The 34th Annual American Adoption Congress International Conference on Adoption
Presented in Partnership with Adoption Network Cleveland

Create the Next Wave

Wednesday, April 10 through Sunday, April 14, 2013
66 Workshops, Films, Art Show, Entertainment and 31 Social Work CEUs!

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

Twitter: @aac1978 @AdoptionNetCle #CreatetheNextWave
Welcome to Cleveland! On behalf of the American Adoption Congress (AAC) and Adoption Network Cleveland (ANC), please accept our warmest welcome and thanks for choosing to be part of Create the Next Wave. It is a special pleasure to renew our successful strategic partnership as we join together to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Adoption Network Cleveland and share in what promises to be one of the most powerful, value-packed events in the history of this conference. Whether this is your first conference of this type or you return faithfully each year, we invite you to relax, engage and open yourself up to new friends, new understanding and new experiences aimed at furthering education, advocacy, community and healing. We are philosophically rooted in an unwavering commitment to the principles of openness and honesty in adoption, and we hope you find this to be a safe, supportive – and perhaps even surprising – environment. You can take the conference home in your MP3 or CDs ordered from Dove A/V.

In addition to the outstanding and diverse keynote addresses and workshop offerings described in the following pages, a number of "extra-curricular" activities are available to enrich your conference experience:

Support Groups and Hospitality Suites – A great way to unwind and process your day in a setting facilitated by a veteran conference-goer, or while enjoying your favorite beverage and snack. Try them both!

Book Room – We’ve assembled a treasure trove of titles from some of today's hottest authors in the field of adoption and reform. If you prefer to have your purchases sent directly to your home, simply scan the QR codes for the books you want and order them electronically.

Films – The film committee spent months viewing and rating films to bring you some of the best new releases. High Five is the poignant story of a childless British Columbia couple who adopts five siblings from the Ukraine. Resilience is a remarkable journey of international adoption search and reunion between a Korean mother and her son who was adopted by American parents. And Somewhere Between follows four teenage girls, whose lives provide a snapshot of some 80,000 who have been adopted from China since 1989, as they attempt to ask the uniquely human question, “Who am I?”

Thursday Regional Lunches – Be sure to locate your region and room on pages 3 and 22, then connect with people from your corner of the world to build regional community. Grab your choice of lunch from the Carnegie Prefunction Area. It’s included at no extra charge!

Get Your Art On! – The Armington Room also hosts an extraordinary adoption art exhibit, with some pieces available for purchase. Also, the Case Room provides a quiet space to sit and contemplate or participate in creative arts activities throughout the conference. As if that’s not enough, Thursday evening’s Poetry and Prose Open Mic Reading from 7:15 to 8:45 pm attracts some excellent wordsmiths and always delights the audience.

Need help? – Just visit the Registration Table or flag down anyone wearing a name tag with a ribbon – saying Conference Committee, Board Member or Volunteer. We’re here to help in any way we can – navigating the conference, or ideas about which workshops to attend. We appreciate your feedback, and thank you in advance for taking a moment to complete evaluations for each presentation you attend. The tide is high – let's Create the Next Wave together!

Donnie, Betsie and Rich

HILTON GARDEN INN CLEVELAND DOWNTOWN
1100 CARNEGIE AVENUE (E.9TH & CARNEGIE), CLEVELAND
Conference Details

AAC Book Room  ARMINGTON ROOM
The Book Room opens on Thursday, April 11 at 11:00 am and closes on Saturday, April 15 at 12:15 pm. The Book Room will open in the morning when the first workshop begins and close each evening at the end of the last workshop. The Book Room will be closed for all keynotes, meals, films, and support groups throughout the conference. Look for us at the back of the keynote rooms for an autographed copy of the keynote speaker’s book or film.

Art at the Conference  ARMINGTON ROOM
We are celebrating the art and the healing creative process for those touched by adoption as one exciting component of this year’s conference. See art on display and for sale during open book room hours. THE CASE ROOM will be this year’s Quiet Room and Creative Sanctuary, a space to journal, make art, or just be still in a safe environment. Work on your own or in collaboration with others. Expressive arts facilitators have specially designed this ongoing workshop to aide you in processing your personal adoption story. No prior art or writing skills required. Please do stop by during open hours, 8:00 am - 11:00 pm. This Art Celebration culminates with Saturday’s Art Reception. Join us for fun, for connecting, asking questions, and really enjoying our creative community’s achievements.

CEU Information (see yellow boxes for CEU notes)
This program is approved by the National Association of Social Workers (Approval #886381566-1617) for 31 Social Work continuing education contact hours. CEU credits are available for Full Conference at $50 and $20 /day, which includes all application processing and filing fees. CEU applicants will receive CEU Instructions and a Summary Evaluation Form at registration. CEU sign in sheet must be signed for each workshop, keynote or film they attend in order to receive CEUs. Summary Evaluation Form must be completed and returned to the registration table before leaving the conference or they may be emailed to Donnie Davis at pdj27@aol.com. For questions on Ohio CEUs, please contact Linda Bellini at Linda.Bellini@AdoptionNetwork.org and questions for NASW CEUs contact Donnie Davis. CEU Certificate will be emailed to applicant after the conference, Professional Day on Wednesday April 10th is designed to offer up to 6 hours of Ethics CEUs for Social Workers and Counselors. Please see details on listing of that day’s offerings.

Support Group Locations

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<th>Group Location</th>
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Lunch with Regions - Thursday, April 11 - 12:30 - 1:45 pm
To find your region, see page 22

Region | Room | Region | Room
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OHIO    | CARNEGIE E | WEST | CLARK
MIDWEST | EDISON I | SOUTHWEST | STEARNS
MIDATLANTIC | EDISON II | SOUTH | CARTER
NEW ENGLAND | JOHNSON | CANADA | CASE

Help us bring awareness to the Conference on Twitter!
Use these profile names ... @aac1978  @AdoptionNetCle ... and hashtag: #CreatetheNextWave

Hilton Garden Inn
Downtown Cleveland
Website for Attendees:
http://tinyurl.com/13aacConfCle
The 34th Annual
American Adoption Congress
International Conference
on Adoption
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Adoption Network Cleveland

Create the Next Wave

Keynote Presenters

ADAM PERTMAN • WEDNESDAY, 9:00 – 10:30 AM
Rethinking Adoption in the 21st Century (SW/ Counselor Ethics CEUs available)
Adam Pertman is Executive Director of the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute. Pertman, a Pulitzer-nominated journalist and adoptive parent, is the author/editor of two books and has written many other articles on adoption- and family-related issues in books, scholarly journals and mass-market publications. He and his wife, Judy Baumwoll, live in Massachusetts with their two children.

THOMAS RECTOR • WEDNESDAY, 10:45 AM – 12:15 PM
Parenting Teens Who Have Experienced Trauma (SW/ Counselor Ethics CEUs available)
Thomas Rector is a CEO, and national speaker on BioSocial Cognition. His experience as a national presenter, businessman, open adoption panelist, foster mentor and trainer, CASA, and dad, provide him with the dynamic ability and perspective to advocate for adoptive issues. His presentations draw upon this experience to provide a unique mixture of anecdotal and scientific knowledge.

