

34TH ANNUAL

New England Adoption Conference

presented by

Adoption Community of New England, Inc.



Celebrating 40 Years of Adoption Education

RECIPIENT OF THE 2007 FRIEND OF ADOPTION AWARD

Jack Williams

for his work with Wednesday's Child

•

RECIPIENT OF THE 2007 RECOGNITION FOR
SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIELD OF ADOPTION

Sheila Frankel, LICSW

Adoption Search Coordinator,
MA Department of Social Services

Saturday, April 28, 2007 8:00 AM – 4:45 PM

MILFORD HIGH SCHOOL • MILFORD, MA

Greetings!

I am pleased to invite you to the 34th Annual New England Adoption Conference, featuring the 40th Anniversary Celebration of the founding of this organization. For newcomers as well as past attendees, this extraordinary day offers over 100 workshops, Exhibits, Bookstore and Meet the Author.

This unique event is made possible by the generous donation of time and talent of the volunteers who help in the months of preparation and on conference day.

ACONE members can bring their extended family at the members' fee. This is a great way to educate grandparents, grandparents-to-be, aunts and uncles, etc. Adoptive parents may also bring their child/children's birth family as extended family. Just be sure to put the member's name on the appropriate line on the registration form.

There are new workshops as well as new presenters for some traditional topics. Whether you are beginning the adoption process, busy in the midst of family life, experiencing life as a birth parent or an adopted person, or contemplating search and reunion, you will find workshops to fit your needs. Workshops are coded to describe their intended audience and suggested tracks have been provided to assist in your workshop selection.

The Board of ACONE, the Conference Committee and I hope you will find your conference day educational and rewarding.

Joan Clark

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ADOPTION COMMUNITY OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

Conference Schedule

8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.Check-In, Continental Breakfast, Exhibits Open
8:45 a.m. – 9:25 a.m.Welcome, Annual Meeting,
Anniversary Celebration & Awards
9:40 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.Period A
11:10 a.m. – 12:25 p.m.Period B
12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.Lunch, Exhibits & Meet the Author
2:05 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.Period C
3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.Period D

Suggested Conference Tracks

These workshop choices are provided as suggestions only and are intended to aid you in your selection. You are welcome to choose any workshop that is appropriate for you and your situation.

Is Adoption Right for Me/Us?

A1 Intro to Adoption, **A12** Parents Considering, **A22** Is Transracial Adoption?
B12 Homestudy, **B21** Legal Issues, **B10** Waiting Children, **B16** Hague Convention
C10 DSS Adoption, **C20** What is Semi Open Adoption?, **C11** Adopting More Than One
D2 Making the Emotional Leap, **D5** Openness — A Look, **D9** Coaching for Clarity

Pre-adoptive Singles

A1 Intro to Adoption, **A9** Domestic vs International, **A13** Real Life After
B29 Single Parent Adoption, **B12** Homestudy, **B21** Legal Issues
C7 Singles Can Adopt, **C10** DSS Adoption, **C13** Home Ownership
D19 Single Parent Discussion, **D9** Coaching for Clarity

Adoptees

A7 Preparing, **A19** I Love You, **A21** Joy/Loss, **A23** Birth Mother's, **A24** Birth Father's
B1 Building Community, **B23** Impact of Search, **B8** An Adoptee's Journey
C1 Ghosts in the Adoptive Family, **C23** Living in Reunion, **C4** Stress Management
D20 All Reunions are Not Created, **D21** Writing to Heal, **D15** The Biblical Basis

Parents of Preschoolers

A29 Picture Books, **A8** Talking, **A2** After the Leap, **A25** Understanding Development
B2 Questions Around, **B11** How the Child Experiences, **B4** Lifebooks
C15 Adoptive Fathers, **C16** What is a Real Mother?, **C2** Is This OK?, **C14** Trauma
D1 Classroom, **D7** Relationships with Siblings, **D27** Sibling Rivalry, **D13** Ask

Parents of School-Age Kids

A8 Talking, **A4** Life Book as a Tool, **A14** Attachment, **A28** What is it Really Like?
B2 Questions Around, **B11** How the Child, **B18** What Child Has Taught, **B4** Lifebooks
C2 Is This OK?, **C14** Trauma, **C9** Talking, **C24** Opening an Adoption
D1 Classroom, **D13** Ask the Social Worker, **D7** Relationships/Siblings, **D27** Rivalry

Parents of Teens

A10 Everything You Wanted to Know, **A7** Preparing to Search, **A19** I Love You
B17 Family Grows Up, **B9** Demystifying Therapy, **B22** What All Adoptive Parents
C28 Adolescence and Adoption, **C1** Ghosts in the Adoptive Family
D1 Adoption and the Classroom, **D12** Living at the Edge, **D13** Ask the Social Worker

Alternative Families

A11 Same-Sex Marriage, **A1** Intro to Adoption, **A22** Is Transracial Right?
B1 Building Community, **B10** Who Are Waiting, **B20** Systematic Approach
C1 Ghosts in the Adoptive Family, **C4** Stress Management
D6 Issues and Options for GLBT, **D13** Ask the Social Worker

Birth Families

A7 Preparing to Search, **A23** Birth Mother's Stages, **A24** Birth Father's Panel
B1 Building Community, **B23** Impact of Search, **B11** How the Child Experiences
C1 Ghosts, **C22** Adoption Journey, **C23** Living in Reunion, **C4** Stress Management
D20 All Reunions, **D21** Writing to Heal, **D5** Openness — A Look, **D7** Relationships

Extended Family Members

A20 For the Extended Adoptive Family, **A1** Intro to Adoption
B11 How the Child, **B12** The Homestudy, **B21** Legal Issues, **B16** Hague Convention
C10 DSS Adoption, **C20** What is Semi Open Adoption?, **C11** Adopting More Than One
D2 Making the Emotional Leap, **D5** Openness — A Look, **D13** Ask the Social Worker

Parents with Challenging Situations

A3 Multiple Mental Health, **A14** Understanding Attachment
B3 The Family After, **B6** When Adoption Does Not Work, **B19** Feeling Helpless?
C3 Basic Rights in Education, **C2** Is This OK?, **C14** Trauma, **C4** Stress Management
D3 Basic Rights — Part 2, **D10** Adoption Subsidy, **D12** Living on the Edge

Workshop Codes

*New workshop and/or new presenter for 2007

PA = Pre-adoptive **GN** = General Audience **AF** = Adoptive Families
AD = Adoptees **RF** = Recently Formed Families **EX** = Extended Families
BF = Birth Families **TR** = Triad Members

Period A (9:40 – 10:55 a.m.)

