

*Registration and Information Book*

AMERICAN ADOPTION CONGRESS  
32ND ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

*Many Faces Of Adoption*



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13 - SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 2011  
THE FLORIDA HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER  
ORLANDO, FLORIDA



On Wednesday, April 13, 2011 we are offering special admission to the Universal Orlando theme parks. The Islands of Adventure offers exciting roller coasters 3D entertainment, and the new Wizarding World of Harry Potter. At the Universal Studio Florida you will go behind the scenes, beyond the screen, and jump right into the action of your favorite movies at the number one movie and TV based theme park in the world. You can reserve your ticket when you register for the conference. Not into theme parks? You can take our bus to Universal CityWalk, for dinner and shopping. As popular with locals as it is with visitors, this 30-acre entertainment complex is Orlando's ideal destination for family fun, a place to hang out with friends, or a romantic evening for couples. In addition to its nightclubs, restaurants, shops and



cinemas, CityWalk is also host to a variety of concerts and special events throughout the year. The conference opens on Wednesday evening with Making the Most of the Conference Experience, followed by a performance of BLANK by Brain Stanton.

The Florida Hotel and Conference Center is located within the Florida Mall, with many dining options at all price points within close walking distance. It is seven miles from Orlando International Airport. Shuttles are readily available to the hotel at less than \$30 round trip.



### *Families Rooted In Truth*

# *Many Faces of Adoption*

## CONFERENCE DETAILS

### DATES

Wednesday, April 13 - Sunday, April 17, 2011

### CONFERENCE CHAIR

Eileen McQuade - eileen2155@gmail.com

### CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Donnie Davis, AAC President, West Regional Director

Archie Hyde, AAC GA State Rep

Linda Clausen, AAC DC/MD State Rep

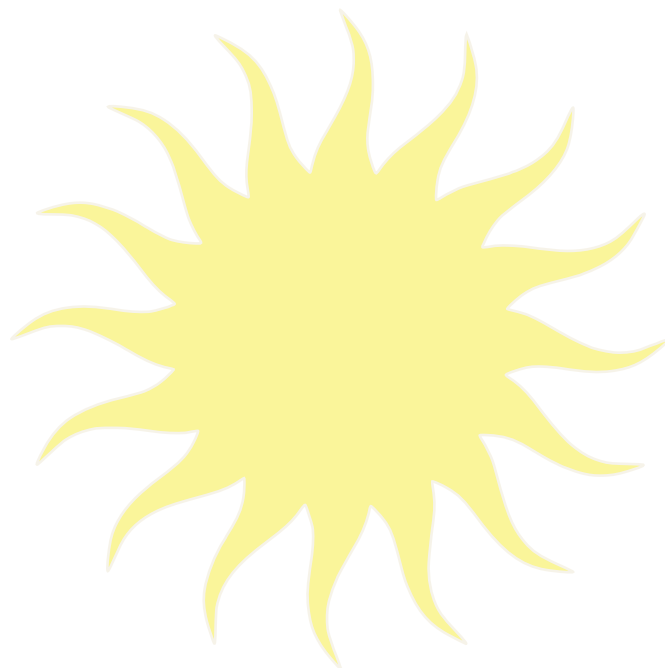
Sondi Hill, AAC Southern Regional Director

Elise Lewis, AAC Mid-Atlantic Regional Director

Suzanne Martin

Cindy McGuigan, AAC Treasurer

Marilyn Waugh, Past President and KS State Rep



### ACCOMMODATIONS

The Florida Hotel and Conference Center, 1500 Sand Lake Road, Orlando, Florida 32809, Tel: 407.859.1500

### SPECIAL CONFERENCE GROUP RATE / TRANSPORTATION TO HOTEL

Special Conference Group Rate - \$119.00 per night, Single, Double, Triple or Quad. Rate includes free Internet access, free parking, and waiver of the resort fee. MEARS transportation offers a shuttle to the hotel. The cost is \$18 one way, and \$29 round trip. [www.mearstransportation.com](http://www.mearstransportation.com). A cab will cost between \$22 - \$30.

### TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION

Click on the link when you receive your conference registration confirmation or call the hotel directly @ 407.859.1500. Be sure to mention you are with the American Adoption Congress to obtain the special rate.

**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.**

### CEUs

The AAC is working to provide CEUs for those professionals who require them. We have applied to the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). After NASW approval, AAC will post the total number of credits on [www.americanadoptioncongress.org](http://www.americanadoptioncongress.org). CEU credits are available for \$50, which includes all application processing and filing fees. Please contact Gigi Srajer at [gsrajer@gmail.com](mailto:gsrajer@gmail.com) for additional information.

# Many Faces Of Adoption



APRIL 13 – APRIL 17, 2011  
THE FLORIDA HOTEL AND  
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## **Film: Bio-Dad**

**Q & A With Janice Stevens Botsford Via Skype**  
**Thursday, April 14, 8:00 pm**

Unfortunately, Barry Stevens will be out of the country and will not be able to join us. Janice, who appears in the film, will join us for a Q & A via Skype after the film. Filmmaker Barry Stevens was conceived by artificial insemination more than half a century ago. In 1999, he set out to find the anonymous man who was his biological father and as many of the hundreds of half siblings as he could find. *Bio-Dad* is the documentary film that tells the story of his search, with all its disappointments, successes, and more than one jaw-dropping surprise.



*Born and raised in England, Janice came to Michigan to complete a MSW at the University of Michigan. She works part-time as a psychotherapist while pursuing life as an artist. Married for 34 years, she has one biological daughter, three step-children and four grandchildren. After their father died, Janice and her brother Barry were told that they had been conceived from an unknown sperm donor. Following extensive investigative work that included DNA testing they have discovered the identity of their sperm donors. Each is now enjoying exploring relationships with half-siblings and their families.*

## **Keynote: What's the Good in Adoptive Development?**

**Presented by Dr. Ron Nydam**

**Thursday, April 14, 9:00 am**

In this address, Ron will explore the good, the bad, and even the ugly in adoptive development with an eye toward sorting out an honest, healthy perspective of our adoption stories. Our Western culture by and large has managed relinquishment and adoption in understandable, but less than ethical ways, sometimes resulting in corresponding lifelong impingements for all triad members. The adoption community has seen these difficulties but has had little voice in facilitating change. Ron will offer some ethical reflections that will give foundation to a stronger argument for understanding and legislative and societal change.



