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Newsletter

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News from the East

China Institutes Quota System for Making Assignments of Children

New developments affect both single applicants and couples in terms of the number of applications accepted at the China Center of Adoption Affairs (CCAA).

The CCAA has instituted a new policy for assigning children to families. Beginning with dossiers submitted December 1st, 2001, the CCAA will make assignments based upon a quota system. The quota for each agency will be derived from the average *number of assignments* the agency has received over the past three years, using their December-to-December fiscal year. Perhaps the most disheartening news is for unmarried applicants, who are limited to 5% of an agency's quota.

The CCAA has reported they have taken these measures largely in response to the CCAA's own concerns, and the complaints of adoptive families and adoption agencies, about long waiting times and expiring INS approvals. Each year the number of applications being sent to the CCAA by agencies has been increasing. Each year the CCAA has processed more dossiers than the year before. Unfortunately, the growth in referrals hasn't been able to keep pace with the growth in applications, with the net result of waiting times increasing.

As a result, the CCAA has chosen to limit the number of applications from the US. Since an agency's quota is based on *actual referrals* made by the CCAA *not the number of applications* an agency sent to the CCAA, the new quota system will probably *reduce* the number of applications that the CCAA will be willing to accept from Americans.

Adoption agencies across the country will probably have more applications from families over the course of a year than they will be allowed to send to China. Agencies may no longer be able to accept an unlimited number of families (particularly single parent families) into their China programs. This could mean several things. It could reduce the waiting time between dossier submission and referral. It is possible that some agencies might institute a waiting list for families when their current quota is filled. It might mean that some families will need to change countries in order to be able to adopt within a time frame that is acceptable to them. It might mean that since client "slots" in China programs are limited, agency fees could increase to meet the demand and increased time spent on managing the quota system. Most certainly, far fewer single parents will be adopting from China.

To learn more about how these changes could affect your adoption, please see the article in **News from Americans Adopting Orphans** section of this newsletter.

Processing Times--China

Referrals for **Americans Adopting Orphans** families whose dossiers were submitted to the CCAA in September of 2000 were released in late October. Children in that batch of referrals were 10 to 14 months of age, with one child being of school age per the adoptive parents' request. Those parents will be racing Santa to get to China! Ho! Ho! Ho! Merry Christmas!

Referrals for **Americans Adopting Orphans** families whose dossiers were submitted in October of 2000 were released in late November. Those children ranged in age from 11 months to 17 months, with one boy at the request of the adoptive parents.

Referrals for **Americans Adopting Orphans** families whose dossiers were submitted in November of 2000 missed being here for Christmas but made it before the New Year. All of the children were around a year old. The next group awaiting assignments is the December 2000 families.

While openings remain in our 2002 quota *for couples*, **Americans Adopting Orphans** has established a waiting list *for single adoptive parents*. Our 2002 quota *for singles* is full and our 2003 waiting list for singles is almost filled. To secure a position on our waiting list, singles must submit an application with the \$100 application fee and the \$600 program fee.

Processing Times--Vietnam

Though International Mission of Hope (IMH), our facilitating agency in Vietnam, continues to place a “hold” on new applications, families with dossiers already in Vietnam were still being assigned children on a limited basis until early January. Referrals from IMH have stopped as their staff has been working to get those families currently in-country with their children through their INS visa processing.

Recently INS officials have aimed unprecedented levels of scrutiny at adoptions from Vietnam. Citing “irregularities in paperwork” as a cause for rigorous investigation of each and every case, this heightened study by INS has resulted in delays in visa processing for many families. Some unfortunate new parents found themselves extending their stays in Vietnam by weeks because of INS holdups in processing their visas. When the visas for those families were issued, there were no explanations from INS as to the cause.

Though INS has not been forthcoming about the reasons behind the turmoil, and there could be multiple reasons for their concern, there have been several instances of alleged “baby buying” and smuggling children across international borders, which may have contributed to the apparent alert status at the Ho Chi Minh City INS office. Of course, baby buying is repugnant and should be stopped whenever and wherever it occurs. That is why we believe the INS is taking such strong measures to uphold the law and protect children and families. However, it has not been easy on the innocent families or agencies caught up in the investigations. (No **Americans Adopting Orphans** families were involved in the investigations.)