*A1 Introduction to Adoption (PA)

For people who are just beginning to explore adoption as a possible way to build their family. Will include an overview of the types of adoptions available and discuss key decisions (e.g. choice of agencies or other adoption professionals) and strategies for decision-making. Presented by a panel of adoption specialists.

*A2 After the Leap: Parents at Last (RF, AF)

If your journey to parenthood has been long or difficult, how do you balance the long idealized, cherished images of parenthood that motivated and kept you going, with the reality of parenting? Presenter: Peg Beck, LICSW, educator, consultant, clinician in private practice, Belmont, MA, adoptive parent.

*A3 Multiple Mental Health Diagnoses (AF) (SN)

Will examine how the DSM impacts the practice of diagnosing more and more serious diagnoses for kids and the effect on families. Data from PAL network families and advocacy information will be available. Presenters: Meri Viano; Megan Sander, both representing Parent/Professional Advocacy League (PAL), the MA Family Voice for Children's Mental Health, Boston, MA.

*A4 The Life Book as a Tool for Helping Adopted Children Understand Their History (PA, RF, AF)

A lifebook can help a child organize the details of his/her history and to foster his/her identity and continuity. This workshop focuses more on the benefits to the child than the actual form the book should take. Lots of time for Q & A. Presenter: Rosemary Broadbent, LSW, Social Worker, The Home for Little Wanderers, Boston, MA, former foster mother, adoptive parent.

A5 Adoption from Guatemala (PA)

Includes details of the Guatemalan process; current situation vis a vis Hague treaty implementation; ethical issues; how to seek out service providers, evaluate and work with agencies and their Guatemalan attorneys; dealing with the US Embassy; travel; and contact with birth and foster families. Presenters: Tom Rawson; Teresa Kohlenberg, both Founders and Board Members, Guatemala Adoptive Families Network, an international organization, and adoptive parents with children from Guatemala.

A6 Keeping the Connections in Domestic Adoption (PA, RF, AD, AF, TR, BF)

Adoption has moved from secrecy to increasing communication among triad members. Many who have been touched by adoption feel that this increase in open communication is beneficial, but some feel unable to participate in an exchange of information. A panel of triad members will share their varying degrees of openness in their adoptions. Presenters: Amy Cohen, MSW, LICSW; Nancy Rosenhaus, MSW, LICSW, both from Adoptions With Love, Newton, MA.

*A7 Preparing to Search: What You Should Know (GN, AD, AF, TR, BF)

The decision to search can be as difficult and time consuming as the search itself. The searcher often starts and stops because of ambivalence and lack of control of the outcome. Will discuss the rewards and the fears about a search and how one's life will be changed. Presenter: Betty Jean Lifton, PhD, Adoption Counselor, Author of *Journey of the Adopted Self: A Quest for Wholeness* and *Twice Born: Memoirs of an Adopted Daughter*.

*A8 Talking to Children and Others about Adoption (PA, RF, AF, EX)

Be introduced to the powerful role language plays in shaping people's understanding and experience with adoption. Practical approaches to discussing adoption with children and others will be provided. Will include a developmental perspective of adoption, highlight the importance of parental self-reflection and learning, and discuss ways to work with professionals (e.g., teachers, doctors) to understand and appreciate adoption and the role it plays. Presenters: Martha Henry, PhD, Director of Education and Training, Center for Adoption Research, Worcester, MA; Anna Henry, Korean born adoptee, Vice-President, Boston Korean Adoptees, Inc. (BKA).

A9 Domestic vs. International: How Do We Decide? (PA)

Identification and exploration to help participants determine which path to adoption would be best for them. Families will share how and why they made their decisions. Presenter: Ellen Glazer, LICSW, private practice, Newton, MA, author of *Experiencing Infertility: Stories to Inform and Inspire*, co-author of *Choosing Assisted Reproduction*.

A10 Everything You Wanted to Know About Your Adopted Teen But Were Afraid to Ask (GN, EX, AD, AF)

This lively and interactive presentation will focus on the great joys, mysteries, and unique challenges of parenting adopted adolescents. Presenter: Jeff LaCure, MSW, LICSW, author, social worker, coach, adoptee.

A11 Same-Sex Marriage/Same-Sex Adoption: New Developments or Same Old-Same Old? (PA)

Will explore the options available to lesbians and gay men who wish to bring children into their lives as well as ways in which you can legally protect your family. Find out how and why your decision to marry has an impact on your adoption options. Presenters: Laura Nemeyer, EdD, licensed psychologist, Executive Director, Adoption Resource Associates, Cambridge, MA, adoptive parent; Joyce Kauffman, MEd, JD, Law Office of Joyce Kauffman, PC, Cambridge, MA, specializing in family and adoption law, both work with traditional and alternative families.

A12 Parents Considering Adoption (PA)

The decision to adopt may be complicated if you have already given birth. Parents must weigh the need of their existing child(ren) when considering family building options. Couples may find themselves in different places as they approach this important decision. Presenters: Holly Simons, PhD, LICSW, therapist in private practice, Wellesley, MA, Adjunct Professor, Smith College School for Social Work; Liz Raab, adoptive parent.

A13 Real Life After Single Parent Adoption (PA, AF)

Will cover issues of work, social life (dating?), school, serious illness, extended family, and the joys and challenges after your child comes home. Presenter: Sherry Fine, MSW, Co-Director, Adoption Network, Newton, MA.

***A14 Understanding Attachment (PA, RF, AF)**

Designed to give parents/caretakers tools to help them understand their children better so they can help them heal. Will provide basics of: the bonding cycle (how attachment is formed), what can disrupt the cycle, what effects the disruption creates, identifiable behaviors of Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD), a model for success, parenting and therapeutic strategies and where to find resources. Presenter: Suzanne Harrison, foster/adoptive parent of a challenging child, Chair, NH Community and Faith-Based Initiative Advisory Board, ACONE Board Member, Certified Instructor, Advanced Parenting for Challenging Children.

***A15 Incorporating a Child's Birth Culture into the Adoptive Home (PA, RF, EX, AF)**

International adoption is sometimes referred to as a union of cultures. This workshop will address the challenge of finding the right balance between honoring and respecting every family member's heritage without losing sight of the whole family unit. Learn ways to celebrate the child's heritage in the adoptive home. Presenter: Jill Greblich, MEd, LCSWA, Adoption Caseworker, Alliance for Children, Wellesley, MA.