*Rev. Ron Nydam, Ph.D., has been with AAC for the past 15 years as an advocate for better understanding of the impact of relinquishment on adoptive development. The author of "Adoptees Come of Age: Living within Two Families", Ron has been a student of children who suffer early-on parent loss in a variety of settings. Over the past 8 years he has traveled 5 times to the same orphanage in Ukraine to work with the parenting staff there with issues of compromised attachment. Ron conducts a counseling practice with adult adoptees and serves as Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling at Calvin Seminary in Grand Rapids, Michigan.*

## **Film: In the Matter of Cha Jung Hee**

**Presented by Deann Liem - Producer, Director, Writer**  
**Friday, April 15, 10:45 am**

Her passport said she was Cha Jung Hee. She knew she was not. So began a 40-year deception for a Korean adoptee who came to the U.S. in 1966. Told to keep her true identity secret from her new American family,



this 8-year-old quickly forgot she was ever anyone else. But why had her identity been switched? And who was the real Cha Jung Hee? *In the Matter of Cha Jung Hee* is the search to find the answers, as acclaimed filmmaker Deann Borshay Liem (First Person Plural, POV 2000) returns to her native Korea to find her "double," the mysterious girl whose place she took in America.

*Deann Borshay Liem has over twenty years experience working in development, production and distribution of independent documentaries. She is Producer, Director, and Writer for the Emmy Award-nominated documentary, "First Person Plural" (Sundance, 2000). A Sundance Institute Fellow and a recipient of a Rockefeller Film/Video Fellowship, she is currently the Executive Director of Katabdin Productions, a non-profit documentary production company based in Berkeley and Los Angeles, California.*

**Songs from “The Foundling” and Other Stories  
Presented by Mary Gauthier - Singer Songwriter  
Friday, April 15, 8:00 pm**

Mary Gauthier will perform songs from her new release, *The Foundling*, a song cycle that tells her story of being given up at birth in 1962 to St. Vincent's Women's and Infants' Asylum on Magazine Street in New Orleans. The songs chronicle the journey of the child into adulthood, and recount an attempt at reconciliation between daughter and mother, as well as the adoptee's journey through the emotions surrounding that experience. Mary will be accompanied by Tania Elizabeth on the five-string violin and vocals.



*Acclaim has followed Mary Gauthier on every step of her remarkable journey. Her breakthrough album, “Mercy Now” (2005), was continuously “discovered” and lauded for the two years following its release, earning mention on a score of year end “best of” lists. Since its release in May 2010, her sixth album, “The Foundling”, has garnered widespread critical acclaim. “No Depression” proclaimed it “... her first masterpiece. Brilliant. Absolutely brilliant” while the Los Angeles Times called “The Foundling” “...electrifying... redemptive...spellbinding...”*

**Film: The 40 Year Secret  
Presented by Mary Anne Alton - Producer, Director  
Saturday, April 16, 4:45 pm**

In the 60's 'free love' had a price. Teenage girls who got pregnant were considered by society too young to be mothers and lost their babies to adoption. The girls were told to pretend it never happened. It was “The 40 Year Secret.” Find out what happens when the secret gets told in a very public way. Follow one couple as they rekindle a high school romance and search for their daughter. They try to find out why they lost their daughter and whether they can get her back.



*Mary Anne has been telling people's stories as a documentary filmmaker for over twenty years. Mary Anne's documentaries have been screened around the world. Her work has received numerous awards over the years from a gold medal and a bronze plaque at the New York Film Festival, three Special Jury, three Platinum and two Gold awards at the Houston World festival, a silver Hugo and a silver Plaque at the Chicago Film Festival, the silver Chris (Best in Division) and two bronze Plaques at the Columbus International Film Festival, and a Gold Camera at the U.S. International Film and Video awards.*

**Keynote: The Journey of a Transracial Adoptee  
Presented by Susan Harris O'Connor  
Saturday, April 16, 1:30 pm**

Susan will present two performance pieces. *The Harris Racial Identity Theory: Reflections of a Transracial Adoptee* makes sense of and articulates the richness and complexity of her racial and cultural identity. The second presentation, *My Mind's Blueprint Inclusive of an Oppressed Identity Construct Model: Reflections/Introspections of a Transracial Adoptee*, makes sense of her experience with holding both privileged and multiple oppressed identities. In doing so, she created an oppressed identity mind construct model to tell the story of how it fights to maintain its sanity and integrity.



*Susan Harris O'Connor (MSW) is known nationally and internationally for her narrative writing and pioneering work on the development of racial identity theory. She is a graduate of the Boston University School of Social Work, employed as Director of Quality Assurance at Children's Services of Roxbury, MA, and is an adjunct member of the Center of Family Connections.*

**Keynote: A Love Diverted - A Birth Mother Speaks  
With Rebecca Denton  
Presented by Lynn Lauber  
Sunday, April 17, 10:45 am**

An exploration of the long and complex journey of a birth mother to find her lost daughter. After her reading, Lynn will introduce her daughter and they will take questions.



*Lynn Lauber is an author, editor and ghostwriter. She is the author of two books of autobiographical fiction, “White Girls” (1990) and “21 Sugar Street” (1993) both published by WW Norton (paperback editions by Vintage and Norton). Her screenplay of “21 Sugar Street” was a finalist in the Sundance series. Her non-fiction narrative about the redemptive power of writing, “Listen to Me”, was published by Norton in 2003. She has written about her adoption experience in essays and short stories that have appeared in numerous publications, including the New York Times, the BBC Short Story series, and such anthologies as “Eye of My Heart” (Simon & Schuster, 2008) and “Wanting a Child” (Farrar, Straus Giroux, 1999).*

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

*Wednesday, April 13, 2011*

### **NOON – REGISTRATION OPENS**

### **2:00 – 8:30 PM - EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC OF UNIVERSAL ORLANDO**

AAC will run a charter bus to bring conference attendees to Universal Orlando. Visit the shops, restaurants, and attractions at CityWalk, or purchase a ticket to visit one or both of the Universal theme parks – Islands of Adventure, or Universal Studios. The first bus will leave the hotel at 2 PM, and every hour on the hour until 8 PM. The return bus will leave CityWalk on the half hour from 2:30 PM until 8:30 PM

### **7:00 – 8:30 PM - MAKING THE MOST OF THE CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE**

Meet other AAC members, ask your conference questions, and learn how to make the most of your time at the AAC conference. You will leave this interactive session with new friends and contacts, and some great ideas to help you have a rich, rewarding experience. Facilitated by Rachel Stumme.

### **9:00 – 10:30 PM - *BLANK: A THEATRICAL MOSAIC ON IDENTITY* – BRIAN STANTON**

From classroom to confessional, from flamboyant professor to pipe-smoking grandmother, from Oedipus Rex to bizarre inner voice: an original birth certificate propels an adoptee on a fantastic quest for identity. Our adopted hero discovers the horrific truth of his birth, an instinctive love for his birth mother, and a grateful dedication to his adoptive family.

