

THE AMERICAN ADOPTION CONGRESS PROUDLY PRESENTS

AAC's 29th International Adoption Conference

**Adoption in the Global Community:
Redefining Kinship in the 21st Century**



Wednesday, March 26 -

Saturday, March 29, 2008

Portland Downtown Waterfront Marriott

1401 SW Naito Parkway

Portland, Oregon 97201



Register on-line

www.americanadoptioncongress.org

On behalf of the AAC, we want to invite you to join us in Portland in March 2008 for our 29th international conference "Adoption in a Global Community: Redefining Kinships in the 21st Century."

Here are ten of the many great reasons to come to Portland:

1. Portland, in the heart of the Pacific Northwest, is consistently voted one of the most livable cities in the US and one of the top tourist destinations on the west coast. The conference will be held in an excellent and affordable downtown/waterfront location.
2. Cutting-edge keynote speakers will appeal to many different subgroups of adoption advocates. Visit AAC's website at www.americanadoptioncongress.org for more information.
3. The conference will offer a wide variety of workshop topics that will appeal to adopted persons, birth parents, adoptive parents, adoption professionals, attorneys, educators and others from the adoption constellation.
4. Continuing Education Units (CEUs), Continuing Legal Units (CLUs) and Continuing Professional Development and Clock Hours for educators from OR and WA are available.
5. Attendees who arrive early can meet others aboard *The Spirit of the Willamette* for a Wednesday afternoon lunch river cruise. There are many other opportunities for dining, sightseeing, and recreation.
6. Local transportation is inexpensive and readily available from the airport to hotel and to other locations around the city and region.
7. The hospitality suite will be open every night for sharing and getting to know your fellow AAC members and other attendees.
8. On Wednesday evening, March 26, we will offer AAC 101 to help orient newcomers, meet the board, and form relationships that will last a lifetime.
9. On Saturday, March 29, we'll celebrate the anniversary of Measure 58 and learn first-hand the positive impact that it has had on members of the Oregon adoption constellation.
10. The number one reason for attending the conference is the impact that it will have on your personal life experiences and stories.

Eileen McQuade
President

Sharon Pittenger
Portland Conference Chair

About the AAC Mission Statement

The American Adoption Congress (AAC) is an international network of individuals and organizations committed to promoting truth in adoption. Through education and advocacy, the AAC promotes honesty, openness and respect for family connections in adoption, foster care and assisted reproduction.

The AAC membership is comprised of adult adopted persons, birth parents, adoptive parents, extended birth and adoptive family members, adoption professionals and others whose lives have been touched by adoption.

Founded in 1978, the AAC is a volunteer-driven, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. The organization was incorporated in 1981. All AAC Directors serve entirely as volunteers and receive no monetary compensation. To finance its wide range of activities, the AAC relies on funds generated by membership dues, sponsors, grants, donations and conference and book sale revenues.

AAC · PO Box 42730 · Washington, DC 20015 (202) 483-3399
www.americanadoptioncongress.org

Portland Downtown Waterfront Marriott
1401 SW Naito Parkway
Portland, Oregon 97201

Reservations – Visit www.americanadoptioncongress.org

2008 Hotel Room Rates are \$139.00 per night (1-4 people)

A superb location along the scenic Willamette River in downtown Portland with fabulous views of Mt. Hood. Near shopping and waterfront restaurants. 15 minutes from Portland International Airport.

Indoor pool, exercise room, whirlpool, jogging and mountain biking path nearby, tennis, kayaking, jet boats, golf and skiing nearby.

Full breakfast is included for hotel guests only; continental breakfast provided for those not staying at the hotel.

CEU Information

The AAC is working to provide CEUs and CLUs to those professionals who require them. The AAC has applied to the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), the California Board of Behavioral Sciences for CEUs and the Oregon State Bar and the Washington State Bar for CLUs. The total number of credits will be announced on our website as approvals are received from the respective organizations. CEU and CLU credits are available for \$45, which includes all application, processing and filing fees. Please contact Carolyn Hoard at choard@comcast.net for additional information or visit our website at www.americanadoptioncongress.org, where we will continue to post the latest information regarding CEUs.

AAC's Book Room is Back!



Many of the books are hard to find at popular book stores, or online. Looking for the latest books on adoption? Visit the AAC's book room. Want to exhibit your books for others to see? Please contact Pat Lubarsky PL9706@aol.com or Cindy McGuigan cindy_mcguigan@harvard.edu, AAC's Book Room Coordinators, for further information regarding book orders, vendor tables, and author signings.

AAC is looking forward to another silent auction. Do you have an item you would like to contribute? If so, please contact Sharon Pittenger at sharon.pittenger@gmail.com. In particular, we are looking for art work, books, and items of Pacific Northwest regional interest.

Why I Attend an AAC Conference

My first AAC conference, nearly ten years ago, was the Southern Regional in Orlando, FL in 1998. At the time, I had just been contacted by the daughter I had lost to adoption, and I was experiencing the love, guilt, joy, loss, shame, relief, hope and uncertainty that characterizes that period for many of us. No one, I thought, could possibly understand my confusion.

How wrong I was! During those few days I met a wonderful group of mothers and fathers, by birth and by adoption, professionals, and adopted adults to heal, educate, and support me. I laughed, shed many tears, and felt whole for the first time in many years. Many of those men and women are my closest friends today. It was intense, exhilarating, and exhausting. I replayed my cassette tapes over and over, gaining new insights with each repetition. There is no substitute for attending a conference, chatting with the experts, and giving and getting the big hugs.

Sharon Pittenger, the Conference Committee, and the Local Organizing Committee have been busy for months planning and organizing this exciting event. We all look forward to meeting you in Portland next spring!

Eileen McQuade, President

Sharon Roszia, MS, BSW
Thursday 9:15 - 10:30AM

Keynote Speakers

More Than Global—the Ever-expanding Constellation of Adoption!

Sharon Kaplan Roszia is a founder of Parenting Resources in Tustin, CA, and the American Kinship Institute on the Monterey peninsula. She has worked in the field of adoption for thirty years. With Lois Melina, she is the author of *The Open Adoption Experience: A Complete Guide for Adoptive and Birth Families*.

Dr. David Brodzinsky, PhD
Friday 9:00 - 10:15AM

Lifelong Development Issues for Adopted People and Their Impact on Best Practices and Policies

David Brodzinsky, PhD, Professor Emeritus of Developmental and Clinical Psychology and past Director of the Foster Care Counseling Project at Rutgers University, was a founding director of Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute. He is especially well known for his research on developmental and family issues related to adopted children's adjustment. Dr. Brodzinsky maintains an active private practice in psychology, much of which focuses on the clinical needs of adoption triad members. He also has an active practice in forensic psychology focusing primarily on family law issues, including child custody, termination of parental rights, contested adoptions, and child abuse and neglect. He also has published widely on the psychology of adoption in professional journals and is the co-author or co-editor of five books on adoption, including *The*



Psychology of Adoption (1990); *Being Adopted: The Lifelong Search for Self* (1992); *Children's Adjustment to Adoption: Developmental and Clinical Issues* (1998); *Adoption and Prenatal Drug Exposure: Research, Policy, and Practice* (2000), and *Psychological Issues in Adoption: Research and Practice* (2005). A sixth book, *Gay and Lesbian Adoption: A New American Reality*, is in preparation.

