



TRANSRACIAL JOURNEYS™

EXPLORING ADOPTION, IDENTITY AND RACE

11th Annual Family Camp *“Lift Every Voice and Sing”*

Parents Focus:

Community, Consciousness, and Tools to Build Capacity

Children & Youth Focus:

Community, Confidence, and Self-Care

August 3-6, 2023

**Ohio University
Athens, Ohio**

Land Acknowledgement

Welcome to Athens County, Ohio. The name of the state of Ohio derives from an Iroquois word ‘ohi-yo,’ that means “the great river.” Transracial Journeys acknowledges that we are gathered together for our 2023 annual family camp on land that was settled and developed by the Adena (800 BCE-100 AD), Hopewell (200 BCE-500 AD), and Fort Ancient (1000-1750 AD) cultures. The Ohio University campus “was at one time a convergence zone of some 40 tribes, including the Mingo, Erie, Lenape, Wyandot, and Miami people, as well as others that shared in the rich hunting grounds and relative safety that these lands provided. It became the traditional homelands of the Shawnee peoples as well as the Wahzhazhe (Osage) nations.”

In 1795, following war with the United States and forced signing of the Treaty of Greenville, the confederacy of tribes continued to resist U.S. aggression. Ohio University, the oldest university in Ohio, opened in 1808 with three students and one professor. By 1843 the Wyandotte, the last Ohio tribe, was removed from the state.

While there are currently no reservations and no federally recognized tribes in Ohio, significant numbers of people of Native American heritage continue to live in our state. We must honor the legacy of Indigenous people in Ohio’s history.

We honor the Indigenous inhabitants of this place and uplift their unique, historic and enduring relationship with their ancestral territories. We pay our respects to the Indigenous inhabitants and their continuing presence in their homeland and throughout their diasporas. While we cannot change the past, we commit to continued gratitude for their contributions and gifts of nature, along with ongoing respect, care, and stewardship of the land, each other, and future generations.

As we gather, please be mindful of how we benefit from continued injustice and strive to correct inequity. In honor of those who came before us, let us prioritize working together in harmony, and care for the land that we have the privilege to enjoy over the next several days.

Learn about the Indigenous people who lived and continue to live in your home communities. Read books with your children. American Indians in Children’s Literature publishes a list of best books every year: <https://americanindiansinchildrensliterature.blogspot.com>.

References:

<https://www.ohio.edu/cas/ping-institute/humanities-park/first-humanists/about-place>

<https://athensfoundation.org/about-us/the-land-we-inhabit-in-athens-county>

<https://blog.nativehope.org/the-history-and-culture-of-the-iroquois>

OUR VISION

Transracial Journeys envisions greater understanding of and support for transracially adopted persons and their families in all stages of life and sectors of society.

OUR MISSION

With the best interests of transracially adopted persons at the center, Transracial Journeys provides practical tools and post adoption support for parents of a different race than the Black and Brown children entrusted to them and fosters supportive relationships for transracially adopted persons of all ages.

Dear Transracial Journeys Family,

Welcome to Transracial Journeys Family Camp 2023! We are thrilled to gather with everyone at Ohio University for our 11th year of camp. While Ohio University will be a change from the rural camp settings, it offers us the opportunity to spend our precious time together in community in state-of-the-art facilities and inspire our children to dream big. Ohio University's residential campus in Athens is nestled among the Southeast Ohio foothills. More than 20,000 students study here. A vibrant Uptown scene (never call it "downtown"), and scenic, historic campus combine to make Athens a top-ranked college town.

This year's overarching theme *Lift Every Voice and Sing* will allow us to celebrate and explore the complexities and uniqueness of our families with the grounding of a mainstay of the Black community.

Our themes will come to life in different ways for parents and children. For parents, our sessions will focus on building community, raising consciousness of the unique intersection of family structure and differences of race, and providing practical tools for building capacity to better protect the physical, psychological and emotional safety of the children entrusted to them. For children and youth, our staff team will create experiences through curriculum that helps to build individual confidence and empowerment as well as connections and community with other transracially adopted persons.

These themes will inform our programming with the intent of creating space for as much connection and transformation as possible. We have worked to create a balance of learning opportunities and structured activities with free time dedicated to informal conversation and fun. The board of directors is looking forward to welcoming you to camp and our staff are excited to engage with your children.

Here's to TRJ 2023!



April Dinwoodie - Executive Director
and

Kurt Harvey, Michelle Daray, Avril McNally, Martha Loughridge, and Lori Boerger - Board of Directors

CAMP PROGRAMMING - SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

(#) indicates the building # on the Athens Campus Parking Map

<https://www.ohio.edu/sites/default/files/sites/transportation-parking/2022-parking-map.pdf>

