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2010 Holiday Edition: From the

Heart

♥ NEWSLETTER ♥



The Perfect Gift

My name is Karen A. DiMillio, and I call my story "The Perfect Gift from God". I adopted a healthy, beautiful, smart baby girl from Kazakhstan, who was born in Uralsk on July 9th, 2009. I am going to start from the beginning to tell the story of my journey to find my daughter Kendal.

I had been happily married, and my husband and I wanted to have a child. After many tests and unsuccessful infertility treatments, we became very discouraged. People would say, "Maybe it's not in God's plans," but I knew it would be, somehow! My husband did not want to adopt, so I made a very heartbreaking decision to get divorced, and adopt on my own. This was a LEAP OF FAITH!! My Grandmother had adopted two sons, and she would always encourage me by saying, "Just adopt, sweetie". My response was always no. Finally, I somehow knew that adoption was going to be my way of becoming a Mommy!

I started my journey to find my daughter Kendal in March of 2009. I went on-line and researched. What truly made a difference was Karen Medve's response to my story, and the empathy shown by Good Hope in understanding why I was adopting. I was truly comforted, and reassured that I could be helped to make my dream of becoming a Mother come true! I did my homework and chose GOOD HOPE, because they are intelligent, informative and most importantly they CARE.

I believe that everything happens for a reason, so I started down my path to finding my little girl. My mother took the journey to Kazakhstan with me. We had planned to leave before the Holidays, yet we were delayed. If there is one thing that I learned, "planning" takes on a whole new meaning when you are waiting to



adopt! We finally left for Kazakhstan on February 9th, 2010. We had originally "planned" to be there 4 weeks, yet it ended up being 6 weeks! During the extra 2 weeks,

The International Spring Festival took place, and my mother and I experienced many wonderful moments together as we participated in events for International Women's Day, including being interviewed by the local Kazakh television station! We visited beautiful cathedrals, went to restaurants, walked the historical streets of Uralsk, as our translator and driver took us anywhere we needed to go.

I remember hearing from other Adoptive parents that you will know the moment you see your child that they were meant to be yours!! I now know the true meaning of this. When I saw Kendal for the first time, I cried; she was just as I had envisioned her in my dreams. That very moment changed me forever!! There is nothing in this world that makes me happier than seeing Kendal's beautiful smile and getting big hugs from her in the morning. She totally completes me, and everyday is another amazing day with her.

There will be many WHYS, HOW COMES, and WHAT!!... But please always keep going, because YOUR son or daughter is waiting for you to arrive. If you feel your child is out there, you are right. Keep going, be strong and most importantly KEEP YOUR FAITH!!! We wish all the waiting families, the new and not-so new – adoptive families very, very Happy Holidays!

**With love,
Karen and Kendal**



Welcome to the Holiday Newsletter offered by The Staff At Good Hope Adoption!

A Holiday Message from Karen Medve:

We enter once again this magical season of the year, when families come together and children wait with eager anticipation. This is a time of love and light that make holidays such a dear and wonderful time. We share these moments with those we see every day, and with those that have touched our hearts along the way. The holidays are the time of the year when we stand back, take stock of what we have accomplished, and give thanks for all we have. We take time to review successes and struggles, of how we managed to sustain our families and keep them safe. The fundamental truths that hold us together are the bonds of family love. In the course of daily challenges, we sometimes seek comfort in events that surround us, yet too often the simple answer of what really matters lies in the trusting look of children. During this holiday season, please take extra time to share a smile, a hug, or pass a pleasant thought to those that are alone, and the truly needy. For the millions of orphaned children throughout the world, we ask that you take a moment to pass thoughts of hope and love, that they too may be joined with a loving family in the months to come.

Welcome Kids Home Since December 2009!!



Nicholas



Kendal



Oliver



DJ



Ruby



Andrew



Tim



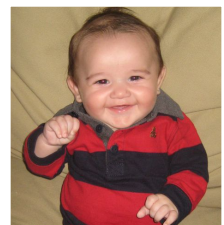
Ava



Anara



Alessie



Jack



Leyra



Gabriel



Xavier



Max
(with big sis Ella)



*Families Traveling Over
the Holidays
To Meet their Children!*

Russia

Siobhan & Fred
Ann
Erika & Amin
Kate & Mike

Ukraine

Leslie & Paul
Kim & Steve
United States
Tanya & Mike

Families Hosting

Janet & Tom
Mari & Wes
Deb & Rob
China ~Linda

A Child's Joy

2011 calendars are off the press and ready to go! 100% of the profits benefit a charity for the children. We truly appreciate your donations.

Please email

alcgoodhope@aol.com

*with your order or call
508-385-7815. Each
calendar is \$15.00.*

*Order soon for the
holidays!*



Holiday Traditions from Around the World



In **KAZAKHSTAN**, most celebrate Christmas on January 7th which corresponds to December 25th on the old Julian calendar. If you lived in Kazakhstan, you would decorate a New Year's Tree instead of a Christmas Tree, and receive New Year gifts from Grandfather Frost, "Dyed Moroz", pronounced "Dead Morose". He is assisted by his granddaughter, "Snegurochka", Snow Maiden. During the day, you might take part in a game of Poly Chudes, where the players have to guess words connected with the New Year's holidays.

In **UKRAINE** "Nativity", is celebrated on January 6th. In Ukraine, you would receive your presents in your stocking on December 6th, the Feast of Saint Nicholas, so that the celebration of Nativity could remain firmly focused on its spiritual origin. The legend is that Nicholas placed golden coins into the stockings drying above the fire in a poor man's home, so the man could give them away as a dowry for his daughters' marriage. It didn't take long for children in other families to begin checking their stockings in the mornings, especially when Nicholas had been seen nearby that day!