DOMINIQUE MOCEANU AND JENNIFER BRICKER • THURSDAY, 9:00 - 10:30 AM
Sisters
Dominique Moceanu is an Olympic gold medalist in gymnastics from the 1996 games in Atlanta and the author of the New York Times bestselling memoir, Off Balance. She was found by a full sister she never knew she had, Jen Bricker, who was placed for adoption at birth as a result of being born with a disability. Dominique lives in the Cleveland area, is married to Dr. Michael B. Canales and the loving mother of two.

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

GINA SAMUELS, PHD • FRIDAY, 9:00 – 10:15 AM
Bicultural Identities
Gina Samuels, PhD is an Associate Professor at the School of Social Service Administration and a Faculty Affiliate of the Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture. Her scholarly interests include transracial adoption, mixed race and multi-ethnic identity formation, interpretive research methods, and the development among young adults whose childhoods are shaped by foster care and adoption.

JEAN STRAUSS AND ILLINOIS REPRESENTATIVE SARA FEIGENHOLTZ • FRIDAY, 8:00 – 10:00 PM
FILM: The ADOPTEE OBC: That Simple Piece of Paper
Premier viewing of Jean’s newest film and discussion about how to successfully pass state-by-state legislation to create access to adoptees to their Original Birth Certificates (OBC). Her award-winning short documentaries on adoption issues are used nationwide to educate social workers and policy makers about post adoption issues. Jean and her husband Jon currently live at Manhattanville College in New York.

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

Keynote presenters continued
Keynote Presenters continued

PANEL PRESENTATION • SATURDAY, 9:00 – 10:30 AM
Policy Implications and the Provision of Quality, Competent, and Compassionate Medical Care to Adopted Persons

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

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

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

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

DAN CHAON • SATURDAY, 3:45 – 5:00 PM
I Wake Up: Fiction

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

KAREN WILLIAMS • SATURDAY, 8:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Healing with Humor

Known for her quick repartee, insightful commentary and audience rapport, Karen Williams is a comic craftmaster, a gifted actor, a multitalented writer, and an inspirational lecturer. Armed with her “heal with humor” philosophy, she gives humor workshops specifically designed to build self-awareness and self-confidence. A reunited birthmother, Karen is the President and CEO of HaHA Institute (www.hahainstitute.com) and is the proud mother of three sons.
Wednesday, April 10 – Professional Day

9:00 - 10:30 AM
KEYNOTE: Rethinking Adoption in the 21st Century
Adam Pertman CARNEGIE BALLROOM

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM
KEYNOTE: Parenting Teens Who Have Experienced Trauma
Thomas Rector CARNEGIE BALLROOM

12:15 PM – 1:15 PM
LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

1:15 – 2:45 PM – BREAK-OUTS
Behind Closed Doors CARNEGIE W
Caregiving for Children Prenatally Exposed to Alcohol CARNEGIE E
Bi-Cultural Socialization of Dutch, Norwegian and American Adoption From India EDISON II

3:00 – 4:30 PM – BREAK-OUTS
Stepping Into the Shoes of the Adopted Person CARNEGIE W
Ethics in Intercountry Adoption: Is Hague Making a Difference? CARNEGIE E
Openness in Public Adoption: Complex and Necessary Relationships EDISON II

5:15 – 7:00 PM
The Conference: What to Expect – Conference 101 EDISON I

7:00 – 8:30 PM
FILM: High Five CARNEGIE BALLROOM

8:30 – 10:00 PM
FILM: Resilience CARNEGIE BLRM
Will have representative present for Q&A after film

Thursday, April 11

8:45 – 10:30 AM
WELCOME AND KEYNOTE: Sisters
Olympic Gold Medalist Dominique Moceanu and her sister Aerial Acrobat Jennifer Bricker

11:00 – 12:15 PM – 100 SERIES

Manufacturing Birthmothers: From Medieval Blame to the 21st Century CARNEGIE W
Adoption and Mental Illness: Is There a Connection? CARNEGIE E
A Case for Open Adoptions EDISON I
What Makes for Success in Adoptions? EDISON II
Creating Your Own Legacy: Moving Forward JOHNSON
Myths Vs. Reality CLARK
Cleaning out Closets: The Experiences of LGBT Adoptees STEARNS

12:15 PM – 1:15 PM
LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

1:15 – 2:45 PM – BREAK-OUTS
Disability and Adoption: Overcoming Obstacles CARTER

2:00 – 3:15 PM – 200 SERIES
Free Choice or Sophie’s Choice? Updating Our Understanding of Choice CARNEGIE W
Understanding Adoption as an Authentic Narrative of Self CARNEGIE E
Building Community: Four Years in Review EDISON I
Taking Care of the Caring: Parental Self-Care for Foster and Adoptive Parents EDISON II
Cleveland Ohio: A River Runs Through It – An Adoptee’s Journey JOHNSON

3:45 – 5:00 PM – 300 SERIES
Embracing the Joys and Challenges of Transracial Adoption CARNEGIE W
X+Y=Me: How DNA Testing Can Help Us Solve Our Mysteries CARNEGIE E
Telling the Truth to Your Adopted or Foster Child: Making Sense of the Past EDISON I
Flashbacks and Fear: A Review of PTSD Symptoms and How They Impact Birthmothers EDISON II

7:15 – 8:45 PM – SUPPORT GROUPS

9:00 – 10:30 PM
FILM: Somewhere Between CARNEGIE BALLROOM

Friday, April 12

8:45 – 10:15 AM
WELCOME AND KEYNOTE: Bicultural Identities
Gina Samuels CARNEGIE BALLROOM

10:45 – 12:00 PM – 400 SERIES
Pretend It Never Happened: From Secrets to Three Reunions CARNEGIE W

A Modern Perspective on Open Adoption CARNEGIE E
Opening Closed Intercountry Adoptions – A Panel Discussion EDISON I
One Shoe Does Not Fit All EDISON II
Male Adoptee – Part I JOHNSON
Finding Our Voice Within the Adoptive Family CLARK
Bridging the Gap: Leading an Adoption Support Group STEARNS
The Girl Connection CARTER

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM
LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

1:30 – 2:45 PM – 500 SERIES
How People Change CARNEGIE W
Openness in Adoption, One Family’s Evolution from 1991 to Present CARNEGIE E
Does Community Mean “Unity”? Forging Intergenerational Unity Among Bifamilies EDISON I
How to Internet Search for Family Connections EDISON II
Male Adoptee – Part II – The Bigger Picture and Personal and Spiritual Experiences JOHNSON
Magic Wand Healing Meditation for Adoptees CLARK
A Birth Father’s Recovery Through Healing, Self-Forgiveness, Love and Compassion STEARNS
Time to Write Your Book CARTER

3:15 – 4:30 PM – 600 SERIES
Birthmothers in Long, Short Term and Stalled Reunion: Strategies Along the Reunion Path CARNEGIE W
The Three Faces of Adoptees CARNEGIE E
Music Therapy: An Innovative Approach to Working with Special Needs Adopted Children STEARNS
Getting to Yes: The Road to Passing OBC Access Legislation EDISON I
Negotiating the Minefield of Search and Reunion JOHNSON
Does Adoption Run in Families? CLARK
We Are Family? Exploring Triad Members’ Relationships When Adopting Through the Child Welfare System STEARNS
Male Adoptee – Part III – Issues CARTER