***A16 Floating Baby Moses: The Baby Safe Haven Movement in New England (GN, BF, AD, AF)**

Will begin with a history of baby abandonment and safe haven laws and then focus on the politics, implementation and promotion/marketing of the laws. Will also discuss how safe haven laws undermine best practice in adoption, negate adoptee identity rights, birth parent rights, putative father registries and ultimately fail to decrease the number of discarded infants, and may increase the numbers. Presenter: Marley Elizabeth Greiner, adoptee, Executive Chair, Bastard Nation: The Adoptee Rights Organization.

***A17 What Does It Feel Like to be Asian in America? (PA, RF, EX, AF)**

For non-Asian parents of children from Asia. Will cover the history of Asians in the US, prevalent stereotypes and their impact on the social and school experiences of Asian children, to better prepare parents for responding to their children's questions and experiences around race/ethnicity. Presenters: Rosann Tung, PhD, Research Director, Center for Collaborative Education, Boston, MA, adoptive parent; Sophia Kim, MEd, Project Coordinator, Youth Action Institute, The Medical Foundation, Boston, MA, Founder, Sticky Rice Project, both are Asian American daughters of immigrants.

***A18 Navigating the Kazakhstan Adoption Process (PA)**

A "How to" for families considering Kazakhstan and for waiting families. Learn about the changing country requirements; the diverse regions and different ethnic groups; dossier and travel needs; and ultimately, bringing your child home. Presentation with Q and A. Presenter: Karen Medve, MEd, Founder and Director, Good Hope Adoption Services, Inc., Cape Cod, MA, adoptive parent of two children from Kazakhstan and Russia.

***A19 I Love You Too Much to Tell You (Besides, You Wouldn't Understand) (EX, AF, AD)**

What's on an adopted child's mind? What questions and fears run through the thoughts of a pre-teen or teen about being adopted? Personal experiences will be shared and excerpts of a young-adult novel will be shared as a means of providing answers and generating discussion. Presenter: Meg Kearney, adoptee, Author of *The Secret of Me*, Director, Solstice Low-Residency MFA Creative Writing Program, Pine Manor College, Chestnut Hill, MA.

A20 For the Extended Adoptive Family (EX)

A workshop exclusively for adoptive grandparents, grandparents-to-be, aunts and uncles to help understand the adoption process, positive adoption language, and relationships between and among the children who have arrived by birth and adoption. Presenters: Raquel Woodard, LICSW, BCD, ACONE Board of Directors; Dale Eldridge, LICSW, BCD, both at Adoption Choices, Framingham, MA.

***A21 Joy and Loss: Coming Full Circle Through the Journey of Adoption (PA, RF, AD, AF, TR)**

Will address the many influences and considerations which impact the decision to adopt and the experience of adopting from an adoptee's perspective. Will also discuss issues of identity and loss that underlie the adoptee's ongoing development of self and how these issues are presented throughout the long and evolving journey of becoming a parent. Presenter: Anne Coleman, PhD, Counseling Psychologist, Providence College, Providence, RI, adoptee, adoptive parent.

***A22 Is Transracial Adoption Right for You? Questions and Tools to Consider (PA)**

Will provide insight into what potential transracial adopters should consider when contemplating this path to build or expand their family. Presenter: Eleanor Allen, JD, LICSW, consultant Bright Futures Adoption Center, Acton, MA, private psychotherapy practice, Boston, MA, ACONE Board of Directors, adoptive parent.

A23 Do Birth Mothers' Stages Matter? (GN, PA, RF, EX, AD, AF, TR, BF)

How relevant are stages birth mothers experience? What are the issues and challenges that adoptees and adoptive parents should be aware of whether the adoption is open or closed? This workshop will help bring understanding of the stages birth mothers experience over 5, 10, 15 years after placement and why awareness benefits the whole triad. Presenter: Deborah Blanchard, triad educator, Assistant Director, The Adoption Connection, ACONE Board of Directors, birth parent.

A24 Birth Fathers' Panel (GN, PA, RF, EX, AD, AF, TR, BF)

A panel of birth fathers will discuss their personal stories regarding what it is like to be a birth father, the relinquishment of their children, their search and reunion with their adult children. Facilitator: Paul Schibbelhute, Birth father, American Adoption Congress, Vice President, ACONE Board of Directors.

A25 Understanding Children's Development (PA, RF, AF)

Will provide an explanation of the impact of early deprivation on the development of children adopted from the U.S. and internationally. Learn concepts, basic intervention and recommendations for developmental systems including coping and self-regulation, psychosocial-emotional, cognitive, language/communication, and motor skills. Presenter: Wendy Schmidt, OTR/L, MPA, LLC, International Child Development and Rehabilitation, Functional Neurodevelopmental Consultant.

***A26 Financial Planning for Your Family (PA, RF, AF)**

Learn the important issues that need to be planned for a family. Discuss the cost of raising a child and pre-adoption expenses. There will also be discussion on college education, retirement, protection and estate planning. Presenter: Jennifer Adams, CFP, Personal Financial Advisor, Ameriprise.

***A27 Waiting for the Arrival of an Adopted Child (PA)**

This can be an anxious, exciting and ambiguous time. A discussion of ways to cope; personal successes and failures; and opportunity to share experiences. Presenter: Damon Blank, LMFT, private practice, Cambridge and Medfield, MA, adoptive father.

***A28 What Is It Really Like To Be An Adoptive Parent? (PA, RF, EX, AF)**

Will tell attendees about experiences of adoptive parents from around the country as shared with *Adoptive Families Magazine*. Presenter: Susan Caughman, Publisher, Editor-in-Chief, *Adoptive Families Magazine*, parent by birth and adoption.

***A29 Picture Books in Adoption: An Enjoyable Reading Experience (RF, AF)**

Children's books with adoption themes can be useful tools to help adoptive family members understand what it means to be adopted and to share the reading experience with their child(ren). Learn how to recognize books that positively portray matters like family differences, cultural and racial diversity, birth parents and loss. Presenters: Bonney Cashin, adoptive parent, ACONE Board of Directors, collector of children's books; Karen Cagan, MEd, former teacher, parent by birth and adoption.

Period B (11:10 – 12:25 p.m.)