Kevin Campbell
Friday 3:15 - 4:30PM

Family Finding - a Set of Strategies Being Used Around the Country to Find Lifelong Supports for Children and Young People in America's Foster Care System

Kevin Campbell is a nationally known youth permanency expert and creator of Family Finding, a set of strategies being used around the country to find lifelong supports for children and young people in America's foster care system. Kevin has been an administrator, director and vice president of private social service agencies for 21 years. He has provided technical assistance to 40 states and many jurisdictions throughout the country, including Illinois, New England, Washington, DC, Los Angeles, Philadelphia and North Dakota. In addition Kevin has been a consultant with the California Permanency for Youth Program in 14 California counties. He has spoken on the issues of youth permanency throughout the country. He has also published a number of articles on family finding and youth permanency. Mr. Campbell is currently an independent technical assistance consultant. Kevin's work was recently featured on CBS' *60 Minutes* with Leslie Stahl and in newspaper articles around the country.

Barbara Bisantz Raymond, MS, BS; Author, *The Baby Thief*

Saturday 1:45 -3:00PM

Adoptive Mother/Author Discovers the Truth About Adoption



In addition to her work on *The Baby Thief*, Barbara Raymond is a contributor to the *Handbook of Magazine Article Writing* (Writer's Digest Books) and an award-winning writer for other national magazines. Barbara also has 17 years of college teaching experience and is a former correspondent for a national newspaper. Barbara is an adoptive mother whose daughter has been in reunion with her family for over a decade.

Alison Larkin, Writer/Actor Saturday 8:00 - 9:00 pm

"Knock! Knock!" "Who's There?" How My Adoption Turned Me into a Stand-Up Comic.

Wednesday, March 26th

11:00 - 2:00PM
Spirit Lunch Cruise

Portland

4:00—9:00pm

Registration

7:30—9:00pm

AAC 101—Pam Hasegawa

Please join us for lunch aboard the *Portland Spirit*, a 150' yacht with three public decks, two of which are enclosed. The cruise departs at 11:30 AM and returns at 2:00 PM. The cost of the cruise is \$40.00 per person, which includes lunch, cruise, coffee, tea, ice tea, soda, & live entertainment/piano bar.

Security Tidbit: They require a photo taken for national security



Is this your first AAC conference experience? Are you coming to Portland alone? If so, we hope you will join board members and presenters as well as experienced conferees for an introduction to each other and to the dynamics of spending extended time with members of the adoption constellation. Come make personal connections and get off to a great start.

9:00—10:00pm

Opening Night Reception

10:00—Midnight

Hospitality Suite

Hosted by Washington Adoption Reunion Movement (WARM) and Concerned United Birthparents, Inc (CUB)

Presenter Biographies

Ann Adornetto is an adult adoptee who has been in reunion for 9 years. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor in the State of New Jersey and a Certified Hypnotherapist. Ann has been in private practice for 9 years and working as a therapist for 18 years. She has 3 children and a wonderful husband who has supported her on her journey. Her latest endeavor is discovering the emerging impact of search and reunion on the next generation.

Debra Baker, BA, is an award-winning filmmaker whose films have been shown at festivals, on PBS and cable stations in the US, UK and Canada. She is a frequent presenter at adoption conferences. Ms. Baker found her son in 1998 and has two granddaughters.

“Bobbi” Roberta Beavers, MBA, MA, BA, is the AAC Maine State Representative and co-founder of OBC for ME. She is a 2008 candidate for the House of Representatives in the Maine Legislature. Bobbi’s first-born son was conceived in rape (NJ) and lost to adoption (WA). She has been happily reunited with her son since 1995. Her greatest joy was to see all three of her children together in Washington state in 1996. She has been an advocate for adoptee human rights for 13 years, first in NJ, then NH, and finally in ME

Jennifer Blakley is an adoptee who has been through search and reunion and has a passion to help other adoptees process their adoption in healthy and meaningful ways. She is an advocate for openness in adoption and is writing a book based on her Master’s Thesis entitled *The Truth Shall Set You Free: Openness in Adoption as an Opportunity for Spiritual Growth*.

Sarah Burns of Los Angeles is AAC’s Southern California State Representative. She works in public affairs, fundraising and lobbying. She serves on the Boards of CUB and NWPC, and holds degrees from Boston College, the University of Madrid and Harvard University. A birth mother, she has been reunited with her son for five years.

Monica Byrne is a happily reunited birth mother of 20 years. Registrar of Parent Finders in Ottawa, Canada, she has been an active part of hundreds of reunions. Former Board Member of the AAC, former Co-chair of the Adoption Council of Ontario and active lobbyist for political change to Ontario adoption laws, Monica was the recipient of the AAC’s Vilardi Humanitarian Award in 2005.

Bill Cordray is a Utah architect and an advocate for people “adopted” through donor insemination. He was born through DI conception, a fact he learned at age 37 in 1983. He works to eliminate secrecy, promote early disclosure, end anonymity in ART, and proclaim the retrospective right of access of DI adults to the identity of their father of origin

Kathryn Creedy has been an effective adoption advocate for more than a decade, having worked with various organizations to promote the understanding of adoption. She adopted both her daughters in Romania. As a professional writer, reporter and media specialist, she has worked on adoption coverage by *CNN*, *USA Today*, *The Washington Post*, *CBS Evening News*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Chicago Sun Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *ABC News Magazine*, *Parenting*, *Gannett Television*, *New York Magazine* and *The New York Times*. Ms. Creedy has also contributed to *Adoptive Families*, *FACE Facts*, *Adoption Advocates Newsletter*, *Adoption Quarterly*, *Resolve*, *Washington Families*, *Roots and Wings* and *The Handbook for Single Adoptive Parents*.

Etta Lappen Davis, MAED, is principal of Etsky Consulting, Bolton, MA, focusing on best practices in adoption and foster care, management and quality improvement in child welfare organizations, accreditation, and regulatory compliance. She is Hague Consultant and Trainer for Council on Accreditation, Hague Evaluator, Team Leader and Peer Reviewer, a member of COA’s Child and Family Service Advisory Panel, and a contract consultant for Child Welfare League of America. A former Licensing Specialist, Etta is an advocate for accreditation and effective regulatory oversight. She serves as President of Adoption Community of New England and is touched by adoption as an extended family member.

(Continued on page 8)

Can’t attend in 2008, but would like to help someone else attend? The AAC needs sponsorship to help offset the expenses to those coming to the conference. Please contact Sharon Pittenger at Sharon.pittenger@gmail.com for information.

Adoptive and Foster Families Day

Rise and Shine Yoga - Hosted by Patrick McMahon

8:00—5:00pm Registration
8:45—9:15am Welcome & Announcements

9:15 - 10:30 AM General Session

Keynote speaker
Sharon Kaplan Roszia
More Than Global—the Ever-expanding Constellation of Adoption

11:00am—12:15pm Workshop Series 100

101. Adoption Healing... a Path to Discovery—Joe Soll What other wounds are there after the "primal wound"? A look at the second and third wounds or traumas and the "fracture" that ensues, followed by an exploration of ways to heal the wounds.