5:00 – 6:15 PM – SUPPORT GROUPS

8:00 – 10:00 PM

Saturday, April 13

8:45 – 10:30 AM
WELCOME AND KEYNOTE: Medical Panel: Policy Implications and the Provision of Quality, Competent and Compassionate Medical Care to Adopted Persons
David Leonard, DHSc, MMS, PA-C; Rocío Macías, MD; Elaine E. Schulte, MD, MPH; Mary O’Leary Wiley, PhD, ABPP CARNEGIE BALLROOM

11:00 – 12:15 PM – 700 SERIES
Search and Reunion Starts at the Beginning and Goes on Forever CARTER
Morn Vs. Mom EDISON I
Open Adoption: A Parent’s Journey EDISON II
Adoption Healing Through the Creative Arts JOHNSON
My Birthmother is Who? Stories of Within-Family Adoptions CLARK
Adoption Doula: Honoring the Journey STEARNS
A Lesson Learned? What the History of Adoption Teaches Families Formed by Third Party Reproduction CARTER

12:30 – 1:45 PM
AWARDS LUNCHEON SPECIAL REMARKS BY RON NYDAM CARNEGIE BALLROOM

2:00 – 3:15 PM – 800 SERIES
Adoption Network Cleveland 25th Anniversary: How Did We Get Here? CARNEGIE E
Separated at Birth: Legacy in Limbo Archive EDISON I
Intact Identity: Uncovering the Opportunities and Challenges of Each Star of the Adoption Constellation EDISON II
Preparation – Keys to Reunion Success CLARK
The Healing Power of Writing our Truths STEARNS
Can’t Get Over the Mountain? Fall in Love With the Climb CARTER

3:45 – 5:00 PM
KEYNOTE: I Wake Up: Fiction Dan Chaon CARNEGIE BALLROOM

5:30 – 6:45 PM – SUPPORT GROUPS

6:00 – 8:00 PM
ART SHOW RECEPTION ARMINITON

8:00 – 9:00 PM
KEYNOTE: Healing with Humor CARNEGIE BALLROOM
Comedienne Karen Williams

Saturday, April 13

9:30 – 11:30 PM
Socializing and live music

Sunday, April 14

9:00 – 11:00 AM
AAR Town Hall Meeting
Schedule of Events

Wednesday, April 10 – Professional Day

7:30 AM – 12:00 PM – REGISTRATION

9:00 – 10:30 AM – ADAM PERTMAN • RETHINKING ADOPTION IN THE 21ST CENTURY
CARNegie Ballroom
(SW/Counselor Ethics CEU’s available) – See page 4 for description.

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM – THOMAS RECTOR • PARENTING TEENS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED TRAUMA
CARNegie Ballroom
(SW/Counselor Ethics CEU’s available) – See page 4 for description.

12:15 PM – 1:15 PM LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

1:15 – 2:45 PM – BREAK-OUTS

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS (SW/Counselor Ethics CEU’s available) CARNegie West
PRESENTERS: LISA MAYNARD AND JEAN STRAUSS
This workshop will discuss the barriers that adoptees can face when contacting their agency, as well as the challenges that exist for staff who believe adoptees should have access to information and original birth certificates but are prohibited from full disclosure by state laws and board-driven policies. What happens behind those closed doors? Why are things changing and how can you help? Hear how one adoption agency with a 175-year history is partnering with national advocates to support legislative and internal efforts to change policies that prohibit the release of information to adult adoptees.

CAREGIVING FOR CHILDREN PRENATALLY EXPOSED TO ALCOHOL CARNegie East
PRESENTER: FELICIA FAGG
Children adopted from foster care and internationally are at high risk of prenatal alcohol exposure. This workshop will share a recent study on the incidence of exposure in this population, how exposure affects children, and what interventions to implement to help children with prenatal alcohol exposure.

BI-CULTURAL SOCIALIZATION OF DUTCH, NORWEGIAN AND AMERICAN ADOPTION FROM INDIA
EDISON II
PRESENTER: MAUREEN RILEY-BEHINGER
A cross-cultural sample of 622 Indian children adopted internationally by Caucasian families in the Netherlands, Norway and the United States was used to understand family bicultural socialization practices. Parents relayed children’s bicultural socialization experiences; negative encounters with others about adoption, country-of-origin and racial discrimination; and parental worry about negative experiences.

3:00 – 4:30 PM – BREAK-OUTS

STEPPING INTO THE SHOES OF THE ADOPTED PERSON CARNegie West
PRESENTERS: PAM HASEGAWA, CATHY KOLEY, ZARA PHILLIPS
Through creative experiential exercises the presenters will try to help those in the audience feel in their hearts what it is like emotionally to have been relinquished. Copies of the exercises will be available for participants to take home and use in support groups, educational agency classes, college courses and with family members.

ETHICS IN INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION: IS HAGUE MAKING A DIFFERENCE? CARNegie East
(SW/Counselor Ethics CEU’s available)
PRESENTER: ETTA LAPPEN DAVIS
Through discussion of case examples, we will explore the Hague Treaty’s influence on inter-country adoption, and the extent to which ethical considerations are the primary focus that the Convention intends. Cases will include incoming and outgoing adoptions with Hague and non-Hague countries.

OPENNESS IN PUBLIC ADOPTION: COMPLEX AND NECESSARY RELATIONSHIPS EDISON II
PRESENTER: HOLLY SPENCER-TRUEMAN
Imagine all the people children form relationships with before joining adoptive families; parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts/uncles, foster parents. Can some be embraced for the sake of the child? An open discussion about necessary relationships and the complexity of openness in public adoptions; led by a mom/professional living in the trenches.
5:15 – 7:00 PM – THE CONFERENCE: WHAT TO EXPECT – CONFERENCE 101 EDISON I
PRESENTERS: ROBERTA MACDONALD AND PAM HASEGAWA
Conference 101 is an interactive event helping those who are new to AAC conferences get to know one another and develop a deeper awareness of varying points of view shared during the conference. We will discuss ways to help you stay grounded and present when emotions arise.

7:00 – 8:30 PM – FILM – HIGH FIVE CARNEGIE BALLROOM
BY BORIS IVANOVA AND JULIA IVANOVA OF INTERFILM
A childless British Columbia couple ends up on a roller coaster ride to adopt five Ukrainian siblings, ages six to nineteen. With the children's emotional and physical baggage, the actual adoption is only the beginning of a drama that will shape the lives of both adoptive parents and children in a way that no one can tell. www.interfilm.ca/about.htm (A representative will skype in after film for Q&A.)

8:30 – 10:00 PM – FILM – RESILIENCE CARNEGIE BALLROOM
BY TAMMY CHU
A story of loss and separation, Resilience is a character-driven documentary that takes a unique look at international adoption from the perspective of a Korean birthmother and her American son. A single story among the thousands of stories untold, the film follows the remarkable journey of Myungja as she reconnects with her son Brent (Sung-wook) after 30 years apart. www.resilencefilm.com (A representative will be available after film for Q&A.)