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

### **7:30 – 8:15 AM – YOGA WITH PATRICK MCMAHON**

### **7:30 – 8:45 AM – BREAKFAST**

### **8:45 – 9:00 AM – CONFERENCE OPENING**

### **9:00 – 10:15 AM**

*KEYNOTE: WHAT'S THE GOOD IN ADOPTIVE DEVELOPMENT? - DR. RON NYDAM*

### **10:45 – NOON ~ 100 SERIES WORKSHOPS**

#### **101 A Family Systems Approach**

Presenter: Dr. Joyce Maguire Pavao

All members of the adoption triad experience losses, and adoption does not “fix” these problems. The adoptee develops with these losses as the very foundation of his/her life. This workshop will present models for treatment, looking at these concerns as normal developmental crises, needing psycho-education and strategies for strength.

**102 Filmmaking 101: Forget About Writing That Book – Make a Movie!**

Presenter: Jean A.S. Strauss

Have a story about adoption that you want to tell and are thinking about doing a book? Writing is the most popular medium for adoption memoirs, but with the advent of cost effective video cameras and editing systems, triad members are increasingly exploring the medium of film. Interested in making a movie about an aspect of the adoption experience? This workshop will lay out the essentials needed for anyone wanting to join the film revolution, with venues from television to theaters to Vimeo and YouTube.

**103 Permanency and Foster Care**

Presenter: Gigi Srajer

Permanency and Foster Care will review the goals of the foster care system in relationship to the rights of the children to remain in their birth families and what the alternatives imply. It will engage professionals and family members in conversation about best practices for foster children.

**104 Male Adoptee I**

Presenter: Craig Hyman

Part I will focus on identifying the issues that are gender specific to male adoptees. In experiential format, this workshop is designed to illuminate issues specific to male adoptees and assist in the healing of these issues. This session is open to all attendees.

**105 Strategies for Passing Access to Original Birth Certificate Legislation**

Presenter: Paul Schibbelhute, Adam Pertman

This workshop will provide insights and hands-on advice – including how to use research as an effective tool – for passing legislation to restore adult adoptees’ access to their original birth certificates. Pertman will discuss the important role of the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute, which he heads; and Schibbelhute will provide details of his work on the successful legislative efforts in New Hampshire and Maine. Presenters will include instructions on how to create an effective campaign and will offer strategies on how to find advocates, work with the Vital Records Office, manage the opposition, and find the right legislator to champion your cause.

**106 Ripple Effect of Reunion**

Presenter: Monica Byrne, Michael Grand

Reunions have far-reaching effects beyond birth parents and adoptees. They can influence and be influenced by partners, siblings, children, extended relatives and even friends. Learn about the ripple effects of reunion, how to avoid the pitfalls of strained relationships, and the means for establishing a healthy reconnection with kin without destroying other relationships.

**12:30 – 1:30 PM – LUNCH WITH YOUR REGION – Come meet your Regional Director and others from your region! Bring a lunch from the food court and join us to eat together and visit.**

**NOON – 1:30 PM****107 Male Adoptee II: The Bigger Picture and Personal and Spiritual Experiences**

Presenter: Craig Hyman

Jennifer Lauck will be leading a 5-10 minute “Metta” (which is the Pali word for compassion and loving kindness) meditation to begin the workshop. Then we explore new ground that includes intimate personal experiences, a broader perspective on our lives and our adoptions, and spiritual, not religious issues and perspectives. Brian Stanton, John Sobraske and Bill Lipis will join in the presentation. Attendees are welcome to bring their own lunch.

**1:30 – 2:45 PM ~ 200 SERIES WORKSHOPS****201 Memoir: Reunion's Final Frontier**

Presenter: Nicole Burton

Memoir author and playwright Nicole J. Burton will invite a panel of memoir writers - Patti Hawn and Zara Phillips - to discuss the complexity, rewards, and results of publishing true stories of adoption from the adopted person's and mother's perspective.

**202 Birthparent Reunions – Found and Lost**

Presenters: Linda Clausen, Loretta Berg, Linda Orozco

Four birthmothers in a mix of long-term and stalled reunions will speak about the major issues surrounding their individual reunions. There will be a focus on how adoption support groups, conference attendance, and therapy has given them insight and some healing. Following the presentation, questions from the audience are welcome.

**203 Questions You Want Answered, and Are Afraid to Ask**

Presenters: Pam Kroskie, Krista McCoy

Ever want to ask an adoptee, birth parent, or adoptive parent a potentially sensitive question about their experience, but weren't sure how to approach it? Join us for a panel consisting of adoptees, birth parents, and adoptive parents with different stories, and ask your questions in a safe environment.

**204 Male Adoptee III: Issues**

Presenter: Craig Hyman

Closed Door - 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.

**205 Searching for Family**

Presenter: Marilyn Waugh

Reconnecting with family is possible if you utilize accurate, updated, user-friendly internet sites. Learn how to search reliable sites that are available to the general public free of charge or at a minimal cost. This workshop, led by an experienced professional who has completed several thousand searches, will provide multiple handouts to participants.

**206 Myths & Fears of Open Adoption**

Presenter: Melissa (Missy) Spatari

This workshop will dispel myths and fears in open adoption in today's society. We will also look at how open adoption has changed over time and how it is viewed today. A social worker and an adult adoptee will share their personal and professional open adoption experiences.

**3:15 – 4:30 PM ~ 300 SERIES WORKSHOPS****301 ALL CHILDREN - ALL FAMILIES: Competent Practice with LGBT Parents**

Presenters: Chris Downs, Beth Brindo

The All Children - All Families curriculum model provides culturally competent and affirming practices with lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) prospective and actual adoptive adults. The model provides staff cultural competency, successful recruitment and retention practices, sensitive home assessments, and creating a welcoming environment for prospective LGBT parents.

**302 Surviving and Healing After a Year of Hell in Reunion**

Presenters: Lisa F. LoRusso, Andrew Majkowicz

Reunited mother and son will discuss how anger and rage, when it arrived, jeopardized an established six year relationship and the forever ongoing process of healing and growth.

**303 Searching for HER and Finding THEM: Finding and Connecting with Siblings in Reunion**

Presenter: Bonnie Burnell

This workshop will examine the dynamics that occur between siblings in the experience of reunion. Relating to peers instead of parents, accepting shifts in birth order, and exploring the issues of assimilating into family politics raise new questions of identity among family, friends, spouses, and children. We will explore this rarely talked about side of search and reunion using Dr. Michael Grand's language of the 'adoption constellation.' We will examine ways in which this broader view of reunion embraces the nuances and complexities of sibling relationships and share some tools to make sibling reunions a success.

**304 Child-Centered Practice for Donor Conception**

Presenter: Kris Probasco

Conservative estimates are that more than 60,000 children are born yearly in the United States by anonymous sperm, egg, and embryo donation. Over 500,000 frozen embryos are currently stored in fertility clinics and long-term storage facilities in the United States awaiting discard, research or donation for adoption. This workshop will educate participants regarding best practices with donor conceptions and will discuss child-focused values and policies for children and adult offspring of assisted reproductive technology.

**305 Inside Out: Expressive Arts for the Soul**

Presenter: Patrick McMahon

In the 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.