102. Finding Kin on the Internet—Marilyn Waugh Reconnecting to kin is possible if you know user friendly, regularly updated Internet websites. Learn how to search using sites that are available to the general public for free or at a very minimal cost. This workshop, led by an experienced professional who has completed several thousand searches, will provide multiple handouts to participants

103. Got Access? Branding the Cause of Adoptee Rights—Mary Mason Short of having every adoptee wear a milk moustache, how can the right of adoptees to their original birth certificates become a national phenomenon?

Learn the impact of branding the cause, creating partnerships, launching a national education campaign and grass roots efforts. Come ready to interact and add your ideas.

104. Reunion: Expect the Unexpected—Ann Adornetto Presenter will address in open forum the issues that can arise during the reunion process. These issues include but are not limited to reactions from the adoptee's family, reactions from birth parents, rejection, over-involvement, and more. Specific attention will be given to the impact on those around the triad members after reunion and the "ripple effect." After all, we don't live in isolation. We will also explore the benefits and pitfalls of reunion. Experiences from attendees are welcome.

105. Adoptee Psychology—John Sobraske Adoptee psychology is complicated. This workshop will explore issues like "soul hunger," precocity, regression, creativity, existence anxiety, buoyancy, hoarding, hypervigilance, hyperadaptability, hypercontrol and just plain hyper. Special focus will be given to identity paradoxes and diagnostic conundrums.

106. Reclaiming Our Pride—Karen Vedder, Joyce Steensrud, Amy Kastelin, and Mimi Janes When a parent surrenders a child to adoption, the pain and shame can be everlasting. It is as if we are sentenced to a lifetime of pain and shame. The panel is made up of birth parents, with differing circumstances regarding their relinquishments and reunions. Each panel member is currently in various stages of reunion with their surrendered adult child. They will talk about their journey, focusing on the pursuit of easing the pain of losing a child to adoption, and reclaiming their pride.

12:15—1:30pm Concession lunch
Meet with your region

2:00—3:15pm Workshop Series 200

201. Transracial Adoptees, Racial Identity, Racism: A Lifelong Journey—Mark Hagland Transracial adoptees face a lifelong journey towards wholeness, integration and personal peace. But that journey takes place in a social and psychological context. This workshop will explore the challenges they face around identity issues, race and racism, with an emphasis on learning's that can help parents and adoption professionals .

(Continued on page 7)

202. Adoption Ethics—Ellen Roseman & Sharon Kaplan

Roszia First presented in 1990 to a group of social workers wanting to know about open adoption and its consequences, Ellen's workshop has changed little; nonetheless, many, including agencies and lawyers, who value income over principle still do not follow the basic guidelines. Why has it been such an uphill fight to get professionals to follow ethical principles when it comes to such an important topic? What will it take to help this change? What does it mean to be ethical vs. not ethical? There are views on this—plan to share yours.

203. The Ethical Issues of Adoption using Medical

Assistance—Bill Cordray A new look at Assisted Reproduction using the language of adoption. The medical profession uses a technological focus on infertility, unaware that their language ignores the profound ethical problems that impacts infertile patients/ parents and adopted people. AAC wisdom can teach ART professionals the ethical pitfalls.

204. Realities of Reunion and its Effects on the Extended

Family—Lisa LoRusso and Andrew Majkovicz Workshop presented by a reunited mother and son is intended to help in the understanding of powerful issues associated with reunion—its effects not only on the mother and son but adoptive parents, spouses, siblings, children and grandchildren.

205. The Reunion Drama—Betty Jean Lifton

In this workshop we will look at the drama of adoptees reuniting with the birthmother and their original self in what the presenter calls the “Alternate Life.” There are many possible scenarios in this drama, which can resemble Shakespeare’s comedies, Greek tragedy, or Theater resemble of the Absurd. The adoptees’ question “Who Am I?” becomes “Who Am I Now?” Participants in the workshop will be asked to share the outcomes of the drama.

206. Men, Motherhood, Menopause & More: Birthmoms Reclaiming Choice at Midlife (women only)—Delores Teller

When birthmothers reach midlife, they have the opportunity to review their relinquishment experience within the context of the rest of their life experience and note how it shaped their self-identity and relationships with others. This workshop will explore how changes at midlife offer birthmoms an opportunity to reclaim choices they may have deferred due to relinquishment trauma. The psychological, social, emotional, and biological strengths of middle age will be celebrated.

3:45—5:00pm

Workshop Series 300

301. Putting Adoption into Context with the Modern

Family—Kathryn Creedy One of the most popular topics, this presentation both challenges conventional wisdom on adoption and helps those who would deny its differences to understand that the issues they face are much the same as those faced by all non-traditional families. It also teaches skills to help those who are trying to educate others about adoption to increase the receptivity of their messages. Eighty-four million children are being raised in non-traditional families and adoption has become a valuable prism through which to view these families and to help others understand the issues they face.

302. Ethnic Community Connections and Boundaries—

Chris Winston many acknowledge that it is important for adoptive parents to provide their children adopted interethnically with ethnic community connections. This workshop will present a model of how this can happen in practice.

303. Discussing Donor Conception with Children—Kris

Probasco Approximately 60,000-80,000 children are born each year in the U.S. through a donor conception (through the use of donor sperm, egg and embryo). It is very important that the adoption community and parents of the children understand and accept their unique beginnings. This workshop will present a format to explain donor conceptions to children. Developmental factors will be presented. Education resources will be discussed.

304. Lifebooks—Gene Trewaser Learn how those who are

searching can make lifebooks supplying the missing pieces in their life stories. A mother and daughter who reconnected after 30+ years are working with the presenter, who has completed extensive lifebook training, to develop books which are meaningful whether or not the search is successful.

305. Growing Up Biracial in Adoption—Krista McCoy

Workshop explores the presenter’s experiences of growing up in an adoptive home as a biracial child adopted by Caucasian parents in the 1970s when transracial adoption was viewed by many as a cultural genocide to the child of color. She will discuss her experiences and how race and culture impacted her. She will also discuss how adopting a child transracially impacts the entire family system.

306. 2007 Legislative Victories: North and South—Bobbie

Beavers & Roberta MacDonald Bobbi and Roberta will share their challenging roads to legislative success for adoptees in the states of Maine and North Carolina. In one case a minor amendment was accepted; in the other a replacement bill was accepted. They will explain how the legislative and cultural environment in different states can dictate what can be achieved in a given year.