Thursday, April 11
7:30 – 8:15 AM – YOGA WITH PATRICK MCMAHON AND APRIL TOPFER EDISON II
8:00 – 10:45 AM – REGISTRATION
8:00 – 8:45 AM – BREAKFAST CARNEGIE PREFUNCTION ROOM
8:45 – 9:00 AM – WELCOME
9:00 – 10:30 AM – OPENING KEYNOTE: SISTERS CARNEGIE BALLROOM
PRESENTERS: OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST DOMINIQUE MOCEANU AND HER SISTER AERIAL ACROBAT JENNIFER BRICKER (See page 4 for description.)

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

101 MANUFACTURING BIRTHMOTHERS: FROM MEDIEVAL BLAME TO THE 21ST CENTURY
PRESENTER: KAREN LYNN
Unmarried mothers have borne exceptional stigma and the cruelest punishments for centuries. This workshop will look at how and why inhumanity to women got out of hand. The clouds seem to be parting for us now. How can we let go of the past and make the future better?

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

103 A CASE FOR OPEN ADOPTIONS EDISON I
PRESENTER: JOYCE MAGUIRE PAVAO
In order to be as honest and trustworthy as possible for their relinquished and adopted children, adults must put themselves in the shoes of that child through life and make information and roles and responsibilities as open as is possible (which varies of course for every person). This workshop is a chance to make sense of the new world of adoption and to see that both domestic and international adoptions must change in order to be safe, secure, honest, legal, and child sensitive.
104 WHAT MAKES FOR SUCCESS IN ADOPTION? EDISON II
PRESENTER: ZOE BREEN WOOD
This workshop will begin by reporting findings from a study that examined how adoptive parents and their children defined success differently. It will then engage participants in a discussion of what makes for successful adoption outcomes. Implications for practice, advocacy, and policy will be discussed.

105 CREATING YOUR OWN LEGACY: MOVING FORWARD JOHNSON
PRESENTER: TRACY BIGBY
As adoptees, we can sometimes feel lost without a complete history. We have grieved and worked through anger, but now what? Our history begins with us. Learn how to move forward and begin to create your own legacy. What will your legacy look like?

106 REUNION: MYTH VS. REALITY CLARK
PRESENTER: JAMIE SCOTT
Now that you are in reunion, how does the reality compare with your fantasies? Let’s get together and talk about our reality, our fantasies and leave feeling heard and supported.

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

108 DISABILITY AND ADOPTION: OVERCOMING OBSTACLES CARTER
PRESENTER: VICTORIA BAKER-WILLFORD
Having a disability can be a unique challenge in life. Being an adoptee with a disability can be daunting. This workshop will explore the social, medical, emotional and legal issues surrounding the adoption experience for an adopted person with a disability.

12:30 – 1:45 PM – LUNCH WITH REGIONS* – BOXED LUNCHES PROVIDED
BE SURE TO REGISTER FOR THE FamilyTreeDNA DRAWING
* SEE PAGE 23 FOR YOUR REGION AND PAGE 3 FOR LOCATION

2:00 – 3:15 PM – 200 WORKSHOP SERIES

201 FREE CHOICE OR SOPHIE’S CHOICE? UPDATING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF CHOICE
PRESENTER: LESLIE PATE MACKINNON, CLAUDIA D’ARCY, BETH JAFFE CARNEGIE WEST
Currently in adoption, young women are portrayed as making free and well-reasoned choices. Today’s mothers will share the reality and aftermath of “choosing” adoption.

202 UNDERSTANDING ADOPTION AS AN AUTHENTIC NARRATIVE OF SELF CARNEGIE EAST
PRESENTER: MICHAEL GRAND
This workshop will consider various theoretical ways of understanding the experience of adoption. Going beyond the concept of failed attachment, we will describe how a life narrative reflecting themes of authenticity, vulnerability, self-compassion and connectedness can serve as a means to build resilience for adoptees, and their first and adoptive families.

203 BUILDING COMMUNITY: FOUR YEARS IN REVIEW EDISON I
PRESENTER: AYANNA ABI-KYLES, ROBERT “GIB” GIBBONS
This workshop is presented through the lenses of adoptive parents, reporting on the expanded post adoption services provided by Adoption Network Cleveland since 2008. Survey results of adoptive families, research from best practice, and the impact of four years of services to families will be highlighted. A panel of adoptive parents will share their journey.
**204 TAKING CARE OF THE CARING: PARENTAL SELF-CARE FOR FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENTS**  
**PRESENTER: BETSY KEEFER SMALLEY**  
This workshop will briefly explore and acknowledge multiple stressors experienced by foster and adoptive families. While understanding this stress is significant, the workshop will be solution-focused, with emphasis on strategies to build coping and resilience in the folks who do the hard work of caring for children who have experienced trauma and separation from their families of origin.

**205 CLEVELAND OHIO: A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT - AN ADOPTEE'S JOURNEY**  
**PRESENTER: RICHARD CURTIS**  
Richard is an adoptee born, relinquished, and adopted in Cleveland. He presents his story as he describes growing up, living, and working in this city for 50 years, separated from birth family for whom he searched and found in 1993. Discussion for others to share their adoption experiences will follow.

**206 WHAT TO DO AND BE WHEN THOSE WE SEEK SAY NO**  
**PRESENTER: JAMIE NAGY**  
Are you a brick wall survivor like Jamie? After investing virtually her "all" into finding her birth mom, birth dad, and birth siblings, all eventually refused contact with her--including returning Christmas gifts and sending threatening "legal" letters. If this sounds familiar, please join her.

**207 WRITING YOUR ADOPTION EXPERIENCE: WHAT WORKS, WHAT SELLS, WHAT HEALS**  
**PRESENTERS: KATE ST. VINCENT VOGL AND VAL CZERWIEN**  
Ready to write about what happened but not sure where to begin? Whether writing for yourself, for family, or for publication, discover what you need to write your adoption story. Popular writing instructor from the country's leading literary arts center and her birthmother share how memoir affects relationship in reunion.

**208 HEARING AND BEING HEARD: LET'S PRACTICE TOGETHER**  
**PRESENTER: JAMIE SCOTT**  
Let's get together to practice reflective and empathetic listening in a safe place. This means listening without judgment, guessing each other’s feelings and needs, and NOT giving unsolicited advice – skills that are useful in all relationships, adoptive or not.

**3:45 – 5:00 PM – 300 WORKSHOP SERIES**

**301 EMBRACING THE JOYS AND CHALLENGES OF TRANSRACIAL ADOPTION**  
**PRESENTER: JULIA ELLIFRITT**  
This workshop will focus on the real issues of transracial adoption, from a clinician who is also the mom of teenagers adopted from other races. Practical applications and issues to consider before the adoption process, as well as challenges after placement will be discussed in a fun, but meaningful way.

