

Updated
Workshops
207 & 1006

Registration &
Information Book

The 30th Annual American Adoption Congress National Adoption Conference

Presented in Partnership with
Adoption Network Cleveland

Transforming Families, Connecting Lives

Wednesday, April 22 through Sunday, April 26, 2009



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

The 30th Annual American Adoption Congress National Adoption Conference

Presented in Partnership with
Adoption Network Cleveland

Cleveland



Come to Cleveland when you want to hear one of the top orchestras, catch a Broadway play that won't break your bank, sample fare from culinary innovators or drop 10 stories just because you can on one of the famous thrill rides at Cedar Point Amusement Park. From the pop culture legends of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum to the many museums of University Circle, discover what's great about Cleveland and see why *The Economist* ranked it "the best city in the U.S. for business travel."

Cleveland is home to Playhouse Square, an opulently restored theatre district that's second largest in the nation, featuring Broadway shows, the opera, the ballet and the Great Lakes Theater Festival. With more than 45 additional performing arts and entertainment centers, Cleveland has a history of being ready to entertain.

Cleveland boasts a wide selection of restaurants and nightlife in its many districts and surrounding neighborhoods. The Historic Warehouse District is alive with outstanding restaurants, bars and nightclubs. The new East Fourth Street District is home to the House of Blues, Pickwick & Frolic, Wonder Bar, Lola (home of Iron Chef winner Michael Symon) and other hot spots.

www.positivelycleveland.com

Photos courtesy of 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

71 North to 9th Street Exit, Right on Carnegie Ave, Hotel On Right

Transportation to and from the Airport

TYPE	TYPICAL MINIMUM CHARGE
Rental Car	\$35.00
Subway/Rail/Rapid Transit	\$ 2.00
Taxi	\$35.00

To reach the Downtown Tower City Station from Cleveland Hopkins International Airport you may use subway system, also known as the RAPID. RTA's Rapid's Red Line takes less than 30 minutes to ride to or from Downtown Cleveland's Tower City Station.

RTA's Airport station is located on the lower level of the terminal complex. To reach the Rapid Transit Line just take the elevators or escalators near the center of the ticketing and baggage claim levels.

Monday through Saturday the Red Line operates approximately every 15 minutes from 4:29 am until 7:45 pm, and approximately every 20 minutes from 7:45 pm until 1:05 am. On Sunday, the Rapid operates from 4:32am until 1:14am, Monday.

FREE SHUTTLE SERVICE from Tower City to the hotel is available from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. 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.



Conference Details

Dates

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 12:15 PM THROUGH SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2009, 12:15 PM

Full Conference, Weekend Only or One Day Registration available. The registration form and pricing information can be found on pages 22 and 23.

Co-Chairs

EILEEN McQUADE - American Adoption Congress - eileen2155@gmail.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 4 people in 2 Queen size beds) and includes all-you-can-eat breakfast for 2 in the Great American Grille. Additional breakfasts may be purchased upon arrival for \$10.

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 “AACC.”
- Online – Visit www.clevelanddowntown.stayhgi.com, then enter the Group / Convention code “AACC” 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 \$7 or overnight for \$10.

Sponsorship

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 Robin Ott at (216) 325-1000, or Robin.Ott@AdoptionNetwork.org. Can't attend in 2009, 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: 2009 Conference Scholarship Fund; 4614 Prospect Avenue, Suite 550; Cleveland, OH 44103.*

CEU Information

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. The total number of credits will be announced shortly. CEU credits are available for \$45, which includes all application processing and filing fees. Please contact Carolyn Hord at choard@comcast.net for additional information or visit www.americanadoptioncongress.org or www.adoptionnetworkcleveland.org, where we will continue to post the latest information and approvals.

AAC Book Room

Looking for the latest books on adoption and foster care? Many of the books in our Book Room are hard to find at popular book stores or online. Want to exhibit your books for others to see? Please email AAC's Book Room Coordinator Pat Lubarsky at PL9706@gmail.com for further information regarding book orders and author signings.



Keynote Presenters



DOROTHY ROBERTS

THURSDAY, 9:00 – 10:15 AM

Why Ending Racial Disproportionality Will Transform Child Welfare

Dr. Roberts will argue that racial disproportionality stems from fundamental flaws in the child welfare system and racism has helped to prevent fundamental change. Efforts to eliminate racial disparities can expose those flaws and help transform child welfare to benefit all children and families. Dr. Roberts, the Kirkland & Ellis Professor at Northwestern University School of Law in Chicago, Illinois, is an expert in the interplay of gender, race, and class in legal issues concerning reproduction, bioethics, and child welfare. Her works include *Shattered Bonds: the Color of Child Welfare*, and *Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of Liberty*. Dr. Roberts will be available for book signings.



JOE ESZTERHAS & SUZANNE PERRYMAN

THURSDAY, 3:15 – 4:30 PM

Mutual Blessing

Joe Eszterhas and his biological daughter, Suzanne Perryman, will describe – from separate points of view – their reunion after 30 years and their road to a loving relationship. Joe Eszterhas has written the screenplays for sixteen films that have made more than a billion dollars at the box office. Among them are *Basic Instinct*, *Jagged Edge*, *Flashdance* and *Showgirls*. A former senior editor at *Rolling Stone*, he is the author of five previous books—the second, *Charlie Simpson's apocalypse*, was nominated for the National Book Award. His latest book, *Crossbearer: A Memoir of Faith*, was published in September 2008. The father of seven children, he lives with his wife, Naomi, and their four sons in Bainbridge Township, Ohio. Suzanne Perryman is Joe's relinquished then adopted daughter. They were reunited in 1996. Both will be available for book signings.



JEAN STRAUSS

FRIDAY, 1:30 – 2:45 PM – AAC LUNCHEON KEYNOTE

For the Life of Me

Join us for a special premiere screening of Jean Strauss's feature documentary, *For the Life of Me*. Four years in the making, the film explores the lifelong impact of secrecy in closed adoptions. Weaving the stories of a dozen adoptees with the conflicting messages of a culture that purports to value heritage and civil rights, the film aims an arrow straight at the heart of anyone whose life has been touched by adoption. Jean Strauss is an award winning filmmaker and a *New York Times* best selling author. Jean has been documenting adoption issues for two decades. Her work includes the films *The Triumvirate*, *Holding Hands*, and *Vital Records*, as well as several books, including *Birthright* and *Beneath a Tall Tree*.



SENATOR PAULA BENOIT

SATURDAY, 10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

Turning the Legislative Wheels

Former Senator Paula Benoit of Phippsburg, Maine, led the charge in the Maine State Senate to pass a bill to open records previously unavailable to adult adoptees. The former senator was a co-sponsor of LD 1084: "An Act To Provide Adult Adoptees Access to Their Original Birth Certificates," which permits adoptees, upon turning 18, to access birth certificates and medical forms that may have been completed by birthparents. Sen. Benoit, an adoptee herself, allowed her personal experiences and emotions to motivate her throughout her efforts to garner support for the bill. "I know this issue well. I live this issue every day," Benoit said. "The right to know who you are and where you come from is something so many people take for granted, but when you are denied that right, you understand how important that information is, and how it has shaped you as a person. I fought for this bill on behalf of all adoptees who want the rights, the knowledge and the closure we have been denied."



DARRYL "DMC" McDANIELS

SATURDAY, 7:00 PM – 12:00 AM – CREATING FUTURES BENEFIT & SILENT AUCTION KEYNOTE

My Story & My Mission

Darryl McDaniels discovered he was adopted at the age of 35. He is also a co-founder of legendary hip hop group and recording artists Run DMC, an Emmy award winning producer of the documentary *DMC: My Adoption Journey* and a 2009 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame nominee. www.me-dmc.com

Proceeds benefit programs & services provided by Adoption Network Cleveland to the community.



The 30th Annual American Adoption Congress National Adoption Conference

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Schedule of Events

Wednesday, April 22

12:15 PM – REGISTRATION OPENS

PRECONFERENCE WORKSHOPS FOR PROFESSIONALS – ADOPTION NETWORK CLEVELAND'S ADOPT CUYAHOGA'S KIDS INITIATIVE

PRESENTER: BETSIE NORRIS

1:30 – 2:45 PM

I. A COMMUNITY UNITES

In 2002, Cuyahoga County (Cleveland, Ohio) had a record number of youth in permanent county custody in need of adoption, and by far not enough families to adopt them. Come and learn how the community, forming a public-private-philanthropic partnership, responded to address the issue, creating the tremendously successful and multifaceted Adopt Cuyahoga's Kids Initiative. Panel presentation will include representatives from the Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services, the Community Vision Council, United Way of Greater Cleveland, the Cuyahoga County Commissioners, Adoption Network Cleveland, The George Gund Foundation, Case Western Reserve University, corporate partners and others.

3:15 – 4:30 PM

II. A COMMUNITY COLLABORATES

The Adopt Cuyahoga's Kids Initiative is a powerful and strategic public-private partnership. This session will serve as an overview of the components of the Initiative and the partnership, as well as reflect on lessons learned over the past 5 years. Come and learn about what other communities are now hoping to replicate.

A question and answer period will be included in both sessions. A series of workshop offerings throughout the conference (April 23-26) will go into depth about the range of programming within the Adopt Cuyahoga's Kids Initiative and its lead organization, Adoption Network Cleveland.

7:30 - 9:00 PM AMERICAN ADOPTION CONGRESS 101

Is this your first adoption conference experience? Are you coming to Cleveland alone? If so, we hope you will join many experienced conferees and presenters 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.