Thursday, August 3, 2023						
11:00 am-1:00 pm Check-in - New Families	Living Learning Center (LLC), 111 S Green Dr, Athens, OH 45701 (#76) <i>Check-in with Conference and Event Services Staff.</i>					
12:00-1:00 pm Lunch - New Families	Boyd Hall, 100 West Green Dr., Athens, OH 45701 (#115) The District on West Green (Dining Hall) <i>Plan for a brisk 15 minute walk between Carr Hall and The District.</i>					
1:00-3:00 pm Orientation - New Families	Charles J. Ping Recreation Center, 82 S Green Dr, Athens, OH 45701 (#91) Conference Room (1st Floor) <i>Across the street from the Living Learning Center</i>					
1:00-5:00 pm Backyard Activities Supervised by TRJ Staff	Living Learning Center, 111 S Green Dr, Athens, OH 45701 (#76) Courtyard between Carr Hall and Tanaka Hall					
3:00-5:00 pm Check-in - Returning Families	Living Learning Center (LLC), 111 S Green Dr, Athens, OH 45701 (#76) <i>Check-in with Conference and Event Services Staff.</i>					
5:00-6:30 pm EARLY DINNER! All Families & Staff	Boyd Hall, 100 West Green Dr., Athens, OH 45701 (#115) The District on West Green (Dining Hall) <i>Plan for a brisk 15 minute walk between Carr Hall and The District.</i>					
7:00-7:45 pm Camp Kick-Off All Families & Staff	Charles J. Ping Recreation Center, 82 S Green Dr, Athens, OH 45701 (#91) Dance Studio (2nd Floor) <i>Across the street from the Living Learning Center</i> Welcome Staff/Board/Presenter Introductions Family Introductions (<i>Quick! 1 minute each family</i>) ■ How many years have you been coming to camp? ■ How do you celebrate Black Excellence? Camp Theme: <i>Lift Every Voice and Sing</i>					
7:45-8:30 pm Camp Kick-Off cont'd	PARENTS <i>Community, Consciousness & Tools to Build Capacity</i>	CHILDREN <i>Staff escort children to their classrooms.</i> <i>Community, Confidence & Self-Care</i> Introductions, Icebreakers, and Expectation Setting				
8:30 pm Parents pick up children		Explorers PreK-K Carr Hall Seminar	Builders Grades 1-3 LLC 150	Voyagers Grades 4-5 LLC 102/104	Seekers Grades 6-7 LLC130	Messengers Grades 8-11 Tanaka Hall Seminar
8:30-9:00 pm Activities Sign-up Informal Hangout Time	Living Learning Center (#76) Inside and Outside in the Courtyard					
10:00 pm-8:00 am	Quiet Time					

Friday, August 4, 2023						
	Parents Ping Center - Conference Room	Explorers PreK-K Carr Hall Seminar	Builders Grades 1-3 LLC 150	Voyagers Grades 4-5 LLC 102/104	Seekers Grades 6-7 LLC 130	Messengers Grades 8-11 Tanaka Hall Seminar
7:00-8:45 am Breakfast	Boyd Hall (#115) The District on West Green (Dining Hall) <i>Plan for a brisk 15 minute walk between Carr Hall and The District.</i>					
8:45-8:55 am	Parents take children to their classrooms in the LLC, Carr Hall & Tanaka Hall					
		Classroom Session Theme: <i>Identity</i>				
9:00-9:30 am Morning Session I	Tools to Build Capacity April Dinwoodie	Guided and free play Art Activities Stories Games	Story (Rachel B) Art Activity (La Tika) Adoption Acrostic	Spoken Word (Schai) Mindful Moment Adoption Acrostic Story (Rachel B)	Adoption Acrostic Stretching (Mr. Todd) Spoken Word (Schai)	Adoption Acrostic Brain Break Identity Map TED Talk (America Ferrera)
9:30 am-12:00 pm Morning Session II	Learn More & Lean-In Sage & Maven					
12:00 pm	Parents pick up children from their classrooms in the LLC, Carr Hall & Tanaka Hall					
12:00-1:00 pm Lunch: Taco Buffet	Baker University Center (#23) 1 Park Pl, Athens, OH 45701 <i>Plan for a brisk 9 minute walk between LLC and Baker University Center.</i>					
1:00-1:10 pm	Parents take children to activity meet-up locations.					
1:15-3:30 pm Afternoon Session	Learn More & Lean-in: Breakout Groups Sage & Maven	Guided and free play Art Activities Stories Games	TRJ Staff Guided/Supervised Activities: Art, Basketball, Hip Hop Tumbling/Floor Gymnastics, and Yoga Hairstyling Appointments (1:00-3:30 pm)			
3:30-4:45 pm Campus Tour	Living Learning Center (#76) Starting/Ending location - Gather at 3:30 pm - Depart promptly at 3:45 pm					
3:30-5:30 pm Family Free Time Staff Break	Parent Guided/Supervised Activities: See Camp Programming - Schedule Description below for the options Hairstyling Appointments (3:30-5:30 pm)					
5:00-6:30 pm Dinner	Boyd Hall (#115) The District on West Green (Dining Hall) <i>Plan for a brisk 15 minute walk between Carr Hall and The District.</i>					
6:45-7:00 pm TRJ Family Camp Photo	Charles J. Ping Recreation Center (#91) Outside - Weather permitting - RAIN DATE: Saturday at the same time & location					
7:00-9:00 pm Evening Activity	Charles J. Ping Recreation Center (#91) Dance Studio (2nd Floor) <i>TRJ Holiday Party: Celebrating our Families</i> Storyteller: Rachel Briggs Photo Booth Favorite Holidays & Card Making DJ					
10:00 pm-8:00 am	Quiet Time					

