

The 34th Annual American Adoption Congress International Conference on Adoption

Presented in Partnership with
Adoption Network Cleveland



Create the Next Wave

Wednesday, April 10 through Sunday, April 14, 2013



Hilton Garden Inn Downtown Cleveland
1100 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115
(216) 658-6400 / toll-free (877) 782-9444

(Workshops and times are subject to change.)

**The 34th Annual
American Adoption Congress
International Conference
on Adoption**

Presented in Partnership with
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Cleveland!

Positively Cleveland (Cleveland's Convention and Visitor's Bureau) is creating a micro-website for the travel planning needs of our conference attendees.

Watch for a link, coming soon!

<http://www.positivelycleveland.com>

Downtown Cleveland Districts

Historic Warehouse District – <http://www.warehousedistrict.org/>
Restaurants, nightlife, coffee shops and unique boutiques

Historic Gateway District – <http://www.clevelandgatewaydistrict.com/>
Year-round professional sports, entertainment and pubs

East 4th Street Entertainment District – <http://www.east4thstreet.com/>
Walking street with restaurants, entertainment, bowling

Playhouse Square District – <http://www.playhousesquare.org/>
Five renovated historic theaters, second largest in nation

North Coast Harbor – http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Coast_Harbor
Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum and Great Lakes Science Center on Lake Erie

Tower City – <http://www.towercitycenter.com/>
Indoor retail area, Horseshoe Casino, restaurants, Cleveland International Film Festival

The Flats – <http://www.pluggedincleveland.com/restaurants/the+flats.html>
Greater Cleveland Aquarium, restaurants, concert venues on the Cuyahoga River

Consider coming early
to also attend:

**CLEVELAND
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL (CIFF)**

April 3 – 14, 2013

www.clevelandfilm.org

CIFF is a leader in helping
the world discover the power
of the film arts to educate,
entertain, and celebrate
the human experience.



Greater Cleveland Aquarium • Dale MacDonald



East 4th Street • Positively Cleveland



Horseshoe Casino Cleveland (c) Caesars Entertainment
Courtesy of Positively Cleveland



Cleveland Botanical Garden • Positively Cleveland



HILTON GARDEN INN CLEVELAND DOWNTOWN
1100 CARNEGIE AVENUE (E.9TH & CARNEGIE), CLEVELAND
(216) 658-6400 / toll-free (877) 782-9444

From Cleveland-Hopkins International Airport

Distance to hotel: 12 miles

Drive time: 15 minutes

I-71 North to E. 9th Street Exit, Right on Carnegie Ave,
Hotel on Right

Transportation to and from the Airport

TYPICAL MINIMUM CHARGE

Rental Car \$27.00

Subway/Rail/Rapid Transit \$ 2.50

Taxi \$35.00

The Rapid Transit (Rail) goes from inside the airport to within blocks of the hotel (Tower City) and the hotel has a shuttle that can pick you up there:

FREE SHUTTLE SERVICE from Tower City to the hotel (and anywhere you want to go within a one-mile radius of downtown Cleveland) is available from 7:00 am to 11:00 pm. Call the hotel when you arrive to Tower City. The shuttle pick-up location is on the 3rd level outside of the Hard Rock Cafe on Huron Road.

ROCK AND ROLL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM
<http://www.rockhall.com/>

HORSESHOE CASINO
<http://www.horseshoecleveland.com>

CLEVELAND INDIANS BASEBALL
(steps away from hotel – discounts to attendees)
http://mlb.mlb.com/schedule/index.jsp?c_id=cle#y=2013&m=4&calendar=DEFAULT

GREATER CLEVELAND AQUARIUM
<http://greaterclevelandaquarium.com>

CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART
<http://www.clevelandart.org/>

MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART CLEVELAND
<http://www.mocacleveland.org/>

CLEVELAND BOTANICAL GARDEN
<http://www.cbgarden.org/>

CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
<http://cmnh.org/site/Index.aspx>

10 MINUTES FROM DOWNTOWN

Cleveland!



Create the Next Wave

Keynote Presenters



ADAM PERTMAN • WEDNESDAY, 9:00 – 10:30 AM

Rethinking Adoption in the 21st Century (SW/ Counselor Ethics CEUs available)

Adam Pertman is Executive Director of the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute. Pertman – a Pulitzer-nominated journalist and adoptive parent, he is the author/editor of two books and has written many other articles on adoption- and family-related issues in books, scholarly journals and mass-market publications. He and his wife, Judy Baumwoll, live in Massachusetts with their two children.



THOMAS RECTOR • WEDNESDAY, 10:45 AM – 12:15 PM

Parenting Teens Who Have Experienced Trauma (SW/ Counselor Ethics CEUs available)

Thomas Rector is a CEO, and national speaker on BioSocial Cognition. His experience as a national presenter, businessman, open adoption panelist, foster mentor and trainer, CASA, and dad, provide him with the dynamic ability and perspective to advocate for adoptive issues. His presentations draw upon this experience to provide a unique mixture of anecdotal and scientific knowledge.



DOMINIQUE MOCEANU AND JENNIFER BRICKER • THURSDAY, 9:00 - 10:30 AM

Sisters

Dominique Moceanu is an Olympic gold medalist in gymnastics from the 1996 games in Atlanta and the author of the *New York Times* bestselling memoir, *Off Balance*. She was found by a full sister she never knew she had, Jen Bricker, who was placed for adoption at birth as a result of being born with a disability. Dominique lives in the Cleveland area. She is married to Dr. Michael B. Canales and the loving mother of two.



Jen Bricker has always had a passion for tumbling and gymnastics, despite being born without legs. She has competed in multiple sports against able-bodied athletes, and has been featured on *Glee*, *Inside Edition*, on the cover of *Aerial Arts International* and performed worldwide, including Walt Disney World and the Britney Spears World Tour as an acrobat/aerialist.



GINA SAMUELS, PHD • FRIDAY, 9:00 – 10:15 AM

Bicultural Identities

Gina Samuels, PhD is an Associate Professor at the School of Social Service Administration and a Faculty Affiliate of the Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture. Her scholarly interests include transracial adoption, mixed race and multi-ethnic identity formation, interpretive research methods, and the development among young adults whose childhoods are shaped by foster care and adoption.



JEAN STRAUSS AND ILLINOIS REPRESENTATIVE SARA FEIGENHOLTZ • FRIDAY, 8:00 – 10:00 PM

FILM: The ADOPTEE OBC: That Simple Piece of Paper

Premier viewing of Jean's newest film and discussion about how to successfully pass state-by-state legislation to create access to adoptees to their Original Birth Certificates (OBC). Her award-winning short documentaries on adoption issues are used nationwide to educate social workers and policy makers about post adoption issues. Jean and her husband Jon currently live at Manhattanville College in New York.



Illinois State Representative Sara Feigenholtz sponsored landmark legislation that grants an estimated 250,000 adults adopted in Illinois access to their original birth certificates. An adoptee, Rep. Feigenholtz has worked tirelessly to ensure that adoption laws in Illinois reflect a high level of integrity in the practice and placement of children.

Keynote presenters continued



Keynote Presenters continued



PANEL PRESENTATION • SATURDAY, 9:00 – 10:30 AM

Policy Implications and the Provision of Quality, Competent, and Compassionate Medical Care to Adopted Persons

David Leonard, DHSc, MMS, PA-C, is the Chairperson of the Department of Physician Assistant Studies at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia. Dr. Leonard's background includes ten years of clinical practice experience in acute care and correctional settings. An adoptee, Dr. Leonard is passionate about creating adoption-informed curricula for medical schools.



Rocio Moran, MD, is a Clinical Geneticist with the Cleveland Clinic's Genomic Medicine Institute. She is board-certified in pediatrics, medical genetics and board eligible in biochemical genetics. Dr. Moran established the first genetics program in Cleveland Clinic's Heart and Vascular Institute, which includes genetic evaluations of patients. The key to the success of this program is the appreciation of the impact a genetic diagnosis provides physicians, their patients and their families.



Elaine E. Schulte, MD, MPH, is Chair of the Department of General Pediatrics, and Medical Director for the International Adoption Program, of Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital. Dr. Schulte serves on the American Academy of Pediatrics Executive Committees of the Council on Foster Care, Adoption, and Kinship Care and the Committee on Early Childhood and is also a member of the Joint Council on International Children's Services. Dr. Schulte is an adoptive parent.



Mary O'Leary Wiley, PhD, ABPP, is the co-founder and co-chair with Dr. Amanda Baden of the Adoption Research and Practice Special Interest Group within the American Psychological Association. She is a past president of the Adoption Therapy Coalition in D.C. She is the author of numerous publications and recipient of numerous awards and has been happily reunited with her entire (large) birth family for over 30 years.

DAN CHAON • SATURDAY, 3:45 – 5:00 PM

I Wake Up: Fiction

Dan Chaon, an adoptee, is the acclaimed author of *Among the Missing*, which was a finalist for the National Book Award, and *You Remind Me of Me*, which was named one of the best books of the year by numerous newspapers and other publications. Dan Chaon lives in Cleveland, Ohio, and teaches at Oberlin College, where he is the Pauline M. Delaney Professor of Creative Writing.