7:30 - 9:00 PM - FILM CLIPS: CYNTHIA ROE

You'll Be in My Heart: Adoption in the Movies

film This presentation will review and continue the discussion of adoption in the movies that began at last year's AAC Conference. Adoption continues to be a theme that appears either directly or indirectly in books, television and film. This multimedia presentation will provide participants with an opportunity to view film clips, examine common themes, and freely discuss and dispute whether the filmmakers "got it" or "blew it." Popcorn, candy and soda will be provided! Additionally, we will have the opportunity to discuss the impact of popular movies on the public perception of adoption and of the members of the adoption constellation, and address ways that we can impact perception (through open dialogue, support, boycotts, etc.) Finally, we will have some fun as we remember that movies are supposed to be entertainment.

9:00 - 10:00 PM OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION



Transforming Families. Connecting Lives

Thursday, April 23

6:30 – 7:30 AM – YOGA

8:45 – 9:00 AM – WELCOME

9:00 – 10:15 AM – OPENING KEYNOTE: DOROTHY ROBERTS

Why Ending Racial Disproportionality Will Transform Child Welfare

keynote

Dr. Roberts will argue that racial disproportionality stems from fundamental flaws in the child welfare system and racism has helped to prevent fundamental change. Efforts to eliminate racial disparities can expose those flaws and help transform child welfare to benefit all children and families. Dr. Roberts will illustrate her points with findings from her recent study of child welfare agency involvement in an African-American neighborhood in Chicago.

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM – 100 WORKSHOP SERIES

101 WHY ENDING RACIAL DISPROPORTIONALITY WILL TRANSFORM CHILD WELFARE

PRESENTER: DOROTHY ROBERTS

A follow-up to the the Opening Keynote Address in a workshop format.

102 IDENTITY PARADOXES

PRESENTER: JOHN SOBRASKE

Adoption is unique in the way that it potentially builds up and broadens and tears down identity all at the same time. This workshop will explore a variety of paradoxes in identity development and the all-important and slippery question of “Who am I?”

103 TREATING CLINICAL ISSUES IN ADOPTION: BUILDING THERAPIST CAPACITY (ADOPT CUYAHOGA'S KIDS)

PRESENTER: ZOE WOOD

This workshop will describe a unique partnership between a university and the public and private sectors to train and supervise clinicians interested in working with individuals and families touched by adoption. The program offered both training and clinical supervision to participants and increased adoption related mental health capacity.

104 ALL ROADS HOME – CREATING A CONTINUUM OF ADOPTION AND PERMANENCY SERVICES

PRESENTERS: CHERYL JAMISON & RENAY SANDERS

The road home can be long and complex for youth in child welfare systems without concentrated efforts and novel programs. This workshop showcases innovative practices in kinship, openness, concurrent planning and child centered recruitment within a child welfare/mental health agency with permanency as a crucial part of its mission.

105 FINDING RESILIENCY: IS IT TEENAGE DEPRESSION OR IS IT A NORMATIVE STAGE OF THE ADOPTION?

PRESENTER: SUZANNE D'AVERSA

Teenagers who are adopted have extra stages to negotiate in adolescence as they define their identity and separate from their parents. Issues about birthparents can be particularly confusing at this time. As the teenager copes with this, it often looks like a depression. This workshop will familiarize clinicians and family members as well as adult adoptees with the normative stages of the adoption process during the teen years.

106 GSA: DON'T I KNOW YOU FROM SOMEWHERE?

PRESENTERS: LESLIE MACKINNON & DENISE CARROLL

Prior to the occurrence of adoption reunions, the term “Genetic Sexual Attraction” was unknown. Recently GSA has been a topic on major television networks. The potential for a GSA explosion among unsuspecting persons is increasing exponentially. This workshop will address the personal ramifications of GSA in adoption and third party reproduction.

100 Series continued

100 Workshop Series

Thursday, April 23, continued

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM – 100 WORKSHOP SERIES, CONTINUED

107 INSIGHTS INTO HOW WE CAME TO RELINQUISH - FOR BIRTHMOTHERS ONLY

PRESENTER: LYNN FRANKLIN

By tracing the personal patterns we internalized from our parents, we can track how we came to relinquish and see how who we were at the time (along with external pressures) contributed to the crisis, not as a way of self-blaming but of understanding and assuming personal responsibility.*

108 MEMOIRS BY ADOPTEES: COMMONALITIES AND CONTRASTS

PRESENTER: MARIANNE NOVY

Betty Jean Lifton, Sarah Saffian, A. M. Homes, Catherine McKinley, Jane Jeong Trenka, Emily Hipchen, Jean Strauss – all of these adopted women have written memoirs that include meetings and interactions with their birth family. What are their common experiences? How do they differ?

12:15 – 1:30 PM – LUNCH WITH REGIONS – CONCESSION LUNCH

1:30 – 2:45 PM – 200 WORKSHOP SERIES

201 ADOPTED ADOLESCENTS: UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATING THEIR JOURNEYS

PRESENTER: GREGORY KECK

The workshop will address issues of adoption, adolescence, and how the two interface. Many of the developmental tasks of adolescence may be complicated by an adoption experience. If there has been early trauma both adolescence and adoption issues may be heightened. The major focus of this workshop is to help parents and those working with adolescents better understand them and more effectively interact with them.

202 INTEGRATING CHILDREN INTO RECRUITMENT (ADOPT CUYAHOGA'S KIDS)

PRESENTERS: LAURA MORELLO, JULIA ROSS & VALLI SPAHN

Child Centered Recruitment places youth at the center of their journey to find permanency. By interviewing people in the youth's past and documenting their life experiences, the workers in *Child Centered Recruitment by ANC®* have revolutionized the practice of adoption recruitment for older youth and sibling groups.

203 THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING SIBLING CONNECTIONS

PRESENTERS: LISA DICKSON, AMANDA DUNLAP & GRACE HILLIARD

Three foster care alumni report that maintaining contact between adoptees and their siblings builds trust and long-term emotional resiliency. Denial of sibling contact works against an adoptee's ability to attach with adoptive families. Children are not blank slates, and when they are adopted, they bring their culture, identity and memories with them.

204 SURPRISE! SHE REALLY DOES EXIST!

PRESENTER: VALERIE ARMSTRONG

What is it like to believe all your life that you will never know the woman who gave birth to you, then all of a sudden be presented with her name and address? This is the story of one such "sudden" reunion, and the myriad of emotions it reveals.

205 WALKING IN THE SHOES OF THE RELINQUISHED CHILD

PRESENTERS: PAM HASEGAWA, BETSY FORREST & PENNY PARTRIDGE

Through a variety of experiential exercises, participants will gain insight into the inner worlds of relinquished 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.

200 Series continued

*Not Audiotaped

200 Workshop Series



Thursday, April 23, continued

1:30 AM – 2:45 PM – 200 WORKSHOP SERIES, CONTINUED

206 ETHICAL ISSUES IN ADOPTION FROM THE PUBLIC FOSTER CARE SYSTEM

PRESENTER: MAUREEN HEFFERNAN

Sibling ties, youth voice, openness, kin, best interest, culture, self-determination, disclosure. When the associated values compete, these words and others signal difficult ethical dilemmas. Participants will identify and discuss the concerns that arise in their current practice. Frameworks for ethical decision making in child welfare will also be reviewed.

207 CONNECTING WITH FAMILY VIA THE INTERNET

PRESENTER: MARILYN WAUGH

Reconnecting to family 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 minimal cost. This workshop, led by an experienced professional who has completed several thousand searches, will provide multiple handouts to participants. (Workshop will be repeated on Sunday as 901.)

208 INSIDE OUT: EXPRESSIVE ARTS FOR THE SOUL

PRESENTER: PATRICK McMAHON

In adoption experience, it is often difficult to express our innermost feelings. In this participatory session, we will use simple movement, collaging, and creation of greeting cards to produce symbols of what is most poignant for us in the past, present, or future.

3:15 – 4:30 PM – KEYNOTE: JOE ESZTERHAS & SUZANNE PERRYMAN

Mutual Blessing

keynote Joe Eszterhas and his biological daughter, Suzanne Perryman, will describe – from separate points of view – their reunion after 30 years and their road to a loving relationship.

5:00 – 6:15 PM – SUPPORT GROUPS

6:30 – 7:45 PM – AAC STATE REPRESENTATIVES DINNER – STATE REPS ONLY

8:00 – 9:30 PM – FILM:

Adopted

film PRESENTERS: DIRECTOR BARB LEE, CO-PRODUCER NANCY KIM PARSONS
Adopted explores the shadow side of international adoption in following two American families. One is just beginning the process of adopting a baby from China and is filled with hope and possibility and the other family has just begun to explore adoption after 32 years. While the two families are at opposite ends of their journey, their stories converge to show us that love isn't always enough to make a family work.

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

Friday, April 24

6:30 – 7:30 AM – YOGA

9:00 – 10:15 AM – 300 WORKSHOP SERIES

301 A MODEL OF CREATIVE POST ADOPTION SERVICES

PRESENTER: SHARON ROSZIA

Is it even ethical to place children into adoption without excellent, free and accessible post adoption services? Come learn about the services that are needed based on parental input and how they are being provided in a creative and extensive program.

300 Series continued

Friday, April 24, continued

9:00 – 10:15 AM – 300 WORKSHOP SERIES, CONTINUED

302 ANATOMY OF A SUCCESSFUL REUNION

PRESENTER: RENEE DELUCA

All in January of 1994, adoptee Renee DeLuca gave birth to her daughter and received a letter from ISRR that would reunite her with her birthmother. It was quite a month. It took her nine months to tell her adoptive mother about her reunion but when she did, she sent Renee to meet her birthmother with a beautiful letter of thanks. Both moms walked her down the aisle when she remarried in 2002. Elements of our successful reunion will be discussed.