Saturday, August 6, 2022						
	Parents Ping Center - See below for location	Explorers PreK-K Carr Hall Seminar	Builders Grades 1-3 LLC 150	Voyagers Grades 4-5 LLC 102/104	Seekers Grades 6-7 LLC 130	Messengers Grades 8-11 Tanaka Hall Seminar
7:00-8:45 am Breakfast	Boyd Hall (#115) The District on West Green (Dining Hall) <i>Plan for a brisk 15 minute walk between Carr Hall and The District.</i>					
8:45-8:55 am	<i>Parents take children to their classrooms in the LLC, Carr Hall & Tanaka Hall.</i>					
		Classroom Session Theme: <i>Family</i>				
9:00 am-12:00 pm Morning Session	Conference Room <i>The Parenting Journey</i> Janelle Poskocil & April Dinwoodie	Guided and free play Art Activities Games Stories	Rose bud/ thorn Person Tracing Mindful Moment Person Bingo	Rose bud/ thorn Story (Rachel B) Art Activity (La Tika) Person Bingo	Rose bud/ thorn Identity Map TED Talk Brain Break Person Bingo	Rose bud/ thorn Spoken Word (Schai) Stretching (Mr. Todd) Person Bingo
12:00 pm	<i>Parents pick up children from their classrooms in the LLC, Carr Hall & Tanaka Hall.</i>					
12:00-12:45 pm Lunch: Picnic Buffet	Living Learning Center (#76) Courtyard					
12:45-12:55 pm	<i>Parents take children 3rd grade and younger to activity meet-up locations. Children 4th grade and up proceed to the Dance Studio in the Ping Center.</i>					
1:00-2:30 pm Afternoon Session I	Dance Studio <i>Fireside Chat: How to Love a Transracially Adopted Person</i>	Guided and free play Art Activities Games Stories	TRJ Staff Guided/ Supervised Activities Hairstyling Appointments (1:00-3:30pm)	Ping Center - Dance Studio (2nd Floor) <i>Fireside Chat: How to Love a Transracially Adopted Person</i>		
2:30-3:30 pm Afternoon Session II	<i>Fireside Chat: Round Table Discussions</i>			Facilitated Discussion or Activities	Facilitated Discussion or Activities	Facilitated Discussion or Activities
3:30-5:30 pm Family Free Time Staff Break	Parent Guided/Supervised Activities: See Camp Programming -Schedule Description below for the options Hairstyling Appointments (3:30-5:30 pm)					
5:00-6:30 pm Dinner	Boyd Hall (#115) The District on West Green (Dining Hall) <i>Plan for a brisk 15 minute walk between Carr Hall and The District.</i>					
6:45-7:00 pm (RAIN DATE) TRJ Family Camp Photo	Charles J. Ping Recreation Center (#91) Outside - Weather Permitting					
7:00-9:00 pm Evening Activity	Charles J. Ping Recreation Center (#91) Dance Studio (2nd Floor) <i>TRJ's Got Talent! Show DJ & Dance Party</i>					
10:00 pm-8:00 am	Quiet Time					

Sunday, August 7, 2022						
	Parents Ping Center - Conference Room	Explorers PreK-K Carr Hall Seminar	Builders Grades 1-3 LLC 150	Voyagers Grades 4-5 LLC 102/104	Seekers Grades 6-7 LLC 130	Messengers Grades 8-11 Tanaka Hall Seminar
7:30-8:45 am Breakfast	Boyd Hall (#115) The District on West Green (Dining Hall) <i>Plan for a brisk 15 minute walk between Carr Hall and The District.</i>					
8:45-8:55 am	<i>Parents take children to their classrooms in the LLC, Carr Hall & Tanaka Hall.</i>					
9:00-10:00 am Morning Session	Wrap-up: Camp Takeaways April Dinwoodie	Groups prepare for Camp Closing Ceremony <i>TRJ Staff escort children to the Ping Center.</i>				
10:00 am-12:00 pm Camp Closing Ceremony	Charles J. Ping Recreation Center (#91) Dance Studio (2nd Floor)					
11:30-1:30 pm Check-out	Living Learning Center (#76) <i>Check-out with Conference and Event Services Staff.</i> <i>CHECK-OUT CLOSES at 1:30 pm. Late check-out will incur a fee.</i>					
12:00-1:00 pm Lunch	Boyd Hall (#115) The District on West Green (Dining Hall) <i>Plan for a brisk 15 minute walk between Carr Hall and The District.</i>					
1:00-1:30 pm Departure	Living Learning Center (#76)					

Thank you for coming to Transracial Journeys Family Camp 2023!
 Safe travels home!
 See you at the next virtual TRJ Parent Meet-up!
 See you next year!

Please fill out the TRJ Family Camp 2023 Feedback Survey.