KAREN WILLIAMS • SATURDAY, 8:00 PM – 12:00 AM

Healing with Humor

Known for her quick repartee, insightful commentary and audience rapport, Karen Williams is a comic craftmaster, a gifted actor, a multitalented writer, and an inspirational lecturer. Armed with her "heal with humor" philosophy, she gives humor workshops specifically designed to build self-awareness and self-confidence. A reunited birthmother, Karen is the President and CEO of HaHA Institute (www.hahainstitute.com) and is the proud mother of three sons.



Conference Details

Dates

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 9:00 AM THROUGH SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2013, 11:00 AM

Full Conference, Individual Day, Evening Registration available.

To register, go to: www.americanadoptioncongress.org

Co-Chairs

RICH UHRLAUB - American Adoption Congress - bballmon@aol.com

BETSIE NORRIS - Adoption Network Cleveland - Betsie.Norris@AdoptionNetwork.org

Accommodations

HILTON GARDEN INN CLEVELAND DOWNTOWN

1100 CARNEGIE AVENUE (E.9TH & CARNEGIE), CLEVELAND, OHIO 44115

SPECIAL CONFERENCE GROUP RATE: \$129.00 per night (will accommodate up to four people in two Queen-size beds) and includes a breakfast for two.

AMENITIES INCLUDE: complimentary high-speed Internet access, complimentary shuttle service throughout Downtown Cleveland, fitness room, swimming pool with spa, and a refrigerator, microwave, coffee maker, hair dryer, iron and ironing board in every room. Per Ohio state law, the entire hotel is non-smoking.

TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION:

- By Phone – Call the Hilton Garden Inn Cleveland Downtown Reservation Line at (877) 782-9444 and reference “American Adoption Congress” or group code “AAC.”
 - Online – Visit www.clevelanddowntown.stayhgi.com, then enter the Group / Convention code “AAC” when entering reservation details, under the Special Accounts.
- Please note – Conference Registrants are responsible for making their own hotel reservations after completing conference registration. Registering for the conference does not reserve a hotel room for you.

PARKING

All conference attendees, whether staying overnight or not, may park in the Hilton Garden Inn Cleveland Downtown secure lot all day for a discounted rate of \$4 daytime and \$8 overnight.

Sponsorship/Scholarship Donations

Sponsorship opportunities are available to organizations and businesses for the full conference or for individual keynotes with great promotional benefits commensurate with level of support. These contributions help offset conference costs in exchange for company promotion. To learn more, contact George Graham at (216) 325-1000, or George.Graham@AdoptionNetwork.org. Can't attend in 2013, but would like to help someone else attend? Consider donating to our scholarship fund to help members who could not otherwise do so to be able to attend. Donations can be sent to: Attn: 2013 Conference Scholarship Fund; 4614 Prospect Avenue, Suite 550; Cleveland, OH 44103.

CEU Information (see yellow boxes for CEU notes)

The AAC and Adoption Network Cleveland are working to provide CEUs to those professionals who require them. We have applied to the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) and have been approved by the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker and Marriage and Family Therapist Board. CEU credits are available for \$50, which includes all application processing and filing fees. Details for the CEUs is included in the registration information. For questions on Ohio CEUs, please contact Linda Bellini at Linda.Bellini@AdoptionNetwork.org and questions for NASW CEUs contact Donnie Davis at Pdj27@aol.com or visit www.americanadoptioncongress.org or www.adoption-network.org, where we will continue to post the latest information and approvals.

The Professional Day on Wednesday April 10th is designed to offer up to 6 hours of Ethics CEUs for Social Workers and Counselors. Please see details on listing of that day's offerings.

AAC Book Room

Looking for the latest books on adoption? Many of the books in our Book Room are hard to find at popular book stores or online. Attending the conference and want to sell your book or film in the Book Room? Please email AAC's Book Room Coordinator, Wendy Rowney, at wrowney@rogers.com for further information.

Art Show

We will be celebrating the art of those touched by adoption as one exciting component of this year's conference. Deadline is January 31st. For more info, go to: <https://createthenextwave.submittable.com/submit/17685>

Schedule of Events

Wednesday, April 10 – Professional Day

7:30 AM – 12:00 PM – REGISTRATION

9:00 – 10:30 AM – **ADAM PERTMAN • RETHINKING ADOPTION IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

keynote (SW/Counselor Ethics CEU's available) – See page 4 for description.

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM – **THOMAS RECTOR • PARENTING TEENS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED TRAUMA**

keynote (SW/Counselor Ethics CEU's available) – See page 4 for description.

12:15 PM – 1:15 PM LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

1:15 – 2:45 PM – BREAK-OUTS

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS (SW/Counselor Ethics CEU's available)

PRESENTERS: LISA MAYNARD AND JEAN STRAUSS

This workshop will discuss the barriers that adoptees can face when contacting their agency, as well as the challenges that exist for staff who believe adoptees should have access to information and original birth certificates but are prohibited from full disclosure by state laws and board-driven policies. What happens behind those closed doors? Why are things changing and how can you be help? Hear how one adoption agency with a 175-year history is partnering with national advocates to support legislative and internal efforts to change policies that prohibit the release of information to adult adoptees.

CAREGIVING FOR CHILDREN PRENATALLY EXPOSED TO ALCOHOL

PRESENTER: FELICIA FAGO

Children adopted from foster care and internationally are at high risk of prenatal alcohol exposure. This workshop will share a recent study on the incidence of exposure in this population, how exposure affects children, and what interventions to implement to help children with prenatal alcohol exposure.

BI-CULTURAL SOCIALIZATION OF DUTCH, NORWEGIAN AND AMERICA ADOPTION FROM INDIA

PRESENTER: MAUREEN RILEY-BEHRINGER

A cross-cultural sample of 622 Indian children adopted internationally by Caucasian families in the Netherlands, Norway and the United States was used to understand family bicultural socialization practices. Parents relayed children's bicultural socialization experiences; negative encounters with others about adoption, country-of-origin and racial discrimination; and parental worry about negative experiences.

3:00 – 4:30 PM – BREAK-OUTS

STEPPING INTO THE SHOES OF THE ADOPTED PERSON

PRESENTERS: PAM HASEGAWA, CATHY KOLEY, ZARA PHILLIPS

Through creative experiential exercises the presenters will try to help those in the audience feel in their hearts what it is like emotionally to have been relinquished. Copies of the exercises will be available for participants to take home and use in support groups, educational agency classes, college courses and with family members.

ETHICS IN INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION: IS HAGUE MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

(SW/Counselor Ethics CEU's available)

PRESENTER: ETTA LAPPEN DAVIS

Through discussion of case examples, we will explore the Hague Treaty's influence on inter-country adoption, and the extent to which ethical considerations are the primary focus that the Convention intends. Cases will include incoming and outgoing adoptions with Hague and non-Hague countries.

OPENNESS IN PUBLIC ADOPTION: COMPLEX AND NECESSARY RELATIONSHIPS

PRESENTER: HOLLY SPENCER-TRUEMAN

Imagine all the people children form relationships with before joining adoptive families; parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts/uncles, foster parents. Can some be embraced for the sake of the child? An open discussion about necessary relationships and the complexity of openness in public adoptions; led by a mom/professional living in the trenches.

Professional Day continued

5:30 – 7:00 PM – THE CONFERENCE: WHAT TO EXPECT – CONFERENCE 101

PRESENTERS: ROBERTA MACDONALD AND PAM HASEGAWA

Conference 101 is an interactive event helping those who are new to AAC conferences get to know one another and develop a deeper awareness of varying points of view shared during the conference. We will discuss ways to help you stay grounded and present when emotions arise.

7:00 – 8:30 PM – FILM – HIGH FIVE

BY BORIS IVANOV AND JULIA IVANOVA OF INTERFILM

film

A childless British Columbia couple ends up on a roller coaster ride to adopt five Ukrainian siblings, ages six to nineteen. With the children's emotional and physical baggage, the actual adoption is only the beginning of a drama that will shape the lives of both adoptive parents and children in a way that no one can tell. www.interfilm.ca/about.htm

8:30 – 10:00 PM – FILM – RESILIENCE

BY TAMMY CHU

film

A story of loss and separation, *Resilience* is a character-driven documentary that takes a unique look at international adoption from the perspective of a Korean birthmother and her American son. A single story among the thousands of stories untold, the film follows the remarkable journey of Myungja as she reconnects with her son Brent (Sung-wook) after 30 years apart. www.resiliencefilm.com

Thursday, April 11

8:00 – 10:45 AM – REGISTRATION

8:00 – 8:45 AM – BREAKFAST

8:45 – 9:00 AM – WELCOME

9:00 – 10:30 AM – OPENING KEYNOTE: SISTERS

keynote

PRESENTERS: OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST DOMINIQUE MOCEANU AND HER SISTER AERIAL ACROBAT JENNIFER BRICKER (See page 4 for description.)

