



**CAL**

## BOARD OF ADVISORS

### CHRIS ATKINS

Founder, TTAG United Kingdom / Social Worker (England)  
British Chinese Adoptee

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CAL International Teen Advisory Board (East Coast, USA)  
Chinese Adoptee

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CAL International Teen Advisory Board (West Coast, USA)  
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Author / Scholar  
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Korean Adoptee

### RAE GREEN

Author / Director, CAL International Teen Advisory Board  
Korean Adoptee

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CAL – ICCG Liaison Advisor

### SIOBHAN HEGARTY

CAL Pen Pal Executive Director, Republic of Ireland  
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Author / Scholar / Photographer

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### RUTHANNE LUM McCUNN

Award-Winning Scottish-Chinese Novelist

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CAL – FCC Liaison Advisor

### LIU FANG THOMAS

CAL International Teen Advisory Board (Midwest, USA)  
Chinese Adoptee, CAL's Ambassador to France

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### DR. AMANDA L. BADEN

Professor / Psychologist  
Chinese Adoptee

### DR. MEI-MEI AKWAI ELLERMAN

Author / Scholar  
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### JENNIFER BAO YU JUE-STEUCK

Author / CAL Founder & Director  
Chinese Adoptee

### KIM PRUSAK

Founder, Adoptees United  
Korean Adoptee

### MITSUYE YAMADA

Award-Winning Japanese American Author / Poet  
Proud Grandmother of a Chinese Adoptee

## GLOBAL LINKS

### Adoptive Families of Hong Kong

[www.AFHK.org.HK](http://www.AFHK.org.HK) (Hong Kong)

### Children Adopted from China, United Kingdom

[www.CACH.org.uk](http://www.CACH.org.uk) (United Kingdom)

### Families with Children from China

[www.FCCNCalif.org](http://www.FCCNCalif.org) (Northern California)

### International Adoptee Congress

[www.InternationalAdopteeCongress.org](http://www.InternationalAdopteeCongress.org) (USA)

### South Australian Chinese Adoption Support Inc.

[www.Adam.com.AU/Holden/SACAS](http://www.Adam.com.AU/Holden/SACAS) (Australia)

### The Irish Chinese Contact Group

[www.ICCG.ie](http://www.ICCG.ie) (Republic of Ireland)

### The Mothers' Bridge of Love

[www.MotherBridge.org](http://www.MotherBridge.org) (United Kingdom)

# Chinese Adoptee Links

INTERNATIONAL

Est. 2006



**CAL Pen Programs,  
Socials & Mentoring  
CAL Newsletter**

“Linking Generations of  
Adoptees & Friends  
Worldwide”

## FACT SHEET

### **CAL (Chinese Adoptee Links) International**

“The First Global Group Created by Chinese Adoptees”

## CAL'S MAIN GOAL

To Create a Global, Multigenerational Network for Adopted, Hapa, & Fostered Individuals and Friends Worldwide, including the 100,000+ Chinese adoptees living in 26 countries.

## WHO WE ARE

We are Adopted, Fostered, & Hapa Individuals and Friends of all ages from:

- Hong Kong
- Taiwan / Republic of China
- Mainland China & Across the Globe

We live in more than 30 countries worldwide. We are also proud sisters, brothers, & friends of adoptees from Cambodia, Colombia, India, Guatemala, Korea, the Philippines, Russia, Vietnam, and around the world.

CAL is completely run by volunteers, ages 4 to 84, in 4 continents!

## HOW CAL GOT ITS START...

Established in 2006, *Chinese Adoptee Links (CAL) International* is the first global organization created by & for Chinese adoptees and friends of all ages worldwide.