<https://tinyurl.com/TRJ2023-Feedback>



Transracial Journeys Camp - Youth Programming Staff

Camp Directors - Youth Programming: Mary Halm and Schai Schairer

Morning: Camp Theme Staff

Explorers PreK-K	Builders Grades 1-3	Voyagers Grades 4-5	Seekers Grades 6-7	Messengers Grades 8-10
Chantel Walker Olivia Allen*	Sherrell Davis Muluken Hass	Rebecca Perloff Nick Boerger	Ares Epps Winnie Hartman-Gross	Tae James Rachel Boyer
Rachel Briggs (Storytelling) Karen Thomas (Trauma-Informed Support)				

Afternoon: Activities Staff

<u>Art</u> La Tika Jeffreys Maggie Halm Mack van Lier*	<u>Basketball</u> Ares Epps Keith Sciarillo Nick Boerger	<u>HipHop</u> Manny Christjansen Muluken Hass
<u>Tumbling/Floor Gymnastics</u> Todd Kennedy Sherrell Davis	<u>Yoga</u> Rachel Dumke Olivia Allen*	

* = Staff-in-Training

Hairstyling Appointments

Gradieh Wreh

Transracial Journeys Staff & Board of Directors

Executive Director	Board of Directors Officers	Board of Directors Members-at-large
April Dinwoodie	Kurt Harvey, Chair Michelle Daray, Treasurer Avril McNally, Secretary	Lori Boerger Martha Loughridge

Acknowledgements

Many thanks for the efforts of everyone who has put many hours into the planning, fundraising, and administrative tasks involved in putting together the camp. Thank you to Michelle Daray and Martha Loughridge for the admin work. Thank you to Board Member Avril McNally for the TRJ Bibliography and book recommendations. Thank you to committee members C.J. Rosenstiel for the beautiful upgrade to our family directory and tech support and Nicole Zistler for further developing the youth curriculum.

*Thank you to all of our Youth Programming Staff for bringing your whole selves to camp,
guiding our children on their unique journeys, building community, and making camp fun!*

*Thank you to our amazing executive director and all of our committee and board members for
contributing time and talent in more ways than can be mentioned here to create this
opportunity for connection and learning that supports our children and families!*

CAMP PROGRAMMING - SCHEDULE DESCRIPTION

Thursday, August 3, 2023

11:00 am-1:00 pm - Check-In - New Families **Living Learning Center**

Check-in, sign-up for hair appts and rock climbing, find your rooms, and grab lunch before the orientation.

12:00-1:00 pm - Lunch - New Families **The District on West Green in Boyd Hall**

You will need your meal/building access cards for entry into the dining hall. Look for TRJ table tents to meet up and dine with other families. Please supervise children at all times in the dining hall.

1:00-3:00 pm - Orientation - New Families **Ping Center - Conference Room**

April Dinwoodie (TRJ Executive Director)

Kurt Harvey, Avril McNally, Lori Boerger (TRJ Board Members)

David Rothenberg and Josh Knights (TRJ Parents)

As a family who has never attended Transracial Journeys Family Camp, you will learn what returning families wish they had known their first year of camp and how to make the most of your camp experience. Introductions and icebreakers, setting expectations, hearing from returning families, and Q&A. Board members will be available all weekend for support as needed.

1:00-5:00 pm - Backyard Games & Activities **Living Learning Center - Courtyard**

Staff and volunteers will engage children in backyard games and activities while their parents are in the New Family Orientation and returning families are checking in.

3:00-5:00 pm - Check-In - Returning Families **Living Learning Center**

Check-in, sign-up for hair appts and rock climbing, find your rooms, and grab lunch before the orientation.

5:00-6:30 pm - Dinner - All Families & Staff **The District on West Green in Boyd Hall**

You will need your meal/building access cards for entry into the dining hall. Look for TRJ table tents to meet up and dine with other families. Please supervise children at all times in the dining hall.

7:00-8:30 pm - Camp Kick-Off - All Families & Staff **Ping Center - Dance Studio**

Kurt Harvey, TRJ Board President

April Dinwoodie, TRJ Executive Director

Mary Halm and Schai Schairer, TRJ Camp Directors - Youth Programming

Transracial Journeys Board President, Executive Director and Camp Directors of Youth Programming will welcome everyone and introduce everyone involved in planning, staffing, and presenting at camp. Families will briefly introduce themselves and share where they are from, how many years they have been coming to camp, and how they celebrate Black Excellence. We'll talk about the significance of the camp theme: *Lift Every Voice and Sing*. Around 7:45, staff will escort children to their classrooms for introductions, ice-breakers, expectation setting and talk about *Community, Confidence, and Self-Care*. Parents will stay to learn how *Lift Every Voice and Sing* is more than a song and discuss how the second part of our theme, *Community, Consciousness, and Tools for Building Capacity*, is woven through camp.

8:30-9:00 pm - Activities Sign-up & Hang Out **Living Learning Center**

Sign-up for Staff Guided/Supervised Activities (Friday and Saturday, 1:00-3:30pm) – Art, Basketball, Hip Hop, Tumbling/Floor Gymnastics, and Yoga. If spots are still available, you may sign-up for hairstyling appointments (Friday and Saturday, 1:00-5:30 pm), the Ohio University Campus Tour (Friday, 3:30 pm) and Indoor Rock Climbing (Friday and Saturday, 4:00-5:30 pm). Families are welcome to hang out in the Living Learning Center and Courtyard.

10:00 pm-7:00 am - Quiet Time **Individual Rooms**

As excited as everyone will be to gather together, we recommend getting enough rest to be ready for the full days ahead. Please ensure that you and your children observe quiet time beginning at 10 pm.

Friday, August 4, 2023

7:00-8:45 am - Breakfast

The District on West Green in Boyd Hall

You will need your meal/building access cards for entry into the dining hall. Look for TRJ table tents to meet up and dine with other families. Please supervise children at all times in the dining hall.

9:00 am-12 pm - Morning Session

Ping Center - Conference Room

9:00 am-9:30 am - *Tools to Build Capacity*

Speaker: April Dinwoodie, TRJ Executive Director

April will set the tone for the weekend and provide practical tools for carrying the lessons and energy gained at camp throughout the year.