*B1 Building Community Through Adoption (AD, AF, TR, BF)

Many people in the adoption triad experience a state of psychological limbo and share this with others who have 'phantom family'. Hear inventive ways to honor that in yourself and in your community through informal gatherings, arts, rituals and celebrations, support groups and other activities. Presenters: Kate Ingalls-Maloney, MA, International Adoption Partner Coordinator, Children's Home Society & Family Services, St. Paul, MN; Nancy Levy, MED, personal coach, both adoptees, one in reunion, one not.

*B2 Questions Around Every Corner: Talking to Your Child About Adoption (RF, AF)

When and how do I talk to my child about adoption? What if he/she doesn't ask about it? At different stages of development, the way to approach the topic of adoption with your child is slightly different. There are things you can do, no matter how old or what his/her history is. Presenter: Barbara Drotos, MSW, LICSW, NH/VT Regional Manager, Wide Horizons for Children, Bedford, NH, Instructor, Granite State College, Education and Training Partnership.

*B3 The Family After Their Child's Diagnosis (RF, AF) (SN)

Explore possible reactions and emotions when your child is diagnosed with a learning, emotional or physical disability. How do you move from your idealized child to the reality? How do you respond to comments from family and friends? Presenter: Peg Beck, LICSW, educator, consultant, clinician in private practice, Belmont, MA, adoptive parent.

B4 Lifebooks: Fostering Strength and Resiliency in Our Children (PA, RF, AF)

"What can I say when I know so little?" "Can I stretch the truth or leave out painful truths?" For all parents/waiting parents who wish to sensitively document the facts and circumstances of their children's beginnings. Writing/creative expertise not required! Presenter: Cindy Probst, MED, LCSW, adoption specialist, adoptive parent, author of *Adoption Lifebook: A Bridge to Your Child's Beginnings*.

B5 Russian Born Adoptees Share Their Stories (GN, PA, RF, EX, AD, AF, TR, BF)

High school students, who were adopted from Russia between the ages of 2 and 7, will give the perspective of their experience of being adopted. Learn what it is like through the kids' eyes and their adjustment to their new lives. Presenter: Members of PPIA, Proud Post Infancy Adoptees, from the Greater Boston area.

*B6 When Adoption Does Not Work: The Impact of Disruption (PA, RF, AF)

Both parents and professionals can share experiences, thoughts and feelings about dealing with this painful event in a supportive discussion. Gaining insight about what happened (or is happening now) will help heal wounds that can linger for years. Presenter: Vicki Peterson, LICSW, Executive Director of External Affairs, Former CEO, Wide Horizons For Children, Waltham, MA.

*B7 Pick Us! (PA)

How to best present yourself to prospective birth parents through photo albums, letters, phone calls and face to face meetings. Will show ways to make wonderful, decorative albums and put your best foot forward when speaking with and meeting prospective birth parents. Presenters: Amy Cohen, MSW, LICSW; Nancy Rosenhaus, MSW, LICSW, both from Adoptions With Love, Newton, MA.

B8 An Adoptee's Journey to Motherhood (GN, AD, AF, TR, BF)

Will cover Zara's personal story as an Adoptee, her childhood feelings, and her search and reunion. Will talk about the complex relationship with her Adoptive Mother and Birthmother. Will then focus on becoming a mother and all the issues that arose during pregnancy, birth and parenting. Presenter: Zara Phillips, adopted person, author of *Chasing Away the Shadows*.

*B9 Demystifying Therapy with Adopted Children and Families (RF, EX, AF)

Will talk about themes that adopted children and families explore in therapy including grief, attachment and family disruption. Will discuss how the process of talking and playing in therapy can empower family members and promote positive change along with the thought process of therapists as they work with families. The nuts and bolts of finding the right therapist will also be covered. Presenter: Katherine Naftzger, LICSW, private practice specializing in adoption, Brookline, MA, Korean born adoptee.

*B10 Who Are the Waiting Children in the United States? (PA)

Learn about who the children are in state care waiting for adoptive families. What are some of their specific issues to consider? How do potential adopters use an exchange or other methods to find a child? Presenter: Lisa Funaro, MSW, LICSW, Executive Director, MARE (Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange), Boston, MA.

B11 How the Child Experiences Being Adopted (GN, PA, RF, EX, AD, AF, TR, BF)

The impact of being adopted and its effect on development, the ability to form relationships, how children feel about themselves and their birth and adoptive parents. Presenter: Jeff LaCure, MSW, LICSW, author, social worker, coach, adoptee.

***B12 Understanding the Homestudy (PA)**

Will unravel the mysteries, provide participants with a better understanding of the process, and give ways to manage and benefit from it. Topics will include reasons for the homestudy, preparing for and coping with homestudy stress, working with social workers and ways to appeal if needed. Presenter: Ellen Glazer, LICSW, private practice, Newton, MA, author of *Experiencing Infertility: Stories to Inform and Inspire*, co-author of *Choosing Assisted Reproduction*.

B13 Seven Things Parents Who Adopted Internationally Wish Their Agencies Had Told Them (PA)

Adoption is a process most parents go through only once or twice, whereas agencies go through it many times and know many things parents don't. A panel of parents of children adopted internationally will talk about the process, risks, and resources agencies should/might provide. Facilitator: Teresa Kohlenberg, MD, child psychiatrist, adoptive parent.

B14 Pre-Adoptive Fathers — Open Forum (Men Only) (PA, RF)

For men who are planning to be adoptive fathers, and those who have just become adoptive dads to share their joys and frustrations. Presenter: Damon Blank, LMFT, private practice, Cambridge and Medfield, MA, adoptive father.

***B15 Adjustment to Adoptive Motherhood (Women Only) (PA, RF)**

Will help soon-to-be adoptive moms and new adoptive moms understand the impact of motherhood. Presenter: Mary Walsh Snyder, MEd, JD, Case Worker, Legal Liaison, Director of Marketing, Friends In Adoption, Middletown Springs, VT, Master Trainer, Infant Adoption Training Program sponsored by Federal Government.

B16 Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption — What Families Need to Know (PA)

The US is implementing regulations concerning the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption that will require accreditation of inter-country adoption agencies. What is accreditation? What are the requirements? How will The Hague Convention change inter-country adoption? What should adoptive families entering the process know about Hague? Presenter: Etta Lappen Davis, MAED, Director, ETSKY Consulting, President, ACON Board of Directors, Hague trainer for COA, member, Council on Accreditation Child and Family Service Advisory.

