE SPACE BELOW TO LET US KNOW HOW YOU WISH TO LIST YOUR OWN NAME, YOUR FAMILY NAME, OR THE NAME OF A LOVED ONE YOU WISH TO HONOR OR REMEMBER.

STANDARD BRICKS: Up to 3 lines of 13 characters

DELUXE BRICKS: Up to 5 lines of 13 characters

RUSSIA HOLIDAY | Party

On January 19th, 163 moms, dads, grandparents and kids braved a bitterly cold day to come out and celebrate the Russian holidays at LaMirage Restaurant in Rolling Meadows. We welcomed new families, recently returned from Russia with their children, and old friends, who attend each year to connect with other families who have adopted children from Russia.

While Judy Stigger and Shane Krim from The Cradle's Russia Program welcomed guests, carnival games and craft creations were on hand to get everyone into the party mood. Children popped balloons to reveal the prizes inside and squealed with excitement as they played under a colorful parachute. Ethnic Dance Chicago taught everyone Russian dances, and Father Frost and his Snow Maiden daughter, Snegurochka, paid a "surprise" visit with a gift for each child.

Our new venue, LaMirage, provided a wonderful spread for our dining pleasure – Siberian pelmeni (meat dumplings), hachapuri (farmer cheese strudel), smoked salmon and blinis were just some of the Russian delicacies guests enjoyed.

With the bright winter sun pouring in through the windows, this year's Russia Holiday Party was the best yet. Mark your calendar for the same time next year and help spread the word to friends and family. Everyone is welcome!

CRADLE HOLIDAY | Party



Morgan Myles looked very festive for her first Cradle Holiday Party on December 1, 2007.

POST ADOPTION WORKSHOPS Open to the Community

ATTACHMENT

Saturday, March 29, 2008, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
The Cradle, Evanston

Pre-adoption experiences impact the ways children develop secure or insecure attachment styles. This workshop will assist parents in gaining an understanding of their adopted child's needs and provide them with the tools necessary to navigate the lifelong journey of bonding. Participants will explore their own parenting styles and learn effective interactions that promote attachment.

Guest speaker Myra Lawrence, PsyD, is a child psychologist and CEO/Clinical Director of Shared Vision.

NAVIGATING EARLY INTERVENTION AND SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Saturday, April 19, 2008, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
DePaul University, Naperville Campus

This interactive presentation will provide an overview of the Early Intervention system for infants and children from birth to 3 years of age, and the Special Education system for children from 3 years to young adulthood. Parents will learn about common risk factors, how and when to search for services and eligibility criteria.

Guest speaker Pat Kluzik-Stauch, MA, is an adoptive parent and STAR NET Region II Resource Specialist.

PROMOTING LANGUAGE SKILLS

Saturday, May 3, 2008, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
The Cradle, Evanston

For a variety of reasons, adopted children may be at risk for communication delays and disorders. In this workshop, parents will learn expectations for typical language development and second language learning, red flags for speech impairments, strategies for home language stimulation and how to access appropriate support services.

Guest speaker Renee Riley, PhD, CCC/SLP, is a licensed speech pathologist and adoptive parent.

Fees: \$20 per person per workshop, \$10 for second family member, non-refundable. Register online at www.cradle.org/ed_workshops.html or by calling 847.733.3233.



FIRST LOOK FOR CHARITY 2008



From left, Howard and Jennifer Brinn and Gina and Brad Tustin enjoy the evening's festivities. Howard, Jennifer and Brad served on the First Look committee.

It was a roaring good time for everyone who attended The Cradle Foundation's private reception at *First Look for Charity* on Thursday, February 7 at McCormick Place. Now in its 17th year, First Look offers attendees an exclusive preview of the Chicago Auto Show and a way to help a variety of deserving local charities. The Cradle has been a proud participant in this highly anticipated annual black-tie event for the past 13 years.

In celebration of The Cradle's 85th anniversary, this year's reception had a "roaring twenties" theme. Partygoers purchased gangster garters and flapper beads in a game of chance to win

fun prizes, and had their pictures taken in front of a cutout of an antique car. They also enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, placed bids on a wide array of silent auction items, and danced the night away. Congratulations to Michael Helvig, who took home the grand prize in our raffle drawing, a 2007 Viking Supreme Spa courtesy of The Great Escape.