9:30 am-12:00 pm - *Learn More & Lean-In: Expanding Our Understanding of Our Relationships*

Speakers: Sage & Maven – Ryan Clopton-Zymler, MSSA, and Phyllis Harris, MNO

Our consultants at Sage & Maven will be joining us to speak and hold space for discussion about the complex and beautiful nature of transracial adoptions. Our time together will focus on three core areas. The first area is building healthy identities and a connection to self. The second area is understanding our relationship to core concepts of race and identity and it how affects our interpersonal relationships. The last area is about what happens when those concepts cause tension within those relationships. We will use a mix of lecture, discussion, and interactive activities to create a lasting experience.

12:00-1:00 pm - Lunch

Baker University Center

We will have a taco lunch buffet with options for a variety of tastes and dietary restrictions. The Baker Center is a short 7-9 minute walk from the Living Learning Center & Carr Hall.

1:00-5:30 pm - Hairstyling Appointments

Carr Hall - First Floor Lounge

Hairstylist: Gradiel Wreh

One-hour hairstyling appointments can be made at check-in, first come first served. Meet with Gradiel briefly on Thursday to ensure that your child's hair is ready for the appointment. The base cost for her services is covered by Transracial Journeys as part of camp. A gratuity for her services is your responsibility.

1:15-3:30 pm - Staff Guided/Supervised Activities

Various - TBD

Parents take their children to the meeting spot for the afternoon activity that they signed up for: Art, Basketball, Choir, Hip Hop, Tumbling/Floor Gymnastics, and Yoga.

1:15-3:30 pm - *Learn More & Lean-In: Breakout Groups*

Ping Center - Conference Room

Facilitators: Sage & Maven – Ryan Clopton-Zymler, MSSA, and Phyllis Harris, MNO

We will continue the conversations started in the morning session. We will have two breakout groups: 1) The Adult Child Perspective, and 2) The Adult Caregiver Perspective. Everyone will be in one group for half the session, then switch for the second half of the session.

3:30-5:30 pm - Family Free Time & Optional Activities

Various

The afternoon is unstructured time. Participation in activities with other families is optional. Parents are expected to accompany and supervise their children. Staff are not on duty during family time. Activities that are available include:

- **Backyard games area**, outdoor at the Living Learning Center Courtyard.
- **Basketball**
 - indoor at the Ping Recreation Center (#91)
 - outdoor at the South Green Basketball Courts in the grassy area bounded by North McKinley Ave., East Mulberry Street, Stewart Street, and Race Street.
- **Explore the 21-mile Hockhocking Adena Bikeway** alongside the Hocking River - Bicycling, inline skating, scooting, skateboarding, walking/running.
- **Golf - 9-hole**, par 35 golf course and driving range. <https://www.ohio.edu/recreation/memberships>

- **Golf - disc golf**, 9-hole course. As there is no equipment rental onsite, bring your own discs.
<https://www.ohio.edu/recreation/golf/disc>
- **Golf - mini-golf** at Putt People First, S Park Dr., Athens, OH 45701, a public facility that is open 4:00 - 7:30 pm. (\$5/adult and \$3/child)
- **Hiking**, outdoor .6 - 2.9 mile trails at The Ridges, 682 trailhead, 8VGM+56, Athens, OH 45701
<https://www.athensconservancy.org/aaorg/ou-theridges.html> or
<https://www.ohio.edu/sites/default/files/sites/recreation/OP%20Resources/RidgesTrailMap.pdf>
- **Rock Climbing**, indoor at the Ping Recreation Center (#91). **ADVANCE SIGN-UP REQUIRED.**
Session 1: 4:00-4:45 pm; Session 2: 4:45-5:30 pm (\$5/person)
- **Swimming**, indoor at the Ohio University Aquatic Center (#109). **BRING YOUR OWN BEACH/POOL TOWEL.**
- **Volleyball**, outdoor sand courts, in the grassy area bounded by North McKinley Ave., East Mulberry Street, Stewart Street, and Race Street (between #90 and #75 on the map).

3:30-4:45 pm - Ohio University Campus Tour **Meet in the Living Learning Center Lobby**

Led by an undergraduate admissions representative, the walking tour of the beautiful and historic campus will include a general overview of campus life and the academic experience at Ohio University.

5:30-6:30 pm - Dinner **The District on West Green in Boyd Hall**

You will need your meal/building access cards for entry into the dining hall. Look for TRJ table tents to meet up and dine with other families. Please supervise children at all times in the dining hall.

6:45-7:00 pm - TRJ Family Camp Photo **Ping Center - Outside**

Gather for our annual family camp photo! Not to be missed!! If it's raining, we'll take the camp photo on Saturday evening at the same time and location.

7:00-9:00 pm - TRJ Holiday Party **Ping Center - Dance Studio**

Storyteller: Rachel Briggs, Rhode Island Black Storytellers

DJ: Manny

This year we will create our own TRJ Holiday Party: Celebrating our Families. We'll kick off the evening with stories by Rachel Briggs. We'll have a photo booth for fun family photos, calendar pages for each month to share your favorite holidays, card making, and cake! DJ Manny will keep the mood fun and lively as we celebrate in our own special ways.