***B17 The Adoptive Family Grows Up (EX, AF)**

Will address day-to-day life in a family formed through adoption, ongoing adoption specific issues i.e. birth family, previous life experiences, behavioral issues, behavior management, and discussion of adoption information with and outside the family. Presenter: Lynn Gabbard, Post-Adoption Specialist and Coordinator, Lutheran Community Services of Southern New England, Worcester, MA, adoptive parent of 7.

B18 What My Child Has Taught Me About Adoption — and About Life (PA, RF, EX, AF)

Adoptive parenthood helps and challenges us to see the world differently. This workshop will identify and explore the ways in which our children teach us about adoption (what it is, what it means, what it feels like), about the world (how diversity impacts our community) and ourselves (how we feel about race and culture, how we define family, and how we define ourselves.) Presenter: Renee Lubowich, MSW, LICSW, Clinical Social Worker, Alliance for Children, Wellesley, MA, and a panel of adoptive families.

B19 Feeling Helpless? Overwhelmed? Try a Ceremony! (RF, AF)

Help regain your "cool" by creating an individualized ceremony that will assist you and your adopted child to work through issues of loss, separation, fears and self-esteem. Hear personal experience of what worked and didn't work, and learn a context in which to see your child in a new light. Both will help bring healing to your relationship. Presenters: Cheri Lieberman, MSW, PhD, adoptive mom, President, Cornerstone Consulting Group; Rhea Bufferd, LICSW, Adoption Worker, Adoption Resources, Waltham, MA, co-authors of *Creating Ceremonies: Innovative Ways to Meet Adoption Challenges*.

***B20 A Systematic Approach to Finding Your Family's Best Adoption Option (PA)**

Will provide tools for weeding through and evaluating information available online and in print; tips on what to look for and ask of adoption agencies or providers; and links to information parents need throughout the process. A typically-organized list of online information will be emailed following the workshop. Presenter: Alicia Gallant, Adoption Specialist/Web Specialist, Child Welfare Information Gateway, Washington DC.

B21 Legal Issues in Agency Adoptions for MA: Landmines and How to Avoid Them (PA, EX)

Adoption attorneys, who are counsel to MA agencies, DSS, as well as to adopters, discuss domestic and international adoptions, DSS adoption, post-placement contacts, open adoption agreements, wrongful adoption litigation, termination of birth father rights, and what happens if the birth mother chooses to parent after she has signed a surrender. Presenters: Herbert Friedman, Esq, ACONE Board of Directors; Eedy Nicholson, Esq; Robert Weber, Esq.

***B22 What All Adoptive Parents Should Know (RF, AF)**

Will be discussed by MAPS Junior Board of Directors, a group of young teens who were adopted internationally and domestically. Facilitator: Stephanie Mitchell, LICSW, Executive Director, MAPS, Portland, ME.

***B23 The Impact of Search and Reunion on All Family Members (EX, AD, AF, TR, BF)**

Will address the practical and emotional aspects of both search and reunion for the entire triad; what search or reunion means to the searcher and the significant others in their lives; and the various and often unexpected outcomes in both domestic and international search and reunion. Presenter: Marilyn Pritikin, MEd, LMFT, Senior clinician and supervisor, Center For Family Connections, Cambridge, MA.

B24 Health Issues in International Adoption (PA, RF)

An overview of medical and developmental concerns that may be faced by adoptive parents when their new child arrives. Insight on requesting and understanding medical and developmental information as well as health care preparation for your new child. Presenter: Laurie Miller, MD, International Adoption Clinic, Floating Hospital for Children, NEMC, Boston, MA, author of *The Handbook of International Adoption Medicine*.

B25 The Intersection of Who and Where: A Birth Country Visit (AF)

Will look at how a child benefits from visiting the country where he/she was born and answers questions frequently asked by families considering a heritage journey. What age is the best age? How do kids react? How do the local people respond? What sort of adoption research is possible? How to prepare your family for the journey? Presenter: Heather Ames, MSW, LICSW, adoptive parent, adoption professional, Former Director, Post Adoption Services, Wide Horizons For Children, Waltham, MA.

B26 Adopting from China (PA)

Recent adoptive families will share their experiences adopting from China. The panel, representing the single and couple perspective, was organized by Families with Children from China (FCC). Facilitator: Robyn Leo, RN, MS, FCC CT/RI Founder, adoptive parent.

***B27 Creating a Blended Family (PA)**

This workshop is designed especially for people who are parenting a child or children born to them, and are now considering adding to their family by adoption. Learn about the unique challenges when trying to decide on the kind of child to bring into your existing family. Presenter: Martha Lamb, EdM, Psychologist, Adoption Caseworker, Alliance for Children, Wellesley, MA, ACONE Board of Directors.

***B28 How to Choose a Country (PA)**

Will delineate the various requirements and issues for countries from which a family might adopt internationally. Age, marital status, country requirements, etc. will be worked thru in detail so that each participant will know at the end of the workshop what choices he/she has for completing an international adoption. Presenter: Patti Urban, Director of Development, New England, Reaching Out Thru International Adoption, Somerdale, NJ, Founder, Legal-Eaze International Adoption Specialists LLC, adoptive parent.

B29 Single Parent Adoption: Is It Right for Me? (PA)

Explore issues such as parenting on your own, biological versus adoptive parenting, the importance of a support network, and special needs of adopted children in single-parent homes. Presenter: Sherry Fine, MSW, Co-Director, Adoption Network, Newton, MA.

Registration Information:

Please fill in all sections of the form. Note the abbreviations used to explain the time frames. If you are able, please consider a donation to help defray expenses and to provide for scholarships.

If your 1st choice workshop is full, you will be assigned your 2nd choice, and then your 3rd. If no other choices are indicated, you will be put into a general workshop for that time period.

There will be no refunds after April 20, 2007. Until April 20th refunds will be processed with a \$15 per person handling fee. An overpayment will be considered a donation to ACONe. Standard registration will close with forms postmarked/faxes received by 5:00pm, Thursday, April 19, 2007 or sooner if capacity is reached. Walk-in registration will be accepted on conference day as space allows. Food service is not available for conference day walk-ins or registrations received after 5:00 pm, Tuesday, April 24, 2007.

Food on Conference Day:

You have the option of purchasing a lunch with your registration. The buffet lunch will include baked stuffed shells in marinara sauce, chicken Marsala, rice pilaf, dinner roll, Caesar salad, dessert and assorted cold beverages. There will be a cash breakfast bar with coffee, tea, decaf, and assorted pastries and bagels. If you choose to bring your lunch and/or breakfast, beverages will be available for purchase. The cafeteria is available for everyone.