**302 X+Y=ME: HOW DNA TESTING CAN HELP US SOLVE OUR MYSTERIES**  
**PRESENTER: BENNETT GREENSPAN**  
When the paper trail runs cold, or when there is no evidence suggesting a paper trail there is a new exciting tool that can help adoptees determine their ancestral origins and to whom they might be related. That personal history is written into your cells. By intelligently assessing your DNA and comparing it to a genealogical database adoptees (and others) now have the opportunity to find family, even when a state isn't willing to open up your sealed records. **At end of workshop: DRAWING FOR TWO FamilyTreeDNA TESTS**

**303 TELLING THE TRUTH TO YOUR ADOPTED OR FOSTER CHILD: MAKING SENSE OF THE PAST**  
**PRESENTER: BETSY KEEFER SMALLEY**  
The workshop will answer such questions as: How do I share difficult information about my child's adoption in a sensitive manner? When is the right time to tell my child the whole truth? How do I find further information about my child’s history? Parents will leave the workshop with knowledge of how to make sense of the past for adopted children of all ages.
304 Flashbacks and Fear: A Review of PTSD Symptoms and How They Affect Birthmoms  
Presenter: Cynthia Mcguigan  
Edison II  
Post Traumatic Stress Disorder symptoms will be discussed. This workshop will look at how these relate to women who were forced to place their children for adoption. We will also look at current studies regarding women who have traumatic experiences surrounding childbirth and relinquishment. Discussion will take place on how this has impacted women throughout their life experiences. Finally we will review survey results of women who placed children for adoption.

305 Personal and Professional Perspectives from an Adoptive Journey  
Presenters: Kathryn Biddle, Sharon Biddle  
Johnston  
This presentation will explore lessons learned firsthand about the adoption journey with Kate and her adult adopted daughter.

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

307 How Genetic Heritage Became Important for Me  
Presenter: Andrew Tash  
Stearns  
This workshop traces the history and personal growth of a late-discovery adoptee (LDA) and birthfather who moved from total disinterest in his biological roots to having a more full appreciation of family connections on multiple levels.

4:00 – 6:00 PM – Registration  
5:45 – 7:00 PM – Support Groups – See Page 3 for Location  
7:15 – 8:45 PM – Poetry & Prose Open Mic  
Edison II  
Hosted by Patrick McMahon  
All conference participants are invited to bring poetry or prose in up to five-minute segments. Time allotted will depend on number of participants.

9:00 – 10:30 PM – Film – Somewhere Between  
Carnegie Ballroom  
By Linda Goldstein Knowlton  
Film  
In profiling Chinese adoptees in contemporary America, Linda Goldstein Knowlton has created a deeply moving documentary illustrating that even the most specific of experiences can be universally relatable. Of the roughly 80,000 girls who have been adopted from China since 1989 – a decade after China implemented its One Child Policy – the film intimately follows four teenagers: Haley, Jenna, Ann, and Fang. These four wise-beyond-their-years, yet typical American teens, reveal a heartbreaking sense of self-awareness as they attempt to answer the uniquely human question, “Who am I?” They meet and bond with other adoptees, some journey back to China to reconnect with the culture, and some reach out to the orphaned girls left behind. www.somewherebetweenmovie.com (A representative will Skype in after film for Q&A.)

10:00 PM – 12:00 AM – Hospitality Suite  
Executive Lounge
Friday, April 12

7:30 – 8:15 AM – YOGA WITH PATRICK MCMAHON AND APRIL TOPFER EDISON II
8:00 – 10:45 AM – REGISTRATION
8:00 – 8:45 AM – BREAKFAST CARNEGIE PREFUNCTION ROOM
8:45 – 9:00 AM – WELCOME
9:00 – 10:15 AM – KEYNOTE: GINA SAMUELS CARNEGIE BALLROOM
   BICULTURAL IDENTITIES
   (See page 4 for description.)

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

401 PRETEND IT NEVER HAPPENED: FROM SECRETS TO THREE REUNIONS CARNEGIE WEST
   PRESENTER: KARIN KRUEGER
   Experience one woman’s journey of how surrendering her daughter for adoption caused her to (1) block out 4 years
   of her life; (2) sink into a deep depression; and (3) break off the relationship with the man she loved. Her miraculous
   reunion with her daughter, Lisa, lifted the depression and inspired her reunion with her birthfather and her reunion
   with her long lost love after 35 years!

402 A MODERN PERSPECTIVE ON OPEN ADOPTION CARNEGIE EAST
   PRESENTERS: JUSTIN AND BETH ZABOR
   The word “Openness” as it relates to adoption conjures up many images, emotions, and opinions. Hear one couple’s
   journey into discovering openness and continuing an ongoing relationship with their son’s birthmother. As a result
   of attending this program, you will learn about various highlights, challenges, and insights regarding open adoption
   in the modern world.

403 OPENING CLOSED INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTIONS – A PANEL DISCUSSION EDISON I
   PRESENTERS: KAREN ROSENBERG AND VICTOR GROZA
   This workshop will present trends and clinical issues in inter-country adoption with a focus on genealogical
   bewilderment and identity formation. We will explore how clinical issues can be addressed through communicative
   openness, search and reunion. A panel of adoptive parents will share their experiences in opening closed inter-
   country adoptions.

404 ONE SHOE DOES NOT FIT ALL EDISON II
   PRESENTER: PEKITTA TYNES
   An adoptee uses humor to tell stories about being adopted and the continuing search for her natural parents
   through the ups and downs of getting close to finding and navigating all the road blocks. Come and be inspired…as
   one shoe doesn’t fit all! This workshop will be open for Q&A.

405 MALE ADOPTEE - PART I JOHNSON
   PRESENTER: CRAIG HYMAN
   Part I will focus on identifying the issues that are gender specific to male adoptees. In experiential format, this workshop is
   designed to illuminate issues specific to male adoptees and assist in the healing of these issues and will be conducted in
   a “fishbowl” format, with male adoptees encircled by other workshop participants. This session is open to all attendees.

406 FINDING OUR VOICE WITHIN THE ADOPTIVE FAMILY CLARK
   PRESENTER: ZARA PHILLIPS
   The focus of this workshop will be on how finding one’s voice within the adoptive home. Growing up within a
   family where adoption is rarely discussed can have its own unique challenges. How do we as adoptees honor our
   truth and deal with the loyalty issue we feel that can run so deep, so that we are free to embrace all our families.

407 BRIDGING THE GAP: LEADING AN ADOPTION SUPPORT GROUP STEARNS
   PRESENTERS: LINDA BELLINI WITH ESTES TURNER AND DOROTHY (DOTTY) KLEMM
   This workshop will highlight the importance of finding common ground within the adoption constellation and
   learning about each person’s perspective through support and discussion. This will be demonstrated through a
   “fishbowl” observation of an actual group session led by experienced facilitators.
408 THE GIRL CONNECTION CARTER
PRESENTER: LESLIE PATE MACKINNON
During latency, young girls rework loss inherent in adoption, along with finding their place within a peer setting and connecting to the larger family of mankind. This group gives girls a place to connect around these significant tasks. Emotions are accessed creatively, cognitively and experientially. The model utilizes teen and young adult adoptees as mentors. Healing occurs on dual levels, including the helpers.