The good news is that the delays caused by this situation are probably only temporary. As time passes and the INS moves through its investigation period, we expect visa processing to return to a more “normal” pace. We also anticipate that referral times and travel will also follow suit shortly thereafter.

Excerpts from Letters from the Executive Director of International Mission of Hope

Responding to inquiries from many involved and concerned with the state of Vietnam adoptions, Cherie Clark, the Founder and Executive Director of International Mission of Hope (IMH) has issued a public letter to families and agencies. In her letter Ms. Clark discusses the current situation in Vietnam and how it is affecting her families.

“We are not being told why or what is being investigated with these adoption cases. We only know that it is highly unusual for an IMH case to be investigated... We deeply regret that these families are delayed at an uncertain time in US history. Unfortunately, a few agencies operating as humanitarian organizations have been doing nothing more than trafficking children in the name of international adoptions. Because of this, INS has stated many times that families planning to adopt from Vietnam should be prepared to experience a (possibly lengthy) INS investigation process.”

Ms. Clark goes on to say, “Vietnam INS Officers have repeatedly sent out warnings that some cases involving Vietnam adoptions have been corrupt and illegal. INS has emphasized in their policy statements that they can and will investigate cases as they see fit. For the first time we are seeing some of our cases being investigated for significant amounts of time which we consider to be unfortunate for families.”

“Some of the accusations made against IMH (by INS) could be said about any facilitator currently working in Vietnam. This is a very delicate matter and if it not cleared up, it has the potential to affect adoptions for everyone in Vietnam. ... We have many unrefereed babies....all of our cases are stopped right now.”

In our correspondence with IMH, we have been very aware that the entire IMH staff is working hard to cooperate with INS officials and assist families as best as they can. Ms. Clark states, “INS Officers in Vietnam are basically operating within the INS guidelines. The field guidance policy for Vietnam warns families that they should expect delays with HCMC-INS (Ho Chi Minh City) and that the INS Officer is not required to offer any information about the scope of an on-going investigation, nor what the timeframe may be for that investigation... It is not IMH or the Vietnamese government delaying families in Vietnam. Rather, INS and the US Consulate are delaying families by exercising their right to investigate cases.”

While this is certainly a prominent issue in Vietnam adoptions, it has temporarily drawn the spotlight away from a larger issue: Vietnam’s request for an agreement between our countries, which we had reported on in the September issue of this newsletter still looms. Back in August, the Vietnamese government had requested that the US government sign an agreement similar to one reached with France regarding adoptions from Vietnam. Regarding the future of Vietnam adoption, Ms. Clark states, “I would like to point out that the next big challenge before all of us is that the US must be involved in the bi-lateral agreement on adoption in the beginning of the new year.Remember that this organization isn’t known as International Mission of “hope” casually. I named it that because I have a great deal of HOPE and I think that this is going to pass.”

Processing Times—Cambodia

Beginning in late October, the US INS began challenging some documents presented by some families to the Embassy in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. After more than a month of silence, with the families just waiting around in Cambodia, the INS finally told the families that they would not be allowed to bring their children to the US.

During the month long wait, the ABC news show 20/20 became interested in the story, and sent a camera crew to Cambodia. In Mid December, 20/20 aired a report that was a scathing criticism of the INS and its "investigation" process.

There was a very large amount of criticism across the country for the INS and its actions, with Congress promising investigations.

A week after the story aired, the stuck families were told that they would get a special "parole" and be allowed to bring their children to the US under special rules and conditions.

On Friday, December 21st, the US State Department announced that it was moving all dossier processing from Phnom Penh to Bangkok, Thailand, officially saying this move was to move a growing number of applications to a larger State Department Embassy with more staff and resources.

A few hours after this announcement, the (recently appointed) INS Commissioner, a man named Zigler, announced that the INS was stopping all adoptions from Cambodia, and investigating Vietnam, also for a possible closure, claiming widespread corruption in both governments.

He added a gratuitous comment reminding us all that there are many children available for adoption right here in the US.

The apparently retaliatory nature of the actions of the INS, coupled with this insensitive and uninformed comment, coupled again with the timing (essentially being released on Christmas Eve) has led to a staggering amount of activity on the part of Cambodia pre-adoptive parents, agencies with Cambodia programs, and other adoptive parent groups.

One of the first thing that happened was a posting of Commissioner Zigler's fax number, postal address, and email address. Substantial numbers of parents report that it has taken them hours to get through to that poor fax machine.