100

11:00 AM – 12:15 PM – 100 WORKSHOP SERIES

101 MANUFACTURING BIRTHMOTHERS: FROM MEDIEVAL BLAME TO THE 21ST CENTURY

PRESENTER: KAREN LYNN

Unmarried mothers have borne exceptional stigma and the cruelest punishments for centuries. This workshop will look at how and why inhumanity to women got out of hand. The clouds seem to be parting for us now. How can we let go of the past and make the future better?

102 ADOPTION AND MENTAL ILLNESS: IS THERE A CONNECTION?

PRESENTER: KRISTA MCCOY

There is a higher prevalence of mental illness among adopted children, teens and adults as well as birth parents versus their counterparts not impacted by adoption. Does this mean that being adopted or being a birth parent increases the risk of developing mental illness? In this workshop, we will explore the factors that may increase risk and learn how we can increase natural protective factors while we educate others that being part of the triad can be a personal strength.

103 A MODERN PERSPECTIVE ON OPEN ADOPTION

PRESENTERS: JUSTIN AND BETH ZABOR

The word "Openness" as it relates to adoption conjures up many images, emotions, and opinions. Hear one couple's journey into discovering openness and continuing an ongoing relationship with their son's birthmother. As a result of attending this program, you will learn about various highlights, challenges, and insights regarding open adoption in the modern world.

100 Series continued

104 CREATING YOUR OWN LEGACY: MOVING FORWARD

PRESENTER: TRACY BIGBY

As adoptees, we can sometimes feel lost without a complete history. We have grieved and worked through anger, but now what? Our history begins with us. Learn how to move forward and begin to create your own legacy. What will your legacy look like?

105 WHAT MAKES FOR SUCCESS IN ADOPTION?

PRESENTER: ZOE BREEN WOOD

This workshop will begin by reporting findings from a study that examined how adoptive parents and their children defined success differently. It will then engage participants in a discussion of what makes for successful adoption outcomes. Implications for practice, advocacy, and policy will be discussed.

106 ADOPTION REUNIONS: HOW DO THESE RELATIONSHIPS WORK OVER TIME?

PRESENTER: LINDA BACK MCKAY

What happened to young women in the 1960s after they said goodbye to their babies? How do people handle the roller coaster of reunion emotions? Over time, what factors influence reunion relationships? What are the outcomes? Join this noted author in exploring crucial issues through a lively presentation and discussion.

107 DISABILITY AND ADOPTION: OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

PRESENTER: VICTORIA BAKER-WILLFORD

Having a disability can be a unique challenge in life. Being an adoptee with a disability can be daunting. This workshop will explore the social, medical, emotional and legal issues surrounding the adoption experience for an adopted person with a disability.

108 CLEANING OUT CLOSETS: THE EXPERIENCES OF LGBT ADOPTEES

PRESENTER: PATRICK McMAHON

The unique added dimension of being gay in the adoption experience will be explored in this workshop. Being both gay and adopted impacts formation of identity, the search and reunion journey, and the level of sensitivity to alienation, rejection, and abandonment. We will explore the feelings, issues and risks involved in coming out to families of origin, as well as ways to direct unresolved feelings of anger, shame and loss toward positive action and healing.

12:45 – 2:00 PM – LUNCH WITH REGIONS* – BOXED LUNCHES PROVIDED * SEE PAGE 17 FOR YOUR REGION

2:15 – 3:30 PM – 200 WORKSHOP SERIES

201 FREE CHOICE OR SOPHIE'S CHOICE? UPDATING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF CHOICE

PRESENTER: LESLIE PATE MACKINNON

Currently in adoption, young women are portrayed as making free and well-reasoned choices. Today's mothers will share the reality and aftermath of "choosing" adoption.

202 UNDERSTANDING ADOPTION AS AN AUTHENTIC NARRATIVE OF SELF

PRESENTER: MICHAEL GRAND

This workshop will consider various theoretical ways of understanding the experience of adoption. Going beyond the concept of failed attachment, we will describe how a life narrative reflecting themes of authenticity, vulnerability, self-compassion and connectedness can serve as a means to build resilience for adoptees, and their first and adoptive families.

203 BUILDING COMMUNITY: FOUR YEARS IN REVIEW

PRESENTER: AYANNA ABI-KYLES

Through the lenses of adoptive parents, reporting on the expanded post adoption services provided by Adoption Network Cleveland since 2008. Survey results of adoptive families, research from best practice, and the impact of four years of services to families will be highlighted. A panel of adoptive parents will share their journey!

200

204 TAKING CARE OF THE CARING: PARENTAL SELF-CARE FOR FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENTS

PRESENTER: [BETSY KEEFER SMALLEY](#)

This workshop will briefly explore and acknowledge multiple stressors experienced by foster and adoptive families. While understanding this stress is significant, the workshop will be solution-focused, with emphasis on strategies to build coping and resilience in the folks who do the hard work of caring for children who have experienced trauma and separation from their families of origin.

205 NEGOTIATING THE MINEFIELD OF SEARCH AND REUNION

PRESENTER: [MONICA BYRNE](#)

Designed for the absolute beginner in Adoption Search & Reunion, this workshop will explore the most fundamental issues: How to get started; ways to avoid the the most common mistakes; and managing the emotional roller coaster. Bring your challenges for a chance to get expert help. Now is the time to begin this life changing journey!!

206 WHAT TO DO AND BE WHEN THOSE WE SEEK SAY NO

PRESENTER: [JAMIE NAGY](#)

Are you a brick wall survivor like Jamie? After investing virtually her "all" into finding her birth mom, birth dad, and birth siblings, all eventually refused contact with her--including returning Christmas gifts and sending threatening "legal" letters. If this sounds familiar, please join her.

207 WRITING YOUR ADOPTION EXPERIENCE: WHAT WORKS, WHAT SELLS, WHAT HEALS

PRESENTERS: [KATE ST. VINCENT VOGL](#) AND [VAL CZERWIEN](#)

Ready to write about what happened but not sure where to begin? Whether writing for yourself, for family, or for publication, discover what you need to write your adoption story. Popular writing instructor from the country's leading literary arts center and her birthmother share how memoir affects relationship in reunion.

208 HEARING AND BEING HEARD: LET'S PRACTICE TOGETHER

PRESENTER: [JAMIE SCOTT](#)

Let's get together to practice reflective and empathetic listening in a safe place. This means listening without judgment, guessing each others feelings and needs, and NOT giving unsolicited advice -- skills that are useful in all relationships, adoptive or not.

300

4:00 – 5:15 PM – 300 WORKSHOP SERIES

301 A CASE FOR OPEN ADOPTIONS

PRESENTER: [DR. JOYCE MAGUIRE PAVAO](#)

In order to be as honest and trustworthy as possible for their relinquished and adopted children, adults must put themselves in the shoes of that child through life and make information and roles and responsibilities as open as is possible (which varies of course for every person). This workshop is a chance to make sense of the new world of adoption and to see that both domestic and international adoptions must change in order to be safe, secure, honest, legal, and child sensitive.

302 X+Y=ME: HOW DNA TESTING CAN HELP US SOLVE OUR MYSTERIES

PRESENTER: [BONNIE BURNELL](#)

For today's adoptees, learning the truth about their origins can turn into a scientific study. With numerous and confusing choices about the different types of tests of DNA testing now available, this workshop will look at the various options and limitations of different DNA tests. Participants will learn how DNA analysis can help in their quest for information about their birth family, and even more important, how it can help them to learn more about themselves.

303 TELLING THE TRUTH TO YOUR ADOPTED OR FOSTER CHILD: MAKING SENSE OF THE PAST

PRESENTER: [BETSY KEEFER SMALLEY](#)

The workshop will answer such questions as: How do I share difficult information about my child's adoption in a sensitive manner? When is the right time to tell my child the whole truth? How do I find further information

about my child's history? Parents will leave the workshop with knowledge of how to make sense of the past for adopted children of all ages.

304 FLASHBACKS AND FEAR: A REVIEW OF PTSD SYMPTOMS AND HOW THEY IMPACT BIRTHMOMS

PRESENTER: CYNTHIA McGUIGAN

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder symptoms will be discussed. This workshop will look at how these relate to women who were forced to place their children for adoption. We will also look at current studies regarding women who have traumatic experiences surrounding childbirth and relinquishment. Discussion will take place on how this has impacted women throughout their life experiences. Finally we will review survey results of women who placed children for adoption.

305 PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL PERSPECTIVES FROM AN ADOPTIVE JOURNEY

PRESENTERS: KATHRYN (KATE) BIDDLE AND SHARON BIDDLE

This presentation will explore lessons learned firsthand about the adoption journey with Kate and her adult adopted daughter.

306 ABUSE AFTER ADOPTION: THIS WASN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN

PRESENTERS: ANDREW MAJKOWICZ AND RICH UHRLAUB

Many mothers were told that their children would be given a better life if they were surrendered for adoption. As adoptees mature and find their voices, some find the courage to disclose various types of abuse whether from inside or outside the adoptive family. This workshop will explore potential vulnerabilities of adoptees; definitions, types and long-term effects of abuse; forgiveness; and strategies for living in the present. This workshop will not be recorded.