12:00 – 3:00 PM – REGISTRATION
12:00 – 1:30 PM – LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

1:30 – 2:45 PM – 500 WORKSHOP SERIES

501 HOW PEOPLE CHANGE (SW/Counselor Ethics CEU’s available) CARNEGIE WEST
PRESENTER: RON NYDAM
This workshop examines different theories of personality formation and then applies them to the challenges of adoptive development, retrospectively in terms of “primal wound” dynamics and prospectively in terms of hopeful healing.

502 OPENNESS IN ADOPTION, ONE FAMILY’S EVOLUTION FROM 1991 TO PRESENT CARNEGIE EAST
PRESENTER: LORI McCARTHY
This presenter will share the story of her own closed adoption from the 1960s, her reunion in 1991 and her family’s open adoptions from 1992 to 2012.

503 DOES COMMUNITY MEAN “UNITY”? FORGING INTERGENERATIONAL UNITY AMONG BIRTHPARENTS EDISON I
PRESENTER: KATE LIVINGSTON
Ohio Birthparent Group is a diverse support group attended by birthparents who placed in every generation from the 1950’s to the present day. In this workshop, OBG members explore the possibilities and problematics of intergenerational community-building among birthparents. How do we build community while accounting for differences in birthparent experiences?

504 HOW TO INTERNET SEARCH FOR FAMILY CONNECTIONS EDISON II
PRESENTER: MARILYN MENDEDHALL WAUGH
Searching for family members on the Internet can be difficult if you don’t know the sites that can be helpful. Learn how to search with free websites or low cost resources. Several handouts, with search examples, will be provided to participants.

505 MALE ADOPTEE – PART II – THE BIGGER PICTURE AND PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES JOHNSON
PRESENTER: CRAIG HYMAN, PANELISTS: RICHARD CURTIS, NATHAN ONTROP, ANDREW TASH
Here we explore new ground that includes intimate personal experiences, a broader perspective on our lives and our adoption experiences, and spiritual issues and perspectives around all of this. The format will be a brief presentation by three adoptees (about 15 minutes) followed by a relaxed open forum discussion including all in attendance.

506 MAGIC WAND HEALING MEDITATION FOR ADOPTEES CLARK
PRESENTER: KATALINA MCGLONE, APRIL TOPFER
Imagine re-visiting a situation from early in your life, only this time you have a magic wand. How would you use it to change and heal the situation? This workshop involves creating a safe space, experiencing visualization and meditation, and sharing discussion time.
507 A BIRTHFATHER’S RECOVERY THROUGH HEALING, SELF-FORGIVENESS, LOVE AND COMPASSION
PRESENTER: IAN HOCHBERG STEARNS
Ian Hochberg is a birthfather from Baltimore. Through his poetry about his becoming an unwed father, he tells his triad story, offers encouragement for making the right choice - being responsible for his actions, and being present for his reunion with his son and not abandoning his son again.

508 TIME TO WRITE YOUR BOOK CARTER
PRESENTER: GIL MICHELINI
While writing and publishing a book has never been easier, like everything there are certain steps to follow and many decisions that need to be made. Author Gil Michelini explains the necessary steps to get your story or advice to readers in a book, ebook, or pbook formats.

2:45 - 3:15 COFFEE BREAK - SPONSORED BY SPOKEO

3:15 – 4:30 PM – 600 WORKSHOP SERIES

601 BIRTHMOTHERS IN LONG, SHORT-TERM AND STALLED REUNION: STRATEGIES ALONG THE REUNION PATH CARNEGIE WEST
PRESENTERS: LINDA CLAUSEN WITH LORETTA BERG AND MARY BEST
Three birthmothers reunited with their sons: one is in a long-term, one in a comparatively short-term, and one in a stalled reunion; each reflect on feelings and changes in ideas along the reunion path to help the reunions work; and how forgiveness of ourselves and others played a role in our reunions.

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

603 MUSIC THERAPY: AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO WORKING WITH SPECIAL NEEDS ADOPTED CHILDREN EDISON I
PRESENTER: ANNE M. REED AND DAVID HUSSEY
Music therapy is an innovative practice medium applicable to children who have experienced severe and prolonged interpersonal trauma in highly compromised caretaking relationships. This workshop will describe characteristics of adopted children, and examine music therapy approaches designed to develop and nurture attachment capacities that are critically important to special needs adopted children and their parents.

604 GETTING TO YES: THE ROAD TO PASSING OBC ACCESS LEGISLATION EDISON II
PRESENTERS: REPRESENTATIVE SARA FEIGENHOLTZ AND PAUL SCHIBBELHUTE
Illinois is the most populous state to have enacted access legislation, and it was controversial within the adoption reform movement. Representative Feigenholtz discusses the myths and realities of the legislative process and provides a behind-the-scenes look at how Illinois got it done.

605 NEGOTIATING THE MINEFIELD OF SEARCH AND REUNION JOHNSON
PRESENTERS: MONICA BYRNE AND MICHAEL GRAND
Designed for the absolute beginner in adoption search and reunion, this workshop will explore the most fundamental issues: How to get started; ways to avoid the most common mistakes; and managing the emotional rollercoaster. Bring your challenges for a chance to get expert help. Now is the time to begin this life-changing journey!
606 DOES ADOPTION RUN IN FAMILIES? CLARK
PRESENTER: DENISE ROESSLE
We've heard of female adoptees repeating the "sins of their mothers," getting pregnant at a similar age and surrendering their babies. Is it rare for a family to experience three or more generations of adoption loss? This workshop invites discussion, based on Denise Roessle's history as chronicled in her memoir.

607 WE ARE FAMILY? EXPLORING TRIAD MEMBERS’ RELATIONSHIPS WHEN ADOPTING THROUGH THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM STEARNS
PRESENTER: RENAY SANDERS
Can we? Should we? How can we be family? This workshop will guide participants to answer these questions by exploring the benefits, challenges and how to's of developing and maintaining relationships between birth and adoptive family members and the children they share.

608 MALE ADOPTEE – PART III - ISSUES CARTER
PRESENTER: CRAIG HYMAN
Open to Male Adoptees Only. It is not required that you attend Part I or Part II of this workshop series in order to attend the Part III session.

5:00 – 6:15 PM – SUPPORT GROUPS – SEE PAGE 3 FOR LOCATION
6:15 – 8:00 PM – AAC STATE REPS DINNER JOHNSON (OTHERS, DINNER ON YOUR OWN)
8:00 – 10:00 PM – FILM: KEYNOTE AND DISCUSSION
THE ADOPTEE OBC: THAT SIMPLE PIECE OF PAPER CARNEGIE BALLROOM
PRESENTERS: JEAN STRAUSS AND REPRESENTATIVE SARA FEIGENHOLTZ
See page 4 for description.