Adoptive and Foster Youth Program

8:00 - 8:30am **Registration and Breakfast**

8:45 - 9:15am **Welcome & Announcements**

9:15 -10:30am **General Session**

11:00am—12:15pm

If We Weren't Adoptees, Who Would We Be?—Kathy Mackechney What does it mean to be an adoptee? Do we allow it to prevent us from being anyone/thing else? Who/what else could we be? Who/what else are we? Is it even possible to imagine ourselves any other way? This workshop explores how we define, and can re-define, ourselves as adoptees

12:15—1:30pm **Youth luncheon**

2:00—3:15pm

Harry Potter, Superman and Snow White—John Sobraske

This presentation will take a fun ride through lots of super adoption stories such as Harry Potter, Batman, Superman, Spiderman, *Star Wars*, Pinocchio, The Ugly Duckling, Moses, The Jungle Book, The Red Shoes, Snow White and *Sleeping Beauty*. In the process, learn what they each have to say about the adoption experience.

5:45—6:45pm **Thursday Post Workshop Activities**

5:30—6:45pm **Triad Support groups**

5:30—6:45pm **There's No Place Like Home: Adoption in the Movies—Cynthia Roe**

From 1921's *The Kid* to 2007's *Meet the Robinsons*, adoption has received the Hollywood treatment. This multimedia presentation will examine some of the films that have adoption as a central theme or a significant "back story." Utilizing film clips, historical perspectives, and the presenter's own family history, this workshop will enhance the participants' understanding of how adoption has been portrayed in movies over time and across the globe.

6:00—7:30pm **State representative meeting and dinner**

8:00—9:00pm **Poetry Open Mic - Hosted by Penny Callan Partridge**

9:00pm—Midnight **Hospitality Suite Hosted by**

Adoption Mosaic

3:45—5:00pm

Roots: Unknown—Zara Phillips

The workshop will discuss the impact of adoption throughout the life of an adopted person, highlighting where adoption issues were more prevalent—early childhood, adolescence relationship with adopted mother, marriage, childbirth and raising children. The presenter will then show a 25-minute documentary, *Roots: Unknown*, which expands on the idea that being adopted does not end in childhood.

5:30—6:45pm **Wrap - up**

(Continued from page 5)

Micky Duxbury, MFT, is a marriage and family therapist and the author of the new book *Making Room in Our Hearts: Keeping Family Ties Through Open Adoption*. She is a therapist who works with all members of the adoption triad and does workshops and consultations on raising adopted children.

Betsy Forrest is a retired Adoption Social Worker. She worked in the area of search and reunion for Children's Aid and Family Services. She designed and teaches "Maintaining Birth Family Connections" for the Rutgers Adoption Certificate program. She does training for agencies, conferences and adoptive parent groups with the help of Penny Partridge and Pam Hasagewa.

Dawn Friedman is parenting two children, the youngest of whom arrived to her family in an open, transracial adoption a little over three years ago. A journalist, Dawn's writing about adoption has appeared in publications like Salon.com, Brain Child and Adoptive Families. She also writes a popular personal blog about adoption, which has been written about in Time Magazine, the Washington Times, About.com and Adoptive Families. She is also a contributor to the Anti-Racist Parent blog. She is the founder and webmaster at OpenAdoptionSupport.com, a site supporting families and individuals around their open adoptions. Dawn also presented at the Second International Conference on Adoption and Culture, Encountering New Worlds of Adoption.

Barbara Gowan, RN, is a reunited biracial adoptee and author who works as a school nurse at New Leadership Charter School. She teaches at Holyoke Community College. She has participated in adoption panels and forums. Those writing theses, articles and books about diversity and adoption have sought her story and perspective.

Michael Grand is Professor of Psychology at the University of Guelph. His research covers the areas of adoptive identity, search and reunion, and legislation. He is a stepadoptee.

Fred Greenman is the AAC's pro bono legal advisor and assisted with the successful defense of access laws in Tennessee and Oregon. Greenman and Paul Schibbellhute serve on AAC's Legislative Committee, which Mary Martin Mason chairs.

Mark W. Hagland is an adult transracial adoptee (born in South Korea) who has been active in transracial adoption issues for several years. He is an annual presenter at the KAAAN Conference, and a member of the International Adoptee Congress. He has been a professional journalist for 25 years. Mark also writes extensively on adoption issues for *Korean Quarterly* and other publications. His essay on transracial adoptee identity was included in the anthology *Outsiders Within: Writing on Transracial Adoption* (edited by Jane

Presenter Biographies

Jeong Trenka, Julia Chinyere Oparah, and Sun Yung Shin), published in 2006 by South End Press. He speaks widely on adoption and racial identity issues, from the KAAN Conference (six years), to the Loving Decision Conference-2007 in Chicago, to presentations for adoptive parents and parents-to-be at local adoption agency classes. He is also active in the International Adoptee Congress, founded in 2006.

Pam Hasegawa has been advocating for truth in adoption since 1975 with ALMA and 1996 with AAC. She enjoys encouraging younger members of the adoption constellation to help legislatures and the public understand the issue of access and honesty.

Bobbie Havens is the Executive Director of RESOLVE of Northern California where she has been building support groups for pre-adoptive parents for eight years.

René Hoksbergen, PhD, is a professor at the University of Utrecht, the Netherlands, and has been a researcher in the field of adoption, studying the impact of early age abandonment on children adopted into the country of Holland and writing books on this subject.

Craig Hyman is a Life Coach specializing in coaching adoptees, artists of all mediums, and highly sensitive people. He is an Artist Manager, Music Industry Consultant, TV and Film Producer-Director and Music Journalist.

Mimi Janes surrendered two daughters and is in reunion with both them; they have now been reunited longer than they were separated. Mimi is a long-time member of both AAC and CUB, in which she is currently the Branch Coordinator in Los Angeles, CA.

Amy Kastelin surrendered her first child. She has had contact with her daughter but has not yet met her. Amy lives in Seattle with her husband, eight-year-old son, and eighteen-year-old stepson. She was a birth doula and midwife assistant for twelve years and now is managing the architecture firm she owns with her husband. Her daughter lives in Michigan and they had their first direct correspondence when her daughter turned 20. Amy is also a talented singer, writer, and guitar player, treating those who attended CUB Retreat in California with a special song she composed about her daughter.

Linda Kats, author, teacher, counselor, has researched adoption over the past 10 years. As a biological grandmother whose grandson was placed for adoption, she realized the need for a deeper understanding of meeting the child's best interests through adoption. She holds a doctorate degree in education as well as two master's degrees. Currently working as a school counselor and a counseling practitioner, Linda continues to join the growing ranks of those seeking to improve adoption practices.

Paula Lang, LCSW, is the retired director of Catholic charities of Oregon pregnancies and adoption services program and past recipient of the AAC's president's award for Open Adoption Services for her support of measure 58, family preservation and search and reunion.

Betty Jean Lifton, PhD is an author and adoption counselor in Cambridge and New York. Her books include the ground-breaking *Twice Born; Memoirs of an Adopted Daughter* and *Journey of the Adopted Self: A Quest of Wholeness*.

Lisa LoRusso a reunited mother and mother of three grown sons, is the CFO of Philanthropic Organization in New York City.

Karen Lynn is a happily reunited mother with her son who was adopted in 1963. Karen is a co-founder and president of the Canadian Council of Natural Mothers and a director of Adoption Support Kinship (ASK).