10:00 pm-7:00 am - Quiet Time **Individual Rooms**

Please ensure that you and your children observe quiet time beginning at 10 pm.

Saturday, August 6, 2022

7:00-8:45 am - Breakfast **The District on West Green in Boyd Hall**

You will need your meal/building access cards for entry into the dining hall. Look for TRJ table tents to meet up and dine with other families. Please supervise children at all times in the dining hall.

9:00 am-12:00 pm - Morning Session **Ping Center - Conference Room**

9:00 am-12:00 pm - *A Journey through the Transracial Home*

Opening: April Dinwoodie, TRJ Executive Director

Speaker: Janelle Poskocil, Program Coordinator - Families and Youth, Adoption Network Cleveland

Janelle Poskocil and April Dinwoodie will help parents understand the significance and uniqueness of our family dynamics by exploring the rooms of a house - what happens in the rooms, what it means to be a transracial/multi-racial family impacted by family separation, and how to create the conditions for the most loving and authentic home for children entrusted to parents through transracial adoption. After this session, parents and caregivers see their home and living spaces in a whole new light.

12:00-12:45 pm - Lunch**Living Learning Center - Courtyard**

We will have a picnic lunch buffet with options for a variety of tastes and dietary restrictions. Seating is on the stone walls and the grass in the courtyard. Bring a picnic blanket and/or chair. Sitting inside is OK too.

1:00-5:30 pm - Hairstyling Appointments**Carr Hall - First Floor Lounge****Hairstylist: Gradiel Wreh**

One-hour hairstyling appointments can be made at check-in, first come first served. Meet with Gradiel briefly on Friday to ensure that your child's hair is ready for the appointment. The base cost for her services is covered by Transracial Journeys as part of camp. A gratuity for her services is your responsibility.

1:00-3:30 pm - Afternoon Session**Ping Center - Dance Studio**

Children 3rd grade and younger will participate in regular afternoon activities. Children 4th grade and older will attend the *Fireside Chat*. After the conversations they may choose to participate in small group discussions with their group leaders or participate in afternoon activities.

1:00-2:30 pm - Fireside Chat: How to Love a Transracially Adopted Person**Opening: Schai Schairer****Moderator: April Dinwoodie****Conversation Partners:**

- Mary and Maggie Halm (sibling relationships)
- Schai Schairer and Chantel Walker (romantic relationships)
- Olivia Allen and Rachel Boyer (friendships)
- Nick Boerger and Ares Epps (child/parent relationships)

All parents have blind spots. As white parents to transracially adopted children, we can have blind spots that have blind spots. The moderated conversations will highlight the lived experiences of transracially adopted persons and shine a light on those blind spots to open our eyes to what we may or may not be aware of and to support approaches to parenting that we may not have previously considered. Questions for our guests may be written on note cards during the conversations. Questions will be read at the end when all the conversation partners are back on stage.

2:30-3:30 pm - Fireside Chat: Round Table Discussions

We will break into small groups to discuss what we learned and how it may impact our parenting. Children will have a choice to participate in small group discussions or participate in afternoon activities.

3:30-5:30 pm - Family Free Time & Optional Activities**Various**

The afternoon is unstructured time. Participation in activities with other families is optional. Parents are expected to accompany and supervise their children. Staff are not on duty during family time. See all the activities listed under Friday, August 4th.

5:00-6:30 pm - Dinner**The District on West Green in Boyd Hall**

You will need your meal/building access cards for entry into the dining hall. Look for TRJ table tents to meet up and dine with other families. Please supervise children at all times in the dining hall.

6:45-7:00 pm - TRJ Family Camp Photo - RAIN DATE**Ping Center - Outside**

If we weren't able to get the TRJ Family Camp photo on Friday, this is our chance to do it!

7:00-9:00 pm - TRJ's Got Talent! Show & Dance Party**Ping Center - Dance Studio****Talent Show Coordinator: David Rosenberg; DJ: Manny**

A Transracial Journeys Family Camp tradition, the talent show is open to everyone to have their moment on stage to showcase their special talent. **ADVANCE SIGN-UP IS REQUIRED!** After the talent show, it's time to get out on the dance floor and bust a groove. DJ Manny will make sure that you never want to sit down.

10:00 pm-7:00 am - Quiet Time**Individual Rooms**

While we know it's the last night of camp and you want to squeeze in as much time with old and new friends, please ensure that you and your children observe quiet time beginning at 10 pm.

Sunday, August 7, 2022

7:30-8:45 am - Continental Breakfast

The District on West Green in Boyd Hall

They are opening up the dining hall early for us. Thank the staff! You will need your meal/building access cards for entry into the dining hall. Look for TRJ table tents to meet up and dine with other families. Please supervise children at all times in the dining hall.

9:00-10:00 am - *Weekend Wrap-Up*

Ping Center - Conference Room

Facilitator: April Dinwoodie

Wrap-up and set goals for the coming year. What capacity building tools will you take home and incorporate into your lives? How will you *Lift Every Voice and Sing*?

- While the weekend is fresh in your memory, please fill out the TRJ Family Camp 2023 Feedback Survey: <https://tinyurl.com/TRJ2023-Feedback>
- Our camp staff comes together because of their connection to transracial adoption and to support you and your children. Take a moment to express your gratitude for their support by writing thank you notes and contributing to the Transracial Journeys Family Camp Staff Appreciation Fund, which will be divided evenly among all the staff. We are collecting tips through our Network for Good account until Sunday, August 13, 2023. Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/TRJ-StaffTips> to donate.