303 PREPARING ADOPTION WORKERS AND ADOPTIVE PARENTS: COMPETENCY-BASED TRAINING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

PRESENTER: BETSY KEEFER SMALLEY

If you are looking for ways to maximize the impact of training, this workshop is your ticket. The Institute for Human Services is an international leader in child welfare training and manages the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program for workers and foster/adoptive parents in Ohio. Information about the Adoption Assessor series, legislatively mandated for Ohio workers, will be presented. In addition, information will be shared regarding comprehensive preservice training for adoptive parents and post-finalization workshops for adoptive parents who need training over the long haul. Technological innovations to enhance training will be demonstrated.

304 GET REAL – A PLACE FOR TEENS IN CARE (ADOPT CUYAHOGA'S KIDS)

PRESENTERS: VALLI SPAHN, WANDA DOWER & LAURA MORELLO

Get Real groups empower teens to share their feelings and experiences of foster care. Young adults who were in foster care or adopted as teens help facilitate the sessions. In this workshop, we invite others to share challenges and triumphs with our panel of teens and young adults.

305 ADOPTEE ROMANTIC RADAR

PRESENTERS: RON NYDAM & RENE HOKSBERGEN

Why in the world do we choose whom we choose as lovers and partners? How is it that we are attracted to one person over another? And how might relinquishment play a central role in determining how we arrange our love lives? This workshop explores the mysterious dimensions of love as these relate to adoptive development. This workshop will assist adoptees and their mates in understanding the unique fashion in which relinquishment impacts and determines the nature of romantic attraction. The concept of “romantic radar,” “relinquishment sensitivity,” and “repetition compulsion” will be explained. Patterns of love relationships will be described. Hope will be described as a powerful spiritual force which drives love to its fulfillment.

306 FEMALE ADOPTEES ISSUES PART 1

PRESENTER: ANN ADORNETTO

This workshop is brand new by request! Part I will focus on identifying the issues that are gender specific to female adoptees. In experiential format, this workshop is designed to illuminate issues specific to female adoptees and assist in the healing of these issues.

307 MALE ADOPTEES ISSUES PART I – OPEN TO EVERYONE

PRESENTER: CRAIG S. 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.

308 EDUCATING HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ABOUT ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE

PRESENTERS: MARTHA HENRY

Successful foster care and adoption experiences include access to well trained health professionals. Currently health professionals lack specialized training to help them understand the needs of families and individuals touched by adoption and/or foster care. Our model course educates current and future professionals to better serve children, adults and families.



Friday, April 24, continued

400 Workshop Series

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

401 CAN YOU HELP ME?: FINDING AN ADOPTION-COMPETENT THERAPIST

PRESENTER: CYNTHIA ROE

This presentation will support participants in confronting the challenge of finding an adoption-competent mental health practitioner. The presenter will demonstrate how adoption has either been ignored as a factor in treatment or pathologized as a diagnosis or a problem to be excised. Either approach does not consider the whole person and can be ineffective and in some cases dangerous. Participants will be provided with tools designed to empower and inform in the process of choosing a healer.

402 PROACTIVE ADOPTION APPROACHES WHEN PLACING KIDS FROM STATE FOSTER CARE

PRESENTER: KRISTA McCOY

In this workshop, you will learn about the rewards and challenges facing families adopting children from the public child welfare system. Presenter will discuss financial opportunities available for families; and proactive steps for professionals and families when placing older children, sibling groups and in transracial adoption.

403 MENTORS: THE KNOWN AND UNKNOWN NURTURERS (ADOPT CUYAHOGA'S KIDS)

PRESENTERS: JULIA ROSS & AMY VASILKO

The teens in care have experienced a loss of their initial caregiver and frequent placement moves resulting in mistrust. Resiliency research has shown that youth are able to regain trust. We will examine how interactions between youth and adults can shape a youth's potential to trust.

404 FEMALE ADOPTEES ISSUES PART II – FEMALE ADOPTEES ONLY

PRESENTER: ANN ARDORNETTO

Part II will focus on the process of working through the issues in group format and will not be audio taped. In experiential format, this workshop is designed to illuminate issues specific to female adoptees and assist in the healing of these issues.*

405 MALE ADOPTEES ISSUES PART II – SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVES – OPEN TO EVERYONE

PRESENTER: CRAIG S. HYMAN

Part II of the workshop explores 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.

406 COMING FULL CIRCLE THROUGH THE JOURNEY OF ADOPTION

PRESENTER: ANNE COLEMAN

Workshop addresses the influences and considerations which impacted the decision to adopt internationally and the experience of adopting from an adoptee's perspective. Issues of identity and loss which underline the adoptee's ongoing development of self are discussed as they pertain to the evolving journey of becoming a parent.

12:15 -1:30 PM – AAC AWARDS LUNCH

1:30 – 2:45 PM – LUNCHEON KEYNOTE: JEAN STRAUSS

For the Life of Me

keynote

Join us for the special premiere screening of Jean Strauss's feature documentary, *For the Life of Me*. Four years in the making, the film explores the lifelong impact of secrecy in closed adoptions. Weaving the stories of a dozen adoptees with the conflicting messages of a culture that purports to value heritage and civil rights, the film aims an arrow straight at the heart of anyone whose life has been touched by adoption.

**Not Audiotaped*

Friday, April 24, continued

3:15 – 4:30 PM – 500 WORKSHOP SERIES

501 FINDING FAMILY

PRESENTER: SUZANNE PERRYMAN

Suzanne Perryman was 25 years old when she started searching for her biological parents. The search led her to find her Hollywood famous birthfather Joe Eszterhas and set the course for a life changing journey of interesting events. She will share some readings and discuss the difficult start of her relationship with her birthfather and how it grew into a strong, natural and lasting bond, the hard to define relationship with her birthmother, the truth of how her adoption reunion changed her life and the challenge of how developing a strong bond with a biological parent can affect your adopted family that raised you.

502 ETHICS IN ADOPTION: THE ISSUE OF INFORMED CONSENT

PRESENTER: BETH BRINDO

What factors go into giving informed consent to the relinquishment of a child for adoption? What is the agency's responsibility? The mother's? Who can give independent legal advice? These and other questions will be addressed in a discussion of legal and ethical issues that arise around the topic of informed consent.

503 TELLING THE TRUTH TO YOUR ADOPTED CHILD: MAKING SENSE OF THE PAST

PRESENTER: BETSY KEEFER SMALLEY

This workshop will equip parents with the knowledge and tools they will need as they communicate with their adopted child about the complex, troubling, and often painful aspects of his fragmented past. 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.

504 MALE ADOPTEE'S ISSUES PART III – MALE ADOPTEE'S ONLY

PRESENTER: CRAIG S. HYMAN

Join us for sharing of commonalities and differences that adoptees face based simply on gender.*

505 FEMALE ADOPTEE'S ISSUES PART III

PRESENTER: ANN ADORNETTO

Join us for sharing of commonalities and differences that adoptees face based simply on gender.*

506 TEENS2HOMES: A LOOK AT OPENNESS AND ADOLESCENTS

PRESENTER: DIAHANNA ROBERSON

This workshop provides a brief overview of the benefits and challenges in maintaining an open adoption with birth families, foster and adoptive families. It will examine why openness is relevant to teenagers being adopted from the child welfare system. There will be a discussion of different levels of openness and present several levels of openness and how, through collaboration, child welfare professionals can help teens achieve permanency options successfully.

5:00 – 6:15 PM – SUPPORT GROUPS

6:30 – 7:45 PM – SHARING OUR STORIES: TRYING OUT NEW WAYS AND OPEN MIC READING

PRESENTERS: PENNY CALLAN PARTRIDGE & NICOLE BURTON

Open Mic Reading – Bring your own or another's writing on adoption. Readings are in five minute segments. Number of readers will determine number of turns reading.

8:00 – 9:30 PM – FILM: ZARA PHILLIPS

Roots Unknown

film

A 45-minute documentary focusing on interviews with adult adoptees, their spouses and children. They discuss the impact of adoption and issues that they still carry into adulthood. There is also examination of how those issues get played out within the adopted person's family.

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

**Not Audiotaped*



Saturday, April 25

6:30 – 7:30 AM – YOGA

9:00 – 10:15 AM – 600 WORKSHOP SERIES

601 THE SEVEN CORE ISSUES IN ADOPTION

PRESENTER: SHARON ROSZIA

The seven core issues framework is referenced in books on adoption, used as an assessment tool, educational model and support group structure. The issue of loss that initiates all adoption experiences triggers feelings of rejection, shame and guilt, grief, the need to address identity and intimacy challenges and a reach for power and control.

602 LAW REFORM ADVOCATES, BIRTHMOTHERS

PRESENTER: ELIZABETH SAMUELS

In this workshop, Professor Samuels will discuss her own study of surrender documents, signed by women around the country from the 1930s through the 1980s, and will invite birthmothers and adoption law reform advocates to share information and experiences that shed light on claims about promises of confidentiality.

603 ACCESS TO RECORDS, TIMELESS TRUTHS: ADOPTION IN OTHER CULTURES

PRESENTER: JOHN SOBRASKE

An expansive view of other times and cultures can give us a much broader perspective than our local physical/temporal context. These rich stories of other cultures – African, Native American, Asian – reveal the natural wisdom of truth and openness in adoption, and bolster arguments for such legislation today.

604 REEXAMINING GOALS: “OPEN RECORDS” VERSUS “EQUAL ACCESS”

PRESENTER: MIRAH RIBEN

Adoption reformists have long been united around one issue: open records. Exploring the public image of this goal and investigating a more accurate and publicly endearing call to action. What is it we really want? What will – and will not – be resolved by obtaining rights for adult adoptees?

605 TWO FAMILIES...WHAT IT'S LIKE GROWING UP IN OPEN ADOPTION

PRESENTER: LORI MCCARTHY

Is open adoption successful? Hear from these “experts”; a panel of teenagers who are growing up in open adoptions.