Special Needs Track:

There is a new track of workshops designed for families formed by birth who share some of the same special needs challenges as adoptive families. These workshops are signified with (SN), and include A3, B3, C3 and D3. If these workshops meet the needs for your family, please join us.

When filling out the registration form, you can use the members' rate if you list on the line after your name a special needs organization to which you belong. Or use the non-member rate.

Handicap Access:

Milford High School is a fully accessible facility. Reserved handicapped parking will be provided for those who have marked their registration form appropriately.

Directions / Transportation:

Use exit 20 off Route 495 (This exit is south of Rt. 9 & the Mass Pike). Take Route 85 South toward Milford. Take a right at traffic light onto Dilla Street (Wendy's on the corner). At end of street turn left onto Purchase Street. Take second right onto Fountain Street. Milford High School entrance is 0.7 mile on the left.

Fee Waivers:

Available for conference-related work. Contact the office for details.

Childcare:

ACONE loves children BUT childcare is not available on conference day and children will not be allowed in workshop sessions.

To respect the needs of all attendees and presenters, parents with children in tow will be asked to leave classrooms prior to the start of workshop presentations.

Registration Form: (One name per form – please print)

Save! Join now and attend at the member rate!

Extended family and birthfamily members can attend under your membership.

First Name Last Name

Member's First and Last Name *if Different from Registrant*

Street

City State Zip Code

Telephone *plus area code* Email *for conference confirmation*

WORKSHOP CHOICES: *Registrations processed based on postmark / fax date with complete payment.*

Time	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice
9:40 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.	A_____	A_____	A_____
11:10 a.m. – 12:25 p.m.	B_____	B_____	B_____
2:05 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.	C_____	C_____	C_____
3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.	D_____	D_____	D_____

PRESENTER/PANELIST: No Yes

PURCHASE LUNCH BUFFET: No Yes / **\$15** \$_____

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: New / **\$35** Renewal / **\$35** \$_____
(At One Address)

REGISTRATION FEES, Per Person: *(PM=Postmark / FR=Fax Received)*

	Member <i>(Per Person)</i>	Non-Member <i>(Per Person)</i>	
Early Bird <i>(PM/FR by 4/5)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$55	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	
Standard <i>(PM/FR 4/6–4/19)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$80	<input type="checkbox"/> \$125	
Late <i>(PM/FR 4/20–4/28)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$140	\$_____

For registrations received after 5pm 4/24, attendees need to bring their own lunch.

DONATION: *(Please Check If You Prefer Anonymity)* **Anonymous** \$_____

TOTAL \$_____

PAYMENT: Check Enclosed – or – Visa MasterCard Discover

Card Number Exp.

Name on Card 3 Digit # on Back of Card

PARKING: Will need handicapped parking

MAIL OR FAX TO: **Adoption Community of New England, Inc.**
45 Lyman Street, #2 South Terrace, Westborough, MA 01581
Fax: **508.366.6813**

Period C (2:05 – 3:20 p.m.)

***C1 Ghosts in the Adoptive Family (GN, PA, RF, EX, AD, AF, TR, BF)**

To really see an adoptee, a birth parent, or adoptive parent, one must be aware of the ghosts that trail them. The ghosts represent lost babies, the parents who lost them, the parents who found them, and the babies who might have been. They thrive in international and domestic adoptions. Learn how the recognition of ghosts can help understanding and communicating with each other. Presenter: Betty Jean Lifton, PhD, Adoption Counselor, Author of *Journey of the Adopted Self: A Quest for Wholeness and Twice Born: Memoirs of an Adopted Daughter*.

***C2 Is This OK? Do We Need to Look for Help? And Where Do We Find It? (RF, AF)**

Will discuss common questions regarding developmental, behavioral or emotional presentations of children with a history of adoption. Case discussions will highlight 'normative post-adoption development' and the range of emotional and developmental profiles that may be 'typical'. Diagnostic evaluation (medical, psychological, neuropsychological) and treatment (range of services/therapies, medications) will be presented. Presenters: Lisa Albers Prock, MD, MPH, FAAP, Director, Adoption Program, Chairperson, American Academy of Pediatrics, Section on Adoption and Foster Care; Kay Seligsohn, PhD, MA licensed psychologist, Adoption Program, both at Children's Hospital, Boston, MA.

***C3 Basic Rights in Education — Part 1 Continued in D3 (PA, RF, AF) (SN)**

This workshop provides families with an introduction to their rights and responsibilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Massachusetts Special Education Law and No Child Left Behind (NCLB). It is designed to help parents learn how to be effective partners with the school, to decide the child's eligibility for special education, to plan, make decisions and monitor the educational progress of their child. Presenter: A Representative of the Federation for Children with Special Needs.

***C4 Stress Management for Triad Members (AD, AF, TR, BF)**

Beginning techniques, from quick fixes to lifestyle changes, that will help you recognize and deal with the many day-to-day stresses of life as a triad member. Presenter: Etta Lappen Davis, MAED, Director, ETSKY Consulting, President, ACONe Board of Directors, Hague trainer for COA, member, Council on Accreditation Child and Family Service Advisory.

C5 Parenting Across Race: The Racial Identity Development of White Parents (PA, RF, AF, EX)

Presents a model of racial identity development for white parents raising children of color. This model assists white parents in raising children of color to have positive racial identities. Presenters: Deborah Haynor, LICSW, adoptive parent, Co-Director and Clinician, Focus Counseling; Lorie Miller, MBA, Multicultural Consultant, VISIONS, both Co-founders and Multicultural Consultants, Diversity Matters.

C6 Walking in Our Own Footsteps: A Panel of Adult Korean-Born Adoptees Speak (GN, PA, RF, EX, AD, AF, TR)

Will discuss issues surrounding living, working, and growing up as Korean adoptees and coping with race, education, employment, transitions, navigating culture, social expectations vs. reality, and making connections with other adoptees and cultural organizations. Presenters: Eileen Thompson, LICSW, private practice, Lexington, MA; Beth Aarons; Anna Henry; Dokyung (David) Kim, first-year PhD student, Harvard University, traveling back to Korea this summer; Nate Kuppel, in process of doing a search in Korea, member Tufts Korean Adoptee Big Brother Big Sister Program; Sarah O'Neill, living in reunion with her biological family in Korea, Treasurer, ACONe Board of Directors, Culture Camp Counselor, All Board Members and/or Officers of Boston Korean Adoptees, Inc. (BKA), and are Korean born, adopted at different ages.