**306 Impact of Adoption Loss**

Presenters: Monica Byrne, Karen Lynn

From the point of view of two reunited mothers, this interactive session will explore the impact of adoption loss on surrendering mothers and how it affects a woman's ability to reunite with her child and be part of a successful reunion.

**4:45 – 6:00 PM – SUPPORT GROUPS****4:45 – 6:00 PM – OPEN MIC FOR POETRY AND WRITING, FACILITATED BY PATRICK MCMAHON****6:00 – 8:00 PM – AAC STATE REPRESENTATIVE DINNER FOR AAC STATE REPS****6:00 – 8:00 PM – DINNER ON YOUR OWN****8:00 – 10:00 PM**

*FILM: BIODAD - Q @ A VIA SKYPE AFTER FILM WITH JANICE STEVENS BOTSFORD*

**10:00 – MIDNIGHT HOSPITALITY**

*Friday, April 15, 2011*

**7:30 – 8:15 AM – YOGA WITH PATRICK MCMAHON**

**7:30 – 8:45 AM – BREAKFAST**

## 400 WORKSHOP SERIES

### **9:00 – 10:15 AM ~ 400 SERIES WORKSHOPS**

#### **401 Managing the Rocky Road Post Reunion**

Presenters: Judy Foster, Laura Masonic

Mothers in reunion (with their son and daughter) offer their realistic practical approach in managing the bumpy experiences post reunion. Discussion will include reliving the emotional, traumatic lost years, managing expectations from both sides, dealing with spouses, children who were raised and extended families, and will offer solutions for a path to healing.

#### **402 Into the Abyss: Depth Work with Adult Adoptees**

Presenter: John Sobraske

Many adoptees wait until adulthood before they can gaze deeply into their adoption related pain. In my personal journey and my work with clients, I have found several core states, including isolation, terror, sadness and rage, which hold the key to healing. Case studies with dreams and art work will be presented.

#### **403 Adoption and Addiction**

Presenters: Zara Phillips, Dave Petruzzello

This workshop is for all who have been touched by addiction, including professionals who work with the adoption triad. Many people within the adoption community have been affected by addiction. The presenters will each share their stories of how addiction prevented healing, and how their adoption story is interwoven in their experiences. The presenters will discuss tools and life skills that now allow them to live emotionally whole and rewarding lives. These are skills for positive living for all persons, adopted or not, addicted or not.

#### **404 Adoptees as Experts in Adoption –Is It a Movement?**

Presenter: Kate Ingalls-Maloney

Presenter will review the philosophical impetus for and process of launching a state-wide program – Adoptees Have Answers (AHA) –focused on identifying and meeting the needs of adult adoptees in Minnesota. The AHA Program's executive leadership staff and Advisory Group are all comprised of adopted or previously fostered individuals, many with experience in the child welfare arena. Presenter will also discuss the exciting new discoveries and connections that have resulted from this unique approach to adoption education and support.

#### **405 Long Term Reunions**

Presenters: Cindy McGuigan, Susan Mello Souza

Two birthmothers participate in a reflective panel of long term reunions – the positive and the negative.

#### **406 Bookends: Annette Baran and BJ Lifton - “The Pioneers of Adoption Reform”**

Presenter: Jean A.S. Strauss

So much of the language of adoption reform grew from the pens of two women: Annette Baran, social worker and advocate, and BJ Lifton, an adoptee and reformer. This short film celebrates the incredible careers and contributions of these two pioneering giants of adoption reform who we sadly lost within weeks of each other in 2010.

10:45 AM – NOON

*KEYNOTE: IN THE MATTER OF CHA JUNG LEE – DEANN LIEM*

NOON – 1:30 PM – AAC AWARDS LUNCHEON

**1:30 – 2:45 PM ~ 500 SERIES WORKSHOPS**

**501 Clinical Consultation and Clinical Mediation in Open Adoption**

Presenter: Dr. Joyce Maguire Pavao

Based on child-centered Family Group Consultation and Clinical Mediations Model by Dr. Pavao and used for over 20 years, participants look for boundaries and biases that get in the way of good decisions and plans for children, and develop ideas about dealing with difficult situations through role play and discussions.

**502 When Adoptive Parents Get a Bum Rap**

Presenter: Dr. Ron Nydam

Part of the task of serving as adoptive parents includes absorbing the anger of relinquished and adopted children. Though at times imperfect parenting correctly elicits angry responses from children, in the case of adoption, there are also dynamics involved that set adoptive parents up for new and different complications in raising their children. The roles of both transference and counter-transference will be defined and explained in a manner that may help adoptive parents appreciate the struggles of their children without taking their anger “personally”.

**503 So You Want to be a Legislative Reformer ...**

Presenter: Jean A.S. Strauss

In January of 2009, a small group of triad members in California launched an organization called C.A.R.E. (the California Adoption Reform Effort) in the hopes of effecting change similar to the successes in Oregon, New Hampshire, and Maine. In less than two weeks, with the help of a lobbyist, a bill was submitted in the California Assembly. In April, the bill passed unanimously out of the Judiciary Committee – only to die a month later in Appropriations. This skyrocket legislative action exposed many issues, including internal divisions and unknown statutes. The examination of this singular effort will be beneficial to anyone involved or interested in becoming involved in adoption reform.

**504 THE BIRTHMOTHER SELF: Who was I? Who am I now? Who can I become?**

Presenter: Delores Teller

This workshop will explore the birthmother self as it has been shaped by the relinquishment and relational loss experience over the lifespan. The core aspects of sexuality, autonomy vs. dependence, shame vs. dignity, and disempowerment vs. empowerment will be discussed as development paths to healing. Birthmother attendees are encouraged to bring a photo of themselves taken around the time of pregnancy or relinquishment.

**505 I Found the Truth, So Where is 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?

500 WORKSHOP SERIES

**3:15 – 4:30 PM ~ 600 SERIES WORKSHOPS****601 Healing the Triad**

Presenters: John Sobraske, Leslie Pate Mackinnon, Nancy Verrier

Too often the profound wounds of adoption can drive a wedge between birth and adoptive parents with adoptees lost in the middle. What are the misunderstandings that cause these rifts? Along with practical steps, recommendations will be given for healing the self and other and the triad as a whole.

**602 If You Can't Have a Mother, Will Father Do?**

Presenters: Elise Lewis, Rebecca L. Ricardo, Lisa Storms

In search and reunion, often fathers are the second search or an afterthought once a mother has been found. Presenters share their experiences locating their father in the midst of or after finding difficult reunions or no reunions with their mother. Information will be shared about the differences in connecting to fathers, what was surprising to learn about the value of a relationship to your father and some of the dynamics of building that relationship, and how it's different from forming a relationship with a mother.

**603 How to Write your Adoption Story**

Presenter: Jennifer Lauck

Identity confusion, sorrow over relinquishing a child, and the struggle with infertility – all members of the triad have a story. Learn simple techniques for stimulating memory, crafting well shaped scenes and caring for the self while you create writing that can lead to personal healing and the healing of others via publications.