In addition to this, a family set up a petition at www.petitiononline.com demanding that the INS resume reviewing applications. As of this moment, there are well over 5,000 signers to the petition.

Families have been asking if there are other things that families should be doing, to support adoptions from Cambodia, and to voice concern about the INS.

We have considered making a call to all families to inundate the Immigration Service, State Department, White House, and members of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption with more calls, letters, emails and faxes, but are not yet prepared to make that recommendation.

We are concerned about several things. First, we are concerned that agencies or families who are too vocal may be subjected to additional scrutiny by the INS. Second, given the amount of media and congressional attention that this is already getting, the movement doesn't need much public help from us, and we only want to call for action in our newsletter when we think our work may make a real difference in what happens (as with the adoption tax credit, where we perceived that numbers could really make a difference). We know that we can't go to our families too often, or they will not take our calls to action seriously. Third, we think it is very early in this current situation. It may resolve itself very quickly and favorably. We really don't know what the INS means, or plans to do, based on this early statement. Remember, the official closing of adoptions from Cambodia was announced on Friday, December 21st, and many officials have not been available due to the holidays. Fourth, from a tactical perspective, we think there may be a more effective time to call for a big public action later. Finally, we want to see a more organized direction for public protest and action. The next two weeks will see more statements from the INS and the State Department, as well as organization on the part of adoption agencies. If a common, specific goal is realized, then we will add our public support to it.

That does not mean that we are doing nothing. Our agency is a member of several different agency groups that are working behind the scenes to move INS in a more adoption friendly direction. We think that Commissioner Zigler made an incredibly large faux pas with his announcement, and the timing of his announcement, and we suspect that many members of Congress will be very unhappy with what has happened. There has already been one published interview in which the Commissioner acknowledged that he had not been sleeping well for the past few nights. It is entirely possible that he acted based on information provided by bureaucrats within the INS, without getting outside input from the State Department and adoption advocates. He is a new appointee, without an Immigration or adoption background. It is entirely possible that he might choose to change the whole nature of the way the INS treats international adoption, once he becomes more aware of the system.

So to answer the question that many of you are asking yourselves -"What should we do?" We suggest that you wait a bit to see how things progress, particularly if you are a preadoptive family. You may not want to cause your case to draw more attention to itself. If you feel motivated to write to your Senator or Congressman, that's fine. But at this point it a

letter of that nature can probably be little more than a letter of protest, as opposed to a letter of action and reform. We believe that agencies will come together to make a general proposal that we will all want to support, and that will be the time for action.

As the old expression goes, now is the time to "keep your powder dry". Be assured that we are monitoring these events very closely. The current INS actions and perspectives may reach far beyond Cambodia. The INS may be planning a general scrutiny of all adoptions, planning to expect all countries that participate in international adoption to have an internal legal system that the INS would consider to be corruption free. This may not be possible for many developing countries. Cambodia may be the opening act of what may be a long and difficult play of events.

We find the INS's references to the Hague agreement on intercountry adoption, particularly in reference to Cambodia, a non-Hague signatory, as indicative of what may come.

We will continue to keep families informed through our newsletter, and this forum. We always ask and counsel patience in the face of developing events. The perspective of a few weeks almost always lends great clarity and lessens alarm to almost any situation.

News From Americans Adopting Orphans—Seattle Main Office

What China's Assignment Quota Means to You

There are some recent developments concerning adoptions from China about which all potential and active adoptive parents should be aware. The China Center of Adoption Affairs has instituted a quota system for making referrals of children to parents. (For details about the quota system, please see the article in the News from the East section of this newsletter.) The information below is divided into several sections for families at all stages of the adoption process, including planning for future adoptions.

Preadoptive families with dossiers in China

The new quota system should have no significant impact on your adoption. It only applies to applications sent to China after December 1st, 2001.

Preadoptive families preparing their dossiers

It will be up to each agency to establish its own internal procedures for working within their given quota. Some will allocate their slots carefully on a month-by-month basis. Others will accept applications and send dossiers until they have reached their quota regardless of how many are processed each month. No doubt there will be others who devise different methods of handling their allotment.