Roberta MacDonald, Licensed Practical Nurse, Computer Aided Draftsperson, SAS Programmer for Pharmaceutical firm, is also the AAC North Carolina State Representative and founder of the NC Coalition for Adoption Reform. Roberta, a NJ adoptee, who was adopted by a sibling with whom she shared a father, lived an adoptive life of true "Secrets and Lies." She was happily reunited in 1996 with her birth mother, full sister and niece with special needs. Roberta has been an advocate for adoptee rights since 1999 in NC after realizing she would not be able to help her home state, NJ.

Kathy Mackechney, LSW, is an adoptee-therapist who combines personal experience and clinical expertise into a passion for working with adoptees. An adoptee first and therapist second, Kathy's ability to "get it" is the single most important tool she has in helping clients who were relinquished and adopted.

Andrew Majkowicz a reunited adoptee, is the father of three daughters and the fire chief in Saddlebrook, NJ.

Mary Martin Mason, AAC Legislative Committee Chair, goal's is to create change in adoption through legislation and reform. She is a national spokesperson for fully disclosed adoption, a champion of birthfathers and an advocate for helping adopted persons fit into their world. She grew up in an open adoption in an era in which such adoptions were rare. Her 21-year-old son, Josh, has grown up in an open adoption with his birth mother, Lisa. An adoptee herself, Lisa was reunited with her birth mother and birth grandmother several years ago. Mary is the author of *The Miracle Seekers*, *Designing Rituals of Adoption*, and *Out of the Shadows: Birthfathers' Stories*.

Krista McCoy is a biracial adoptee (transracially). She is a licensed social worker who works as a Foster Care Supervisor at SOS Children's Village in Chicago. She has worked for 15 years in the field of foster care/adoption. She is a member of the Illinois Adoption Advisory Council.

Thomas McDermott is an attorney with Lindsay, Hart, Neil & Weigler, LLP in Portland, OR. Mr. McDermott represented, pro bono, adoption reform advocates from the initiative process through appellate review by the U.S. Supreme Court (Measure 58).

Richard McQuade is a birthfather who has been reunited with his birthdaughter for ten years. He is the Southern Regional Director of the AAC, and currently administers the Regonline software application for AAC conferences. He is retired from a career in computer programming, and resides with his wife, Eileen, in South Windsor, Ct and Delray Beach, Fl.

Ron Morgan, LDA, publishes www.latediscovery.org, and has moderated the Late Discovery Email List, an online LDA peer support group, for nine years.

Ron Nydam, PhD, is a Professor of Pastoral Care at Calvin Theological Seminary, the author of *Adoptees Come of Age*, and has a special interest in the issues of bonding and attachment for infants who have lost their parents.

Penny Callan Partridge, MSW, is an adopted person and adoptive parent, co-founder of Adoption Forum (PA), past President of AAC, and a poet. Several of her poems were recently included in *Handbook of Adoption*. Penny's next book will pair poems and stories about people she has met through these poems.

Linda Pendergast has a Masters Degree in Parent-Child Nursing and a PhD in Leadership and Research. She is a clinical nurse specialist with a research interest in neurobehavioral organization of neonates. Dr. Pendergast is also a reunited birth mother and a member of the Louisiana

(Continued on page 13)

"Professional's Day"

Rise and Shine Yoga - Hosted by Patrick McMahon

8:00am–5:00pm Registration

8:45–9:00am Conference updates

9:00 - 10:15 AM General Session

Keynote speaker

**Dr. David Brodzinsky, PhD -
*Lifelong Development Issues for
Adopted People and Their Impact
on Best Practices and Policies***

10:45–Noon Workshop Series 400

401. Adoption is a Feminist Issue—Debra Baker & Katy Perkins

Screening Debra Baker's documentary *Broken Ties*, about surrendering her child in 1968, we will open a dialogue to reframe adoption reform as a feminist issue and how this directly relates to international adoption in a global marketplace, while discussing ways to forge new relationships with organizations previously not considered.

402. Assisted Reproductive Technologies: The ART of Deception—Kris Probasco & Bill Cordray Recent articles: "Embryo Banking, the World's First Made to Order Embryo Bank." An adoption agency in Texas that allows people to order custom-made embryos from anonymous egg and sperm donors and have them shipped to their IVF clinic for implantation. "Thousands of Human Eggs May Be Missing." Bankrupt egg donor registry says more than 100 fertility doctors in dozens of states may have brokered unauthorized transfer of human eggs. If these article titles are disturbing to you, this is the workshop for you.

403. What Makes An Open Adoption Survive and Thrive—Micky Duxbury

Workshop will explore what birth and adoptive parents need from each other and from professionals as they navigate

open relationships. What changes are needed in adoption practices to be more inclusive of both birth mothers and birth fathers? How can we help birth parents understand the positive contribution they can make to the child's developing sense of self? Duxbury will share the results of her research for her book on fully open adoption along with a challenging dialogue about what each member of the triad can bring to improve open relationships.

404. Lobbying for Open Records: Fearless Strategies, Outrageous Outcomes—Michael Grand, Karen Lynn & Wendy Rowney

After winning open records for both adoptees and natural parents through a political vote, Ontario's adoption community faced a constitutional challenge in 2007 and went to court to protect their hard-won victory. This workshop will provide participation with strategies used by Canadian advocates in both the legislature and court room.

405. Hague: How it's Changing Adoption Practice in the U.S.—Etta Lappen Davis

Hague implementation is raising the bar for many adoption service providers (ASP's) and has far-reaching effects that go beyond their work toward accreditation/approval. This workshop gives a brief update on Hague implementation and explores the expected positive outcomes of Hague in practice areas, such as home study preparation, adoptive parent training, post-placement and post-adoption services, as well as interagency agreements and collaborative relationships. The encouraging effects of Hague on agency policy and procedure, and adoption case work for both domestic and intercountry adoption service providers will be discussed.

406. Facilitating a Support Group—Ellen Roseman & Bobbie Havens

Bobbie and Ellen have been building support groups of pre-adoptive parents for 8 years as Board members with RESOLVE in No. California. Together they have changed the way education is handled by agencies with Ellen's carefully prepared classes and Bobbie's implementation of this plan. Ellen was a triad leader for PACER for five years and has monthly support groups. They will show how they built these groups into successful gatherings which are well attended, energetic, well organized and downright interesting.

407. Male Adoptee Workshop, Part I—Craig Hyman

Discussion will be based on the male adoptees' actual experiences in order to assist ourselves and others to understand the male adoptee experience. Methods used by group members for coping, processing, and healing the difficulties facing male adoptees will be addressed in a facilitated discussion. **Open to all attendees**

Friday, March 28th Continued

Noon—1:15pm

Concession Lunch

Lunch forums

2007 Legislative Victories—Hosted by Mary Mason & Bobbi Beavers

Male Adoptee Workshop, Part II—Hosted by Craig Hyman and Patrick McMahon Continuing the dialogue from Part I, we segue into the topics of "The Bigger Picture and Personal Experiences" presented and facilitated by three male adoptees: Craig S. Hyman, Patrick McMahon and Craig Hickman. Here we explore new ground that includes intimate personal experiences, a broader perspective on our lives and our adoptions, and spiritual issues and perspectives around all of this. You do not have to attend Part I or Part III to participate in this open forum discussion over lunch.