307 HOW GENETIC HERITAGE BECAME IMPORTANT FOR ME

PRESENTER: ANDREW TASH

This workshop trace the history and personal growth of a late-discovery adoptee (LDA) who moved from total disinterest in his biological roots to having a more full appreciation of family connections on multiple levels.

308 CLEVELAND OHIO: A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT - AN ADOPTEE'S JOURNEY

PRESENTER: RICHARD CURTIS

Richard is an adoptee born, relinquished, and adopted in Cleveland. He presents his story as he describes growing up, living, and working in this city for 50 years, separated from birth family for whom he searched and found in 1993. Discussion for others to share their adoption experiences will follow.

4:00 – 6:00 PM – REGISTRATION

5:45 – 7:00 PM – SUPPORT GROUPS

7:15 – 8:45 PM – POETRY & PROSE OPEN MIC

CO-HOSTED BY PATRICK MCMAHON AND PENNY CALLAN PARTRIDGE

All conference participants are invited to bring poetry or prose in up to five-minute segments - time allotted will depend on number of participants.

9:00 – 10:30 PM – FILM – *SOMEWHERE BETWEEN*

BY LINDA GOLDSTEIN KNOWLTON

film

In profiling Chinese adoptees in contemporary America, Linda Goldstein Knowlton has created a deeply moving documentary illustrating that even the most specific of experiences can be universally relatable. Of the roughly 80,000 girls who have been adopted from China since 1989 – a decade after China implemented its One Child Policy – the film intimately follows four teenagers: Haley, Jenna, Ann, and Fang. These four wise-beyond-their-years, yet typical American teens, reveal a heartbreaking sense of self-awareness as they attempt to answer the uniquely human question, “Who am I?” They meet and bond with other adoptees, some journey back to China to reconnect with the culture, and some reach out to the orphaned girls left behind. www.somewherebetweenmovie.com

10:00 PM – 12:00 AM – HOSPITALITY SUITE

Friday, April 12

7:30 – 8:15 AM – YOGA

8:00 – 10:45 AM – REGISTRATION

8:00 – 8:45 AM – BREAKFAST

8:45 – 9:00 AM – WELCOME

9:00 – 10:15 AM – KEYNOTE: GINA SAMUELS

keynote BICULTURAL IDENTITIES
(See page 4 for description.)

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM – 400 WORKSHOP SERIES

401 PRETEND IT NEVER HAPPENED: FROM SECRETS TO THREE REUNIONS

PRESENTER: KARIN KRUEGER

Experience one woman's journey of how surrendering her daughter for adoption caused her to (1) block out 4 years of her life; (2) sink into a deep depression; and (3) break off the relationship with the man she loved. Her miraculous reunion with her daughter, Lisa, lifted the depression and inspired her reunion with her birthfather and her reunion with her long lost love after 35 years!

402 EMBRACING THE JOYS AND CHALLENGES OF TRANSRACIAL ADOPTION

PRESENTER: JULIA ELLIFRITT

This workshop will focus on the real issues of transracial adoption, from a clinician who is also the mom of teenagers adopted from other races. Practical applications and issues to consider before the adoption process, as well as challenges after placement will be discussed in a fun, but meaningful way.

403 OPENING CLOSED INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTIONS – A PANEL DISCUSSION

PRESENTERS: KAREN ROSENBERG AND VICTOR GROZA

This workshop will present trends and clinical issues in inter-country adoption with a focus on genealogical bewilderment and identity formation. We will explore how clinical issues can be addressed through communicative openness, search and reunion. A panel of adoptive parents will share their experiences in opening closed inter-country adoptions.

404 ONE SHOE DOES NOT FIT ALL

PRESENTER: PEKITTA TYNES

An adoptee uses humor to tell stories about being adopted and the continuing search for her natural parents through the ups and downs of getting close to finding and navigating all the road blocks. Come and be inspired...as one shoe doesn't fit all! This workshop will be open for Q&A.

405 MALE ADOPTEE - PART I

PRESENTER: CRAIG HYMAN

Part I will focus on identifying the issues that are gender specific to male adoptees. In experiential format, this workshop is designed to illuminate issues specific to male adoptees and assist in the healing of these issues and will be conducted in a "fishbowl" format, with male adoptees encircled by other workshop participants. This session is open to all attendees.

406 FINDING OUR VOICE WITHIN THE ADOPTIVE FAMILY

PRESENTER: ZARA PHILLIPS

The focus of this workshop will be on how finding one's voice within the adoptive home. Growing up within a family where adoption is rarely discussed can have its own unique challenges. How do we as adoptees honor our truth and deal with the loyalty issue we feel that can run so deep, so that we are free to embrace all our families.

407 BRIDGING THE GAP: LEADING AN ADOPTION SUPPORT GROUP

PRESENTERS: LINDA BELLINI WITH ESTES TURNER AND DOROTHY (DOTTIE) KLEMM

This workshop will highlight the importance of finding common ground within the adoption constellation and learning about each person's perspective through support and discussion. This will be demonstrated through a "fishbowl" observation of an actual group session led by experienced facilitators.

400

12:00 – 3:00 PM – REGISTRATION

12:00 – 1:30 PM – LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

1:30 – 2:45 PM – 500 WORKSHOP SERIES

501 HOW PEOPLE CHANGE (SW/Counselor Ethics CEU's available)

PRESENTER: RON NYDAM

Though it may be helpful for members of the adoption triad to look into the past to gain insight and understanding, how can we use the past to make changes in the present? Everyone is on a path that requires us to change. How are “adoption” and “adaptation” connected?

502 OPENNESS IN ADOPTION, ONE FAMILY'S EVOLUTION FROM 1991 TO PRESENT

PRESENTER: LORI McCARTHY

This presenter will share the story of her own closed adoption from the 1960s, her reunion in 1991 and her family's open adoptions from 1992 to 2012.

503 DOES COMMUNITY MEAN "UNITY"? FORGING INTERGENERATIONAL UNITY AMONG BIRTHPARENTS

PRESENTER: KATE LIVINGSTON

Ohio Birthparent Group is a diverse support group attended by birthparents who placed in every generation from the 1950's to the present day. In this workshop, OBG members explore the possibilities and problematics of intergenerational community-building among birthparents. How do we build community while accounting for differences in birthparent experiences?

504 HOW TO INTERNET SEARCH FOR FAMILY CONNECTIONS

PRESENTER: MARILYN MENDENHALL WAUGH

Searching for family members on the Internet can be difficult if you don't know the sites that can be helpful. Learn how to search with free websites or low cost resources. Several handouts, with search examples, will be provided to participants.

505 MALE ADOPTEE – PART II – THE BIGGER PICTURE AND PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES

PRESENTER: CRAIG HYMAN, PANEL TBA

Here we explore new ground that includes intimate personal experiences, a broader perspective on our lives and our adoption experiences, and spiritual issues and perspectives around all of this. The format will be a brief presentation by three adoptees (about 15 minutes) followed by a relaxed open forum discussion including all in attendance.

506 THE SIX WORDS NO PARENT WANTS TO HEAR

PRESENTER: JANE BALLBACK

An adoptive parent of three young adult children, Jane had her share of issues and challenges as she attempted to be the best parent she could be – but nothing prepared her for, “Mom, I just don't want to live anymore.” Knowing that depression and suicidal thoughts are more common in adoptees is not helpful when you hear these words. Working with the therapist who is herself adopted, she finally managed to unravel the issues and got a second chance to be the mom she always wanted to be.

507 A BIRTHFATHER'S RECOVERY THROUGH HEALING, SELF-FORGIVENESS, LOVE AND COMPASSION

PRESENTER: IAN HOCHBERG

Ian Hochberg is a birthfather from Baltimore. Through his poetry about his becoming an unwed father, he tells his triad story, offers encouragement for making the right choice - being responsible for his actions, and being present for his reunion with his son and not abandoning his son again.

508 TIME TO WRITE YOUR BOOK

PRESENTER: GIL MICHELINI

While writing and publishing a book has never been easier, like everything there are certain steps to follow and many decisions that need to be made. Author Gil Michelini explains the necessary steps to get your story or advice to readers in a book, ebook, or pbook formats.

500



3:15 – 4:30 PM – 600 WORKSHOP SERIES

601 BIRTHMOTHERS IN LONG, SHORT-TERM AND STALLED REUNION: STRATEGIES ALONG THE REUNION PATH

PRESENTERS: LINDA CLAUSEN WITH LORETTA BERG AND MARY BEST

Three birthmothers reunited with their sons: one is in a long-term, one in a comparatively short-term, and one in a stalled reunion; each reflect on feelings and changes in ideas along the reunion path to help the reunions work; and how forgiveness of ourselves and others played a role in our reunions.

602 THE THREE FACES OF ADOPTEES

PRESENTER: NANCY VERRIER

Adoptees begin their lives by coping with separation from their first moms, thus creating certain feelings, attitudes, and behaviors. Then in order to survive while living in a family where they are not reflected, they need to adapt in order to fit in. Inherent in everyone are the basic genetic codes which are imprinted in our DNA. This workshop will make suggestions about how to best find the person lost in those first two adaptations, in order to feel whole and at peace.