10:00 am-12:00 pm - *TRJ Camp Closing Ceremony*

Ping Center - Dance Studio

Children's Presentations and Group Reflections

Parent Presentations and Group Reflections

This is an opportunity for the children and the parents to share their experiences, lessons, and learnings from the weekend with everyone.

11:30 pm - Check-out OPENS

Living Learning Center

If staying for lunch, please check out with Conference and Event Services staff BEFORE heading to lunch.

12:00-1:00 pm - Lunch

The District on West Green in Boyd Hall

Look for the tables with the TRJ table tents! Please supervise children at all times in the dining hall. The dining hall is open until 2pm.

1:00 pm - Departure - Families

Living Learning Center

Thank you for coming to Transracial Journeys Family Camp 2023. Safe travel home!

1:30 pm - Check-out CLOSES

Living Learning Center

Please ensure you are checked-out BEFORE 1:30 pm. Late check-out will incur a fee.

1:00-2:00 pm - Staff & Board Debrief

Living Learning Center

Staff & Board gather to debrief their camp experiences and provide feedback for next year.

2:00-3:00 pm - Final Clean-Up & Departure

Living Learning Center

Staff Appreciation: <https://tinyurl.com/TRJ-StaffTips>



CAMP PROGRAMMING - SPEAKERS FOR PARENT SESSIONS

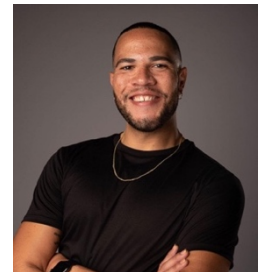


April Dinwoodie is a transracially adopted person and nationally recognized thought leader on adoption and foster care. She is committed to improving the lives of everyone in the extended family of adoption through research, education, and advocacy. Dinwoodie created a specialized mentoring program called Adoptment, where adults who were adopted and/or spent time in foster care serve as mentors to youth navigating foster care and adoption. To raise awareness surrounding the many layers of the adoption experience, Dinwoodie candidly shares her experiences at workshops, conferences, schools and via her iTunes podcast “Born in June, Raised in April.” Before she entered the nonprofit world, Dinwoodie served as a senior level executive within the marketing and communications departments of some of today’s most recognized brands. <https://aprildinwoodie.com/>

April is the part-time Executive Director of Transracial Journeys.

Sage & Maven is a consulting business created by **Ryan Clopton-Zymler**, MSSA and **Phyllis Harris**, MNO, two Cleveland-based thought leaders who specialize in equity & inclusion, social justice, non-profit management, and leadership development. <https://sageandmaven.com/>

Ryan Clopton-Zymler (he/they) is an activist, educator, emcee and advocate from Cleveland, Ohio. He is a graduate of Case Western Reserve University, with a Master of Science in Social Administration and he received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Ohio University.



Prior to becoming fully self-employed, Ryan served as the inaugural Director of Race, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (RDEI) at United Way of Greater Cleveland. His other recent career accomplishments have included serving as the inaugural Assistant Director for the Office of Inclusion for the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, Cleveland Campus, where they supported the launch of this department across three campuses. He also developed the community outreach and education program as the Community Relations Manager at the LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland.

Ryan’s career foundation is in community mental health and he has a rich history of working with youth and young adults. He is actively involved in the Cleveland social justice community - he currently sits on the board of directors for Preterm, has previously served on the board for Stonewall Sports Cleveland, and he has worked with national organizations including Planned Parenthood and GLAAD. Ryan is a skilled facilitator & certified mediator, has been recruited for speaking engagements nationally and internationally, and is considered an expert in social media and media advocacy.



Phyllis "Seven" Harris' 25+ years of experience with nonprofits, includes program management, fundraising, and upper-level management positions. For many years, she has played a strong role as an advocate in Cleveland’s LGBTQ+ community. With the executive leadership of Ms. Harris since 2012, the LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland has experienced transformational growth and expansion. Today, Center patrons enjoy expanded programming for everyone from teens to families to seniors in their Gordon Square facility. In 2015, the Center launched Pride in the CLE, a family-oriented and community-driven LGBTQ Pride festival that the group continues to produce annually. In June 2019, Ms. Harris and her team moved in to a newly constructed facility that offers more space, accessibility, and versatility to serve the LGBTQ community.

Throughout her career, Ms. Harris has leveraged both her passion and her multi-faceted experience to lead the organization on a path of sustainable growth and vitality. Prior to joining the Center, Ms. Harris directed a major capital campaign for the Cleveland Sight Center, served as Vice President of Programs for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Cleveland and spearheaded youth initiatives at Planned Parenthood of Northeast Ohio.

Her leadership in local nonprofit circles also extends to service on local and national nonprofit boards including the Women of Color Foundation, Graffiti HeArt art museum and CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers.

She is a past recipient of the Cleveland Foundation's Homer C. Wadsworth award, has completed a leadership fellowship with the Arcus Foundation and is a graduate of the 2019 class of Leadership Cleveland. She recently served as 1 of 6 co-chairs of the Transition Team for the newly elected City of Cleveland Mayor, Justin Bibb. Ms. Harris holds a master's degree in non-profit management from Case Western Reserve University and a Bachelor of Arts from Baldwin Wallace College. In January 2022 she was recognized by Cleveland Magazine as one of CLE's 500.