606 LOBBYING FOR ACCESS: FEARLESS STRATEGIES, OUTRAGEOUS OUTCOMES

PRESENTERS: MICHAEL GRAND, KAREN LYNN & WENDY ROWNEY

Winning access requires strategic mobilization of the adoption community and intensive campaigning directed at government policy, political will, and media support. COAR fought and won access for adoptees and natural parents – twice. Learn the impact of branding the cause, creating partnerships, launching an education campaign, and how to keep the fight alive when it seems the battle has been lost.

607 PUBLISH YOUR ADOPTION STORY: THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF A SUCCESSFUL BOOK

PRESENTERS: BARBARA RAYMOND & NICOLE BURTON

You lived the story – now you're ready to write and publish your adoption-themed book. Hear from two authors who found success through different routes: traditional publishing and small press/self-publishing. Learn the three steps to take before you begin. Understand publishing alternatives and how to choose the best option for you. This workshop will offer useful handouts and lots of time for questions and answers.

608 HAIR, SKIN AND ADOPTION

PRESENTERS: LADOSHA WRIGHT & STEPHANO

In this dynamic presentation you will learn the how-to's of caring for textured hair and natural skin care of children. We will also debunk myths and old wives tales that prevent parents from getting involved in their child's image. The workshop covers hair texture, hair care products, tools, skin care products and the best methods to help parents care and style their child's hair, care for their skin, gain cooperation, have fun, promote parent child attachment and money-saving tips for the entire family.

600 Workshop Series

Saturday – April 25, continued

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM – KEYNOTE: SENATOR PAULA BENOIT

Turning the Legislative Wheels

keynote

Legislators are the only people who can change the current statutes and their understanding the importance of original identity for all adult adoptees is paramount. Former Maine State Senator Paula Benoit will be sharing strategies used in Maine for passage of LD 1084 - An Act to Provide Adult Adoptees Access to their Original Birth Certificate.

12:15 – 1:30 PM – CONCESSION LUNCH/AAC TOWN MEETING/LEGISLATOR LUNCH

1:30 – 2:45 PM – 700 WORKSHOP SERIES

701 LOST AND FOUND – HOW LOST? HOW FOUND?

PRESENTER: BETTY JEAN LIFTON

Lost and Found, which adoptees called their “bible” is being updated and reissued this year. It was revolutionary then to write about how lost adoptees were and how they were finding themselves through search and reunion. There is increasing openness in adoption today, but this workshop will look at how adoptees' issues are still very much the same as they navigate that old roller coaster of search and reunion.

702 MEMBERSHIP ROUNDTABLE

PRESENTERS: KRISTA MCCOY & KATY PERKINS

How do organizations like the American Adoption Congress face the evolving nature of membership? How do we recruit younger members and what kinds of services should we provide them? Recruiting younger people affords us the opportunity to increase our membership/volunteer base, be exposed to new ideas for organizational growth and begin cultivating new leaders. We will discuss how to reach out to a new membership bracket, ages 18-35.

703 OPENNESS IN ADOPTION: A DIFFERENT WAY OF THINKING

PRESENTER: HOLLY SPENCER-TRUEMAN

Using pictures and narrative this workshop follows the personal journey of one family from making the decision to adopt to having three adopted children, all with some type of openness with a family member. Their unique story includes children adopted from the private and public adoption systems and strives to educate parents and professionals about what openness is and what it can be.

704 THE MULTI-ETHNIC PLACEMENT ACT: RACE MATTERS

PRESENTER: LINDSAY HOULIHAN

The workshop examines the policy and practice issues surrounding the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act (MEPA.) The format will consist of lecture, small group discussion and case examples illustrating the strengths and weaknesses of the current policy, and its impact upon permanency planning and adoption for children in the public child welfare system from the presenter's own practice. Issues regarding ethnic identity development for minority children will also be discussed.

705 OVERCOMING OPPOSITION TO ACCESS

PRESENTERS: SENATOR PAULA BENOIT, JUDY FOSTER & MARY MASON

Suggestions and strategies from adoption activists on overcoming the opposition to adopted adults having access to their original birth certificates.

706 CONNECTING WITH COMMITMENT

PRESENTER: MARGIE PERSCHIED

Nurturing genetic, cultural and racial identity is one of transnational and transracial adoptive parenting's greatest challenges. If you look for them with commitment, opportunities to develop connections are everywhere. An adoptive mom shares how her family and friends form lasting ties – you can, too, in the discussion that follows.

700 Workshop Series

700 Series continued



Saturday – April 25, continued

1:30 – 2:45 PM – 700 WORKSHOP SERIES, CONTINUED

707 OVERCOMING OUR FEAR TO HELP OUR ADOPTED CHILDREN

PRESENTERS: LYNNE BANKS & BARBARA RAYMOND

We understand our adopted children's need to reunite with their birth families, but we feel threatened, afraid we'll "lose" our children. This workshop, led by an adoptive mother whose children are in open adoptions, and by an adoptive mother whose daughter reunited with her family at the age of 19, will explore ways to get past the fear to help our children and their families of birth.*

3:15 – 4:30 PM – 800 WORKSHOP SERIES

801 THE MEDIA AND ADOPTION: A PANEL

PRESENTER: RENEE DELUCA

The panel participants have all been touched by adoption: TOM MERRIMAN, adoptive father, (domestic) and former WJW Fox8 Investigative reporter (currently back to practicing law); KIM WHEELER, adoptive mother (international), WKYC TV news reporter; JIM EWINGER, adoptee (reunited), *The Plain Dealer* reporter; KRISTEN DAVIS, birthmother, *The Plain Dealer* editor. The panel will be moderated by RENEE DELUCA, former news producer and reporter, and reunited adoptee. Panel will discuss images of adoption and reunion on TV, in newspapers and magazines, and in the movies; and strategies for accessing media publicity.

802 RELATIONSHIPS: FROM DISCORD TO HARMONY

PRESENTER: 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!

803 GAY & LESBIAN ADOPTEEES: COMING OUT AGAIN

PRESENTER: PATRICK McMAHON

The unique added dimension of being gay in the adoption experience will be explored in this workshop. We will discuss formation of identity, the feelings, issues and risks involved in coming out to birth relatives, and ways to direct unresolved feelings of abandonment, anger, shame and loss toward healing and positive action.

804 ADOPTION NAVIGATOR PANEL (ADOPT CUYAHOGA'S KIDS)

PRESENTER: DOTTIE KLEMM

A panel of Adoption Navigators will share their stories and perspectives from working with the adoption community as they strive to identify obstacles in the public child welfare system that keep families from adopting children in foster care. Come and hear from these workers who have a unique view of all sides of the tireless work of creating families through adoption.

805 AN EXPLORATION OF THE LIVED EXPERIENCE OF IDENTITY FORMATION OF AN ADULT ADOPTEE THROUGH ART THERAPY

PRESENTER: P.K. PHILLIPS

Confidential adoption practices affect the lives of adopted individuals long into adulthood and can present such people with a sense of lacking a consolidated identity. P.K. Phillips will present the artwork, writings and research findings from her thesis on this topic. The workshop will close with a brief art therapy exercise for participants to explore their own relationship with the topic.

806 I FOUND THE TRUTH – SO WHERE'S THE FREEDOM?

PRESENTER: RICH UHRLAUB

Relinquishment and adoption searches can produce a wide range of results in terms of personal stories and relationships. For many, finding someone, whether dead or alive, creates a whole new set of challenges and awakenings. Does all this new truth really set us free? If so, how?

*Not Audiotaped

Saturday – April 25, continued

4:30 PM – 5:30 PM – SUPPORT GROUPS

7:00 PM – 12:00 AM – CREATING FUTURES BENEFIT & SILENT AUCTION

WITH DARRYL 'DMC' McDANIELS

My Story & My Mission

keynote Darryl McDaniels is a founding member of the legendary rap group Run DMC, a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame nominee, and an advocate for adoptees and youth in foster care. After finding out at age 35 that he was adopted, Darryl has committed himself to supporting those children who still wait for “forever families.” Darryl’s own inspirational and fascinating adoption story will be the evening’s main entertainment, but attendees will also enjoy the presentation of the 2009 Triad Advocate of the Year Award, a wonderful silent auction and delicious food and drink. Proceeds benefit programs & services provided by Adoption Network Cleveland to the community.

Sunday, April 26

6:30 – 7:30 AM – YOGA

8:45 – 10:00 AM – 900 WORKSHOP SERIES

901 CONNECTING WITH FAMILY VIA THE INTERNET

PRESENTER: MARILYN WAUGH

Reconnecting to family 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 minimal cost. This workshop, led by an experienced professional who has completed several thousand searches, will provide multiple handouts to participants.

902 NINE MONTHS: GAINS AND LOSSES

PRESENTERS: SUZ BEDNARZ & MARGIE PERSCHEILD

A mother of adoption loss and an adoptive mother weave the contrasting stories of the nine months leading up to the surrender and adoption of their children into a single, inseparable experience. A discussion of traditional attitudes toward pregnancy before surrender and the adoption wait, the adoption ethics involved, follows.

903 SUPPORTING THE SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL NEEDS OF ADOPTEES

PRESENTER: 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.

904 COMING OUT AS PARENTS: A PANEL ON GAY AND LESBIAN ADOPTION

PRESENTER: GEORGE GRAHAM

This panel will explore the myriad issues that lesbians and gay men navigate when they form families through adoption: Selecting an adoption agency and how “out” to be; deciding whether to adopt internationally, domestically, or through the public system; choosing who in a couple will be the legal adoptive parent (in states where two-parent adoptions are not legal for same-sex couples); negotiating openness with birth families; and helping children deal with the fact that their family might look quite different from others around them.