603 ADOPTION, ADDICTION AND RECOVERY

PRESENTER: SARAH BURNS AND MARY GAUTHIER

A short screening of a film about Mary Gauthier and adoption and addiction followed by a discussion on sorrow and grief and healing in the adoption process.

604 MUSIC THERAPY: AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO WORKING WITH SPECIAL NEEDS ADOPTED CHILDREN

PRESENTER: ANNE M. REED AND DAVID HUSSEY

Music therapy is an innovative practice medium applicable to children who have experienced severe and prolonged interpersonal trauma in highly compromised caretaking relationships. This workshop will describe characteristics of adopted children, and examine music therapy approaches designed to develop and nurture attachment capacities that are critically important to special needs adopted children and their parents.

605 MALE ADOPTEE – PART III - ISSUES

PRESENTER: CRAIG HYMAN

Open to Male Adoptees Only. It is not required that you attend Part I or Part II of this workshop series in order to attend the Part III session.

606 GETTING TO YES: THE ROAD TO PASSING OBC ACCESS LEGISLATION

PRESENTERS: REPRESENTATIVE SARA FEIGENHOLTZ AND PAUL SCHIBBELHUTE

Illinois is the most populous state to have enacted access legislation, and it was controversial within the adoption reform movement. Representative Feigenholtz discusses the myths and realities of the legislative process and provides a behind-the-scenes look at how Illinois got it done.

607 WE ARE FAMILY? EXPLORING TRIAD MEMBERS' RELATIONSHIPS WHEN ADOPTING THROUGH THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

PRESENTER: RENAY SANDERS

Can we? Should we? How can we be family? This workshop will guide participants to answer these questions by exploring the benefits, challenges and how to's of developing and maintaining relationships between birth and adoptive family members and the children they share.

5:00 – 6:15 PM – SUPPORT GROUPS

6:15 – 8:00 PM – AAC STATE REPS DINNER (OTHERS, DINNER ON YOUR OWN)

8:00 – 10:00 PM – FILM: KEYNOTE AND DISCUSSION
THE ADOPTEE OBC: THAT SIMPLE PIECE OF PAPER
JEAN STRAUSS AND REPRESENTATIVE SARA FEIGENHOLTZ
See page 4 for description.

keynote

10:00 PM – 12:00 AM – HOSPITALITY SUITE

Saturday, April 13

8:00 – 10:30 AM – REGISTRATION

7:30 – 8:15 AM – YOGA

8:00 – 8:45 AM – BREAKFAST

8:45 – 9:00 AM – WELCOME

9:00 – 10:30 AM – KEYNOTE AND DISCUSSION - MEDICAL PANEL: POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND THE PROVISION OF QUALITY, COMPETENT, AND COMPASSIONATE MEDICAL CARE TO ADOPTED PERSONS

keynote

PRESENTERS: DAVID LEONARD, DHSC, MMS, PA-C; ROCIO MORAN, MD; ELAINE E. SCHULTE, MD, MPH; MARY O'LEARY WILEY, PHD, ABPP
(See page 5 for description.)

11:00 AM – 12:15 PM – 700 WORKSHOP SERIES

703 SEARCH AND REUNION STARTS AT THE BEGINNING AND GOES ON FOREVER

PRESENTER: DR. JOYCE MAGUIRE PAVAO

Everyone in adoption is searching...sometimes the birthparents search for the placement, sometimes the adopting parents search for a birthparent that will be part of their extended family, the child searches even when the adoption is open or kinship. This workshop looks at the many faces of search and the importance of openness in nearly all adoptions for the health and wellbeing of the child.

704 MY BIRTHMOTHER IS WHO? STORIES OF WITHIN-FAMILY ADOPTIONS

PRESENTERS: ROBERTA MACDONALD WITH ROBERT CHASTANG AND KATALINA McGLONE

The presenters will share what they grew up believing about their adoptions and the truths they later discovered about how they were related to their families. Katalina will share some themes about within-family adoptions, such as the adopted person has dual relationships with their family members.

705 OPEN ADOPTION: A PARENT'S JOURNEY

PRESENTER: THOMAS C. RECTOR

This workshop explains a father's journey developing a methodology based upon current neuro-scientific research and practical application of the Biosocial Cognition Model to open adoption. The model connects elements of a child's behavior, environmental influences that affect the child, and hones a parents' ability to assess the child's needs.

706 MOM VS. MOM

PRESENTER: RICH UHRLAUB

Based on a new chapter from *Adoption and Mothering*, this workshop will discuss the historical impact of culture, law and language on motherhood and the resulting long-term effects on adoptees.

707 ADOPTION DOULA: HONORING THE JOURNEY

PRESENTER: LEANNE BROCK

I would like to share my story as an adoptee and introduce you to The Adoption Doula. Growing up being aware of my adoption provided me insight that I would like to share with others. The Adoption Doula was created to provide support to families during their adoption journey no matter what part of the triad they represent.

700

700 Series continued

700 Series continued

708 A LESSON LEARNED? WHAT THE HISTORY OF ADOPTION TEACHES FAMILIES FORMED BY THIRD PARTY REPRODUCTION

PRESENTER: PHYLLIS LOWINGER

While there are differences between families formed by adoption and third party reproduction, they are both similar in that parents need to mourn the losses of having their own biological child. Kris Probsco will discuss her work with a assisted reproduction that utilizes an adoption model.

12:30 – 1:45 PM – AWARDS LUNCHEON

SPECIAL REMARKS / RON NYDAM



2:00 – 3:15 PM – 800 WORKSHOP SERIES

803 ADOPTION NETWORK CLEVELAND 25TH ANNIVERSARY: HOW DID WE GET HERE?

PRESENTERS: BETSIE NORRIS AND ESTES TURNER



Adoption Network Cleveland is a 25-year strong nonprofit. It grew from a search and support group to a successful broad-based organization with peer to peer support and advocacy for adoptees and their families by birth and adoption. This workshop will explore the group's history, developmental milestones and more.

804 SEPARATED AT BIRTH: LEGACY IN LIMBO ARCHIVE

PRESENTER: MARTHA GELARDEN

I – Performance talk suitable for all. A visual presentation with sound. 30 minutes. Mother and Son, artists tell their story and share their parallel tracks, a silent conversation. II – Post-performance: Adopted persons/First Mothers are invited to write unanswered questions for the Legacy Archive.

805 CAN'T GET OVER THE MOUNTAIN? FALL IN LOVE WITH THE CLIMB

PRESENTER: HOLLY SPENCER-TRUEMAN

Are you an exhausted adoptive parent? Did you imagine parenting your beautiful child would be so tough? Heart wrenching even? Climbing this parenting mountain may be a lifelong endeavor. Join a discussion about finding balance, making best use of resources, self-care and falling in love with the climb!

806 PREPARATION – KEYS TO REUNION SUCCESS

PRESENTER: JEAN PROVANCE

Aimed at both families in the adoption constellation and professionals who may care for those connected to adoption, this workshop will explore ways individuals and families can be better prepared for search and reunion. During search and reunion, emotions run high, and careful preparation is critical. We will explore what to consider before searching and how professionals can help throughout the process. The ethical issues of searching and reuniting will be reviewed.

807 THE HEALING POWER OF WRITING OUR TRUTHS

PRESENTER: DENISE ROESSLE WITH JUDY HILLER AND LINDA HOYE

Fear, grief, anger and other emotions related to our adoption experiences often keep us from expressing ourselves. Writing our stories can put us on a path of healing. Whether you're journaling or writing for publication, this session will provide encouragement to begin, including writing prompts to stimulate your memories.

808 INTACT IDENTITY: UNCOVERING THE OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF EACH STAR OF THE ADOPTION CONSTELLATION

PRESENTER: CAROL WELSH

As an adoptee, birth mother and adoptive parent, Carol Welsh's perspective on the adoption constellation is unique. In this workshop, she will discuss being realistic about adoptive and reunion outcomes, share her successful approaches on how to best deal with setbacks and offer techniques for staying positive.

3:45 – 5:00 PM – KEYNOTE AND DISCUSSION: DAN CHAON
I WAKE UP: FICTION

keynote (See page 5 for description.)

5:30 – 6:45 PM – SUPPORT GROUPS

8:00 PM – MIDNIGHT – EVENING ENTERTAINMENT: COMEDIENNE KAREN WILLIAMS
HEALING WITH HUMOR

keynote An evening of socializing, comedy and karaoke – be sure to save room for delectable appetizers.

Sunday, April 14

8:00 – 9:00 AM – BREAKFAST

9:00 – 11:00 AM – AAC TOWN HALL MEETING

AAC Member Regions

NEW ENGLAND

Connecticut
Massachusetts
Maine
New Hampshire
Rhode Island
Vermont

MID ATLANTIC

New York
New Jersey
Pennsylvania
Delaware
Maryland

DC

Virginia
West Virginia

SOUTH

North Carolina
South Carolina
Georgia
Florida
Alabama
Mississippi
Louisiana
Tennessee
Arkansas

MIDWEST

Kentucky
Ohio
Michigan
Indiana
Wisconsin
Illinois
Minnesota
Iowa
Missouri
Texas
Oklahoma
Kansas
Nebraska

South Dakota
North Dakota

SOUTHWEST

Arizona
Missouri
Texas
Oklahoma
Kansas
Nebraska
New Mexico
Colorado

WEST

Wyoming
Montana
Utah
California
Nevada
Oregon
Washington
Idaho
Alaska
Hawaii

Regions

Presenter Biographies (in alphabetical order by last name)

AYANNA ABI-KYLES – Ayanna Abi-Kyles is the post-adoption program coordinator at Adoption Network Cleveland. As such she organizes organizes monthly groups for education and support, family outings, and peer-to-peer relationship-building opportunities for parents and youth. She has over 20 years of professional experience and education working and volunteering with women, youth, teens, and families.

