



Celebrating Korean-American Culture in South Central PA

DREAMS AND IDEAS: AN ONGOING COLLECTION

Ta-ri began with a dream ... the dream of creating a more united Korean-American community, where individuals and groups could exchange resources and work together to lift up Korea's rich cultural heritage in our local communities. Starting a group has required the building of a solid foundation ... but that work has not stopped us from dreaming big. Ideas have been gathered for inspiration and, when the time is right, pursuit.

This working body of ideas has not been voted upon or prioritized. It is simply a collection of hopes and dreams from various members of the community, here to inspire us all. Please contact us with additional ideas. Better yet ... if an idea grabs you, get involved with making it happen! For guiding purposes only, we have assigned each idea to the part of Ta-ri's mission that it most closely matches. *Items in italics are ones that Ta-ri has already begun to implement.* **Come dream with us ... then work to bring those dreams to reality!**

Serving as a community gathering “place” ...

HIGHLIGHT CULTURAL SKILLS OR STORIES

- Teach hangul/calligraphy.
- Instruct children and/or adults in fan dancing and other traditional dances.
- *Offer Korean cooking classes ... eventually consider creation of cookbook.*
- *Organize cooking classes for recent Korean-American immigrants trying to learn how to cook common area cuisine.*
- Organize a tour of area Korean gardens. Provide Korean gardening instruction.
- *Gather to celebrate holidays -- Chusok, Solnal, etc. Address the fusion of Korean traditions with other American cultures and practices.*
- Have a “game day” near Korean Children’s Day that teaches Korean games.
- Host a Korean folktale storytelling event.
- Invite mothers and daughters to a tea ceremony.
- Offer a music concert or talent show (dancers, drummers, singers, pianists, tea/wedding/tol ceremony).
- Establish Korean movie nights for children and adults; perhaps seeking public theater as host.
- Organize culture schools and camps (perhaps a family weekend for new adoptive families).
- Offer soccer tournament and/or sports days.

FACILITATE SHARING OF CULTURAL COLLECTIONS AND ITEMS

- Coordinate hanbok exchange and/or collection.
- Obtain four wedding hanbok (2 male/2 female in varied sizes) for loaning as well as use in demonstrations of the traditional Korean wedding ceremony.
- *Donate or suggest books and materials to area libraries.*
- Donate or find Korean art for local museums, etc.
- *Maintain list of individuals willing to donate items for exhibits.*

FORM SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

- *Form reading groups centered on Korean-American literature, Korean adoption, or other related topics.*
- Create a Girl Scout troop for Korean-American girls, including those who were adopted from Korea.
- Match adoptive families with other Korean-American families with an emphasis on an exchange of culture and ideas.

Providing a central information source ...

GATHER AND PROMOTE RESOURCES

- Promote local, regional, and national events, opportunities, needs, & resources.
- Maintain an email/web resource list for other groups, activities, books, and articles.
- Generate list of speakers—both for Ta-ri events and for libraries, schools, and other groups who may request assistance in locating appropriate presenters.
- Gather data on Korean-American population/demographics as well as other relevant details. ... numbers of local Korean-American church members, families who have adopted from Korea, adult Korean adoptees, war veterans, etc.
- Suggest article topics to newspaper reporters on a regular basis.
- Arrange trips to Korean/Korean-American sites and activities.
- Organize a fundraiser where people donate Korean items to be sold.
- Create directory of local Korean and ESL classes, individual tutors in both English and Korean, and translation services. Help create new programs where needs exist. (A comment was made that students who have minimal exposure to Korean outside of class may learn more confidently in classes with others of similar backgrounds.)

Being a visible presence and voice in the community ...

REACHING OUT

- Promote knowledge and celebration of Korean-American Day (January 13—anniversary of first Korean immigrants on American soil—Hawaii—in 1903).
- Lift up Korean and Korean-American culture during Asian-American month (May).
- Help promote National Adoption Month (November). Resources at <http://naic.acf.hhs.gov/general/adoptmonth/index.cfm>
- Contact schools and libraries with pre-planned presentations on Korean and Korean-American culture, history, issues, and accomplishments.
- Send referral (or arrival) gifts to families adopting from Korea, via adoption agencies.
- Provide scholarships for members.
- Contribute aid to North Korea and to North Korean refugees in China through financial gifts and publicity of situation.
- Encourage the hosting of Korean exchange students; help welcome these students and support their host families.
- Help recent Korean immigrants settle into the area.
- Befriend Korean individuals and families here for a period of study or work.
- Educate Korean-American community on the history and issues related to Korean adoption as well as the range of perspectives of adoptive families and adult adoptees.
- Introduce adoptive families, adult adoptees, and others to local Korean-American opportunities.
- Connect with other ethnic groups on issues of race, culture, etc.

NETWORK WITH OTHER AREA GROUPS

- Cultivate relationships with various groups and leaders ... colleges and schools, politicians, Korean-American churches, adoptive groups, social workers, Korean War veterans groups, etc.
- Connect Korean-American churches with area camps (one in particular, the Lutheran Camping Corporation, is interested).
- Participate in Korean-American community picnics.
- Seek out and participate in community cultural festivals as well as more general events like Mechanicsburg's Jubilee Day.
- Host or arrange for traveling performance artists, musicians, visiting speakers as well as local talent.
- Suggest and promote book signings of KA authors at bookstores.
- Promote tae kwon do/tang soo do exhibitions.
- Suggest to groups the use of both English and Korean in publications, websites, etc.
- Organize a one-day conference around the topic of community.

CREATE PHYSICAL SPACES

- Establish and maintain public Korean garden.
- Work toward creation of Korean-American recreation center ... a permanent gathering place with space for programs, activities, and socializing.