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

Saturday, April 13

8:00 – 10:30 AM – REGISTRATION
7:30 – 8:15 AM – YOGA WITH PATRICK McMATHON AND APRIL TOPFER EDISON II
8:00 – 8:45 AM – BREAKFAST SPONSORED BY CLEVELAND CLINIC CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL CARNEGIE PREFUNCTION ROOM

9:00 – 10:30 AM – KEYNOTE AND DISCUSSION - MEDICAL PANEL: POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND THE PROVISION OF QUALITY, COMPETENT, AND COMPASSIONATE MEDICAL CARE TO ADOPTED PERSONS CARNEGIE BALLROOM
PRESENTERS: DAVID LEONARD, DHSC, MMS, PA-C; ROCIO MORAN, MD; ELAINE E. SCHULTE, MD, MPH; MARY O’LEARY WILEY, PHD, ABPP
(See page 5 for description.)

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

702 SEARCH AND REUNION STARTS AT THE BEGINNING AND GOES ON FOREVER CARTER
PRESENTER: JOYCE MAGUIRE PAVAO
Everyone in adoption is searching...sometimes the birthparents search for the placement, sometimes the adopting parents search for a birthparent that will be part of their extended family, the child searches even when the adoption is open or kinship. This workshop looks at the many faces of search and the importance of openness in nearly all adoptions for the health and wellbeing of the child.
703 MOM VS. MOM  EDISON I  
PRESENTER: RICH UHRLAUB  
Based on a new chapter entitled “Culture, Law and Language: Adversarial Motherhood in Adoption” from the new peer-reviewed collection of essays Adoption and Mothering (Frances Latchford, Ed.) this workshop will discuss the historical impact of 150 years of American adoption history on motherhood and the resulting long-term effects on adoptees.

704 OPEN ADOPTION: A PARENT’S JOURNEY  EDISON II  
PRESENTER: THOMAS C. RECTOR  
This workshop explains a father’s journey developing a methodology based upon current neuro-scientific research and practical application of the Biosocial Cognition Model to open adoption. The model connects elements of a child’s behavior, environmental influences that affect the child, and hones a parents’ ability to assess the child’s needs.

705 INSIDE OUT: THE EXPRESSIVE ARTS ADOPTION HEALING SEMINAR WORKSHOP  JOHNSON  
PRESENTERS: PATRICK MCMAHON AND CRAIG HYMAN  
During this session, attendees will have the opportunity to identify and validate their deepest wounds and challenges related to adoption, and to use various creative expressions and spiritual practices to foster resolution and healing. We will end with a group discussion and structured closing to promote a smooth transition and ongoing support.

706 MY BIRTHMOTHER IS WHO? STORIES OF WITHIN-FAMILY ADOPTIONS  CLARK  
PRESENTERS: ROBERTA MACDONALD WITH ROBERT CHASTANG AND KATALINA MCGLONE  
The presenters will share what they grew up believing about their adoptions and the truths they later discovered about how they were related to their families. Katalina will share some themes about within-family adoptions, such as how the adopted person has dual relationships with their family.

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

708 A LESSON LEARNED? WHAT THE HISTORY OF ADOPTION TEACHES FAMILIES FORMED BY THIRD PARTY REPRODUCTION  CARTER  
PRESENTER: PHYLLIS LOWINGER AND KRIS A. PROBASCO  
While there are differences between families formed by adoption and third party reproduction, they are both similar in that parents need to mourn the losses of having their own biological child. Kris A. Probasco, LCSW, LSCSW, will describe decisions for donor conceptions, sperm and egg donation, and embryo placement, that meet the needs of the children created. Often times the needs of the children (who will become adults) produced by these reproductive decisions are not part of the decision making. Educating prospective parents to be the child’s advocate is very important for the whole family’s future.

12:30 – 1:45 PM – AWARDS LUNCHEON  CARNEGIE BALLROOM  
SPECIAL REMARKS BY RON NYDAM – TOPIC: “SURF ‘N TURF”

2:00 – 3:15 PM – 800 WORKSHOP SERIES  

802 ADOPTION NETWORK CLEVELAND 25TH ANNIVERSARY: HOW DID WE GET HERE?  CARNEGIE EAST  
PRESENTERS: BETSIE NORRIS AND ESTES TURNER  
Adoption Network Cleveland is a 25-year strong nonprofit. It grew from a search and support group to a successful broad-based organization with peer to peer support and advocacy for adoptees and their families by birth and adoption. This workshop will explore the group’s history, developmental milestones and more.
803 SEPARATED AT BIRTH: LEGACY IN LIMBO ARCHIVE  EDISON I  
PRESENTER: MARTHA GELARDEN, ADAM LAZAR  
I – Performance talk suitable for all. A 30-minute visual presentation with sound in which mother and son, both artists, share their story and parallel tracks in a silent conversation. II – Post-performance: Adopted persons/first mothers are invited to write unanswered questions for the Legacy Archive.

804 INTACT IDENTITY: UNCOVERING THE OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF EACH STAR OF THE ADOPTION CONSTELLATION  EDISON II  
PRESENTER: CAROL WELSH  
As an adoptee, birth mother and adoptive parent, Carol Welsh’s perspective on the adoption constellation is unique. In this workshop, she will discuss being realistic about adoptive and reunion outcomes, share her successful approaches on how to best deal with setbacks and offer techniques for staying positive.

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

807 THE HEALING POWER OF WRITING OUR TRUTHS  STEARNS  
PRESENTER: DENISE ROESSLE WITH JUDY MILLER AND LINDA HOYE  
Fear, grief, anger and other emotions related to our adoption experiences often keep us from expressing ourselves. Writing our stories can put us on a path of healing. Whether you’re journaling or writing for publication, this session will provide encouragement to begin, including writing prompts to stimulate your memories.

808 CAN’T GET OVER THE MOUNTAIN? FALL IN LOVE WITH THE CLIMB  CARTER  
PRESENTER: HOLLY SPENCER-TRUEMAN  
Are you an exhausted adoptive parent? Did you imagine parenting your beautiful child would be so tough? Heart wrenching even? Climbing this parenting mountain may be a lifelong endeavor. Join a discussion about finding balance, making best use of resources, self-care and falling in love with the climb!

3:45 – 5:00 PM – KEYNOTE AND DISCUSSION: I WAKE UP: FICTION  
PRESENTER: DAN CHAON  
(See page 5 for description.)

5:30 – 6:45 PM – SUPPORT GROUPS – SEE PAGE 3 FOR LOCATION

6:00 – 8:00 PM – ART RECEPTION  ARMINGTON ROOM

8:00 – 9:00 PM – EVENING ENTERTAINMENT: HEALING WITH HUMOR  
PRESENTER: COMEDIENNE KAREN WILLIAMS

9:30 – 11:30 PM – LIVE JAZZ: FOUR BROTHERS AND A SISTER  
An evening of socializing and music – be sure to save room for delectable appetizers and cash bar. FOR INDIVIDUAL BIOS SEE SIDE BAR TO RIGHT.

Sunday, April 14

8:00 – 9:00 AM – BREAKFAST  CARNEGIE PREFUNCTION ROOM

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

Four Brothers and a Sister

ELI KAUFFMAN, a sophomore from Cleveland Heights, plays piano, as well as trumpet and a bit of Percussion. He is a member of the Jazz Program at the Cleveland Music School Settlement and plays in the Cleveland Heights Jazz Band.

SAM SPEAR, also a sophomore, is currently a post secondary student at CSU. Sam is a gifted alto sax player, but also enjoys playing flute and clarinet too. She has played with numerous groups in the area, both classical and jazz.