VICTORIA BAKER-WILLFORD – Being born blind left Victoria Baker-Willford physically in the dark. Being adopted left her emotionally and socially in that same dark place. In an attempt to shed the light of truth on her life she has become a strong advocate for herself and others.

JANE BALLBACK – Jane Ballback is an adoptive parent of three young adult children, all from Korea. When she retired she worked as a volunteer talking to parents who are waiting to adopt, which led her to blogging about this topic as well. She then saw a need for a more comprehensive way for everyone involved in adoption to be heard. Working with very talented contributors, she launched the online magazine, *Adoption Voices Magazine* last year.

LORETTA BERG – Loretta Berg, a birthmother in a stalled reunion, has two Master's Degrees in Literature and is a long-time C.U.B. and AAC member.

MARY BEST – Mary Best, LICSW, in reunion for 3+ years is new to AAC and C.U.B., is a therapist in the DC/Maryland area.

LINDA BELLINI, LISW – Linda joined the staff of Adoption Network Cleveland in 2001 and, as Program Specialist for Adult Adoptees and Birthparents, is responsible for managing the programs and services for adult adoptees and birthparents and oversees the search program. She is an LISW, holds a master's degree in Social Administration from Case Western Reserve University Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences and a BA in Social Services from Cleveland State University. Linda has over 25 years of experience in social work with families of children and adolescents with ranges of medical and emotional needs. Linda is part of the adoption constellation as the aunt of two nephews and a niece who are adopted.

KATHRYN BIDDLE – Kate Biddle works at Beech Brook as the Asst. V.P. of Clinical Services and is the Program Leader of Trauma Informed Care. Her professional focus for the past 35 years has been on clinical therapy, supervision, program development and consultation for advancing trauma treatment for people of all ages, specializing in working with children, youth and their families systems. Sharon is her adult daughter who is currently in a supported living situation and doing well as she transitions into more independent adult life.

TRACY BIGBY – Tracy is an adoptee in reunion with both of her birth parents. She is also an adoption case worker with Adoption Choices of Oklahoma and strives to make the adoption experience more pleasant and supportive for all involved than what has been the norm in the past.

LEANNE BROCK – Leanne Brock is a reunited adoptee who lives with her family in the Pacific Northwest. She is an adoptee that was aware of her adoption from the age of 4. She struggled with finding my place at times but she made it through. As an adult she took note of the tools that she used to work through her adoption process, incorporated that into her career as a Doula and created The Adoption Doula Model and curriculum.

BONNIE BURNELL – Bonnie Burnell is a college administrator from Northern California. She was a founding member of CARE, a CA legislative action group. An advocate of reform, she is a member of PACER, and has provided services in support of adoption reform nationwide, including the production of websites for advocacy groups and films. Married and mom to a young son, she enjoys photography, writing, running and the outdoors. She is a reunited adoptee who searched for over 20 years, and found her birth family in 2008.

SARAH BURNS – Sarah Burns is an adoption reform advocate and activist.

ROBERT CHASTANG – Robert Chastang is the AAC Kentucky State Representative. He is an adoptee, adoptive parent and his grandson was placed for adoption.

MONICA BYRNE – Monica Byrne is the National Director of Parent Finders of Canada. A happily reunited birth mother, her strong belief in reconnecting adoptees and their parents has kept her totally involved with reunions for 24+ years. She received a Governor General's Caring Canadian Award in 1999 and was the recipient of the AAC Vilardi Award in 2005.

LINDA CLAUSEN – Linda Clausen, a birthmother in reunion for 22 years, has worked in foster care, is on the Board of Directors of Concerned United Birthmothers (CUB) and is the AAC Maryland/DC State Rep.

RICHARD CURTIS – Richard was raised in Cleveland where he attended the public schools. He has a BA from Hiram College, and a Masters of Ed. from Kent State University. He worked at Cuyahoga and Lakeland Community Colleges from 1964-1985. He then moved to Florida and worked at Northwood University, where he retired in 1997. He is married to Carol, and they have six children and twelve grandchildren.

VAL CZERWIEN – Val Czerwien recently served on the board for Adoption Network Cleveland. For years, she administered the Youth Employment Program for Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry, which developed job skills to youth with multiple barriers. A Treu-Mart Fellow and Certified Master Trainer in Conflict Management, Val received her Masters at Kent State University.

ETTA LAPPEN DAVIS – With expertise in regulatory oversight, Etta is a strong advocate for best practices in adoption. She is a veteran conference presenter and workshop facilitator, and has served on adoption advisory groups for CWLA, COA, and several states. Principal of Etsky Consulting, Etta has served as COA's Hague consultant and trainer.

JULIA ELLIFRITT – Julia is a licensed, clinical social worker with 25 years experience in grief and loss, 10 years as a home study provider. She is also the mother of two internationally adopted children, as well as a licensed foster parent. She has also created programs for orphans in Malawi and Madagascar.

FELICIA FAGO – Dr. Felicia Fago is the Educational Services Director at Positive Education Program in Cleveland, Ohio. She has been a teacher and school administrator for 30 years. Dr. Fago's doctoral research investigated prenatal alcohol exposure risk in adopted children, and her undergraduate degrees are in education. Dr. Fago has two adopted daughters, including a teen with fetal alcohol syndrome.

SARA FEIGENHOLTZ – Representative Feigenholtz, a 17-year veteran of the Illinois General Assembly, has been a longtime advocate for adoptee rights. The sponsor of many adoption reforms in Illinois, her most accomplished reform was the passage of HB5428 in 2010 which has given over 5,500 Illinois-born adult adoptees access to their original birth certificates.

MARY GAUTHIER – Mary Gauthier is an award-winning singer-songwriter who has written an entire CD on adoption and received critical success around the world for her healing and riveting music.

MARTHA GELARDEN – Martha Gelarden, first mother/artist + Adam Lazar, adoptee/artist, create work as collaborators and advocates for open birth records through their Legacy in Limbo Archive. Gelarden performs internationally about art and social issues. She is an Assistant Professor at Moore College of Art and Design, Philadelphia.

MICHAEL GRAND – Clinical Psychologist, Michael Grand, PhD, C.Psych, has been counseling members of the adoption constellation for over 30 years about search and reunion. He is Director of Clinical Training in the Clinical Psychology graduate program at the University of Guelph. He is the author of "The Adoption Constellation" and has a private psychotherapy practice in adoption.

VICTOR GROZA - Victor Groza, Ph.D is the Grace F. Brody of Parent-Child Studies at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH. Since 1991, Dr. Groza has been involved in various child welfare, technical assistance, research and training projects in the USA, Romania, India, Ukraine, Guatemala & Ethiopia.

PAM HASEGAWA – Pam Hasegawa is an adoptee who has been advocating for truth in adoption since joining the adoption reform movement in 1975. She encourages younger members of the constellation to help legislators and citizens understand the issues of access and honesty.

IAN HOCHBERG – Ian Hochberg is a reunited birthfather from Baltimore, MD.

LINDA HOYE – Linda Hoyer is a writer, editor, adoptee, and somewhat-fanatical grandma. Her work has appeared in an assortment of publications in Canada and the U.S. and she recently published her memoir *Two Hearts: An Adoptee's Journey Through Grief to Gratitude* in which she chronicles her own healing path to the truth.

DAVID HUSSEY, PhD – David Hussey is an Associate Professor at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University. Dr. Hussey is a licensed independent social worker - supervisor (LISW-S), and the Director of Research and Evaluation at Beech Brook, a children's mental health agency in Cleveland. Dr. Hussey's research interests are in the areas of special-needs adoption, music therapy, mental health, and victimization.

CRAIG HYMAN – Craig honors a lifelong calling to service in the areas of adoption education, healing and growth. Craig is an Adoption Life Coach for adoptees, biological parents, adoptive parents, their families and significant others; and specializes in the areas of general adoptions issues, search, reunion and post-reunion complexities. He has founded and facilitated post-reunion and support groups in New York City and Marin and Sonoma counties in Northern California. Craig resides in Southern California and NYC and coaches & educates globally.

DOTTIE KLEMM – Dottie Klemm, LSW has an extensive history in working in the adoption field having been the former Administrator of Adoption for Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services, former employee of and continued long term volunteer with Adoption Network Cleveland. She co-facilitates one of Adoption Network Cleveland's monthly General Support and Discussion Meetings.