905 OPEN ADOPTION: PROMISES AND TRUTH

PRESENTER: DAWN FRIEDMAN

A panel of birth and adoptive parents in open adoption will discuss the rewards and challenges of openness in adoption. The panel will share diverse points of view and experiences to help dispel myths about openness and to discuss the way support for openness could be improved. We will include a hand-out of pictures, stories, letters, etc. from adopted children who are being raised in open adoptions as well.

900 Workshop Series

900 Series continued



Sunday – April 26, continued

8:45 – 10:00 AM – 900 WORKSHOP SERIES, CONTINUED

906 MEDICAL CRISIS PROMPTS SEARCH

PRESENTER: CAROL BARBIERI

When adoptee Carol Barbieri's son was diagnosed with a life-threatening heart condition, the search for her birth family became crucial to saving his life. Closed records in New Jersey prompted Carol to find alternate ways to locate family members. Discovering she was abandoned as an infant and separated from her twin sister are only some of the secrets Carol uncovered by the end of her search.

907 THE HAGUE CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION, ONE YEAR IN

PRESENTER: MIKIKO STEBBING AND KRISTEN SMITH

The Hague Convention on Intercountry adoption is an international agreement between participating countries on best adoption procedures. The Department of State and Homeland Security will lead a panel discussion to clarify their roles, regulations and responsibilities in the Hague intercountry adoption process. In addition, lessons learned during the implementation and guidance on working within the standards for accreditation, services and home studies will be presented.

908 MY PURPOSE AND MY DESTINY

PRESENTER: DARRYL "DMC" McDANIELS

While some people regard adoption negatively, Darryl McDaniels feels his adoption experience is integral to the man he has become today. Every child deserves the opportunity to become the person he or she is meant to be, and sometimes being adopted is part of that plan. While children may have difficulty comprehending their mission, they should never be ashamed of being adopted. The Felix organization, cofounded by Darryl, strives to plant a seed of hope for children who have been neglected and abandoned by their parents; children who, in the absence of the support of a nurturing family, need caring experts to help them grow to be strong, independent, successful adults.

10:30 – 11:45 AM – 1000 WORKSHOP SERIES

1001 THE HERO'S JOURNEY

PRESENTER: JOHN SOBRASKE

Ever notice how almost every hero's tale is about an orphan or adopted person? Such stories provide a fun, colorful and surprisingly sophisticated way to elucidate all the core psychological challenges faced by adopted people. Geared for adults, this workshop addresses well-known heroes of mythology, religion, fairytales, comics and movies.

1002 THE HEALING POWER OF FORGIVENESS, RITUAL AND CEREMONY

PRESENTER: SHARON ROSZIA

Members of the constellation, as well as the professionals who assist them, struggle to climb out of the morass of loss, shame, guilt and grief. So much has happened to adopted persons before they were even verbal; society does not recognize the pain of infertility or losing a child to adoption. Come and explore avenues to healing.

1003 BABY DUMPING: AN OHIO "SAFE HAVEN" CASE STUDY

PRESENTER: MARLEY GREINER

The presentation will begin with a brief discussion on the history, implementation, and ethics of "safe haven"/legalized newborn abandonment laws in the US. The bulk will be an Ohio case study of SH use and abuse based on public records, legal opinions, news articles, interviews, and other primary Ohio sources.

1004 10 WAYS TO WRECK A REUNION

PRESENTERS: MICHAEL GRAND, MONICA BYRNE

Despite all the hard work put into adoption reunions they often fail, sometimes immediately and sometimes after several years. Drawing on their combined counselling experience of many years, the presenters of this workshop will highlight some of the most common problem areas in reunions and how to avoid them. Bring your reunion difficulties for new insights and tools to help sort it all out!

1000 Series continued

Sunday – April 26, continued

10:30 – 11:45 AM – 1000 WORKSHOP SERIES, CONTINUED

1005 FOUND THROUGH SEARCH – TRIAD MEMBERS WHO WERE FOUND

PRESENTERS: LINDA BELLINI & DOTTIE KLEMM

Ever wonder what it's like to be found by someone who is searching? Come and hear a panel of people talk about this experience and how it impacted their lives.

1006 ADOPTION (RE)CONNECTIONS: A REUNION STORY

PRESENTERS: KATE ST. VINCENT VOGL & VALERIE CZERWIEN

An adopted daughter and her birthmother share their story of reconnection. Kate will moderate the discussion and read from her forthcoming memoir, which has been acclaimed by Lorian Hemingway as “a beautiful find.” Val will share those moments from her perspective as well. Q&A session to follow.

1007 ADOPTION MEDICAL DEVELOPMENTAL BASICS FOR ADOPTION AGENCIES

PRESENTER: ELAINE SCHULTE, MD

This workshop will familiarize adoption agency personnel with the unique medical and developmental needs of adopted (both internationally and domestically) children so that early treatment and intervention is optimized. The workshop will focus on record review, post-adoptive medical screening, diagnoses, treatment of medical conditions, and screening for developmental delays.

1008 WHAT ADOPTIVE PARENTS NEED TO SUCCEED

PRESENTER: SHERRIE ELDRIDGE

Need encouragement? Need to know what “normal” thoughts are for adoptive parents at different seasons of parenting? Want to learn why adoptive parenting IS different in a wonderful kind of way? Join best-selling author, Sherrie Eldridge, who interviewed nearly 100 adoptive parents for her upcoming book, *20 Things Adoptive Parents Need to Succeed*.

11:45 AM – 12:15 PM – CONFERENCE CLOSING

Presenter Biographies (in alphabetical order by last name)

ADORNETTO, ANN – Ann Adornetto is a Licensed Professional Counselor in the state of New Jersey. She has been in private practice for over 10 years. Ann is an adoptee who has been reunited with her birth family for 10 years as well. She is an advocate for access to original birth certificates and supports children and families who wish to search for adoptees' birth history. Ann is currently a Board Member and Past President of the New Jersey Mental Health Counselors' Association.

ARMSTRONG, VALERIE – Valerie Armstrong, MFTi, is Program Director for Kinship Center's Wraparound program in Southern California. She holds a master's degree in Clinical-Counseling Psychology from LaSalle University, and has experience working with emotionally-disturbed youth at home, in foster care, and in residential treatment. Valerie is also an adoptee, in reunion since 2000.

BANKS, LYNNE – Lynne Banks is a Board Member and the Midwest Regional Director for the American Adoption Congress. After becoming a mom through adoption she has spent the last 13 years receiving an education in adoption. She has been recognized nationally for her advocacy in adoption and as a promoter for ethical open adoptions; she enjoys the challenges of being a triad search angel, and was a 2006 Angel in Adoption Nominee.

BARBIERI, CAROL – Carol is an adoptee and writer/musician from New Jersey. She began a frantic search for birth family when her son was diagnosed with a life-threatening heart condition.

BEDNARZ, SUZ – Suz Bednarz' first born child was surrendered to adoption in 1986 and found in 2005. Suz blogs her adoption experience at *Writing My Wrongs*. She is a past guest of *The Adoption Show*, on the Board of Directors of Origins USA and founder of ehbabes.com, a search and support group for those separated by the Kurtz network of agencies.

BELLINI, LINDA – Linda joined the staff of Adoption Network in 2001 and, as Program Coordinator 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 masters 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.

BURTON, NICOLE – Nicole J. Burton, is an adopted person in reunion for 24 years, author of *Swimming Up the Sun: A Memoir of Adoption*. A Washington, D.C. area playwright, she's produced her work in theaters, prisons, homeless shelters, and the U.S. Capitol.



Presenter Biographies

BYRNE, MONICA – Monica is a birthparent who has volunteered for 22 years with Parent Finders in Canada. She has assisted in over 1100 reunions. Monica is an adoption activist and a past AAC Board member who has presented at numerous AAC and NACAC conferences. She was the 2005 recipient of AAC's Vilardi Humanitarian Award.

CAMPAGNOLO, DONNA – Donna serves as the Assistant Center Director for Customer Relations at the National Benefits Center (NBC). The NBC processes family-based adjustments of status cases to prepare them for interviews, as well as forms associated with Hague adoptions.

CARROLL, DENISE – Denise Carroll is the founder and facilitator of "Hand in Hand," dedicated to the education and support of adoptive parents in Atlanta. She is a fourth generation adoptee and has a daughter adopted from China. She is currently in reunion with both sides of her family. She's taught elementary school for fifteen years and is pursuing a Master's in Counseling.

COLEMAN, ANNE – Dr. Coleman is an adoptee and an adoptive parent of two daughters from China. She is a Counseling Psychologist and Adjunct Professor at a New England college where she has worked for 15 years. She has presented nationally and regionally on issues related to college counseling as well as adoption.

CZERWIEN, VALERIE – Valerie Czerwien is a Treu-Mart Fellow and a Certified Master Trainer in Conflict Management, has spent 12 years administering youth programs. Valerie's presentation is with her birth daughter, Kate St. Vincent Vogl.

D'AVERSA, SUZANNE – Suzanne d'Aversa, LCSW is a social worker in private practice who deals primarily with members of the adoption triad. She is also the Clinical Coordinator of a Post Adoption Program at Parsons Child and Family Center in Albany, New York. She has been working in the field of foster care and adoption for over 30 years.

DELUCA, RENEE – Renee DeLuca is a former news producer and reporter, and adoptee reunited since 1994. Renee was born in 1964, one week after adoption records in most states and Washington, D.C., her birth place, were sealed. She found her birthmother through ISRR and has since been reunited with her birthfather and family.