It's a new world for Chinese adoptions and procedures are going to vary widely from agency to agency. It may be pretty chaotic out there for a while until everyone settles in to a new way of doing things. It is also going to be difficult for agencies to make predictions about how it all will work until we start seeing families processed under the new system, which probably will not be for months at best.

Families who are already clients of **Americans Adopting Orphans** should not see any change in their status. We have plenty of positions for all of our current families. We will not delay the sending of your dossier to China, if you have no substantial delays in your adoption process. Taking 6 months off from your adoption processing to remodel your house could have an impact on when your dossier will be sent to China, beyond the delay from your remodeling.

We have been assigned a large enough quota by the CCAA to send applications to China without delay for all of our current single clients.

In the interest of accommodating as many applicants as possible, we sent our normal batch of dossiers to China and extended our November dossier submission deadline so we could follow with a second batch later in the month to beat the December 1st deadline in China.

If you have just begun the process of document collection and have not filed your INS application or started your home study, you will be part of your agency's 2002 quota, or you will need to find an agency with slots left in their 2002 quota. **Americans Adopting Orphans** has slots remaining for couples for 2002. However, our singles quota is filled for 2002, and our waiting list for singles for 2003 is about filled.

Families who are considering starting an adoption.

Americans Adopting Orphans is continuing to accept applications from married couples, as we are satisfied with the quota assigned to us by the CCAA (we have chosen not to publicly disclose this number). Given that about ¼ of our applications over the past three years have been from single parents, and that we have moderate, steady growth over the past three years, we anticipate having plenty of room for new client families composed of married couples. Singles who are considering adoption from China may wish to consider our Cambodia or Vietnam programs, or be prepared to wait until December of 2002 before we will be able to submit any additional dossiers from singles.

Americans Adopting Orphans has established new procedures to take the changes into account. Our procedures for accepting clients into our China program will be based on the following principles to give priority to former clients and to insure that all available slots in our given quota are used.

We do not plan to limit the number of applications that we submit to the CCAA each month. If we receive an unusually large number of applications in the coming months, we may choose to change this policy. We have already received phone calls from clients of other agencies to see if we have any "couples slots" left for next year since their agencies have declined to send their dossiers because they have no openings.

It is possible that we will fill our assigned annual quota a month or two before December of 2002. We will warn processing families in advance if we forecast this as a possibility. If this does happen, some families may have to wait a month or two to have their dossiers submitted in December, when we begin our new quota for the next fiscal year of the CCAA. We will continue to accept and process applications on a month-by-month basis. If we fill our quota before the end of the CCAA fiscal year, in the month that the quota is filled, we will give first priority to repeat clients, second priority to Benefactor or Lifegiver Donors to our Giving Program, and use application dates as a tiebreaker.

Final Thoughts

Throughout all of the changes, remember that your agency is not the enemy, nor is China. Our client families are important to us and no one wants to see you home with your child more than our staff. We are here to help you. We, like you, are distressed about what this might mean for the waiting children of China. Above all, we want to help children find families. That has always been the goal of the CCAA, too. Perhaps this new system will speed your journey toward parenthood.

Post Placement Reports: Two and You're Through!

The China Center of Adoption Affairs is calling upon all agencies to submit the 6-month and 12-month post placement studies for families who have returned home with children. Chinese adoption officials gauge a family's and an agency's commitment to children by the follow through in this regard. This is such an important part of your child's adoption and

your responsibility as adoptive parents that we include the requirement for fulfilling this obligation in the contract you signed with us when you became a client.

In the coming days, you will be contacted by a social worker from **Americans Adopting Orphans** if we do not have 2 post placement studies in your file. If you have completed this part of your adoption, please send us your post placement report(s) as soon as possible along with a few family photos. If you have not completed your post placement reports, we can conduct one for you.

To insure future compliance with this important part of your adoption, *beginning with October referrals, we have changed our policies so that when a family gets a referral they will prepay for the post placement studies.* If a family submits a post-placement report from a different home study provider, we will rebate that portion of the pre-payment they have made to **Americans Adopting Orphans**.

Time to Register for Winter Classes

Year of the Horse Chinese New Year Banquet

It's that time again! Time for past client families to reunite with your Baby Buddies for the biggest, bestest party of the year and for clients in process to get a dose of Chinese culture. Mark February 10th on your calendars and reserve the date for celebrating with all of your **Americans Adopting Orphans** friends. Client families will be notified of the details by mail. Please note the NEW location of the banquet.

