



Dear VMDT,

Please reserve Saturday, January 26th for our 2008 Tet celebration! This probably seems out of order as we still haven't scheduled our Mid-Autumn Moon Festival (sometime in September) but it never hurts to have plenty of planning time!

Given the weather (in MN) is forecasted to be wet for the next several days, perhaps this latest issue comes to you at just the right time?!

Happy reading!

Included:

- Adoption.com "Loved" Photo Contest
- *Chicken Soup for the Adopted Soul* – Share Your Stories
- *If You Lived Here*, new novel by Dana Sachs
- DePaul Alumnus Marketing his Music to Benefit Vietnamese Orphanage
- On Being Asian American
- *Beyond The Blue*, novel by Leslie Gould

Adoption.com "Loved" Photo Contest

<http://forums.adoption.com/2007-adoption-com-loved-photo-contest/announcement-2007-adoption-com-loved-photo-contest.html>

Adoption.com is proud to announce the 2007 Adoption Photo Contest. This year our members are in control, you can submit and vote for your favorite photo by visiting photos.adoption.com! The contest will be held starting April 1, 2007 and will run through **May 31, 2007**. The winners will be announced June 6th and up to \$2000 in prizes will be awarded at that time!

Adoption.com's Photo Contest Rules

- Photographs must be original photographs
- Photo Submissions must be owned by the submitter.
- No professional studio photos
- All photos must be appropriate for family viewing
- You may enter as many photographs as you wish
- Photo Winners will be picked by the members of our community
- Adoption.com reserves the right to delete photos we believe to be fraudulent, illegal, or in violation of our guidelines.

Adoption.com is not responsible for choosing the winner. All submissions will be publicly viewable and voted on by our community. If you believe that your photo has been submitted in error by someone other than yourself, please send an email to the [administrator](#)

For more information and discussion related to this year's Photo Contest, please visit the [Photo Contest Forum](#)

To submit your photo, visit [the 2007 Adoption.com "Loved" Photo Contest Gallery](#)

Chicken Soup for the Adopted Soul – Share Your Stories

Excerpted from post on APV

Chicken Soup for the Adopted Soul is collecting true stories sharing the love, laughter, longing, and life events of adopted families. We are eager to read stories written by kids, parents, extended families and friends, recounting tales of becoming a family, growing up, special occasions, reunions, etc. Please share your heart-warming, insightful, humorous and powerfully moving stories that will make readers laugh, cry, or sigh. Here are some tips for writing it Chicken Soup-style:

- Stories must be true, inspirational, 1000 words or less. They should be positive, universal, and non-controversial. No essays, commentaries, tributes, philosophical or biographical pieces accepted.
- Include action and dialogue with the characters expressing their feelings throughout the conflict or situation. It should end in a result, such as a lesson learned, a positive change or pay-off.
- Above all, let it come from your heart.. Read a Chicken Soup book or see my website at www.LeAnnThieman.com to read sample stories from other titles.
- If you think you are not a writer, just send it the best you can with all the details and I'll take it from there!

You may submit more than one story. If it has been published elsewhere, just let us know. For each story selected in the book, a 50-word biography will be included about the author and a permission fee of \$200 will be paid. The submission deadline is **May 31, 2007**, for release in March, 2008

Submit stories on line at www.ChickenSoup.com., Submit a Story. Due to the volume of stories we receive, only finalists will be notified prior to publication.

Thank you for joining us in touching the hearts of millions of adoptive families everywhere. I can't wait to read your stories!

Jack Canfield Mark Victor Hansen
LeAnn Thieman

***If You Lived Here*, New Novel by Dana Sachs**

Originally posted on APV

Dear list,

Some of you may know me as the author of the memoir about Vietnam, THE HOUSE ON DREAM STREET, but I've recently published a novel, IF YOU LIVED HERE, that focuses specifically on adoption from that country. I've been a member of the list for quite a while and I wanted to post the news about my novel because so many of you have been helpful to me over the years by sharing your experiences about adopting your children.