**604 Adoption Reform: Who Cares, Why it Matters, What can be done.**

Presenter: Sarah Burns

Drawing on the work of leading scholars from the adoption field, this workshop will provide a brief history of adoption, including the quest to open original records to adult adoptees, discuss recent advances in the adoption reform movement, and review the challenges to the global movement for adoption reform.

**605 Adoption Romantic Radar**

Presenter: Dr. Ron Nydam

This workshop builds on current knowledge of the manner in which the injury of relinquishment sometimes plays itself out in the context of an adoptee's romantic relationships. The way in which we seek others as "solutions" to our emotional and spiritual problems sometimes includes creating significant conflicts in love in order to resolve the wounds of losing one's parents at birth. Avenues of resolution of such interpersonal and intra-psychic struggles will be explored. Put differently, what does one DO when one's love life is plagued by the impact of relinquishment?

**4:45 – 6:00 PM – SUPPORT GROUPS****6:00 – 8:00 PM – DINNER ON YOUR OWN****8:00 – 9:30 PM**

*KEYNOTE: THE FOUNDLING - MARY GAUTHIER*

**9:30 – MIDNIGHT – HOSPITALITY**

*Saturday, April 16, 2011*

**7:30 – 8:15 AM – YOGA WITH PATRICK MCMAHON**

**7:30 – 8:45 AM – BREAKFAST**

**9:00 – 10:15 AM ~ 700 SERIES WORKSHOPS**

**701 An Interview with Singer-Songwriter, Mary Gauthier**

Presenters: Mary Gauthier, Sarah Burns, Candy Finnigan

A woman's journey through adoption and addiction: how the search identity leads to self-discovery, self-acceptance and self-love. This workshop is a Q&A interview session with singer-songwriter Mary Gauthier conducted by Sarah Burns, AAC State Rep and A&E "Intervention" Host Candy Finnigan. Mary will describe her journey and reconnection with her birthmother while searching and gaining knowledge and acceptance of herself in the process. Mary's story is the backdrop for her latest CD, "The Foundling."

**702 The "Last Resort" for Out-of-control Adopted Teens**

Presenters: Norman E. Thibault, Ph.D, Leslie Pate Mackinnon, Bruce A. Kellogg

When adopted teens are out of control, the absolute 'last resort' is residential treatment. Yet many residential treatment centers are reporting that upwards of 50% of their population are adopted. Are treatment centers prepared to treat these complex issues? The needs of adopted teens in residential care will be covered from the perspective of parent, professional, and treatment centers.

**703 Adoption Advocacy for Donor Conceptions**

Presenters: Kris Probasco, Bill Cordray

Donor conception issues are adoption issues. Donor sperm has been documented to have begun in 1884, egg donation in 1983, and recently embryo donation/adoption. These medical processes continue to lack child focus practice, ethical scrutiny, and government regulation. The adoption community understands loss of family continuity, unknown medical history, secrecy and anonymity that is also at the heart of donor conceptions. It is past time for the adoption community to be an advocate and a voice for the children and eventual adults that are born of a donor conception. This workshop will provide discussion by a donor adoptee and social worker.

**704 Adoptees Grow Up**

Presenter: Krista McCoy

This workshop will discuss issues, challenges, and rewards as adoptees age. Much of the historical research has focused only on the adoptee as an infant or young child. More commonly now, research is focusing on adoption throughout the life span. This workshop will discuss how adoption issues change over time, and families and professionals can learn what these changes are and ways to respond appropriately.

**700 WORKSHOP SERIES**

**10:45 – NOON – AAC TOWN HALL MEETING**

**NOON – 1:30 PM – LUNCH ON YOUR OWN**

**1:30 – 2:45 PM**

*KEYNOTE: THE JOURNEY OF A TRANSRACIAL ADOPTÉE - SUSAN HARRIS O'CONNOR*

**3:15 – 4:30 PM ~ 800 SERIES WORKSHOPS****801 Late Discovery Adoptee Panel Discussion**

Presenters: Susan Bennett, Susan McCrea

This workshop is targeted for people who discovered they were adopted late in life and anyone interested in understanding this experience. The presenters, both Late Discovery Adoptees, will share their journeys and the challenges of being LDAs. Then participants can add their stories in an open, healing discussion.

**802 Adoption before Addiction**

Presenters: Jack Hinman, Candy Finnigan

What is the relationship between adoption and addiction? Dr. Hinman and A&E's featured Interventionist Candy Finnigan will discuss the clinical and personal link of adoption and addiction. Trauma bonds one's life to addiction. There is hope in breaking the link between adoption and addiction through effective treatments.

**803 The Journey of a Transracial Adoptee: Discussion with Susan Harris O'Connor**

Presenter: Susan Harris O'Connor

During this workshop, Ms. O'Connor will give the attendees the opportunity to comment on and ask questions about the autobiographical identity narratives presented as her keynote. The session will also give attendees a brief opportunity to share how they relate or can't relate to the narratives.

**804 Mug Shots on the Mantel**

Presenter: Carol Barbieri

When Carol Barbieri's 14 year old son was diagnosed with a life threatening heart condition, she began a frantic search for her birth family, to help save his life. Finding out that her birthmother abandoned her, that she was separated from her twin sister and that she was living a few blocks away from her sibling, are only a few of the secrets she uncovered by the end of her search. Workshop will include musical performance of Barbieri's adoption song, *Your Secret's Safe With Me*.

**4:45 – 6:00 PM***FILM: 40 YEAR OLD SECRET***6:30 – 7:30 PM – WINE AND CHEESE TO BENEFIT THE CONFERENCE GRANT PROGRAM****7:30 – 11:00 PM – POOL PARTY***Sunday, April 17, 2011***7:30 – 8:45 AM – BREAKFAST****9:00 – 10:15 AM ~ 900 SERIES WORKSHOPS****901 For Want of a Mother – Mini-Documentary**

Presenter: Cindy Gillman

Experience an adoptee's change of heart. Abused, angry, self destructive and lonely, a 23 year search brings peculiar and miraculous reunion(s). Touched by something that was real, a moment in which everything changed. She discovers her life's purpose in the midst of revealed truth. "It is amazing where this path has taken me."

**902 Life Across the Pond: Lessons Learned from the UK**

Presenter: Nicole Burton

A Briton's perspective 34 years after birth records were opened in the UK, and the optimistic lessons for adoption reform in the US.

**903 The Legislative Debate: "What" Trumps "Who"**

Presenter: Rich Uhrlaub

Opponents of unrestricted records access have long framed the debate in terms of a birth parent's "right to privacy" trumping adoptees' "selfish interests." In reality, good policy does not pit members of the adoption triad against each other. This workshop will examine and debunk this and similar cultural myths, with an eye toward reframing the political conversation. Bring your ideas!