Others will be announced at a later date.

envision a non-traditional model of adoption. This new model embraces all those who love the adoptee and allows them to participate as potential assets in the adoptee's life. Corroboration of the adoptee's families helps to preserve and sustain the child's best interests—the true motivation for adoption. The presentation includes small group and large group participation.

505. Relationships: From Discord to Harmony—Nancy Verrier Difficulties in relationships can be found in all parts of the adoption triad. The reasons for these problems are often misunderstood. This workshop will pinpoint the difficulties as well as offer solutions for the healing of relationships for triad members and their significant others. Harmony is possible!

506. Supporting the Social and Emotional Needs of Adoptees—Barbara Gowan The presentation will examine some of the social, emotional and cultural needs of adoptees by examining the lives of those involved in transracial adoption and birth family reunions. Prescriptions for improving the lives of adopted children and how we can assist them in becoming healthy adults will be discussed.

507. Male Adoptee Workshop, Part III—Craig Hyman Closed Door - Open to Male Adoptees Only and will not be recorded. This workshop will be a facilitated group discussion building upon issues raised in the preceding open workshops on male adoptee issues, as well as in previous AAC conference programs on issues of interest to male adoptees. It is likely that issues related to the following topics will be discussed: healing and spirituality, intimacy and commitment in relationships, "risky" behaviors, including alcohol and other drug abuse, self-concept and self-image issues and particular issues with being a man.

1:30—2:45pm

Workshop Series 500

501. Transforming the Dance: Strengthening Relationships for Families Adopting Very Young Infants—Linda Pendergast Workshop will address the need for post-adoption services designed to foster infant adaptation and behavioral organization to separation from the biological mother. Maternal/ newborn separation places the infant at risk for imbalances in neurobehavioral homeostasis. The results of a pilot study based on an integrated conceptual model will be presented.

502. Making Room for All in the Family—Sarah Burns A discussion by mother and son in reunion on how adoptees in a post-reunion environment navigate the different emotions, claims and expectations placed on them. How do adoptees allow the two sets of parents to co-exist so that s/he can find a degree of comfort among the sometimes competing sets of parents or families? What are the rules for each set of parents? Along with new families come new allegiances, new issues and new challenges—all these themes will be explored.

503. Walking in the Shoes of the Relinquished Child—Betsy Forrest, Penny Callan Partridge, & Pam Hasegawa Through a variety of experiential exercises, participants will gain insight into the inner worlds of fostered and adopted children's life experiences and have an opportunity to "get it" in a visceral way. An excellent "training for trainers" as well as a non-textbook approach to helping those who want to understand the heart of the relinquished child more deeply.

504. A Collaborative Adoption Model for the Child's Best Interests—Linda Kats Providing a forum to brainstorm a model of collaboration, this workshop allows participants to

3:15- 4:30 PM General Session

Keynote speaker

Kevin Campbell

Family Finding - a Set of Strategies Being Used Around the Country to Find Lifelong Supports for Children and Young People in America's Foster Care System

5:00—6:15pm

Post Workshop Activities

Pandora Out of the Box—Penny Callan Partridge

Triad Support groups

9:00pm—Midnight

Hospitality Suite



Rise and Shine Yoga - Hosted by Patrick McMahon

8:45 - 10:00am Workshop Series 600

601. A Legacy of Grief—Lorraine Wheeler The adoption wound is born again and again as it infects multiple generations. Is it a wound we embrace and heal from or does it fester and burn and infect every aspect of our being and those of future generations? Is there anything positive to be gained from this early trauma?

602. The Keepers: Sibling Reunion through the Eyes of the Kept Child—Cynthia Roe Reunion is an insufficient descriptor of what happens when intimate strangers are brought together as adoptees search for parents and find siblings—fantasy, falling in love, honeymoon, reality/disillusionment and rapprochement. Participants will gain an enhanced understanding of the impact of being found on the “lost” and the “kept” sibling.

603. Forever a Different Identity—René Hoksbergen & Ron Nydam This workshop will include the film *The Struggle*, featuring Suzanne, a foundling in India who was adopted in Holland. Interviewed at age 12 and again as an adult woman, Suzanne reflects on her comments as a girl as well as her thoughts on being abandoned and adopted and her feelings towards her adoptive parents, boyfriend, and brother. Suzanne's reactions in the film concern her struggle for identity. Ron and René will lead a discussion following the film on the manner in which abandonment and relinquishment inform development.

604. From Supporter to Skeptic: One International Adoptee's Journey—Joan M. Schumack An intensely personal narrative traces the transformation of one international adult adoptee, from ardent supporter of transnational adoption to extreme skeptic, after meeting her birth family in Greece. Handouts list books and websites on international adoption, plus a timeline of her metamorphosis from supporter to skeptic of transnational adoption.

605. Adoption Access Legislation 101—Mary Martin Mason, Fred Greeman, Paul Schibbelhute & Wendy Rowney This is the ultimate workshop on forming a grassroots legislative effort to help change laws to allow adoptees access to original birth certificates. Experienced legislative

activists will provide the building blocks on how to begin the legislative process, including forming a core group, developing the message, planning regular recruitment and organizational meetings, seeking funding and sponsors, and drafting the legislation.

606. Post-Reunion Family Relationships Can Be Successful!—Margot Wurst At the time of reunion, a new and complex family relationship structure is created. How does one best manage these new relationships? In this workshop, the presenter uses her own personal reunion story to explore ways for birth families and adoptees to navigate this new territory—as successfully as possible!

607. Life Coaching Techniques to Help Manage Challenging Emotions—Jennifer Blakley This workshop provides relationship coaching techniques that can be applied to those involved in the adoption triad. We will look at how our thoughts affect our feelings in ways that either benefit or sabotage our desired outcomes. Presenter will also present “Perceptual Positions,” a technique used to help a client process a difficult interaction in a way that promotes understanding and compassion.

10:30 - 11:45am Town Meeting

Join the AAC Board and other members to share ideas about AAC goals and its future.

11:45—12:30pm
store

CD pickup, last chance for book



12:30—1:45pm Awards & Recognition luncheon
Legislative Fund Raffle drawing

1:45 - 3:00 PM General Session
Keynote speaker

Barbara Bisantz Raymond, MS, BS

Author; The Baby Thief:

Adoptive Mother/Author Discovers the Truth About Adoption

3:30 - 4:45pm Workshop Series 700

701. Measure 58 Ten Years After: What Have We Learned, What Has Happened?—Delores Teller, Paula Lang & Thomas McDermott A panel of three Measure 58 activists will discuss their memories of Measure 58 as it was evolving and progressed to victory. They will tell interesting anecdotes as well as open up for Q & A and provide a post 58 update. Thomas McDermott, the lead attorney for Measure 58, will be present.

