

Subject: Newsday Article - "Adopting & Adapting"

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Online Registration is closing tonight for this event. Tickets WILL be sold at the door. If you purchased in advance, and have not received your tickets in the mail yet, please contact Danielle @ info@fccli.org. We will arrange for you to pick them up at the door. Those who placed their order by the RSVP date of June 5th have been mailed tickets already.

The following article can be found on page B-15 of today's (Wed. June 9) Newsday

Adopting & Adapting

Hauppauge family's adoption story is now a movie
By BETH WHITEHOUSE beth.whitehouse@newsday.com

Faith Sadowsky's favorite subject is social studies. "Learning about people from a long time ago. Like Christopher Columbus. And the American Revolution." Gym is also up there. "It's fun playing games. And getting sweaty."

The fourth-grader's favorite color is purple; it's painted on her fingernails. And she can't wait to be 13. Why? Silly question. That's when her parents, Donna and Jeff Sadowsky of Hauppauge, will let her get a cell phone.

Three years ago, life was vastly different for Faith. Her name was Sui Yong. She lived with a foster family in Guangzhou, China. She spoke Cantonese and Mandarin fluently, but not a word of English. Her birth mother had abandoned her when she was 2.

Donna Sadowsky saw the girl's photo on a website that showcases older Chinese children awaiting adoption. "There was something in her eyes that said, 'I don't care whether you adopt me or not, I'm a survivor.' I was so drawn to her," Donna says. When the Sadowskys were in the process of adopting then- 8-year-old Sui Yong - giving her the American name Faith - they were approached by filmmaker Stephanie Wang-Breal. She wanted to make a documentary about what happens when an older, foreign child is adopted into an American family.

The Sadowskys agonized over whether to participate. "We were really concerned about how Faith would feel not even knowing us and having a camera stuck in her face," says Donna, 45. But they agreed - and on Friday, the 77-minute film will screen at Hauppauge High School, followed by a question-and-answer session with the filmmaker and the Sadowskys.

The screening is sponsored by the Families with Children from China of Long Island. The movie won Best Documentary Feature at the San Francisco Asian American Film Festival in March, and it's scheduled to air nationwide on PBS at 10 p.m. Aug. 31.

The Sadowskys say they hope the film will make other prospective adoptive parents think, "I can do this," and result in more older children, especially those with special needs, finding homes. Faith was born with one club foot and her wrists turned upward. Surgeries are helping her. When the Sadowskys adopted Faith, they already had three children - two biological sons, Jason and Jared, now 17 and 15, and Darah, now 6, who also was adopted from China at 14 months old. The documentary is starkly honest about the struggles a child has transitioning. In one part of

the movie, Faith sits on the floor sobbing that she wants to go home to China.

"I hate that part," Faith, now 11, pipes in from the dining room table, where she's sitting with Donna, Jeff and Darah. "It's embarrassing." But as the film progresses, so does Faith. "She bloomed here," Jeff Sadowsky says.

<http://www.newsday.com/news/hauppauge-family-s-adoption-story-is-now-a-movie-1.1991376>



Want a sneak peek?

[VIEW TRAILER HERE](#)

Friday, June 11th, 2010

7:30 PM (doors open at 7:00)

\$11 per person (12 and up please)
Hauppauge High School Auditorium
500 Lincoln Blvd.
Hauppauge, NY 11788

Please join us after the film for Q & A
with filmmaker Stephanie Wang-Breal
and Faith's parents Donna & Jeff
Sadowsky.

[Print / Download Invitation](#)

http://www.fccli.org/files/wo_ai_ni_screening-june_11.pdf

More Information

<http://woainimommy.com/home.html>

[Purchase Tickets Here](#)

**FCC-LI is pleased to
present a special Advance
Screening of**

Wo Ai Ni Mommy,

a new film by Stephanie Wang-Breal
featuring FCC-LI'er Fang Sui Yong a/k/a
our friend,

Faith Sadowsky

on Friday, June 11, 2010

From 2000-2008, China was the leading country for U.S. international adoptions. There are now approximately 70,000 Chinese children being raised in the United States.  Wo Ai Ni Mommy explores what happens when an older Chinese girl is adopted into an American family. This film reveals the complicated gains and losses that are an inherent aspect of international, transracial adoption.

In 2007 Donna and Jeff Sadowsky of Long Island, New York submitted their dossier to adopt eight-year old Fang Sui Yong from Guangzhou, China. From the very first moment Sui Yong meets her new mother, Donna, we get a real sense of the emotional confusion and loss Sui Yong experiences, as adoption workers translate their first words of communication. This day will change Sui Yong's life, forever. Language, habits, food, everything she knows will never be the same. Her new life in America is filled with happiness and confusion. As she struggles to survive in this new

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Wo Ai Ni Mommy
WINS

BEST DOCUMENTARY at
San Francisco Asian American Media
Film Festival.

READ REVIEW

world, we witness her transform into a lively, outspoken American. Sui Yong has become someone neither she nor Donna could have imagined. In a sense, she's the same girl Donna met in Guangzhou all those months ago - and yet she's utterly different.

A co-production of American Documentary/POV and the Diverse Voices Project, presented in association with the Center for Asian American Media, with funding provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

FCC-LI encourages you to extend this invitation to an educator. Superintendents, principals, teachers, guidance counselors, therapists, ESL instructors, etc. - are welcome to join us for this very special event. Please help us connect with the local school district in YOUR community. Please consider forwarding this message electronically via e-mail, or printing some flyers to share.

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