**904 The Shift from Color Blind to Color Conscious**

Presenter: Melissa (Missy) Spatari

This workshop will help families and adoption practitioners understand the impact transracial adoption has on the immediate family, extended family and the community. It will also discuss strategies for preparing the adoptive parent interested in pursuing a transracial adoption.

**905 Alter Egos: Adoption, Reunion, and the Other(s) Within**

Presenter: Denise Hoffman

The "Us vs. Them" mentality has reverberated throughout history. But who is "Us" and "Them" within the triad? Within each of us? Could these aspects have something to teach us? Latina adoptee and author shares her journey towards wholeness, beginning in 1991 to her actual reunion in 2007, and beyond.

**10:45 – NOON**

*KEYNOTE: A LOVE DIVERTED – A BIRTH MOTHER SPEAKS - LYNN LAUBER*

**NOON – 12:30 PM – CONFERENCE CLOSING**

**PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES**

**BARBIERI, CAROL** - Carol is a *New York Times* published writer, singer / songwriter, and adoption reform advocate. Her commentaries about adoption appear regularly in New Jersey newspapers. A member of the NJCARE Legislative team, Carol testifies regularly at New Jersey state hearings. Carol has recorded two CDs, including a song about adoption *Your Secret's Safe With Me*.

**BENNETT, SUSAN** - Susan lives in Gilbert, AZ with her husband Mike and two grown children. In 2008, via DNA test results, Susan learned that she was not biologically related to her mother, becoming a LDA at the age of 43. Susan serves on the board of her local Search Triad group and is Secretary of the AAC. Her first book, *Late Discoveries*, will be published in August 2011.

**BERG, LORETTA** - Loretta Berg, MLA, is a reunited birthmother in a stalled relationship for 18 years.

**BOTSFORD, JANICE STEVENS** - Born and raised in England, Janice came to Michigan to complete a MSW at the University of Michigan. She works part-time as a psychotherapist while pursuing life as an artist. Married for 34 years, she has one biological daughter, three step-children and four grandchildren. After their father died, Janice and her brother Barry were told that they had been conceived from an unknown sperm donor. Following extensive investigative work that included DNA testing they have discovered the identity of their sperm donors. Each is now enjoying exploring relationships with half-siblings and their families.

**BRINDO, BETH** - Beth Brindo, MSSA, LISW-S, is an expert in the administrative and clinical arenas of mental health and social service / child welfare and the specialized field of permanency for children, adoption of children with special needs, triad search, ethical birth parent services, working with multicultural and diverse populations, and rural, international, kinship and infant adoption.

**BURNELL, BONNIE** - Bonnie is a college administrator from Northern CA. She was a founding member of CARE, the recent legislative action group. A passionate advocate of reform, she is a member of PACER and has provided services in support of adoption reform nationwide, including the production of websites for advocacy groups and films. She is a reunited adoptee who searched for over 20 years, searching for HER and finding THEM. She learned that what seemed ideal has become real in life changing ways.

**BURNS, SARAH** - Sarah is a public affairs, lobbying, and public advocacy specialist with an emphasis on women's international reproductive rights. Previously, she was Director of Public Affairs at Planned Parenthood, a lobbyist in Washington, DC, a Foreign Policy Advisor in the US Congress, and a consultant to the State Department. She is a birthmother who has been happily reunited with her son for eight years.

**BURTON, NICOLE** - Nicole is a playwright and reunited adopted person from England, and author of *Swimming Up the Sun: A Memoir of Adoption*. Her recent play productions include *Fred and Frieda* and *Last Call at the Marble Bar*. She lives in Riverdale Park, MD with her husband and son.

**BYRNE, MONICA** - Monica is the National Director for Parent Finders of Canada, one of the first organizations in North America to advocate for adoption reunion. A happily reunited birth mother, her strong belief in reconnecting adoptees and their parents has kept her involved with reunions for 20+ years. She was the recipient of the AAC Vilardi Award in 2005.

**CLAUSEN, LINDA** - Linda Clausen, MSW, is a birthmother who relinquished two sons to adoption in 1961 and 1963, currently resides in Washington, D.C. She and both sons have been reunited for 20 / 21 years. Linda worked in hospital administration for 26 years. In 1999, she returned to school to complete a MSW, with the goal of accessing more background on adoption and foster care, and a postgraduate certificate in psychodynamic psychotherapy. She has facilitated the DCMETRO CUB group for 17 years. She is the AAC DC/MD State Representative, and Region 1 Director of CUB. She was a Clinical Case Manager in foster care for seven years and is working toward starting a therapy practice with members of the adoption triad.

**CORDRAY, BILL** - Bill has been an advocate for just treatment of people conceived through donor insemination since 1987. He learned in 1983, at age 37, that he was conceived through an anonymous medical student. He is a retired architect who now devotes his time to promote the need for accountability in donor insemination. He has spoken worldwide about these issues. He moderates a website dedicated to providing a safe haven for mutual support of DI adoptees.

**DENTON, REBECCA** - Rebecca Denton, Ph.D, lives in Springfield, Missouri with her 13 year old daughter, Taylor. Rebecca is an Associate Professor of Education and Child Development at Drury University where she specializes in adolescent development.

**DOWNS, CHRIS** - Chris Downs, Ph.D, has spent years improving services for older youth living in foster care. An author of *What Works in Foster Care*, Chris was adopted in Indiana, partly because of the efforts of a tireless caseworker. Chris' child welfare consulting business, The Downs Group, is based in Seattle.

**FINNIGAN, CANDY** - Candy Finnigan, BR II, is a nationally recognized addiction specialist. She is regularly featured on A&E's television show *Intervention*, conducts lectures across the country, and has recently written a book about the intervention process. Candy has been in recovery for over 23 years and is adopted. She has been affiliated with many treatment centers across the country, including the Betty Ford Center.

**FOSTER, JUDY** - Judy has presented at AAC, NACAC, NASW-NJ, college law classes, adoption playshops for international children and other adoption venues. She actively lobbies for adoptees' birthright laws. Judy is the NJ state representative for the AAC.

**GAUTHIER, MARY** - Acclaim has followed Mary on every step of her remarkable journey. Her breakthrough album, *Mercy Now* (2005) was continuously "discovered" and lauded for the two years following its release, earning mentions on a score of year end "best of" lists. Since its release in May 2010, her sixth album, *The Foundling*, has garnered widespread critical acclaim. *No Depression* proclaimed it, "... her first masterpiece. Brilliant. Absolutely brilliant" while the *Los Angeles Times* called *The Foundling* electrifying... redemptive...spellbinding...."

**GILLMAN, CINDY** - Cindy “Ranger Lady” Gillman lives in Scottsdale, Arizona with her husband, Blake. She is the mother of three and grandmother of three grandsons. At 43, year 2000, Cindy was reunited with her birthmother, an older brother and sister and in 2004 with her birthfather, his wife, a younger brother and sister. She is a Motor Maid, a Scout Leader, a Harley-Davidson enthusiast and is building a non-profit serving the forgotten mentally-ill.