CATHY KOLEY –

KARIN KRUEGER – Karin Krueger is a Marriage and Family Therapist, Professional Life Coach, Lecturer, and Adoption Educator. She is a birthmother who has been happily reunited with her daughter for 28 years. Learning she was a late discovery adoptee at the age of 44, Karin has also been in reunion with her birthfather for 21 years. Karin is the mother of four children and grandmother of two grandchildren.

KATE LIVINGSTON – Kate Livingston is a PhD Student in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies at The Ohio State University. A birthmother in an open adoption since 2001, her work focuses on feminist theory and U.S. adoption law, policy and practice. She is one of three birthmothers in her extended family and currently serves an AAC state representative in Ohio.

PHYLLIS LOWINGER – Phyllis Lowinger, LCSW, is a psychotherapist in private practice for almost 30 years. Her specialty is infertility, adoption and third party reproduction. She has led workshops and has presented at many conferences including ARC's Summer Intensive Adoption Training program, American Adoption Congress, St John's Adolescent Conference, Jewish Child Care, Ametz Adoption Program. She has led support groups for RESOLVE for women over 40, male factor infertility, couples and adoptive parents groups.

KAREN LYNN – Founder and president of the Canadian Council of Natural Mothers; Co-founder of the Coalition for Open Adoption Records that achieved success in Ontario in 2009; Co-founder and board member of local support group; Reunited mother with son since 1999. Advocate for adopted people and their original parents.

ROBERTA MACDONALD – Roberta MacDonald is from NJ and is an adoptee who started adoption reform in NC in 2000. She was instrumental in passing a confidential intermediary program in 2008 with the NC Coalition for Adoption Reform which benefited thousands of North Carolinians in finding birth relatives. Roberta MacDonald helps co-facilitate two NC adoption Support Groups, joined AAC in 2000, became an AAC NC State Rep in 2006, and joined the AAC board in 2009. She is the AAC membership chair and webmaster and co-facilitates two adoption support groups in NC.

EILEAN MACKENZIE – Eilean Mackenzie is an adoptee in reunion with her birth father and birth mother's family. She has worked as a licensed clinical therapist for over 20 years specializing in women's developmental issues. She is currently working on a PhD in psychology with a specialization in Jungian studies through University.

LESLIE PATE MACKINNON – Leslie Pate Mackinnon is a therapist specializing in issues that impact families conceived through adoption and third party reproduction. She was drawn to the field by placing her two firstborn sons for adoption, and is featured in *The Girls Who Went Away*. Leslie serves on the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute's Board of Directors. You can find more at www.lesliepatemackinnon.com

KATALINA MCGLONE – Katalina McGlone was adopted in the closed adoption system, yet within her family. With her background in health education and a PhD in social welfare, she is a health and social science researcher. Her dissertation was on hanai, a traditional Hawaiian form of open adoption. Katalina also is a re-evaluation counselor.

ANDREW MAJKOWICZ – Andrew Majkowicz is a late discovery adoptee in reunion for almost eight years. He is a Marine Corps. veteran and the Fire Chief of the Saddle Brook, New Jersey Fire Department. He has three daughters, is a members of the Morristown, New Jersey support group, and a frequent contributor to adoption conferences.

LISA MAYNARD – Lisa Maynard has worked in adoption since adopting her first child 25 years ago. Currently, she is responsible for leading Hillside Children's Center through policy and practice changes to support permanency efforts as well as infant and international adoption. Lisa has led agency efforts at advocacy and legislative change in support of OBC. She has been significantly involved with the agency's Family Finding initiative since its inception in 2010, training at the local and national level. Lisa has received considerable recognition in the field, including the 2010 North American Council on Adoptable Children "Adoption Activist Award," 2008 United States Department of Health and Human Services Excellence in Adoption Award for post adoption services, and the Congressional Honor "Angel in Adoption" in 2001. Lisa's efforts have resulted building lifelong connections between children in care and committed, safe and loving families.

LORI McCARTHY – Lori Ann McCarthy is an adult adoptee, the adoptive mother of six and a licensed Social Worker. She had beautiful reunions and relationships with her birth parents and has had open relationships with the birth families of her six children. She has also worked as a foster care/adoption assessor in the state of Ohio.

KRISTA McCOY – Krista is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a biracial, transracial adoptee. She is the founder of Integrity Clinical Consulting and Training in Illinois and works with individuals and families as a Clinical Therapist. She has been a conference presenter and trainer since 1993 on issues of adoption and foster care. Her extensive clinical work also includes mental health and substance abuse. She currently serves as the AAC State Representative for IL and serves on the AAC Board of Directors.

CYNTHIA McGUIGAN – Cynthia McGuigan was nominated to the American Adoption Board in Boston at the 2006 Conference. She has served as the treasurer since 2006. She is also the Massachusetts State Representative. She is a former foster child, a birthmom (of a 29-year-old son) and married to the birthfather. She is a Financial Associate at Harvard University for 22 years. Along with her husband they have three daughters Kayla, Nicole and Catherine. She reunited with her son in 2000.

LINDA BACK MCKAY – Linda Back McKay is an author, poet and teaching artist. She has received several awards and residency fellowships and has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. Her first adoption-related book was the groundbreaking *Shadow Mothers*. The companion/sequel is *Out of the Shadows: Stories of Adoption and Reunion*, published in 2012.

PATRICK McMAHON – Patrick McMahon is the author of *Becoming Patrick*, a memoir about reconnecting to his family of origin, a facet of which is coming out as gay once again. During the past 15 years, he has frequently spoken at conferences, seminars, and classes. Patrick also facilitates an adoption support group in San Diego, where he currently resides.

GIL MICHELINI – Gil Michelini published his adoption story "Daddy, Come & Get Me: a dad's adventure through a Guatemalan adoption" after spending nearly six years of learning how to bring an idea to the modern book forms. Gil, his wife of 24 years, and daughters live in the Indianapolis area.

JUDY MILLER – Judy M. Miller, MA, CGE is an adoption educator, writer and author of the internationally selling *What To Expect From Your Adopted Tween*. She coordinates and teaches parent preparation education to those in the adoption process. She also works as a support specialist, helping parents with issues after having adopted.

JAMIE NAGY – Jamie Nagy is an adoptee and a mother of five (four biological children and one adoptee from Haiti). Attending two prior AAC workshops have been instrumental in her healing journey. Jamie's desire to share processes she has discovered as helpful in along her journey as an adoptee and as an adoptive mom with you.

BETSI NORRIS – Betsie Norris founded Adoption Network Cleveland in 1988 after her successful search and reunion. A former RN, she became executive director in 1995, a position she still holds. Betsie served on the AAC board from 1997-1999 and is the 2004 recipient of the Emma Mae Vilardi Humanitarian Award. She received a Congressional "Angels in Adoption Award" and was named a "Woman of Note" by *Crains Cleveland Business* in 2005, and a U.S. HHS Children's Bureau "Adoption Excellence Award" in 2011.

RON NYDAM PhD – Ron Nydam is the author of *Adoptees Come of Age* and is on the faculty of Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he is Professor of Pastoral Care. Ron has visited orphanages in Romania and the Ukraine. He founded Pastoral Care of Denver and a proud husband, father and grandpa.

DR. JOYCE MAGUIRE PAVAO – Joyce Maguire Pavao, Ed.D, LCSW, LMFT, is an internationally noted Consultant and Coach on child welfare, adoption, systems for business and families, team building, model building and training. Her constant chant is that adoption is about finding families for children, not about finding children for families and although she is a family therapist with empathy for all parties, she keeps her focus on the best interests of the child. Her other mantra is that it takes a community to hold a family and the wider community needs to understand the Family of Adoption.

ZARA PHILLIPS – Born and raised in England, Zara Phillips is a singer songwriter who collaborated on the song with DMC 'I'm Legit' she is author of *Mother Me* and director of *Roots Unknown*. Zara lives in New Jersey and facilitates workshops.

JEAN PROVANCE – Jean Provance LCSW is a New York University graduate of 2008. Ms. Provance was reunited in 2005 with her first family. She works in private practice specializing in post adoption issues with adoptees and birth/first parents. For years she's worked in an outpatient mental health setting specializing in teen girls and DYFS cases.

ANNE REED – Anne M. Reed MT-BC is board certified with an emphasis in neurologic music therapy with an emphasis in neurologic music therapy. Anne is the Music Therapy Program Manager at Beech Brook, a treatment center for emotionally disturbed children and adolescents in the region of Cleveland, Ohio. Her duties include providing group and individual music therapy services as well as overseeing the implementation and application of research protocols and procedures.

MAUREEN RILEY-BEHRINGER – Maureen Riley-Behringer, LISW-S/Doctoral Candidate/adoptive parent, has worked in private practice with foster and adoptive families for 14 years. She is completing her PhD at CWRU in Social Welfare. Her research interests are biological/psychological stress responses in children who have experienced pre-foster/adoption maltreatment and how these impact emotional-behavioral regulation and attachment.

DENISE ROESSLE – Denise Roessle is a marketing communications consultant and writer. After reuniting with her relinquished son in 1996, she began writing on this more personal topic. Her articles have appeared in national adoption magazines and newsletters, and her widely respected memoir, *Second-Chance Mother*, was published in January 2012.