702. Roots Unknown—Zara Phillips The workshop will discuss the impact of adoption throughout the life of an adopted person, highlighting where adoption issues were more prevalent—early childhood, adolescence relationship with adopted mother, marriage, childbirth and raising children. The presenter will then show a 25-minute documentary *Roots: Unknown*, which expands on the idea that being adopted does not end in childhood.

703. Does a Birthfather Ever Forget? A Panel Discussion—Richard McQuade, Paul Schibbelhute & Fred Greenman This discussion will include brief stories of three birthfathers' experiences from the introduction to the birthmother to the present. Some general observations about the role and treatment of birthfathers will be included. Audience participation will follow a short panel discussion.

704. Freefall: Identity Shift and Recovery in Late Discovery Adoptees—Ron Morgan & Helen Riley Adoptees who discover their adopted status as adults (Late Discovery Adoptees or LDAs) experience sudden and traumatic shifts in identity. This presentation will explore the nature of the inquiries to identity in Late Discovery Adoptees and offer models for recovery and integration.

705. Open Adoption Support: Grassroots Connection Across the Triad—Dawn Friedman In this presentation, Dawn will address the challenges of building a virtual community to meet a real-world need for post-adoption support. She will talk about what inspired the site and the ongoing process of bringing it together, specifically the difficulties of creating community in the often tumultuous on-line world of adoption.

5:00—6:15pm

Post Workshop Activities

5:00—6:15pm

Laughter: The Best Medicine

Ellen Roseman and Marilyn Waugh will show up as the “social worker and birth mother” once again to delight their audience with funny adoption stories. Audience participants are encouraged to join “Doo Doo Goody” and “Matty” to look at healing through laughter. Only those who like to laugh and find healing are invited to attend—bring your stories which are ridiculous and zany. Are you one of those who searched and found the wrong person? This will be an end-of-the-day lift.

5:00—6:15pm

Support Groups

8:00 - 9:00 PM Alison Larkin -

She will present a Comedy Treat! "Knock! Knock!" "Who's There?" How My Adoption Turned Me into a Stand-Up Comic.

9:00 - 11:00PM Celebration Dance

AAC is selling tickets for this show for \$50.00 per person. If you signed up for the full conference, you have already purchased a ticket to the celebration dance.



Presenter Biographies

(Continued from page 9)

Adoption Advisory Board, the AAC, and serves on the Advisory Board to Catholic Community Services. She is also the facilitator of a search and support group for triad members.

Katy Perkins, MS, MSW, works in the child welfare field, assisting Child Protective Service as a caseworker. She has been a public speaker for the Texas Coalition for Adoption Resources and Education for ten years. Ms. Perkins is an adoptee, reunited with both parents since 1999.

Zara Phillips is an adoptee in reunion with her birthmother for many years, author of *Chasing Away the Shadows; an Adoptees Journey to Motherhood*, a new children’s picture book on adoption entitled ‘Sophie and Prince.’ She is also director and producer of ‘Roots; Unknown’ a documentary artistic style that shows the impact of adoption on the surrounding family members of the adopted person, including children and spouses. Zara has facilitated many adoption workshops highlighting her experience as a mother at the AAC, CUB and various other adoption support groups. Zara started singing many years ago as a backing vocalist for many bands in London and then moved on to singer songwriting where she performs on a regular basis in NYC. She is a mother of 3 children and is based in New Jersey

Kris Probasco, LCSW, has practiced in the area of adoption and infertility since 1972. She consults with three fertility practices in the Kansas

Presenter Biographies

(Continued from page 13)

City area and is Director of Adoption and Fertility Resources, a child-placing agency in Missouri and Kansas.

Helen Riley, LDA, is a Doctoral student in Applied Ethics at the Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane, Australia, researching the broad ethical implications of Late Discovery.

Cynthia Roe is a therapist and parent educator at Kinship Center in Santa Ana, CA. Cynthia works with children and families impacted by abuse and neglect, foster care and adoption. She is an adoptive parent, a birth family member and a former foster child. Currently she is working on a book about her experiences as the daughter of a mentally ill parent, a foster child, a reconciled birth family member, and the adoptive parent of a child with special needs.

Ellen Roseman has been working in adoption placement as a consultant in California for 27 years. She has written and published numerous adoption articles and presented adoption-related workshops across the country. An active member of the AAC since the 1980s and a board member of RESOLVE, CA and PACER. Ellen was adopted through a step-parent adoption (her records are sealed), married to birth father who relinquished a son, was a foster parent for almost 10 years, has two adopted daughters in college, a birth child in college, and recently fostered a 12-year old African-American girl.

Wendy Rowney is the president of ASK, Canadian Liaison to the AAC, secretary for the Adoption Council of Canada, and a reunited adopted adult. Rowney and other Canadian activist form the Coordinating Committee for the Coalition for Open Adoption Records (COAR).

Paul Schibbellhute, AAC New England Regional Director and Vice President of the Adoption Community of New England (ACONE), is a reunited birthfather. A 2005 recipient of the prestigious Angel in Adoption Award, he led the grassroots effort in NH that resulted in access to original birth certificates for adult adopted persons.

Joan M.Schumack When kindergarten represented most children's greatest challenge, Joan traveled across the globe to a foreign country, culture, identity, family and language. International adoption subsumes painful stories of families failed, forged, and formed. Straddling this confluence of families, my enduring identity sprang from the tear-stained soil of my village in Greece.

John Sobraske, LMHC, LMFT, is an adoptee step-parent of adopted children and adoption psychotherapist. He was formerly director of counseling and respite services at Resources for Adoptive Parents and an attachment therapist at the Minnesota Attachment Center. He participated in adoption-related research with Hal Grotevant and Megan Gunnar at the University of Minnesota.

Joe Soll, Psychotherapist, Adoptee, author of *Adoption Healing... A Pathway to Recovery*, co-author of *Adoption Healing... A Path to Recovery for Mothers Who Lost Children to Adoption*, co-author of *Evil Exchange*, director and founder of Adoption Crossroads, past executive board member of the AAC, adoption educator, activist, creator of the Marches on Washington for Civil Rights in Adoption and facilitator of Adoption Healing Weekends.

Joyce Steensrud surrendered her only child in 1960. In 1961, she and the birth father married and were divorced in 1967. For various reasons, their reunion didn't occur until 2002. It is a good one. In 1967, Joyce joined a small insurance agency in Houston. In 1984, she and her 2 partners purchased the agency. She is an officer of the corporation and one-third owner (www.tricaost.net). She has served the community as a Literary Advance tutor, Houston Public School tutor and a Hospice volunteer. Joyce is a member of AAC and CUB.

Delores Teller, MSW, LCSW, past President AAC, post-adoption therapist, was featured in *Rolling Stone* magazine for her work on Measure 58. Paula Lang, LCSW, is the retired Director of Catholic Charities of Oregon Pregnancy and Adoption Services Program and past recipient of the AAC's President's Award for Open Adoption Services for her support of Measure 58, family preservation and search and reunion.

Gene Trewaser M.Ed., Child Welfare Trainer/Consultant, has 26 years in adoption work.