Rachel Briggs is an elementary school science teacher at The Croft School in Providence, Rhode Island. She is a mixture of city and country, old school and contemporary. Her urban roots are deeply planted in Rhode Island; growing up with her mother, father, and 16 siblings. She graduated from Mount Pleasant High School as part of the Health Magnet program and went on to complete her Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology at Franklin Pierce University in New Hampshire.



She earned a certificate in child advocacy from the RI Parent Information Network. Rachel also completed The Rhode Island Leadership Education in Neurodevelopment and Other Related Disabilities (RI LEND) training program which is designed to provide graduate level, interdisciplinary training to individuals from diverse professional disciplines and cultural backgrounds.

In addition to science, she is passionate about the welfare of children. In 2015, she adopted her five children, now ranging in age from 9 to 17. They are a constant source of inspiration for her professional endeavors. Rachel sits on the *Race and Equity Parent Leaders of New England* (PLNE) subcommittee, the Kinship Advisory Council, the Hasbro Children's Hospital Parent Advisory Council and The Office of the Child Advocate Advisory Committee. She is dedicated to building the self-esteem and empowerment of children and hopes that her advocacy and community engagement will serve as a catalyst for positive change in the systems focusing on children.

Rachel is a member of the Rhode Island Black Storytellers, a non-profit based out of Providence, Rhode Island dedicated to promoting the awareness, appreciation, and application of Black storytelling. She considers herself a 'culture keeper' and adheres to the African tradition of oral storytelling to pass on wisdom, history, and cultural information to nurture a sense of community. Rachel is an emerging writer and spoken word poet. She is 'solar powered' and loves cookouts, gardening, camping and hiking. She is also known for dancing to live bands, and eating dessert before dinner! <https://www.thecroftschool.org/rachelbriggs>

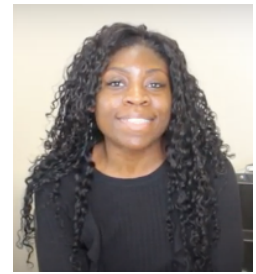


Janelle Poskocil serves as the Program Coordinator for Families and Youth at Adoption Network Cleveland. In this role, Janelle acts as one of the co-facilitators for the Mediation Program, and administers the Family Resilience Fund. Since joining the Adoption Network Cleveland team in 2022, she has brought experience, passion, and enthusiasm while building relationships with community members, orchestrating family programs and events, and recruiting volunteers. Over the past twenty-five years, she has taught preschool - adult GED and ESOL students. She also served as a resource specialist in a crisis center for women and children. Prior professional experience shows in the way

Janelle supports families with compassion, empathy, and trauma-informed care.

Janelle shares, "I was drawn to the mission of Adoption Network Cleveland because as a mom of four children who were transracially adopted, I understand that adoption is complex. They are all young adults now. We have had quite a journey together over the past twenty-two years." As someone with lived experience, she hopes to cultivate a supportive community for adoptive, foster, and kinship families. <https://www.adoptionnetwork.org/about-us/staff.html/title/janelle-poskocil>

Gradiel Wreh is a Board certified and nationally acclaimed stylist and instructor, who has distinguished herself as a highly creative individual, very savvy entrepreneur and a passionate hair educator. Her commitment to nurturing natural hair, her customer's freedom to express themselves through the hair they adorn, combined with her solid and wide range of expertise to deliver an above and beyond hair experience, has made her a rising star in the hair industry. <https://www.hairbygradiel.com>



Keli

Keli Schimelpfenig and **Whitney Miller** from **Shiny Penny Studios** will be joining Transracial Journeys Family Camp all weekend long and providing their photo services pro bono to us. Read more about Shiny Penny Studios and their backgrounds at <https://www.shinypennystudios.com>

Shiny Penny Studios is a Cleveland, Ohio photo company serving the world. They are a bit different. They are a team of rockin' women photographers who were brought together by the magic of theatre and community. They all met working on various Cleveland stages. Keli Schimelpfenig, Founder and a life-long musical fan, quickly realized that the theatre kids with a love of photography had a backstage silent language from years of stage experience that you could not replicate. They joined forces on bigger events while each keeping their specialty focus areas.

They are a female, minority, and LGBTQ+ owned company that thrives in telling stories based in self-love and honoring diversity. Their business management style is rooted in being environmentally sustainable.

THANK YOU TO SHINY PENNY STUDIOS FOR PROVIDING THEIR SERVICES PRO BONO TO TRANSRACIAL JOURNEYS



Whitney

CAMP BOOKSTORE

This year's book sale features titles from the 2023 TRJ ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY prepared by librarians Avril McNally (TRJ Board Member) and Vicki Richards. You may have read some of their reviews in the TRJ monthly newsletter "Book Corner" feature. They chose books that focus on issues and topics that our children, parents and families encounter and experience. The bibliography is divided in sections from birth to adult and will be available in both digital and printed formats.

We would like to recommend that you not only purchase these books for your own consumption but as gifts to others to share our family members' lived experiences and promote more of an understanding of race, adoption, sex identity or gender.

Books will be available for sale during breaks in the parent sessions in the Ping Center Conference Room.