The story centers on the friendship between two women, Shelley Marino and Pham Thi Xuan Mai, who meet in North Carolina and end up traveling together to Vietnam. Shelley is going to meet the son that she hopes to adopt, and Mai is returning to the country, and family, that she left behind twenty years ago when she left, quite suddenly, for the United States.

If you'd like to know more about the book, please visit my website--danasachs.com--which also has lots of information about Vietnam, its culture and literature, and some great recipes. The book is available

over Amazon, at Barnes and Noble, or through your local independent bookstores.

Mostly, I want to thank all of you for your support of my writing over the years. If you do read the novel and have questions or comments, I'd love to hear from you. The best way to reach me is dana@danasachs.com.

All the best,
Dana Sachs

DePaul Alumnus Marketing his Music to Benefit Vietnamese Orphanage

<http://www.oraldeafed.org/schools/depaul/newsinfo.html>

Joseph Manolios is a young man who has much to remember and much to look forward to. He was born in North Vietnam and lived in an orphanage in Thai Binh, a rural area of Vietnam, until he was adopted by a Mt. Lebanon family. Joseph arrived in the US in July of 1997 at the presumed age of nine years old. Although he was clearly a bright boy, Joseph didn't develop his English skills as readily as was expected. Within a year, it was determined that Joseph has a significant hearing loss and he was enrolled in DePaul School for Hearing and Speech. After six years of intense oral and academic training at DePaul, Joseph today is an articulate and academically talented high school student at Mt. Lebanon Senior High School.

Joseph has another major accomplishment to boast. He is a musical prodigy. Less than two years ago, DePaul teacher Tom Hoag introduced Joseph to the piano. Astoundingly, Joseph began to play beautiful new age pieces off the top of his head. When asked to perform for a DVD being created by and for DePaul, Joseph sat at the keyboard and improvised a wonderful piece, playing without hesitation or correction for the seven minutes of taping. Only one take was needed.

To his credit, Joseph has composed numerous intricate pieces. Three of these pieces have been compiled by Joseph along with three additional compositions by his DePaul teacher, Tom Hoag, in a CD entitled "Remembrance". The proceeds from the sale of the CD will benefit the orphanage in Thai Binh to help ease the institutions struggles to feed, clothe and shelter the orphans who remain there and to Asian Children Services, the agency that made his adoption possible.

To purchase a CD, call Tom Hoag at DePaul at (412) 924-1012.

Editors note: A PDF article that includes a photo of Joseph playing is at:

<http://www.mtlebanon.org/vertical/Sites/%7B941B9826-CD35-4854-BE52-BC5B9AE630A3%7D/uploads/%7BC5D83DE7-56D3-4F35-9477-ADD44A5F9FA0%7D.PDF>

On Being Asian American

Submitted by Caroline Ticarro-Parker

Fascinating reports and observations on being Asian American:

<http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2007/asian.american/>

***Beyond The Blue*, Novel by Leslie Gould**

From Amazon.com:

http://www.amazon.com/Beyond-Blue-Leslie-Gould/dp/1578568226/ref=pd_bbs_sr_1/103-3387755-5725431?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1179931268&sr=1-1

From Publishers Weekly

The Vietnam War shatters the lives of two families thousands of miles apart in this uneven novel by Gould

(Garden of Dreams). In 1975, 10-year-old American Gen experiences terrible heartache when her mother, who has gone to Vietnam to adopt a young boy, is killed in a war-related plane crash. Meanwhile, in Vietnam seven-year-old Lan witnesses her nation's bloody civil war splitting her own family right down the middle, resulting in displacement and destitution. Gould nimbly follows the two characters to adulthood, when Lan's intense poverty forces her to make the difficult choice to give two of her children up for adoption, and the infertile Gen comes to Vietnam with her husband, Jeff, to adopt them. The pacing begins to drag halfway through, as Gen and Jeff experience innumerable delays and complications with the Vietnamese government. Despite the slow momentum, many readers will appreciate this emotionally satisfying story of hope, adoption and new beginnings. (Apr. 19)