Karen Vedder surrendered her second child, her only daughter, to adoption and has been in reunion for 21 years. Ten years later, after receiving her Masters degree in Social Work, Karen worked in many settings, including director of Casa Maria, a residence for single moms and their babies. A member of AAC for many years, Karen joined Concerned United Birthparents in 1989, and has been coordinator of the San Diego branch as well as the group facilitator in North County. Karen was president of CUB for four years and is currently the editor of the *CUB Communicator*.

Nancy Verrier, is an adoptive mother, psychotherapist, and author, working with adoption issues since 1986. She is the author of *The Primal Wound*, which has been described as the adoptee's bible, and its sequel, *Coming Home to Self*. Considered an authority in the field, she is an international speaker of adoption issues.

Marilyn Waugh, MA, is a reunited birth mother, Director of Adoption Concerns Triangle of Topeka, a search and support group serving those in Northeastern Kansas, past president of the American Adoption Congress and currently the AAC state representative for Kansas. For the past 17 years, Marilyn has worked in the Post Adoption Division of Kansas Social and Rehabilitation Services processing and completing 800 to 1000 record and search requests per year.

Lorraine Wheeler and Ken Wheeler are grandparents of a new grandson and grapple with many issues arising from the impact of assisted reproduction and the many questions it brings to attention.

Chris Winston is the founder and president The Korean American Adoptive Family Network (KAAN) a national networking organization. She is also the author of book titled, *A Euro American on a Korean Tour at a Thai Restaurant in China*, which details her experience in raising her children.

Margot Wurst is a birth mother and has been reunited with her son since 1999. She also enjoys a wonderful relationship with his adoptive mother. Margot is a Life Coach specializing in working with members of the Adoption Triad.

Directions from the Portland Airport: Using the MAX Train

Start from Airport MAX Station. Board MAX Red Line to City Center & Beaverton TC. Get off at Morrison/SW 3rd Ave Max Station. Walk 0.5 miles south to 1401 SW Naito Pkwy. **Travel time:** 52 minutes (including 16 minutes walking) **Fares:** Adult All Zone (\$2.05), Youth/Student (\$1.40) or Honored Citizen (\$0.85).

Driving Directions from I-5 South Bound

From I-5, take the City Center exit, go right (west) over the Morrison Bridge, and turn right (south). The hotel will be on the right. See web site for detailed driving and public transportation directions.

Conference Registration

Name _____ Organization _____

Address _____ City _____

State/Province _____ Zip Code _____ Country _____

Daytime Phone _____ Evening Phone _____ E-mail _____

Triad Position (if applicable) Adoptee Birthparent Adoptive Parent Support/Other

Register by Feb 25 On-Site

Full Conference

(Includes all workshops, keynote speakers, continental breakfasts, breaks, Thursday reception and Saturday night event.)

- AAC Member \$ 320..... \$ 395
 Non-Member \$ 395..... \$ 470

Student/Senior Full Conference

(Includes all workshops, keynote speakers, continental breakfasts, breaks, Thursday reception and Saturday night event.) NOTE: A copy of your CURRENT student ID must accompany your registration or full conference rate will apply.

- AAC Member \$ 285..... \$ 360
 Non-Member \$ 360..... \$ 435

2-Day Conference (Thursday & Friday)

(Includes all workshops, keynote speakers, continental breakfasts and breaks on days of attendance.)

- AAC Member \$ 285..... \$ 360
 Non-Member \$ 360..... \$ 435

1-Day Conference

Indicate days of attendance : Thursday or Friday
(Includes all workshops, keynote speakers, continental breakfast and break on day of attendance.)

- AAC Member \$ 160..... \$ 260
 Non-Member \$ 235..... \$ 335

Indicate day of attendance below:

Thursday (Adoptive Youth 1st child free, 2nd = \$80.00 Friday

Saturday Conference

Saturday (includes award luncheon and comedy show)

- AAC Member \$ 210..... \$ 330
 Non-Member \$ 280..... \$ 380

Registration Amount	\$ _____
Additional ticket to Alison Larkin – \$50 (Included with full conference registration)	_____
Display Table – \$100 (Includes 6' skirted table in/around book room.)	_____
Wed Lunch Boat Cruise – \$40	_____
CEU Credits – \$45 (Includes all application, processing and filing fees.)	_____
Total Conference Fees	\$ _____
Membership Fee (To join or if you need to renew – be sure to take advantage of the lower Conference rate!)	_____
Presenter's Discount – \$50 NOTE: Only one discount per presenter and a maximum of two presenters' discounts allowed per workshop.)	_____
AV (Audio Visual) \$50	_____
GRAND TOTAL ENCLOSED	_____

Three easy registration options!

- On-line** – Visit us online at www.americanadoptioncongress.org and follow the convenient link to our on-line registration form.
- By Fax** – Fax registration form, including credit card information, to the AAC Conference Registrar (866) 648-8916.
- By Mail** – Mail registration form along with check, money order, or credit card information to the Carolyn Hoard AAC Conference Registrar, 192 Rose View Drive, West Grove, PA 19390

Method of Payment: Check (made payable to AAC) MC Visa AmEx

Card # _____ Exp Date _____

Signature _____

(Required when payment is made by credit card.)

Please check all that apply:

First time AAC Conference attendee? Yes No

May we include your name in the Conference Directory? Yes No

Are you an AAC member? Yes No

AAC Membership Application

1–Yr	2–Yr	Membership Type
<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50	\$ 90	Individual
<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 40	\$ 70	Student
<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 45	\$ 80	Senior (62+)
<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 60	\$ 110	Household
<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 70	\$ 130	Search/Support Group
<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 110	\$ 210	Friend of AAC (5 yr commitment)
<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 160	\$ 275	Organization (1 to 5 attendees)

Membership includes:

- Discounted registration at AAC National and Regional conferences
- Subscription to the AAC's award-winning quarterly publication, *The Decree*
- All other publications sponsored by the AAC

Note: If you are a renewing member, please visit our website for discounted membership rates.

www.americanadoptioncongress.org



**Come Celebrate with the AAC in Portland!
AAC Welcomes Alison Larkin, Writer/Actor for a
stand-up comedy show on
Saturday March 29th 8:00 - 9:00 PM**

Alison Larkin, an internationally acclaimed comedienne, will present a Comedy Treat! "Knock! Knock!" "Who's There?" How My Adoption Turned Me into a Stand-Up Comic. Alison Larkin entertains and reads from her hilarious, poignant new novel, *The English American*, coming from Simon and Schuster in March '08. In her book Larkin draws from her experiences as an adopted English woman who finds her birth parents in America, and weaves them into a work of compulsively readable fiction. The AAC welcomes Alison's book signing at Powell's in March 2008. Please visit www.americanadoptioncongress.org for information and links to the release of Alison's book in 2008.

AAC is selling tickets for this show for \$50.00 per person. If you signed up for the full conference, you have already purchased a ticket to the celebration dance.



American Adoption Congress
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Washington, DC 20015

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29th Annual
International Conference
March 26-29, 2007
Downtown waterfront
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Portland, Oregon

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Sharon Pittenger
sharon.pittenger@gmail.com

Conference Registrar:
Carolyn Hoard —
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