ARI SMITH is a sophomore at Shaker Heights. He is a bass player virtuoso and also a fine trombone player in the Shaker Symphonic Band. He plays both electric and upright bass with the Shaker Jazz Band and with the Jazz Program at the Settlement.

ETHAN SHAFRON is also a sophomore at Shaker Heights. He is a percussionist in the Wind Ensemble and Jazz Band. He too, attends the Jazz Program at the Settlement, but also enjoys playing rock, funk, and other genres of music, outside of jazz.

THE 34TH ANNUAL AMERICAN ADOPTION CONGRESS International Conference on Adoption PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ADOPTION NETWORK CLEVELAND REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION BOOK
Presenter Biographies (in alphabetical order by last name)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CLAUDIA D'ARCY – Claudia D'Arcy is a mother of four children, the oldest of whom was relinquished to adoption. She is a forerunner in the use of social networking for the on-line adoption community and her blog, Musings of the Lame is widely read.

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

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

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

MARTHA GELARDEN, M.F.A. – Martha Gelarden, first mother/artist + Adam Lazar, adoptee/artist, create work as collaborators and advocates for open birth records through their Legacy in Limbo Archive. Gelarden performs internationally about art and social issues. She is an Assistant Professor at Moore College of Art and Design, Philadelphia.
DOTTIE KLEMM, LSW  – Dottie Klemm, aka Gib, provides Post Adoption Support at Adoption Network Cleveland. As “Parent Educational Liaison,” Gib provides support to families and schools addressing issues impacting school performance. Gib has been serving families and children with identified mental health and educational needs for over 30 years.

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

BENNETT GREENSPAN  – Bennett Greenspan is the president and founder of Family Tree DNA. The company grew out of his passion for genealogy, an activity that has fascinated him since he drew his first family tree at the age of 12. Prior business experience spans what used to be called the photographic supply industry and commercial real estate.

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

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

IAN HOCHBERG  – Ian Hochberg is a reunited birthfather from Baltimore, Maryland and an artist, writer and poet. As a means of recovering from a lifetime of abuse and disrespect from his family, his daily intention now is the practice of love, compassion and forgiveness for himself, his family as well as others.

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

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

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

BETH JAFFE  – Beth Jaffe facilitates for Living Art of Montana, an organization using the arts and nature to support healing for those with Cancer, Chronic Illness, or Grief. Witnessing remarkable results has inspired Beth to transform our conference quiet room into a space for self-soothing frazzled nerves by accessing the creative process. Beth, also a mother who relinquished her oldest son, is raising three sons. She is AAC’s Montana State Rep, and a contributing columnist for the CUB Communicator, the AAC Beacon and runs a support group.

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

CATHY KOLEY  – Cathy Koley is a former advertising executive, now a stay-at-home mother of three, and an adoptee reunited with her birthmother for five years.

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

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

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

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

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

LESLIE PATE MACKINNON, LCSW  – Leslie Pate Mackinnon is a therapist specializing in issues that impact families conceived through adoption and third party reproduction. She was drawn to the field by placing her two firstborn sons for adoption, and is featured in The Girls Who Went Away. Leslie serves on the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute's Board of Directors. You can find more at www.lesliepatemackinnon.com
LISA MAYNARD, LMSW – Lisa Maynard has worked in adoption since adopting her first child 25 years ago. Currently, she is responsible for leading Hillside Children's Center through policy and practice changes to support permanency efforts as well as infant and international adoption. Lisa has led agency efforts at advocacy and legislative change in support of OBC. She has been significantly involved with the agency's Family Finding initiative since its inception in 2010, training at the local and national level. Lisa has received considerable recognition in the field, including the 2010 North American Council on Adoptable Children “Adoption Activist Award,” 2008 United States Department of Health and Human Services Excellence in Adoption Award for post adoption services, and the Congressional Honor “Angel in Adoption” in 2001. Lisa’s efforts have resulted building lifelong connections between children in care and committed, safe and loving families.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RON NYDAM, Ph.D. – Ron Nydam is the author of Adoptees Come of Age and is the founder of pastoral counseling of Denver, Inc. He is on the faculty of Calvin Seminary in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he is Professor of Pastoral Care. Ron has visited orphanges in Romania and the Ukraine. He founded Pastoral Care of Denver and is a proud husband, father and grandpa.

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

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

KRIS A. PROBASCO, LSCSW, LCSW – Kris Probasco has worked since 1972 in the field of adoption and also many years in the field of infertility consultation and counseling. She is a consultant for three different fertility practices in the Kansas City area and focuses her practice on reproduction choices that meet the best interest of the child to be. Since 1996, she has operated the first embryo adoption program with an infertility practice and an adoption attorney. Her agency, Adoption and Fertility Resources is located in Liberty, Missouri and Overland Park, Kansas.

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

ANNE REED, MT-BC – Anne M. Reed is board certified with an emphasis in neurologic music therapy with an emphasis in neurologic music therapy. Anne is the Music Therapy Program Manager at Beech Brook, a treatment center for emotionally disturbed children and adolescents in the region of Cleveland, Ohio. Her duties include providing group and individual music therapy services as well as overseeing the implementation and application of research protocols and procedures.
MAUREEN RILEY-BEHINGER, M.S.S.A, L.I.S.W.-S – Maureen Riley-Behinger is a Doctoral Candidate and adoptive parent and has worked in private practice with foster and adoptive families for 14 years. She is completing her PhD at CWRU in Social Welfare. Her research interests are biological/psychological stress responses in children who have experienced pre-foster/adoption maltreatment and how these impact emotional-behavioral regulation and attachment.

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

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

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

PAUL SCHIBBELHUTE – Paul Schibbelhute is a birthfather who was reunited with his birth son in 1998. He is the AAC New England Regional Director, Legislation Committee Chair and former President of AAC. Paul has helped organize grassroots efforts for identity access in several states (NH, ME, RI and CT). His activities also include serving on the New Hampshire DHHS Commissioners Adoption Advisory Committee and is the former VP of the Adoption Community of New England.

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

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

APRIL TOPFER, PH.D., RYT – April Topfer enjoys teaching mindfulness and yoga to adopted teens, children, and adoptive parents. She is elected President of Northern California PACER-adoption and is an adopted person.

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

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

APRIL TOPFER, PH.D., RYT – April Topfer enjoys teaching mindfulness and yoga to adopted teens, children, and adoptive parents. She is elected President of Northern California PACER-adoption and is an adopted person.

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

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

RICH Uhrlaub, M.Ed. – Rich Uhrlaub serves as Coordinator of Adoptees in Search, Colorado’s Triad Connection. He is a board member and member of the AAC Legislative Committee. Rich is a contributing author of Finding Our Place: 100 Memorable Adoptees, Fostered Persons and Orphanage Alumni, and Adoption and Mothering (Frances Latchford, Ed.) which was released fall 2012.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Please watch for and respond to our 2013 Conference Evaluation – coming to your email inbox soon!

Your participation helps us to make improvements each year.

Thank you!

Please Save-the-Date for:

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April 9-12, 2014 – in San Francisco!