The 2008 Chicago Auto Show also celebrated a major milestone – the show's 100th edition. Guests at The Cradle party had the opportunity to stroll the showroom floor (encompassing 1.3 million square feet!) and view more than 1,000 gleaming new vehicles. Every ticket holder was entered into a drawing to win one of three new cars.

The driving force behind The Cradle's involvement in First Look is Bill Stasek, owner of Bill Stasek Chevrolet in Wheeling and a Cradle adoptive parent of two with his wife, Linda. Bill chaired our First Look for Charity committee, which helped to sell 400 tickets to this year's event and solicit donations to our raffle and auction. We are very grateful to our volunteers for their hard work, and to all of our sponsors, donors and attendees. Walgreen Co. has generously underwritten The Cradle reception at First Look since 2002. Thanks to the wonderful support and participation of many individuals and organizations over the past 13 years, First Look has generated more than \$1.6 million for The Cradle.

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The Cradle Foundation is pleased to introduce a new program designed to attract sustained financial support from area businesses.

The goal of this program is to increase visibility for The Cradle and The Cradle Foundation and raise critical annual funds by offering businesses unique, targeted advertising and marketing opportunities through Cradle Foundation events and Cradle programs and services.

The Annual Corporate Partnership Program helps companies:

- Create awareness & visibility
- Increase brand loyalty
- Change/reinforce image
- Showcase community responsibility
- Drive sales

Corporate Partners can choose to support The Cradle at three levels: Champion, Ally or Protector. Each level offers a variety of sponsorship opportunities that can be customized to meet the company's organizational needs and goals. In addition, there are individual underwriting opportunities for each Cradle event. For more information about the Annual Corporate Partnership Program, or if you know of a company that might be interested in this program, please contact Stefanie Dziedzic at 847.733.3232 or sdziedzic@cradle.org.

EVERY BRICK | Tells a Story

In 1999, The Cradle offered families the opportunity to purchase a brick to be installed in a commemorative garden and courtyard outside our historic Evanston building. There are more than 2,000 bricks in the garden now, and each one offers a glimpse into the lives of the Cradle families and friends who have supported this important project.

In gratitude to all Cradle birthmothers

Longtime Cradle board members Jane and Allan Gunn have one Cradle son (who is now grown and raising his own family) as well as three other children. Jane purchased this brick in 2000 to honor the selfless and loving sacrifice of Cradle birthmoms. "In the adoption triangle, the baby is always the star, with everyone oooing and ahhhing over him," said Jane. "The adoptive parents get the chance to parent this child, but it's the birthparents who go through the sacrifice and heartbreak to give this child life, and so I wanted to give the recognition and thanks that they so deserve."

And 2 babies made 8! The McManus Family

Megan McManus Ithier and her sister Katie Campbell bought a brick in 2000 as a gift for their parents. "I was adopted from The Cradle in 1970, and my sister Katie was adopted in 1969," said Megan. "We also have two older sisters, one of whom is also adopted, so we are a family of four girls. But my parents lost two babies at full term before they adopted us. When we bought the brick for my parents, we wanted to include all members of our family, so I decided to say, 'And 2 babies made 8.' When my mom saw the inscription, she quietly said to my father, 'they remembered.' I love that there is a brick at The Cradle that represents our whole family."

In memory of Gail Raymond Mar 42- Mar 06 We Love You!

Patricia Murley of California has purchased two bricks: one in memory of her Aunt Gail Raymond, who was a Cradle mom, and one in memory of her mother, Valerie Raymond Hart, who was a Cradle baby. "The Cradle runs deep in our family – there are several



Cradle babies among my cousins and other relatives," said Pat. "When my Aunt Gail died, I wanted to be sure there was a permanent place of honor and memory for her at The Cradle, since it meant so much to her." Gail's family asked that memorial gifts be made in Gail's name to The Cradle, and two other bricks were purchased in her honor, leaving a lasting legacy which will provide for the next generation of Cradle babies.

Include your family's story as a permanent part of The Cradle by purchasing a brick for our commemorative brick garden. Bricks are a wonderful way to commemorate a birthday, anniversary, or other special day. Many have used bricks as an opportunity to celebrate family or to create a memorial for a loved one.

The deadline for brick orders is May 30, 2008. Please use the form on the other side of this page to complete your brick order.

Your contribution will help The Cradle continue to provide the highest quality services to our babies and families, and will create a lasting connection to The Cradle that you can visit year after year. If you have any questions, please contact Maureen Kelly at 847.733.3230 or mkelly@cradle.org.