Did you know that **RUSSIA** actually has two Christmases? One is celebrated based on the Current calendar - December 25, and this celebration is not official. The other one, the Christmas celebrated by the Orthodox Church, is on January 7th and is based on the ancient Julian calendar. Like Kazakhstan, Russian children wait eagerly for Grandfather Frost, Dyed Moroz assisted by his granddaughter Snegurochka, the Snow Maiden. Unlike

the Western Santa Claus, Dyed Moroz typically is a tall, slender gentleman with a long white beard and his home is a log house in the wooded village of Viliiky Ustyug,

In **CHINA** you decorate what the Chinese call a "tree of light," an artificial Christmas tree adorned with paper chains, paper flowers, and paper lanterns. The Chinese Santa Clause is called Dun Che lao ren (dwyn-chuh-lau-oh-run) which means "Christmas old man," or Lam Khoong, which means "nice old father."

In **LATIN AMERICA** you and your family will decorate your home with pine wreaths, poinsettias, and manzanillas, a small yellow fruit. On Christmas Eve, called Noche Buena, or "good night" everyone stays up until midnight! At the stroke of 12, you will hug all of your family and friends. This is called the Abra de Navidad or Christmas Hug.

In **VIETNAM**, if you lived in Phat Diem, the spiritual home for seven million catholics you would most likely attend Midnight Mass at the cathedral. Afterwards, you and your family would go home for the most important meal- the Christmas Supper.

Russian Tea Cakes

Ingredients

- 1 cup butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 6 tablespoons confectioners' sugar
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup chopped walnuts
- 1/3 cup confectioners' sugar for decoration

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).

2. In a medium bowl, cream butter and vanilla until smooth. Combine the 6 tablespoons confectioners' sugar and flour; stir into the butter mixture until just blended. Mix in the chopped walnuts. Roll dough into 1 inch balls, and place them 2 inches apart on an un-greased cookie sheet.



3. Bake for 12 minutes in the preheated oven.

4. When cool, roll in remaining confectioners' sugar., or... roll in the sugar a second time!

Pine Cone Angel Craft

Materials Needed:

- Pine Cone
- Ribbon, at least 1" thick
- 1" Wooden Ball Head
- Markers
- Tiny Grape Vine Wreath
- Spanish Moss
- Spray Paint
- Craft Glue
- Scissors



Instructions:

Lightly spritz pine cone with gold (or silver) spray paint, just enough to add some "glitz". Cut a piece of ribbon about 4- to 5-inches long. Glue it to the back of angel, pinching in the middle to form wings. Use the little wood ball for the head.

Use a marker and draw a face on the bead. Attached that to the bottom (big end) of pine cone and then use spanish moss for the hair. You can use tiny grape vine wreath for the halo. You can also use a chenille stem for the halo.

Join us for
**The Chinese Lunar New
Year**

The Year of the Rabbit

Good Hope Adoption Services

**will be hosting the
15th annual**

Lunar New Year Celebration

**at the Cape Cod Super Buffet
228 Route 28, Yarmouth, MA
Sunday, February 13th, 1:00-4:00 pm
Enjoy traditional games, crafts,
and the Lion parade.
Reservations are required.
Call: 508-385-7815**



Upcoming Events

Monthly Adoption Meetings: Meets the third Saturday of every month. Meetings will be held at the Good Hope Office in South Dennis,. Please contact Good Hope for additional information, (508)385-7815.

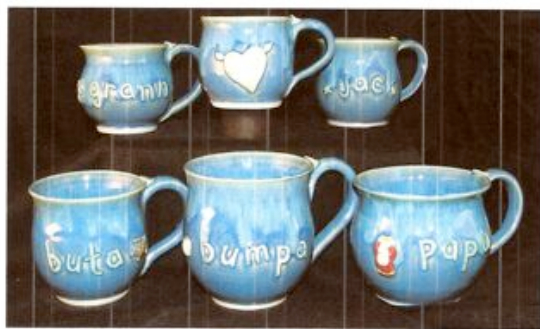
Toddler/ Preschool Play Groups; Meets the 3rd Monday of every month @10 AM. Located at the West Barnstable Community Center, just off exit 5! Call us (508)385-7815. for more details!

Kids Activity Group: Meets the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month at Ryan's Family Amusements in South Yarmouth for kids 5-13 yrs. Call to sign up before going! (508)385-7815



Filled with Hope

Handmade mugs with a mission



These beautiful handcrafted stoneware mugs are made in Orleans by artist Kristin Knowles of Outermost Pottery. She and her husband, Thomas Fetting, adopted their children, Jack, 6, and Sasha, 4, from Kazakhstan in the spring of 2008. Looking for a way to give back to the adoption network on Cape Cod which has so enriched their lives, Kristin decided to try to raise funds for Good Hope Adoption Services to help with their ongoing efforts to provide education, awareness, and outreach services as well as fostering a thriving community of adoptive families throughout the Cape and Islands through playgroups, support groups, and festive seasonal activities.

When you purchase a mug, five dollars will go directly to Good Hope Adoptions. They make great gifts for family, friends, teachers, etc., and can be personalized with names, symbols, or special designs. They are microwave and dishwasher safe .

And best of all, they are made right here on Cape Cod... with love!

The group, **Golden Gates**, offers audiences an entertaining and authentic glimpse into Old Russia through music, song, and dance. The program is broad and varied, with something to appeal to everyone, including audience participation through clapping and learning Russian songs and words. Lilted balalaikas, dynamic bayan accordion, unique humorous dances, and superb vocals combine for an exhilarating and educational performance for audiences of all ages! *January 07, 2011*

**Where: Northside Methodist Church,
located at
701 Airline Rd Brewster, MA 02631**