*Chinese Adoptee Links (CAL) International* was founded by Chinese adoptee Jennifer Jue-Steuck (California), Chinese adoptee Chris Atkins (England), Chinese adoptee Dr. Amanda L. Baden (NYC), Chinese adoptee Dr. Mei-Mei Akwai Ellerman (Switzerland, Italy, & USA), and Chinese adoptee Deborah Schwartzbaum Goldstein (USA & Israel), with the help and support of ICCG Chairman Mary D. Healy, ICCG Leader Siobhan Hegarty, BBC Reporter Samantha Ho, Emmy Award-winning Korean adoptee filmmaker Deann Borshay Liem, Scottish-Chinese novelist Ruthanne Lum McCunn, FCC-Northern Californian President Peggy Scott, UK-based author and *Guardian* columnist Xinran Xue, former Amnesty International Board Member and Japanese American poet, Mitsuye Yamada (proud grandmother of a Chinese adoptee), and members of the International Adoptee Congress ([www.internationaladopteecongress.org](http://www.internationaladopteecongress.org)).

## WHY WE HAVE COME TOGETHER

CAL was inspired when we could not find a group created by & for Chinese adoptees. CAL honors the diversity of our experiences, the richness of our identities, and the importance of our stories. Thank you for making CAL a community of care, compassion, and courageous change.

**CAL INTERNATIONAL**

**[www.ChineseAdopteeLinks.org](http://www.ChineseAdopteeLinks.org)**

THE FIRST GLOBAL GROUP CREATED BY  
CHINESE ADOPTEES & FRIENDS WORLDWIDE

## **CAL (Chinese Adoptee Links) International**

*“The First Global Group Created by Chinese Adoptees”*

**CONTACT: [Events@ChineseAdopteeLinks.org](mailto:Events@ChineseAdopteeLinks.org)**

### **FAQs (page 1 of 2)**

This is based on a PACT interview ([www.pactadopt.org](http://www.pactadopt.org)) in 2007 with CAL’s founder, Chinese adoptee Jennifer Bao Yu “Precious Jade.”

#### **Q: What inspired you to start Chinese Adoptee Links (CAL) International?**

**A:** The idea for Chinese Adoptee Links (CAL) International, was born this past summer (2006) while I was researching for my Ph.D thesis in Europe. I kept randomly bumping into Asian adoptees – from the *petites rues* of Paris to the bustling markets of Barcelona to the pebbled beaches of Positano (Italy). I was amazed. I thought, "I knew that international adoption occurred in Europe, but had no idea that there were this many transnational and transracial adoptees here!" They seemed to be everywhere. By the time I got to Ireland, where I met with Chinese adoptees in Cork and Dublin, I had a thought: "Why not seek to connect adoptees in Europe and North America?" As a Chinese adoptee from California, I had never had contact with adoptees in Europe, and had only met a handful of adoptees in the USA. I wondered, "What can we learn from one another as adopted people?"

#### **Q: We heard that Chinese Adoptee Links (CAL) International started off as a pen pal program?**

**A:** After chatting with families in Ireland, I thought that it might be fun for the Chinese adoptees in Ireland to have contact with their Chinese adoptee counterparts in the USA. "*But how?*" Then I had a flashback: when I was 9-years-old, I had a pen pal (also 9) from Paris. We only corresponded 3 or 4 times, but it had been a great experience to learn a bit about her life in Paris (she loved to draw cartoon figures on her letters, which I really appreciated since I couldn't draw at all!). Ten years later, when I was studying abroad in Paris, she turned out to be my only Parisian "contact." I looked her up in the Paris phonebook just to see if I could find her, and there she was – still at the same address 10 years later! It was so exciting to finally meet my Parisian pen pal. We were both 19 and in college then. And so, the pen pal idea was hatched. When I returned to California from my summer research in Europe, I contacted my local San Francisco / Northern California FCC (Families with Children from China) chapter to ask them if they would like to participate and correspond with Chinese adoptees in Ireland.