DICKSON, LISA – Lisa Dickson is one of the founding members of Foster Care Alumni of America, and founded the Ohio chapter of this organization. Lisa is a national speaker, youth advocate and online journalist. She writes for *Voices for Children*, a national adoption site, and *Imaginif*, an Australian child protection site. In 2008, Lisa received the Virginia Colson Award from the Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies.

DOWER, WANDA – Wanda Dower aged out of the foster care system and has successfully raised three children. From her experiences she gained inner strength, wisdom and an ability to connect with many individuals. She has taken an active role in telling her story and encouraging youth to tell their story.

DUNLAP, AMANDA – Amanda Dunlap is the Youth Outreach Coordinator for the Ohio chapter of Foster Care Alumni of America. She is a current Social Work major. She has recently expanded her circle of influence to include national advocacy in Washington, D.C.

ELDRIDGE, SHERRI – Sherrie is an adoption author, speaker and storyteller. She is the founder and president of Jewel Among Jewels Adoption Network, Inc. and facilitates an online support group for adoptees.

FORREST, BETSY – Betsy Forrest, MSW, adoptee, worked in search and reunion, designed and teaches "Maintaining Birth Family Connections" for the Rutgers Adoption Certificate program and finds time to do some trainings for agencies, conferences and adoptive parent groups.

FOSTER, JUDY – Judy Foster, AAC's New Jersey state representative, has been reunited with her daughter for 10 years. She has presented at AAC, NACAC and NASW-NJ conferences, college law classes and other venues. She works tirelessly on adoption reform in New Jersey.

FRANKLIN, LYNN – Lynn is a birthmother who has been in reunion for 16 years. Professionally, she is a literary agent for authors with her own agency, Lynn C. Franklin Associates, Ltd., based in New York. Lynn serves on the board of The Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute and is the author of *May the Circle Be Unbroken: An Intimate Journey into the Heart of Adoption*.

FRIEDMAN, DAWN – She manages *OpenAdoptionSupport.com*, a grassroots support site for all members of the triad, and is a freelance writer who has written extensively about adoption. Dawn is a passionate supporter for adoption reform including better post-adoption support, unequivocal open records and legally enforceable open adoption agreements.

GOWAN, BARBARA – Barbara Gowan, RN is a reunited biracial adoptee and author who works as a school nurse and teaches nursing at Holyoke Community College. She participates in adoption panels and forums. Those writing theses, articles and books about diversity and adoption have sought her story and perspective. Her website is www.blendingin.biz.

GRAHAM, GEORGE – George Graham joined the staff of Adoption Network Cleveland in May 2007 after serving on the Board for two years and being involved with the Network for five years. In his role as Director of Development and External Relations, George is responsible for fundraising, corporate and community relations, grants, events, and related activities. George and his partner are the adoptive parents of two young children, and they credit Adoption Network Cleveland for playing a critical role in helping them make the decision to adopt and providing a great source of support for their family.

GRAND, MICHAEL – Michael Grand is a member of the Coordinating Committee for the Coalition for Open Adoption Records (COAR.) He is a Professor in the Clinical Psychology Program at the University of Guelph. He is a therapist in adoption and was co-director of the National Adoption Study of Canada.

GREINER, MARLEY – Marley Greiner has tracked newborn abandonment and safe haven legislation/cases throughout the US and has served as a legislative and media source on safe havens. Since 2001 she has published the weekly e-newsletter *Baby Dump News*.

HASEGAWA, PAM – 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.

HOKSBERGEN, RENE A.C. – Rene Hoksbergen studied social psychology/pedagogic and economy/mathematical statistics. He received his Ph.D. in 1972. He taught at the Social Academy in Amsterdam, and since 1984 he has been a senior professor with Utrecht University, Social Sciences doing research and teaching students on statistics/methodology and later on psycho/social problems for adoptees. In 2005 he became emeritus professor, and visiting professor at Institute of Psychology, Pune, India. He has published 30 books and wrote 150 articles in scientific journals in several countries on adoption and other subjects. He is a consultant and is married with two children.

HEFFERNAN, MAUREEN – Maureen Heffernan is a child welfare consultant and trainer who focuses her work on permanency planning particularly as related to family support networks, foster care, kinship care and adoption from the public system.

HENRY, MARTHA – Martha Henry, Ph.D. is the director of the Office of Foster Care and Adoption Education and Policy (OFCAEP), University of Massachusetts Medical School. Dr. Henry developed this course and other seminars that introduce medical students to issues encountered by patients who have experienced adoption and/or foster care.

HILLARD, GRACE – Grace Hilliard gave powerful testimony on Ohio House Bill 7 regarding birth certificates this spring, and has recently returned from study abroad in China.

HOULIHAN, LINDSEY – Lindsey Houlihan, MSSA, LISW is the program coordinator for the Domestic Adoption Program at the Adoption Health Service at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital. The service provides Multi-Ethnic Placement Act evaluations, sibling evaluations and services for kinship adoptive families. Lindsey has been affiliated with the Adoption Health Service since 2001. Lindsey is a doctoral candidate at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences. She is a transracially adoptive parent.

HYMAN, CRAIG S. – Craig S. 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. Craig is on the Board Of Directors of the Music Managers Forum - U.S. Chapter.

JAMISON, CHERYL – Cheryl Jamison's 20 year career has focused on family and child centered social service programs.

KECK, GREGORY – Gregory C. Keck, Ph.D., is the founder and director of the Attachment & Bonding Center of Ohio. He and his staff work with a wide variety of difficulties relating to attachment, adoption, trauma, and parenting. Dr. Keck is the co-author of *Adopting the Hurt Child* and *Parenting the Hurt Child*. His new book, *Adopted Adolescents*, will be released in June 2009.

KLEMM, DOTTIE – Dottie Klemm supervises the Adoption Navigators and the adoptee and birthparent programs for Adoption Network Cleveland. She has a long history in the adoption field having been the former Administrator of Adoption for Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services and a long time volunteer for Adoption Network Cleveland. She is also a trainer and one of the current chairs of the Ohio Adoption Planning Group.

LEE, BARB – Barb Lee is an adult Korean adoptee. After having many years to reflect on her own experience with adoption, she was inspired by this new generation of Chinese Adoptees and wanted to explore adoption in the present. Barb is Director and Co-Producer with Nancy Kim Parsons of a film: *Adopted*. They are hoping *Adopted* will raise awareness, questions and provoke discussion on racism, identity and family.

LIFTON, BETTY JEAN – Betty Jean Lifton, Ph.D. is an adoption counselor and author of *Journey of the Adopted Self: A Quest for Wholeness; Twice Born; Memoirs of An Adopted Daughter; Lost and Found; The Adoption Experience*; and *The King of Children*, a biography of Janusz Korezak, one of the world's first children's rights advocates. Dr. Lifton has a clinical practice in Cambridge and Manhattan, and does phone counseling across the country. Her website is www.bjlifton.com.

LYNN, KAREN – Karen Lynn is a member of the Coordinating Committee for the Coalition for Open Adoption Records (COAR.) She is the founding President of the Canadian Council of Natural Mothers and Director of both Adoption Support Kinship and the Infertility Network. She has been reunited with her son for over a decade.

MACKINNON, LESLIE – Leslie Pate Mackinnon is a therapist who specializes in issues of adoption and third party reproduction. She was drawn to the field by her own experience of placing two sons for adoption during her late adolescence. She was featured in the book *The Girls Who Went Away* and presents nationally and internationally. Her commitment is to educating the psychotherapeutic community to adoption and donor issues.

MASON, MARY MARTIN – Mary Martin Mason is the Executive Director of the Minnesota Adoption Resource network and the AAC Legislative Chair. 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 when such adoptions were rare. Her son Josh has grown up in an open adoption with his birth-mother, Lisa. An adoptee herself, Lisa was reunited with her birthmother and birth grandmother. Mary is the author of *The Miracle Seekers*, *Designing Rituals of Adoption*, and *Out of the Shadows: Birthfathers' Stories*.

MCCARTHY, LORI – Lori McCarthy, LSW, facilitator, has a bachelor's degree in Social Services and a Masters of Education in rehabilitation counseling. She has worked with foster and adoptive families through various agencies in Ohio. Lori is an adoptee and the adoptive mother of four.

MCCOY, KRISTA – Krista McCoy is a biracial adult adoptee, who was also adopted transracially. She received her Master's of Arts in Social Work from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a concentration in children and families. She has served on the Illinois Adoption Advisory Council for two terms, and is currently working as a Case Management Coordinator at a family counseling center in Northwest Illinois. Krista has worked for the past 16 years with foster and adopted children; and has traveled across the country speaking about race and adoption; both personally and professionally.

MCMAHON, PATRICK – Patrick McMahon is an adopted person 17 years into reunion. He is the author of a memoir about search and reunion, as well as a photographer, artist, and musician, an activist for adoption reform, and an adoption speaker and workshop presenter.

MCMANUS, MICHAEL – Michael McManus is a LICSW and works as Project Director of Center for Adoption Research. He researched and recreated MAPP (Massachusetts Approach to Partnership with Parents) Program for DDS, and researched and created curriculum for STEPS (Supervisory Training to Enhance Permanency Solutions) training curriculum. Michael previously worked for the Massachusetts Department of Social Work as a Social Worker Supervisor.

MILLER, MARIANNE – Marianne Miller is a writer, a lawyer, a former social services worker and a birthmother who has been in reunion for over 20 years. She has worked for a number of private and government organizations in areas such as professional regulation, legal aid, freedom of information and protection of privacy.

MORELLO, LAURA – Laura Morello is an adoptee and Adoption Network Cleveland's Program Manager, Youth and Families. Before coming to Adoption Network Cleveland, she worked in the mental health field as a social worker and researcher with teens, adults, and families. She has a passion and drive to increase and share her understanding about adoption, especially considering her personal connection as a reunited adoptee.