Been Notified that your 171-H Has Expired After You're Home with Your Child?

Families in the Seattle area have been receiving notices from the Yakima INS that their 171-H's had expired. This has been particularly confusing to families who are already home with their children. While it's true that their 171-H has expired, they are no longer relying on its validity to adopt since they've already completed the adoption.

If you receive such a notice and you're already back home, you can disregard it. It is just the INS being careful to follow through on your initial I-600A application and keeping you informed on your status. Since the folks in Yakima don't necessarily know who ends up traveling to adopt or when, each family is notified in writing when their 171-H has expired. However, if you receive such a notice and you are waiting to be assigned a child or are awaiting travel, you need to contact your adoption agency immediately to reapply for INS approval. **Americans Adopting Orphans** expects client families to keep track of the expiration date of their 171-H and renew it accordingly.

News From Americans Adopting Orphans—Missouri Branch Office

News from the Net

Immigration Service Raises Fees

Effective February 19, 2002, US Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) will be increasing several fees. Fingerprints will double from \$25 per person to \$50 per person. The I-600A/I-600 fee is going from \$405 to \$460. Families applying for certificates of citizenship in behalf of their child will pay \$145, a \$20 increase.

Follow Authentication Procedures Closely or Risk Rejection

From the San Francisco Consulate, effective immediately all requests for authentication must include photocopies of the original document(s) plus a photocopy of the state

authentication sheet in addition to the original document(s). Also, requests for authentication must include the name, sex, and date of birth of the person named on the document(s). So for example, a request letter might say, "The enclosed documents for authentication are for the Smith family adoption. John Smith, male, was born on January 1, 1955. Jane Smith, female, was born on June 1, 1956." Consular officials have stated that authentication requests not containing the above copies and statement would be returned without being processed.

Parents' Zone

And Soon She Was Five....

By Linda H. Rowley

It is difficult for my husband and me to express the love that we have for this sweet little girl that the Chinese government allowed us to make our own. She is blessed with a strong resilient spirit. She smiles all the time and is happy to give love to the folks who love her. In a little over a year she has learned English well and can make a very abstract conversation. She is learning to write and to read in her Kindergarten class. She loves to sing and dance, and has memorized several song and dance routines; the most delightful, her interpretation of Rogers and Hammerstein's Flower Drum Song.

Tiana was 4 years 9 months when she arrived home. We will tell you that several people warned us off because we asked for a 4 or 5 year old. "Too old," they said, "She will never adapt." "She had been institutionalized too long. She won't bond with you." "She will have bad habits." And the ever popular, "You may be sorry..." We are not necessarily stubborn, but we just felt that a preschooler would be just perfect for us. We knew that she would fit right into the group of our younger grandchildren, which she does. We wanted her to have a few months in the local Head-Start program, which she did. We were also prepared to take the time to re-train her, if needed, to head her out in the direction we had in mind.

We have raised four children of the homegrown variety, and we are aware of child/parent interaction. We did not expect Tiana to be the perfect child. When she acted up we were firm, but kindly with her. If she wanted something she could not have, we apologized, but said "No." If her behavior was not acceptable we told her so, and explained what we expected. Each evening we talked to her about her day, and if it had gone well she was allowed to choose 10 M&Ms or 10 jellybeans. Very soon she was collecting every day and by summer she had branched out to Popsicles and 50/50 bars. Now that we are into winter we have popcorn treats. She has not missed very many treats and her behavior is excellent.

Is she bonding? Love and bonding do take time and effort. We have looked upon this as a courtship. We did not expect her to love us first. We loved her and told her so, and told her we were so very happy to have her here with us. We waited for her to respond as she grew to know us. She loved Mom first and would crawl into her lap to be the "bebe". She liked to be rocked. Soon she was kissing Mom and telling her, "I missed you", and "I love you". Dads are bigger and not as cuddly, so it took a few more weeks before she freely climbed up on her Dad. One night she was climbing on him and she crawled up close to his ear and whispered, "I love you daddy", and kissed him on the cheek. That was a breakthrough – now they are buddies and she has taken to calling him "Pop".

Do we expect her to be a happy and well-adjusted teen? We are very realistic about the struggles of growing up. We don't believe that whether she was an infant or a young child at the time of adoption will make much difference when she arrives at those "learning" years. We will be there to give her council and support.