#### **Q: So how did your pen pal program become the first global group created by Chinese adoptees?**

**A:** To my great surprise, my tiny CAL (Chinese Adoptee Links) International Pen Pal Program (established in October 2006) – free and completely run by volunteers (ages 4-84!) – ballooned from 4 to 40 participants in less than 3 weeks. I had not anticipated much interest at all. I thought, "Who writes letters anymore these days? Everyone emails." So I was shocked. Suddenly, parents from all over the country and the world, including Hong Kong and Ireland, began to write asking for pen pals for their adopted children.

Then another thought sprang to mind: "Wouldn't it be great if we had some way to connect not just the kids, but the adults, too?" I wondered, "Why haven't I ever met a fellow Chinese adoptee peer?" I knew that Korean adoptees (such as my younger brother), Vietnamese, Indian adoptees, and others all had global, growing worldwide networks. But where were all the Chinese adoptees? I knew I couldn't be the only Chinese adoptee (from Hong Kong, Taiwan or mainland China) who was older than age 18 – so where was everybody else? And that's when I decided to expand the CAL pen pal program into the first global organization created by and for Chinese adoptees *of all ages*; this is why our slogan is: *CAL – Linking Generations of Adoptees & Friends Worldwide.*" With the help and generosity of fellow Chinese adoptees Dr. Amanda L. Baden and Dr. Mei-Mei Akwai Ellerman, a Chinese adoptee who grew up in Switzerland and Italy, and friends and relatives, CAL launched live online on February 14<sup>th</sup> – Valentine's Day 2007.

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*“The First Global Group Created by Chinese Adoptees”*

**CONTACT: [Events@ChineseAdopteeLinks.org](mailto:Events@ChineseAdopteeLinks.org)**

### **FAQs (page 2 of 3)**

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#### **Q: What's the goal of your CAL "Meet & Greet" Europe Tour this spring?**

**A:** We just returned from our official CAL Launch in Europe with the Chinese Adoptee Links (CAL) “Meet & Greet” Europe Tour 2007 (March 15-April 2). We hit the streets of Paris, London, Dublin, Cork, Shannon, Manchester, Brussels, and Amsterdam to meet up with fellow adult adoptees from all over the world – including adoptees born in Asia, Africa, Central, North, & South America, and Europe. We also met with younger adoptees and their families in five countries (Belgium, France, England, Ireland, & the Netherlands). All in all, we met with over 1,000 adoptees and their families. It was amazing.

#### **Q: We heard you're about to launch your first CAL “Meet & Greet” Canada & USA Tour 2007 this summer?**

**A:** The success of our CAL Europe “Meet & Greet” Spring 2007 Tour was surprising since we had no idea what to expect when we arrived in Europe. We decided it’s about time we met up with adoptees here in North America. *We’d like to share what we learned about the adoption communities in Europe with our North American adoption communities.* How can we link our communities in North American and Europe so that we can work together effectively? More generally, how can we contribute to a pan-adoptee global network (including both domestic and international adoptees worldwide)? We hope to visit in a neighborhood near you this summer in Canada and the USA on our North American summer tour (dates & cities are posted online).

#### **Q: What are your ultimate goals for Chinese Adoptee Links (CAL) International?**

**A:** We are called Chinese Adoptee Links (CAL) because our three main goals are:

- (1) To link generations of Chinese adoptees worldwide.
- (2) To link Chinese adoptees to the global adoption network.
- (3) To link Chinese adoptees to our diasporic communities (e.g., overseas Chinese communities).

#### **Q: How can people help CAL?**

**A:** You can help in several ways:

- Join CAL Online (Membership is free; your enrollment helps us raise funds through grants.)
- Become a Regional Director, Volunteer, or Teen Board Advisor (email us for details)
- Support our 2007-2008 GLOBAL ADOPTION AWARENESS CAMPAIGN through
  - (1) Donations
  - (2) Media Plugs
  - (3) Completion of our Historic *Directory of Chinese Adoptees Worldwide* (by birth city & year, c1800s – present), which is available on our website.

Global adoptee networks are just beginning to flourish. More generally, this is an exciting time for our growing, global pan-adoptee community.