NORRIS, BESTIE – Betse Norris is Executive Director and Founder of Adoption Network Cleveland. Betsie is an adoptee who searched for and was reunited with her birthparents in 1986. Having made the journey to a successful reunion on her own, in 1988 Betsie founded Adoption Network Cleveland to provide support and assistance to others who are touched by adoption. Betsie has worked tirelessly on legislation to reform Ohio's adoption laws, and is co-author with Jayne Schooler of *Journeys After Adoption: Understanding the Lifelong Process*.

NOVY, MARIANNE – Marianne Novy is a professor of English at the University of Pittsburgh, a reunited adoptee, co-founder and co-chair of the Alliance for the Study of Adoption and Culture, director of the Pittsburgh Consortium for Adoption Studies, editor of *Imagining Adoption*, and author of *Reading Adoption: Family and Difference in Fiction and Drama*.

NYDAM, RON – Rev. Ron Nydam, Ph.D., author of *Adoptees Come of Age: Living Within Two Families*, is the Professor of Pastoral Care, Calvin Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He served as a pastor at Third Christian Reformed Church of Denver, Colorado for 10 years and as the agency director of Pastoral Counseling in Denver for 14 years. Dr. Nydam has a special interest in the study of relinquishment and adoption and lectures nationally on these topics. For the past eight years Ron has made regular visits to a children's home in Ukraine, observing behavior, helping staff, and enjoying the children as they grow up.

PARSONS, NANCY KIM – Nancy Kim Parsons is an adult Korean adoptee who after having many years to reflect on her own process with identity, was inspired by the steady influx of girls being adopted from China to question what has changed from the past generations of adoption and what, perhaps, has not. Nancy Kim is Co-Producer with Barb Lee of a film: *Adopted*. They are hoping *Adopted* will raise awareness, questions and provoke discussion on racism, identity and family.

PARTRIDGE, PENNY CALLAN – Penny Callan Partridge, MSW, adoptee and adoptive mother, co-founded Adoption Forum (Philadelphia, 1973) and was the first President of the AAC. Recent writing includes *What Adoption Looks Like in Dreams of the Adopted* and *Pandora Out of the Box*, a performance piece exploring her evolving relationship with the Pandora Story.

PERKINS, KATY – Katy Perkins, LMSW is the Primary Prevention Specialist in the Victim Intervention/Rape Crisis Center at Parkland Hospital in Dallas, Texas, and Legislative Chair for the Texas Coalition for Adoption Resources and Education. She is also a nonprofit consultant and adoption home study provider, and President of Kingsman Consulting, LLC.

PERRYMAN, SUZANNE – Suzanne Perryman was reunited with her birthfather Joe Eszterhas in 1997. Perryman lives in Scottsdale, Arizona with her husband and two daughters, and previously worked in the publishing field. She is a passionate advocate for children of special needs, as both of her daughters are affected by mitochondrial disease. In the free time she can find, she enjoys writing and reading.

PERSCHIED, MARGIE – Margie Perscheid is the adoptive mom of two Korean teens. She is co-founder of Korean Focus, an organization for families with children from Korea with chapters in Metro D.C., Northern Maryland, Cincinnati, Seattle and Indianapolis, and is on the board of KAC-DC. Margie blogs at Third Mom and Anti-Racist Parent.

PHILLIPS, ZARA – Zara Phillips is an adopted person, in reunion with her birthmother for 19 years, and the author of the book *Mother Me*. This book was just published in London, England by the British Association of Adoption and Fostering. She is also a singer/songwriter and director of the documentary *Roots Unknown* winner of the Homegrown Short Documentary at the NJ Garden State Film Festival and recently selected for the Montclair International Film Festival.

PHILLIPS, P.K. – P.K. Phillips attended Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles completing a master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy with a specialization in Clinical Art Therapy. While attending, she completed her thesis in exploring the topic of identity consolidation of people of confidential adoption practices. P.K. Phillips is an adoptee of such practices herself, and utilized personal writings and drawings, psychotherapeutic research methods and art therapy interventions to explore her experience of being an adoptee in unison with psychoanalytical disciplines. She currently lives in Southern California.

RAYMOND, BARBARA – Barbara Bisantz Raymond, M.S., is an adjunct professor, adoptive mother, and author of *The Baby Thief: The Untold Story of Georgia Tann, the Baby Seller Who Corrupted Adoption*. She's written for *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Working Mother*, *Parents*, *Writer's Digest*, *Reader's Digest*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Redbook*, *McCall's*, *Ladies' Home Journal*, and other publications.

RIBEN, MIRAH – Mirah Riben is author of *Shedding Light on...The Dark Side of Adoption* and *The Stork Market*. From Director-at-Large of the AAC, Riben is currently on the Board of Directors of Origins-USA. Riben has been keynote speaker for the AAC and has spoken at countless other conferences, television and radio.

ROBERSON, DIAHANNA – Diahanna B. Roberson, MSSA, LSW is an Adoption Supervisor and Program Coordinator for the Teens2Homes federal cooperative agreement grant at Bellefaire JCB located in Shaker Heights, Ohio. She has been a social worker for over 29 years beginning her career in the public child welfare setting. She has coordinated two other federal grants and has trained child welfare professionals on minority recruitment and working with kinship families.

ROE, CYNTHIA – Cynthia Roe is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker currently working as a clinician, supervisor and trainer at Kinship Center in Santa Ana, California. She is a certified Adoption Clinic Training facilitator. For the past 16 years, she has worked as a social worker in the public and private sectors, focusing her work on children and families impacted by abuse and neglect, foster care and adoption. In 2005, Ms. Roe met her birth brother, 54 years after her mother relinquished her for adoption. Ms. Roe is the adoptive parent of two young men who were formerly in foster care. She and her partner of 17 years have supported their sons in the process of finding and reconciling with their birthmother. They now enjoy a relationship with her and their two kept siblings. She is still 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.

ROSS, JULIA – Julia Ross completed her MSSA from Case Western Reserve University and began working at Adoption Network Cleveland in June 2007 as the Project Connect Social Worker. She now serves as Youth Connections Coordinator where she oversees the programming for youth in care at Adoption Network Cleveland. Her knowledge of adoption began early with the adoption of her siblings from the public system. She continues to expand her knowledge through her work with teens in care.

ROWNEY, WENDY – Wendy Rowney is a member of the Coordinating Committee for the Coalition for Open Adoption Records (COAR.) She is the Education Chair for the AAC, Secretary for the Adoption Council of Canada, and a Director of Adoption Support Kinship and the Infertility Network. Wendy reunited with her mother in 1996.

ROSZIA, SHARON – Sharon Roszia has been a social worker since 1963 and is a parent by birth and adoption of older children. She has witnessed the impact of difficult beginnings on her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. She is an author, program manager and an internationally known speaker who has keynoted many conferences.

SAMUELS, ELIZABETH – Elizabeth Samuels is a professor of law at the University of Baltimore School of Law in Maryland. Her work is in the areas of constitutional law and adoption law. She is a graduate of Harvard College and the University of Chicago Law School. She is a "birth aunt."

SANDERS, RENAY – Renay Sanders has spent her 30 year career in community centered and child welfare practice.

SCHULTE MD, ELAINE – Dr. Elaine Schulte, a board-certified pediatrician, is currently the Medical Director of the International Adoption Program at The Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital. She is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics' Executive Committee, Section on Adoption and Foster Care. She is the parent of two internationally adopted children.

SMALLEY, BETSY KEEFER – Betsy Keefer Smalley, co-author of the award-winning *Telling the Truth to Your Adopted or Foster Child: Making Sense of the Past* and the newly released (2009) *Embracing a Love Like No Other: The Impact of Parenting Traumatized Children on Foster and Adoptive Parents*, has 38 years of experience in child welfare, adoption placement, post adoption services, and training. She works as a Training Manager in the Foster Care and Adoption Training Programs for the Institute for Human Services in Columbus, Ohio and is a Senior Program Analyst with the North American Resource Center for Child Welfare.

SOBRASKE, JOHN – John Sobraske, LMHC, LMFT, is an adoption psychotherapist, adopted person and stepparent to adopted children. At the University of Minnesota, he participated in research on open adoption and the effects of stress on neuroendocrine development. The arts, spirituality and natural medicine are integral to his counseling practice.

SPAHN, VALLI – Valli Spahn is Adoption Network Cleveland's Child Centered Recruitment Coordinator and has a wealth of public welfare experience, including making relinquishment plans with biological parents, as well as conducting many home studies with adoptive parents. She has been a passionate advocate for giving youth a voice, and extends that passion to her own children, including one she adopted internationally.

STEBBING, MIKIKO – Mikiko Stebbing, MSW, is the Accrediting Entity Liaison for the U.S. State Department and works with the designated accrediting entities to implement the Hague Adoption Convention and the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000. She has worked for over 30 years in the international adoption and domestic child welfare fields, authored articles on intercountry adoption, and presented before numerous national conferences.

SPENCER-TRUEMAN, HOLLY – Holly Spencer-Trueman is an adoptive parent who works for Adoption Network Cleveland as an Adoption Navigator. In addition, Holly is an IHS approved Preservice Trainer and she holds a Masters of Divinity degree from the Methodist Theological School in Ohio.

STEPHANO – Stephano and Ladosha Wright are partners of Stephano & Co. Salon and The Reverence Design Team. This salon specializes in trichology (study of hair and scalp) and hair cutting. Trichology is used to get customers involved in their salon visits. This promotes home maintenance, enhances knowledge of individual hair and self esteem. This salon has joined the world in going "green" using organic and earth friendly products and tools as much as possible. Stephano and Ladosha combined have over 30 years experience. They have been involved with Adoption Network Cleveland for three years.