**GRAND, MICHAEL** - Michael Grand, Ph.D., is professor of clinical psychology at the University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada. As part of the Coalition for Open Adoption Records, he worked successfully to open records in Ontario in 2009. He recently authored *The Adoption Constellation: New Ways of Thinking and Practicing Adoption*. He also has a private practice in adoption related issues.

**HAWN, PATTI** - Patti, an entertainment publicist, has worked on over thirty major motion pictures including some of the most acclaimed films of the last decade. Her credits include *Ghost*, *Glory*, *Overboard*, and most recently, *August Rush* and *Bride Wars*. Patti makes her debut literary effort with her memoir, *Good Girls Don't*, a deeply personal first-hand account of what it was like to be trapped in an unwanted pregnancy at the close of an era where home economics took precedence over sex education. She surrenders her child to adoption---but this is where the typical adoption story begins...and ends. Patti is the sister of the acclaimed actress Goldie Hawn. She lives in Manhattan Beach, California.

**HINMAN, JACK** - Jack Hinman, Ph.D, is a licensed psychologist and an expert in residential treatment. He specializes in diagnosis and treatment of emotional dysregulation disorders. Jack has provided a wide range of psychological services in many different settings. He is the Clinical Director of an all girls residential treatment center for adolescent females which treats adopted girls and their families.

**HOFFMAN, DENISE** - Denise co-facilitates the Adoptee Birthrights Support Group in New Orleans, LA. She holds both B.S. and M.S. Degrees in Natural Health & Wellness, and is author of *Ocultando No Mas / Hiding No More: Unmasking Adoption and Reunion* and its sequel: *Descubiertos / Uncoverings: Growing from Adoption and Reunion*.

**HYMAN, CRAIG** - 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. He specializes in the areas of general adoption issues, search, reunion and post-reunion complexities. He has founded and facilitated post-reunion and support groups in New York City, Marin and Sonoma counties in Northern CA. Craig resides in New York City and coaches and educates globally.

**INGALLS-MALONEY, KATE** - Kate Ingalls-Mahoney, M.ED, is an information-oriented professional and a domestically adopted person. She comes most recently to the field of adoption as a consultant and program manager for the Minnesota Adoption Resource Network. She has also worked as an adoption educator and early intervention coordinator for families with children with special needs.

**KELLOGG, BRUCE A.** - Bruce, an adoptive parent, has lived through the challenges of adoption, yet is dedicated and determined to assist and support others faced with similar challenges. While professionally in real estate, he has been engaged in the educational and healing process for two decades and has much to share.

**KROSKIE, PAM** - Pam is an adoptee in reunion for over 20 years with her birthmother and two sisters. Pam also currently runs the grassroots organization HEAR (Hoosiers for Equal Access to Records) and serves as the IN state representative and Midwest Regional Director for the AAC.

**LAUCK, JENNIFER** - Jennifer is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling memoir *Blackbird* and the soon to be released memoir *Found* (Seal Press, March 2011), *Still Waters* and *Show Me the Way*. She teaches transformative memoir writing, has studied with eco-philosopher Joanna Macy, teaches for Literary Arts in the Portland, OR area high schools and is a student of Tibetan Buddhism. She is a seven year practitioner of Tibetan meditation, under the guidance of Tibetan masters including HH Dalai Lama. Jennifer has accomplished 500,000 mantra of Ngondro (a foundational practice) and 750,000 of the Green Tara in the tradition of Tibetan Buddhism.

**LEWIS, ELISE** - Elise was adopted as an infant and lived in LA. She searched for 11 years and was reunited with her birthparents in 1996. She and her family have relationships with her paternal family. Sadly, she does not have an opportunity to have relationships with her maternal family. She is the Mid-Atlantic Regional Director for the AAC, and has been involved in adoption support groups and reform since the early 1990s. She is also a part time search angel.

**LORUSSO, LISA F.** - Lisa is the mother of 3 sons - she raised 2 of her sons and her first born son was given up for adoption in 1968. They were reunited in 2003. Lisa is the CFO of the Columbus Citizens Foundation, a non-for-profit corporation in NY, a member of the Morristown NJ support group, and a frequent contributor to adoption conferences.

**LYNN, KAREN** - Karen is the President of the Canadian Council of Natural Mothers, founded by her in 1999 as the first Canadian group to nationally represent first mothers. Karen has been happily reunited with her first born child for many years.

**MACKINNON, LESLIE PATE** - Leslie Pate Mackinnon, MSW, LCSW, is a social worker in private practice for 35+ years, specializing in adoption and third party reproduction issues. She was drawn to the field by placing two sons in closed adoptions during her teens. She is one of the women featured in *The Girls Who Went Away*.

**MAJKOWICZ, ANDREW** - Andrew is a late discovery adoptee in reunion for almost eight years. He is a Marine Corp veteran, and the Fire Chief of the Saddle Brook NJ fire department. He has three daughters, is a member of the Morristown NJ support group, and a frequent contributor to adoption conferences.

**MASONIC, LAURA** - Laura has presented at AAC, Adoption Playshops for International Children, and actively lobbies for Adoptees' Birthright laws.

**MCCOY KRISTA** - Krista McCoy, MSW, LCSW, is a biracial, transracial adoptee. Krista has been a conference presenter and trainer on issues of foster care / adoption for over 17 years. She served two terms on the IL Adoption Advisory Council and also has extensive experience in the field of mental health, substance abuse, and therapy.

**MCCREA, SUSAN** - Susan, the mother of seven and the grandmother of 10, surprisingly discovered she was adopted at the age of 38. Twenty years later, she reconnected with her biological roots and some of her family. Susan lives in Sacramento, CA with her husband Martin, counseling, teaching, and writing her unique adoption story.

**MCGUIGAN, CYNTHIA** - Cindy has been in reunion off and on for 10 years and is married to the birthfather who is an adoptee. She has served on the AAC board since 2006 and presently serves as Treasurer of the AAC. She resides in West Bridgewater, MA.

**MCMAHON, PATRICK** - Patrick is an adopted person 19 years into reunion. He is the author of *Becoming Patrick*, a memoir about search and reunion, as well as a photographer, artist, and musician, an activist for adoption reform, and an adoption speaker / workshop presenter.

**OROZCO, LINDA** - Linda is a reunited birthmother who relinquished one son to adoption and is in a stalled relationship. Linda is the facilitator of a PACER post adoption support group in Sacramento, CA.

**PAVAO, JOYCE MAGUIRE** - Joyce Magguire Pavao, Ed.D, LCSW, LMFT, is the founder / CEO of *The Center for Family Connections* and works with families in adoption and foster care and consults with public and private agencies, schools and courts. Her model for treatment and training uses a systemic, inter-generational, development framework. She is a lecturer in Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School.