***C7 Singles Can Adopt (PA)**

Many single men and women are interested in adopting but don't know where to start. Learn about the challenges and joys of being a single parent. Presenter: Margaret Schwartz, Author of *The Pumpkin Patch: A Single Woman's International Adoption Journey*, single adoptive mother.

***C8 Post Adoption: Living in a Blended Family (RF, AF)**

Families that are formed by adoption and birth have unique challenges. As a parent, it is not uncommon to feel somewhat isolated by the experiences that are presented. Learn ways to tap into your own reactions to situations, balancing the needs of your children and responding to others. An interactive discussion — bring questions! Presenter: Debra Shrier, MSW, LCSW, social worker, post adoption counselor, Wide Horizons For Children, Waltham, MA, mother by adoption and birth.

***C9 Talking to Children about Adoption (RF, AF)**

Adopted children often have life experiences that are difficult and painful. This workshop is designed to help parents feel comfortable talking with their children about leaving their 'first families'. Will explore strategies for secure and truthful conversations about the 'hard stuff' in order to answer questions or help to fill in blanks. Presenters: Nora O'Farrell, Program Director, parent by birth and adoption; Karen McCarthy, adoptive parent, social worker, former school counselor, Parent Group Supervisor, both at Adoptive Families Together/MSPCC, Boston, MA.

***C10 DSS Adoption: Positive Perspectives From Families Who Know! (PA)**

Learn about DSS Adoption from experienced family members who have successfully navigated the state adoption system with great results! Parents will discuss personal experiences and provide information and tips on how to get started and how to access valuable resources, as well as advantages to adopting local children. Presenters: Nancy Ryan, MA, LMHC, Supervisor, Dept. of Mental Health, Springfield, MA, Certified MAPP Trainer for DSS, Member of WRAP (Western Mass Adoptive Parents); Jeanne Blauner, both adoptive parents, Members of ACONE and its single parent chapter.

C11 Adopting More Than One Child at a Time (PA)

Whether considering the adoption of biological siblings, or unrelated children, this workshop will provide an opportunity to learn about the challenges of adopting more than one child at a time. Adoptive parents and professionals will share their experiences and discuss issues to consider when determining if it's right for you. Presenters: Ann Rankowitz, MSW, LICSW, Director, MA and RI Wide Horizons For Children Regional Offices; Ann Ronhock, MSW, LCSW, Adoption Social Worker, Wide Horizons For Children, Providence, RI.

***C12 Sensory Processing Disorders and Internationally Adopted Children (PA, RF)**

Discuss the different aspects of SPD (modulation, sensory based motor disorder and sensory discrimination) as well as the lesser known sensory systems (vestibular, proprioception and tactile) and what are the signs and symptoms of children who have difficulty processing these stimuli. Ideas for treatment will also be discussed. Presenter: Linda Tirella, OTR/L, MS, MHA, Developmental Therapist International Adoption Clinic, New England Medical Center, Boston, MA.

C13 Home Ownership for the Adoptive Family (PA, RF, AF)

Pre-adoptive and adoptive families are often faced with trying to balance the expense of adoption at the same time they are trying to purchase a home. Whether single or married, decisions need to be made about use of savings, diversity of neighborhood and the best choice for the future. Presenter: Ellen Klapper, Home Mortgage Consultant, Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, single adoptive parent.

***C14 Trauma and Attachment (PA, RF, AF)**

Early trauma impacts a child's ability to trust and attach. Understanding how children's deepest fears govern their behavior allows parents to become "healers." Presenter: Peg Kirby, PsyD, Co Director, Attachment Institute of New England, Worcester, MA.

C15 Adoptive Fathers — Open Forum (Men Only) (RF, AF)

An opportunity for the sharing of common issues of adoptive fatherhood. Presenter: Damon Blank, LMFT, private practice, Cambridge and Medfield, MA, adoptive father.

***C16 What is a Real Mother? (Women Only) (RF, AF)**

Why do we adoptive mothers struggle to see ourselves as real mothers? What contributes to our feeling, at times, less than equal to non-adoptive mothers? Share your thoughts and questions. Presenter: Carol Rogers, LICSW, adoptive parent, private practice in Burlington, MA, Institute for Learning and Development, Lexington, MA.

***C17 Adjustment of Internationally Adopted Children Under Two (PA)**

Most children adopted internationally come home between the ages of 10-24 months. How do children this age adjust to such a significant move? What are the unique parenting challenges for families who missed their child's first months of life? Will give parents information they need to ease their child's initial transition, first year home and beyond. Presenter: Lisa Lovett, LICSW, Clinical Manager, Wide Horizons For Children, Waltham, MA.

***C18 Stopping At One — When You Dreamed of More (RF, AF)**

Many people who have adopted find it all too clear that the family size will stop with one child. Whether you are too old, too tired, or too broke to adopt a second time, this workshop will help in the reworking of your original dream and in demystifying the only child. Presenter: Peg Beck, LICSW, educator, consultant, clinician in private practice, Belmont, MA, adoptive parent.

***C19 Countries with Lesser Known Adoption Programs (PA)**

The large intercountry adoption programs are well-known. Come learn about the lesser-known or smaller programs in other countries. Presenter: A panel presentation.

C20 What is Semi Open Adoption (PA)

While fully open adoption is increasing in domestic infant adoption, semi open adoption still remains common. This workshop will provide an opportunity to hear more about how semi open adoption works and ask all of your questions. Presenters: Betsy Hochberg, LICSW, Director; Marty Levy, LCSW, Clinical Social Worker, Birth Parent Services, both at Adoption Resources, Waltham, MA.

***C21 The Ever Changing Face of Russian Adoption (PA)**

There have been constant changes in Russian adoption over the past 15 years, this past year being no different. The presenter, who with JCICS and NCFA has met with the highest officials involved in adoptions in Russia and advises accredited agencies, will lead you through the often confusing world of Russian adoption. Presenter: Larisa Mason, Executive Director, International Assistance Group, Oakmont, PA.

C22 An Adoption Journey: Birth Mothers Reflect on Their Experiences (GN, PA, RF, EX, AD, AF, TR, BF)

Birth mothers share how adoption has changed, through the secrecy, openness, and acceptance in working towards what is best for our children. Will also discuss what has changed for the better? What yet needs to be done, what has helped us to be advocates for our children? Facilitator: Libbi Campbell, Coordinator, Boston Branch, Concerned United Birthparents (CUB), ACONe Board of Directors, and a panel of birth mothers.