We will never be sorry that we loved this child; she has brought the excitement and energy of youth back into our lives!

Would we do it again? Of course! We are DTC – July 2001 for another 4-5 year old.

Linda and Walter live in Utah. They are the parents of four children, ranging in age from 30 to 36, and they have 14 grandchildren. They are also the parents of Tiana, age 5, adopted from Sanshui, Guangdong, China 10/2000.

Help Brighten Lives with your Tax-Deductible Donation

Spread the cheer by making a tax-deductible donation to the **Americans Adopting Orphans** Giving Program. Choose from our Cambodia Orphanage Project Fund, China Orphanage Fund, Adoption Grant Program Fund, Bridge of Love (donate to your child's specific orphanage), or the **Americans Adopting Orphans** General Fund. Some employers will even match the funds you donate, doubling your dollars!

Share in the joy of giving! Please call **Americans Adopting Orphans** (206-524-5437) and bill to your credit card or send in a check. Any amount is welcome and appreciated.

Nanny Share or Day Care – Do You Know the Law?

You've decided to go back to work and have found the perfect person to take care of your precious little one in your absence. Yes, you've found your very own Mary Poppins, the nanny of your dreams. To make her fee more affordable, you have invited a friend to "nanny share"--leave her baby at your house while she works so that you can share the expense of the nanny. After a few months of this arrangement you think to yourself, "This is wonderful!"

According to Washington State law, you have been operating an unlicensed day care in your home. It is against the law in many states, including Washington, to regularly care for an unrelated child in your home without a day care license. In fact, Washington State imposes a \$75 per day fine for each day of unlicensed care provided. (RCW 74.15.030) In addition, you could be subject to liability if there is an incident involving the "other" child and/or your nanny.

Choosing an In-Home Child Caregiver can be Tricky

There are some truly wonderful people out there who make caring for other people's children their life's work. Finding someone who fits your expectations and life style can be challenging. Before you place your child in a caregiver's arms, you must use your head, heart, and gut. Examine the facts and your feelings, and listen to your intuition. Have you done the appropriate background clearances? Have you interviewed references? Have you investigated claims of educational achievements? Does anything seem too good to be true? It might just be. Remember, you are not merely hiring a babysitter but a temporary custodian for your child. You must feel completely confident that your child's safety and welfare will not be compromised through miscommunication, incompetence, or avoidable accident.

This is where licensing can provide you with a little reassurance. When placing your child in a licensed facility, whether it is a private family home or a larger day care, you know that (at least in Washington) certain minimum standards have been met. For instance, the provider: has had a TB test, has current infant and child CPR and first aid, can provide documentation of early childhood education, has written policies and procedures for providing adequate nutrition, sanitation, discipline, and fire safety, abides by a child to caregiver ratio not exceeding 2 children under the age of 2 years, and everyone in the home 16 years of age and older has passed a criminal records check. There are even requirements addressing "field trips" or any time the child is away from the caregiver's home, for instance

to go to a park, the caregiver must bring along a first aid kit, the child's health history form, and an emergency medical consent form. Casual babysitters, and most Grandmas, probably don't do this.

Aside from the obvious requirements for selecting a caregiver, a related component in making childcare decisions is the social and ethnic background of the caregiver. Many families with foreign adopted children seek out caregivers of the same ethnicity as their child in the hopes that the child will learn or maintain language and cultural ties to their birth country. Recent immigrants are often chosen to fill the bill of nanny/housekeeper. However, there are often concerns with people new to American culture who, out of habit or security, continue to do things the way they did in their home country rather than conform to the ways of the new culture. Do not assume that your chosen caregiver will be familiar with the things we take for granted, like dialing 911 in an emergency. Many developing countries have no concept of emergency ambulance dispatch, or even CPR.

It may take some education and close monitoring to make sure your child is being cared for in a manner that is acceptable and reassuring to you. To do this, you may need to schedule times when the caregiver is in your home and has primary responsibility for your child while you stand on the sidelines observing. Watch for things like how the caregiver comforts your child and whether he/she can anticipate your child's needs. Does the caregiver expect your child to shake off bumps or are they appropriately sympathetic and solicitous? Different cultures show varying degrees of stoicism concerning pain. Do they seem aware of developmental milestones and normal behavior for your child's age? Do they expect too much or too little from your child? Do they convey an attitude toward differences in gender, race, class, etc. similar to yours? While everyone can't be in perfect agreement about such things, you don't want a caregiver to undermine lessons and values that you are trying to instill in your child.