**PETRUZZIELLO, DAVE** - Dave is a 43 year old adoptee who was recently reunited his my birth mother Betty Lou in November 2010. He has 4 and a half years sober and is working the 12 steps. He also attends adoption support group meetings, specifically the Morristown, NJ monthly meeting.

**PERTMAN, ADAM** - Adam is Executive Director of the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute, the pre-eminent research, policy and education organization in its field. Pertman, a former Pulitzer-nominated journalist, is also Associate Editor of the scholarly journal *Adoption Quarterly*. He is the author of *Adoption Nation: How the Adoption Revolution is Transforming Our Families – and America*, which has been reviewed as “the most important book ever written on the subject.” And he has written many chapters and articles on family-related issues in books, professional journals and mass-market publications.

**PHILLIPS, ZARA** - Zara is an adopted person from the UK in reunion with her birthmother. Zara is the author of *Mother Me*, director of the film *Roots Unknown*, and a singer songwriter. Zara wrote the song *I'm Legit* featuring DMC about the right for original birth certificates. Zara frequently speaks at adoption events.

**PROBASCO, KRIS** - Kris is a LCSW in the states of MO and KS. She has been in practice since 1972, with her specialty in adoption, fertility, and reproduction. Adoption and Fertility Resources helps individuals understand the process of donor conceptions including sperm donation, egg donation, and embryo donation / adoption. Through the agency, she has established a child-centered embryo donation / adoption program. She also consults with adoption agencies throughout the country in their interest to establish an embryo adoption program.

**RICARDO, REBECCA L.** - Rebecca L. Ricardo, LCSW, has been an adoption professional for the past 19 years. She currently serves as the Executive Director of Coordinators2inc., a private adoption placement and support agency in Richmond, VA. Rebecca was adopted at three months, and placed a child for adoption when she was a teenager. She has had reunion experiences with her birthparents and the son she placed.

**SCHIBBELHUTE, PAUL** - Paul is a birth father who was reunited with his birth son in 1998. He is the AAC New England Regional Director and former President of the American Adoption Congress. Paul has helped organize grassroots efforts in NH, ME, RI and CT. His activities also include serving on the NH DHHS Commissioners Adoption Advisory Committee and as the VP of ACONe (Adoption Community of New England). In 2005, Paul received the Angel in Adoption Award from the U.S. Congressional Coalition on Adoption.

**SOBRASKE, JOHN** - John Sobraske, MA, LMFT, LMHC, is an adoptee, a step-parent of adopted children and an adoption psychotherapist. He uses creative approaches, including psychoenergetics (a combination of energy work and psychotherapy), spirituality, and natural medicine, in doing depth work with all members of the adoption triad. He is currently working on a project to help better inform media about adoption.

**SOUZA, SUSAN MELLO** - Susan is the author of *The Same Smile* and has been in reunion nearly 12 years. She co-wrote the book with her daughter and published their book in 2002. Susan has done speaking engagements and book signings in 23 cities across the US. She is from Acushnet, MA.

**SPATARI, MELISSA (MISSY)** - Missy Spatari, MSW, is an Adoption Social Worker and Family Advocate and works with adoptive parents registered with Adoption STAR. Missy works with adoptive parent clients by educating them all child placement programs including the Agency Assisted Private Track and assists them throughout their journey of adoption. Missy also assists with expectant parents and provides support to clients post adoption. Missy is a facilitator for the agency's adoptive parent home study classes and educates participants on topics including but not limited to child identity, post adoption contact between birth families and adoptive families, and telling a child their adoption story. Missy passionately believes all children deserve a loving, happy, and stable home. She earned her Masters from the State University of New York at Buffalo. She also holds a BA in Psychology from Syracuse University and AA in Criminal Justice from Cayuga Community College. Missy is also a graduate of the Dale Carnegie program. Missy began her social work career as a service coordinator and family advisor to individuals with disabilities. She thoroughly enjoys working with families in the rewarding field of adoption.

**SRAJER, GIGI** - Gigi Srajer, MSW, an AAC Board member and the AAC Professional Liaison, is a birthmother who has worked in the adoption arena for over 15 years. She currently runs a foster-adopt program in southern CA.

**STANTON, BRIAN** - Brian has performed BLANK in Los Angeles, Dallas, New York and the CUB retreat in Carlsbad, CA. Brian received his MFA at the California Institute of the Arts and his BFA from Texas Christian University. He resides with his wife and two daughters in Culver City, CA.

**STORMS, LISA** - Lisa was adopted as an infant in Hawaii and lived in Virginia most of her life. In 1999, she searched for her birth family. She was reunited with her birth father and some of her birth siblings. She has been involved in adoption support groups in Virginia.

**STRAUSS, JEAN A.S.** - Filmmaker/Writer Jean Strauss, has been writing about and documenting adult adoptee issues for the past twenty years. Her book, *Birthingright: A Guide to Search and Reunion*, the first such book published by a major house, has been in print for almost seventeen years, and her memoir, *Beneath a Tall Tree: a Story about Us*, was defined by Annette Baran as not only an important book about the adoption experience but 'a riveting detective story'. Her award-winning films, *The Triumvirate*, *Holding Hands*, and *Vital Records*, have helped educate diverse populations about post adoption issues, and her feature film, *ADOPTED: For the Life of Me*, has been broadcast, nationwide. In 2009, Strauss was the recipient of the AAC's Emma Vilardi Humanitarian Award for her film work.

**STUMME, RACHEL** - Rachel is a birthmother and licensed massage practitioner who uses body work, Reiki, and shamanic work to help facilitate healing. She writes about adoption and provides adoption support and education in Seattle.

**TELLER, DELORES** - Delores Teller, LCSW, is a reunited birthmother, post adoption therapist, and a past president of the AAC. She has traveled and lectured throughout the US and Canada on post adoption and her life story and work, in support of the Landmark Oregon Adoption Law, Measure 58, was featured in *Rolling Stone* magazine.

**THIBAULT, NORMAN E.** - Norman E. Thibault, PhD., LMFT, is President of the UT Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. He has been in practice for 16 years, the majority of which have been spent working with adoptees and their families. He has worked in residential treatment and is currently in private practice.

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

**VERRIER, NANCY** - Nancy Verrier, MA, is an adoptive parent and adoption therapist in Lafayette, CA. working with all members of the triad. Her powerful ground-breaking first book *Primal Wound: Understanding the Adopted Child* has gone through many reprints and is available in many languages. Her second book is entitled *Coming Home to Self*. Nancy regularly speaks on adoption across the world.

**WAUGH, MARILYN** - Marilyn is a reunited birthmother. Director of Adoption Concerns Triangle in Topeka, a search and support group serving those in northeastern Kansas, past president of the AAC, and currently the AAC state representative for Kansas. For the past 19 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.

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