KAREN ROSENBERG – Karen F. Rosenberg, LISW-S, is a clinical social worker who has been in practice for over 35 years in Cleveland, OH. In addition, Ms. Rosenberg provides training, consultation and group clinical supervision to child welfare and family service agencies.

RENAY SANDERS – Ms. Sanders is the Director of Synergy Force offering training, consultation and retreat services to social service organizations and related groups. She has expertise in child welfare as it pertains to child protection, and permanency planning. She has experience in the provision of permanency through reunification, kinship care, and adoption.

JAMIE SCOTT – Jamie Scott spent 6 months in a Florence Crittendon Home in 1967, gave birth to a baby boy, and met her son 37 years later. They have now known each other for over 7 years.

BETSY KEEFER SMALLEY – Betsy Keefer Smalley, co-author of the award-winning *Telling the Truth to Your Adopted or Foster Child: Making Sense of the Past* (2000) and *Wounded Children, Healing Homes* (2009), has 40 years of experience in child welfare, adoption placement, post adoption services, and training. She works presently as Foster Care and Adoption Training Manager for the Institute for Human Services in Columbus, Ohio.

HOLLY SPENCER-TRUEMAN – Holly Spencer-Trueman is Program Manager, Adoption Navigation for Adoption Network Cleveland. An adoptive parent for 14 years, Holly has spent nine years of her career helping parents create families through adoption. Parenting adopted children and working daily with other adoptive parents has been the most important training of her life.

ANDREW TASH – Andrew Tash is a birthfather and a late discovery adoptee. He was 35 when he discovered his adoption. His birthmother had contacted the state to make connection. He thought the state contact was related to his relinquished son's birthmother since he had never been told he was adopted. He immediately made contact with his birthmother and was reunited three months later. Two weeks after that, he made connection with his birthfather and two months later, reunited with his birthfather. He's been in reunion for seven years. He has one relinquished son with an open adoption and five other children born to him after.

SARAH TOMEK – Sarah Tomek holds a BA in theatre from Michigan State University and is expected to graduate this May with her MA in Drama Therapy from Kansas State University. *Lucky Day* is an autobiographical work created from interviews with the people who appear as characters in the play.

ESTES TURNER – Estes Turner is an adoptee who reunited with both of his birth families. He is a former Adoption Network Cleveland board member and 20-year volunteer with Adoption Network Cleveland. He has been a co-facilitator of one of Adoption Network Cleveland's monthly General Support and Discussion Meetings since 1996. He served as the chair of the hiring committee to hire Betsie Norris as the executive director in 1995, served as board president 1999-2000, and is the current chair of the organization's 25th Anniversary Committee.

PEKITTA TYNES – Pekitta Tynes is an Adoptee and a Professional Comedienne. She has been performing stand-up for over 25+ years with a comedic emphasis on impromptu comedy. Pekitta shares her Adoption experience to inspire, motivate and encourage audiences to never give-up. She is one of the 100 Memorable Adoptees in the book *Finding Our Place* written by Nikki McCaslin with Richard Uhrlaub and Marilyn Grotzky.

RICH UHRLAUB – Rich Uhrlaub, MEd, serves as Coordinator of Adoptees in Search, Colorado's Triad Connection. He an AAC Board Member and member of the AAC Legislative Committee. Rich is a contributing author of *Finding Our Place: 100 Memorable Adoptees, Fostered Persons and Orphanage Alumni*, and *Adoption and Mothering*, which was released fall 2012.

NANCY VERRIER – Nancy Verrier is an adoptive mother and psychotherapist who specializes in adoption issues, as well as an international speaker on the effects of separation and trauma and genetic confusion on adoptees. She is the author of *The Primal Wound* and *Coming Home to Self*, and is the recipient of the Book of the Year Award from CERA and the Emma May Vilaridi Humanitarian Award from AAC.

KATE ST. VINCENT VOGL – Kate St. Vincent Vogl reveals what happened when her birthmother found her through her mom's obituary in *Lost & Found: A Memoir of Mothers*. Her writing has won honors in international competitions. A graduate of Cornell and the University of Michigan Law School, Vogl teaches at the Loft Literary Center.

MARILYN MENDENHALL WAUGH – Marilyn Mendenhall Waugh, MA, is a reunited birthmother; director of Adoption Concerns Triangle in Topeka, a search and support group serving those in northeastern Kansas; a past president of the AAC; and currently the AAC state representative for Kansas. For the past 20 years, Marilyn has worked in the Post Adoption Division of the Kansas Social and Rehabilitation Services, processing and completing 500 to 700 record and search requests per year.

CAROL WELSH – Carol is a Registered Nurse, holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and a Master's Degree in Human Relations. In recent years, she has turned to writing and jewelry design to honor her past and inspire others to follow their own personal paths of discovery, healing and growth.

ZOË BREEN WOOD – Zoë Breen Wood, PhD, MSW is on the faculty of the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences. An adoptive mom of a sibling group of three girls, Zoë's teaching, research and practice experience have focused on children adopted from the public child welfare system and more recently on intercountry adoptions.

JUSTIN AND BETH ZABOR – Justin and Beth Zabor are adoptive parents from Cleveland, Ohio. They adopted their son as an infant through a private agency and have an open relationship with his birthmother. They appear in Adoption Network Cleveland's new organizational video and feel strongly called to share their adoption journey with others.



To register, go to: www.americanadoptioncongress.org

Many options for registering are available, including full conference rates (best value), one-day rates, multiple-day rates or evening activity rates. The full Conference rate includes the Professional Day, all keynotes, films, workshops, hospitality suites, snacks, Regional Box Lunches, AAC Award Luncheon, Saturday evening entertainment and party and a full conference recording in an MP3 format. (This MP3 has a value of \$390.)

Save on registration costs by **BECOMING A MEMBER** now!



MEMBER INFORMATION: AMERICAN ADOPTION CONGRESS

AAC membership includes adult adopted persons, birth and adoptive parents, extended family members, adoption professionals, and others whose lives have been touched by adoption or other loss of family continuity. Membership includes quarterly issues of our publication, the *Decree*, discounted conference registrations, referrals to search, support and reform resources, and much more. Visit our website, www.americanadoptioncongress.org to download the application.

MEMBER INFORMATION: ADOPTION NETWORK CLEVELAND



To become an Adoption Network Cleveland member and be eligible for a discounted registration, contact us at (216) 325-1000 to renew over the phone with a credit card (Visa, MasterCard or Discover), or visit our website, complete the Membership Form as part of the Conference Registration or visit the membership page on our website, <http://adoptionnetwork.org/become-a-member-donate.aspx>.

Adoption Network Cleveland members receive:

- CONNECTION to a community of caring people who understand and support you in your adoption journey every step of the way
- SUBSCRIPTION to our bi-monthly newsletter, *Guidance*, including event information, calendar, stories, photos and information on issues
- DISCOUNTS and advanced notice on programs and events
- A VOICE in Ohio public policy issues affecting adoption and foster care
- MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER, *Pipeline*
- BORROWING PRIVILEGES to our Resource Library of books and movies (click here to view more information on our library)
- SEARCH AND REUNION support and assistance at search membership level
- UNLIMITED ATTENDANCE at support and discussion meetings including General Meetings and Post Adoption Groups



Families Rooted In Truth

ADOPTION: NO SECRETS. NO FEAR

AMERICAN ADOPTION CONGRESS

The American Adoption Congress is comprised of individuals, families and organizations committed to adoption reform. We represent those whose lives are touched by adoption or other loss of family continuity.

We promote honesty, openness and respect for family connections in adoption, foster care and assisted reproduction. We provide education for our members and professional communities about the lifelong process of adoption. We advocate legislation that will grant every individual access to information about his or her family and heritage.

THE AAC IS COMMITTED TO:

- Increasing public awareness about the realities of adopted life for birth and adoptive families
- Changing public policies related to adoption practices in order to acknowledge adoption as an extension of family
- Enacting legislation in all states that guarantees access to identifying information for all adopted persons and their birth and adoptive families through records access and preservation of open adoption agreements
- Facilitating birth family reunification for all adopted adults, without prior restraint, through search and support group networking and/or social service assistance



ADOPTION IS A LIFELONG JOURNEY WE ARE HERE EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

ADOPTION NETWORK CLEVELAND

At Adoption Network Cleveland, we support anyone touched by adoption – adoptees, birthparents, adoptive parents, foster youth and alumni, foster parents and professionals.

We believe that adoption is a lifelong journey, and we are here to support you every step of the way before, during and after adoption. Since 1988, we have offered a broad array of programs and services designed to meet your needs.

ADOPTION NETWORK CLEVELAND STRENGTHENS OUR COMMUNITY BY:

- Supporting youth who are at high risk of aging out of foster care without a permanent family
- Supporting adult adoptees and birthfamilies as they experience the lifelong journey of adoption
- Helping prospective adoptive families form or expand their families, and assisting adoptive families strengthen their ties
- Serving as a resource in the community by providing information, education and advocacy related to adoption and foster care issues

The 34th Annual
American Adoption Congress
International Conference
on Adoption
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Cleveland, Ohio
April 10-14, 2013

Wednesday, April 10 through Sunday, April 14, 2013
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