UHRLAUB, RICH – Rich Uhrlaub, M.Ed., is an adopted person who discovered that both his parents died before he completed high school. Rich has been active in Colorado legislative reform, has served on the Board of AIS/CTC for 15 years, and serves as chairperson of the Colorado Adoption Intermediary Commission. Rich is co-author of the forthcoming book *Finding Our Place: 100 Memorable Adopted, Fostered Persons and Orphanage Alumni*.

VASILKO, AMY – Amy Vasilko began her career at Adoption Network Cleveland as a volunteer assisting with childcare and birthmother programming. She joined the staff in June 2008 as Program Associate for Youth & Families. She was promoted to Youth Connections Social Worker, her current role, in August 2008. She has a degree in Social Work from Cleveland State University and is a licensed social worker. Prior to holding this position at Adoption Network Cleveland, Amy was a Supportive Services Case Manager at Towards Employment, providing services to assist individuals in finding and keeping employment. Earlier in her career, Amy served as a case manager in the Foster Care Unit at Berea Children's Home.

VERRIER, NANCY – 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 adoptees' bible, and its sequel, *Coming Home to Self*. Considered an authority in the field, she is an international speaker on adoption issues.

VOGL, KATE ST. VINCENT – A graduate of Cornell and Michigan Law, Kate St. Vincent Vogl teaches at the Loft, the largest literary center in the nation, and is the author of *Lost and Found: a Memoir of Mothers* for anyone who's ever loved and lost—or maybe even found—a mother. Discover what Lorian Hemingway, Ernest Hemingway's granddaughter, considers "a beautiful find." Kate's presentation is with her birthmother, Valerie Czerwien.

WAUGH, MARILYN – Marilyn Waugh, MA, is a reunited birthmother, Director of Adoption Concerns Triangle of Topeka, a search and support group serving those in northeastern Kansas, past president of AAC and currently the AAC state representative for Kansas. For the past 18 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.

WOOD, ZOE – Zoe Breen Wood is an adoptive mother, social worker, instructor and researcher who is currently completing her dissertation on the development of attachment with children who are adopted at an older age. Her family's open relationship with that of her daughters' birth family is ever evolving.

WRIGHT, LADOSHA – Ladosha Wright and Stephano are partners of Stephano & Co. Salon and The Reverence Design Team. This salon specializes in trichology (study of hair and scalp) and hair cutting. Trichology is used to get customers involved in their salon visits. This promotes home maintenance, enhances knowledge of individual hair and self esteem. This salon has joined the world in going "green" using organic and earth friendly products and tools as much as possible. Stephano and Ladosha combined has over 30 years experience. They have been involved with Adoption Network Cleveland for three years.



2009 Conference Registration Rates

FULL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION (WED., APRIL 22 – SUN., APRIL 26)

Includes: All films & workshops, Wed. reception & Fri lunch, Sat. dinner and all snack/coffee breaks

	EARLY BIRD REG. 1/5/09-2/28/09	REGULAR REG. 3/1/09 – 3/31/09	LATE REG. After 4/1/09
Member (AAC or ANC)	\$325	\$360	\$400
Non-Member	\$400	\$435	\$475
Student/Senior Member	\$290	\$325	\$365
Student/Senior Non-member	\$365	\$400	\$440

WEEKEND REGISTRATION – SAT., APRIL 25 – SUN., APRIL 26

Includes: All Sat. and Sun. workshops, Sat. dinner, & snack/coffee breaks

	EARLY BIRD REG. 1/5/09-2/28/09	REGULAR REG. 3/1/09 – 3/31/09	LATE REG. After 4/1/09
Member (AAC or ANC)	\$200	\$230	\$270
Non-Member	\$245	\$275	\$345

ONE-DAY REGISTRATION – FOR ANY SINGLE DAY

Includes: All films & workshops scheduled on registered day; does not include meals except snack/coffee breaks

	EARLY BIRD REG. 1/5/09-2/28/09	REGULAR REG. 3/1/09 – 3/31/09	LATE REG. After 4/1/09
Member (AAC or ANC)	\$100	\$125	\$150
Non-Member	\$145	\$170	\$195

Scholarships may be available. Guidelines and applications will be posted on the Adoption Network Cleveland website – www.AdoptionNetwork.org and on the www.americanadoptioncongress.org

Save on registration costs by becoming a Member now!

American Adoption Congress Member Information

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 monthly issues of our online newsletter, the *Beacon*, 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, or contact our Membership Chair, Carolyn Hoard, at choard@comcast.net.

Adoption Network Cleveland Member Information

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 complete the Membership Form as part of the Conference Registration. Adoption Network Cleveland members receive: *Guidance*, our bi-monthly 16-page newsletter, search and reunion support and assistance, free CEUs for social service professionals (this conference excluded) and discounts to programs and events. Organizational Members may send up to five attendees at the discounted rate. If you have any questions about Adoption Network Cleveland membership or reduced registration eligibility, contact Robin Ott, Outreach Coordinator, at (216) 325-1000 or Robin.Ott@AdoptionNetwork.org.

Three Ways to Register:

1. **Online -** go to **www.regonline.com/aacanc2009** for online form.
2. **Fax -** Complete form below, including credit card information, fax to AAC Conference Registrar: **866-648-8916**.
3. **Mail -** Complete form below, mail check, money order (**payable to Adoption Network Cleveland**) or credit card information to AAC Conference Registrar: **Carolyn Hoard, 192 Rose View Drive, West Grove, PA 19390**.

Conference Registration

Name _____	Organization _____
Address _____	City _____
State/Province _____	Zip _____ Country _____
Day Phone _____	Cell Phone _____ E-mail _____

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

Date Registering / / 2009 ☐ Early ☐ Regular ☐ Late

1.

- ☐ Full Conference Registration \$ _____
- ☐ Weekend Registration \$ _____
- ☐ One-Day Registration \$ _____ indicate day: _____

- ☐ Member: ☐ American Adoption Congress ☐ Adoption Network Cleveland
- ☐ Student/Senior - valid ID required
- ☐ Non-Member

2.

New Membership

- ☐ American Adoption Congress
- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 year | 2 year | Type |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$90 | Individual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$40 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$70 | Student |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$45 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$80 | Senior (62+) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$110 | Household |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$70 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$130 | Search/Support Group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$110 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$210 | Friend of AAC (5 yr. commitment) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$160 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$275 | Organization (1 to 5 attendees) |
- ☐ Adoption Network Cleveland
- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 year | Type |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$40 | Individual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 | Family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | Organizational (1 to 5 attendees) |
- ☐ Joint Membership: AAC and Adoption Network Cleveland
- ☐ \$75 1 year

First time Conference Attendee? yes no

May we include your name in the Directory? yes no

Method of Payment

- ☐ Check ☐ Money Order ☐ MC ☐ Visa ☐ AmEx

Card # _____ EXP. DATE _____

Signature _____

REGISTRATION AMOUNT (FROM SECTION 1) \$ _____

CEU CREDITS - \$45 \$ _____

IF NOT REGISTERED FOR FULL OR WEEKEND REGISTRATION:

"CREATING FUTURES" BENEFIT - \$80 OR \$150
SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER / SILENT AUCTION / McDANIELS
 \$80 - per person, \$150 - per couple \$ _____

IF NOT REGISTERED FOR FULL REGISTRATION:

AAC AWARDS LUNCHEON - \$45
FRIDAY \$ _____

TOTAL CONFERENCE FEES \$ _____

MEMBERSHIP FEE (FROM SECTION 2)

AMERICAN ADOPTION CONGRESS \$ _____

ADOPTION NETWORK CLEVELAND \$ _____

JOINT MEMBER: AAC & ANC \$ _____

PRESENTER INFORMATION

PRESENTER'S DISCOUNT - \$50 \$ _____
 (Only one discount per presenter and a maximum of two presenters' discounts allowed per workshop.) (- \$50)

DISPLAY TABLE - \$100 \$ _____

AUDIO VISUAL EQUIPMENT - \$35 OR \$70 \$ _____
 \$35 - screen rental only
 \$70 - projector or dvd player and screen rental

Grand total enclosed \$

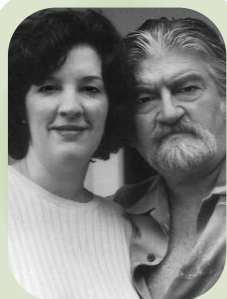
Transforming Families. Connecting Lives

The 30th Annual American Adoption Congress National Adoption Conference

Presented in Partnership with
Adoption Network Cleveland

Keynote Presenters

JOE ESZTERHAS
& SUZANNE PERRYMAN



DOROTHY ROBERTS



JEAN STRAUSS

SENATOR
PAULA BENOIT



DARRYL "DMC"
McDANIELS



About the American Adoption Congress

The American Adoption Congress (AAC) was founded in 1978 as a volunteer, non-profit organization bringing together on a national level local and regional search, support and advocacy groups. Incorporated as tax-exempt 501(c) (3) in 1981, AAC remains a volunteer-driven organization comprised of individuals and organizations representing adult adopted persons, birthparents, adoptive parents, extended birth and adoptive family members, adoption professionals and others whose lives have been touched by adoption. Through education and advocacy, the AAC promotes honesty, openness and respect for family connections in adoption, foster care and assisted reproduction.



About Adoption Network Cleveland

Adoption Network Cleveland recognizes adoption is a lifelong and intergenerational process for all those whose lives are touched by it. Founded in 1988, Adoption Network Cleveland provides programs and services to connect and empower all members of the adoption triad (adoptees, birthparents, and adoptive parents), youth in foster care, foster parents, siblings and adoption professionals. Recognizing that a unified voice is a strong voice, Adoption Network Cleveland promotes community awareness and social change by advocating for progressive policies and openness in adoptive practice, policy and law.