This is where you must use your best judgment to avoid a potentially harmful situation for you and your child. No matter how much you like the person, or how much you have romanticized life in two different cultures, your child's safety and well-being must come first. There are caregivers from all walks of life who know this too.

If your childcare situation is giving you a headache, heartache, or tummy ache, check out the following site to learn more about Minimum Licensing Requirements for Family Child Care Homes in Washington:

http://nrc.uchsc.edu/washgtn/wa_388_155.htm#pgfId-443691

Chinese Painting Seminar at SAAM

The UW East Asia Center and the Seattle Asian Art Museum have teamed up to present *Harmonizing with the Infinite: Chinese Painting through the Centuries*, a seminar on Chinese painting for the public led by Professor Richard Barnhart on Saturday, February 9, 10 am to 3:30 pm. The seminar will be held at SAAM in Volunteer Park in Seattle. Richard Barnhart, Professor Emeritus of Yale University, will speak on the amazing achievements of Chinese painters from the 10th through the 14th centuries in two lectures, *The Song Miracle and the Yuan Revolution*. The seminar also features a preview of a film in the making, *The Mind's Journey*, with director Peter Way. In conclusion Curator Jay Xu will discuss painting s currently on view in the galleries. Tickets are \$4 members, \$8 non-members,. To purchase tickets, cal the Museum Box Office at 206-654-3121.

Minorities in China: Conflict or Integration?

Keep your knowledge of the world current by attending the International Updates series in the winter and spring 2002. The Jackson School of International Business Education and Research will sponsor the annual International Updates lecture-dinner series offering the latest insights from top University scholars and dinners catered by local ethnic restaurants. Updates will be held on Tuesday evenings from 5:30 to 8:00 pm in the Walker Ames Room, Kane Hall for \$25 per Update. Be sure to save February 13, 2002 for the East Asia lecture Minorities in China: Conflict or Integration? by Stevan Harrel, Professor of Anthropology, Curator of Asian Ethnology, Burke Museum. Call 206-543-4800 for more information.

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.

Winter Calendar of Events, Seattle Office

January

- 13 Sun** BAT 2*, 2 PM to 3 PM
13 Sun **China Clippers/General Orientation and Information Meeting, 3 PM to 5:30 PM**
20 Sun **General Orientation and Information Meeting,**

February

- 3 Sat** **Kingdom Kids Adoption Conference, Spokane 9 AM – 5 PM**
10 Sat **Adoption Information Fair, Bellevue, 9 AM – 1 PM**
10 Sat Ages and Stages – Part 1: Attachment and Trust in the Early Years, 9 AM to 12 PM
11 Sun Dumplings, Dipping Sauces, and More, 4 PM to 6 PM
18 Sun **BAT 1*, 2 PM to 3 PM**
18 Sun **General Orientation and Information Meeting, 3 PM to 5:30 PM**
24 Sat Infant Care and Medical Considerations for International
(and next 2 Sats) Adoption, 12 PM to 4 PM
25 Sun **General Adoption Support Group Meeting CANCELLED**
28 Wed Chinese Language Crash Course for Adoptive Parents,
(and next 2 Weds) 7 to 9PM

March

- 15 Sat Planning your Adoption Trip, 1 PM to 5 PM
16 Sun **BAT 2*, 2 PM to 3 PM**
16 Sun **General Orientation and Information Meeting, 3 PM to 5:30 PM**
23 Sun **General Adoption Support Group Meeting CANCELLED**

No advance registration or fees required for meetings or events in Bold Print.

Please register in advance for the classes in normal print.

Unless otherwise noted all classes and meetings will take place at the

Americans Adopting Orphans Education Center, located at: 3212 NE 125th, Seattle, WA

*Basic Adoption Training Classes (BAT) are a series of 2 classes that provide adoption education to home study clients and helps families meet the new requirements for additional social work visits for those undergoing a home study for China. BAT classes are held once each month on the 4th Sunday (3rd Sunday in Nov and Dec due to holidays). You must be a client of **Americans Adopting Orphans** to attend. Call 206-524-5437 for details.

For more information call **Americans Adopting Orphans 1-206-524-5437**