***C23 Living in Reunion (GN, AD, AF, TR, BF)**

Is designed to help members of the triad understand and integrate the needs and expectations of each other. It will explore how to include all triad members, how connections are made, and provide resources to help along the way. Presenter: Carol Crosby, LMHC, birth parent counselor, birth mother.

***C24 Opening an Adoption (GN, AD, AF, TR, BF)**

Will provide reasons for opening a closed or semi-open adoption and an explanation of the variety of ways to do it. Presenters: Raquel Woodard, LICSW, BCD, ACONe Board of Directors; Dale Eldridge, LICSW, BCD, both at Adoption Choices, Framingham, MA.

***C25 Children Coming Home After the Age of Two (PA, EX)**

Bring their own special joys and challenges. Learn what to expect in the context of children's developmental stages and past experiences. This workshop is designed for families planning to bring their children home from US foster care or through international adoption. Presenter: Rena Arcaro-McPhee, MS, Teacher, Dean College Children's Center, adoptive parent.

***C26 Introduction to China for Pre-Adoptive Families (PA)**

To help them get ready for their trips. Includes Chinese culture (taboos and fondness, do's and don'ts, table manners) and travel tips (weather, food, water, safety issue, shopping, and currency). Presenter: Sally Lo (Xin Xin), President, Global Connect Forum, Shrewsbury, MA.

C27 Safeguarding Your Heart: Key Elements of Safety in Domestic Adoption (PA)

Will give a behind the scenes understanding of the steps taken to provide a safe adoption process. Will cover the process of preparing for a domestic adoption and the elements of a thorough evaluation of potential matches. This workshop will cover the emotional, procedural and legal aspects of domestic adoption. Presenter: Marla Ruth Allisan, JD, LICSW, Founder and Director, Full Circle Adoptions, Northampton, MA.

***C28 Adolescence and Adoption (AF)**

Adolescence can be a challenging time for teenagers and their parents. When a family has been formed by adoption, parents need to learn how to tell the difference between typical teenage behaviors and the more complex concerns related to adoption. Presenter: Sandra Orenstein, MSW, LICSW, Facilitator of a group for parents of teens, co-founder Adoption Associates, Needham, MA.

Period D (3:30 – 4:45 p.m.)

***D1 Adoption in the Classroom (RF, AF)**

Offers practical strategies for working with teachers and schools in creating assignments and learning environments that respect and are reflective of all children and families. Common issues related to family diversity in school will be discussed. Special education issues are not the focus of this workshop. Presenters: Martha Henry, PhD, Director of Education and Training; Gretchen Hall, MEd, Project Director, former early childhood educator, adoptive mother in an open adoption, both at Center for Adoption Research, Worcester, MA.

***D2 Making the Emotional Leap from Infertility to Adoption (PA)**

Will address the emotional transition, letting go of medical treatment and the dream of a child by birth. Will explore how to make peace with old concerns about adoption. Presenter: Peg Beck, LICSW, educator, consultant, clinician in private practice, Belmont, MA, adoptive parent.

***D3 Basic Rights in Education — Part 2 (PA, RF, AF) (SN)**

A continuation of the Basic Rights in Education workshop begun in period C3. A discussion will follow. Presenter: A Representative of The Federation for Children with Special Needs and a discussion leader.

***D4 The Silent Siblings in Adoptive Families (RF, AF)**

As parents cope with the needs of adopted children, the needs of other children can be overlooked. This workshop will explore the impact on “silent siblings” when parents focus on children joining the family. Will specifically focus on families with children adopted from a different race and/or ethnic background. Presenters: Nora O’Farrell, Program Director, Adoptive Families Together/MSPCC, Boston, MA, parent by birth and adoption; Kirsten Rutkowski, sibling in a blended family.

D5 Openness — A Look at How it Really Works (PA, RF, EX, AF)

Will offer an opportunity to hear first hand about living in open adoption. Presenter: Deb Peckham, MEd, LICSW, Assistant Director, Angel Adoptions, Waltham, MA, adoptee, adoptive parent in open relationships with her birth family and her child’s birth family.

***D6 Issues and Options for GLBT Families in Adoption (PA)**

For gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people and families. A panel presentation from people with personal and professional experience will address issues for GLBT families in domestic open, DSS, and international adoptions. Adoption professionals interested in learning ways to welcome GLBT families are encouraged to attend. Facilitator: Marisa Howard-Karp, Program Director, GLBT Health Programs, Health Care of Southeastern MA, Brockton, MA, adoptive parent; Leah O’Leary, LICSW, Executive Director, A Red Thread Adoption Services.

***D7 Beyond the Adoptive Family: Relationships with Birth Siblings and Others (RF, AF, TR)**

Often relatives or members of a foster family or orphanage do not reside in the adoptive family, but have a relationship with a child. There may also be children who have no genetic tie, but will develop a relationship with these people, and be confused about its nature. Explore and navigate these complex relationships. Presenter: Sandra Orenstein, MSW, LICSW, co-founder Adoption Associates, Needham, MA.

***D8 Raising Healthy Black Children: Inside and Out (RF, AF)**

Let’s dive in and talk about race, culture — even hair! Will discuss lifelong issues relating to adoption for families of color and/or children of color. A workshop for same race as well as transracial adoptive families. Presenter: Eleanor Allen, JD, LICSW, consultant Bright Futures Adoption Center, Acton, MA, private psychotherapy practice, Boston, MA, ACON Board of Directors, adoptive parent.

***D9 Coaching for Clarity (PA)**

Will offer coaching exercises to gain clarity on what family means to you, and explore personal needs and values as they relate to family. Will then discuss options for creating a family, articulate the next step(s), and create a method of accountability for those steps. Presenter: Karen Samuelson, adoptive parent, ESL teacher, Life Coach, “big sister”.

D10 Adoption Subsidy Benefits and Post Legalization Supports (PA, RF, AF)

A comprehensive presentation regarding post-adoption services and subsidy benefits for children adopted through a state’s child welfare system or through a private agency. Includes the care and maintenance (daily rate), health care insurance, and tuition waiver certificate (MA State Colleges and Universities only). The Massachusetts model will be the primary focal point, which is similar to subsidy guidelines administered in other states. Presenter: Ron Seletsky, MEd, LSW, LMHC, Subsidy Manager, Dept of Social Services, Boston, MA.

***D11 Pediatricians Working with Families Before and After International Adoption (PA, RF, AF)**

Will review the role of Primary Care and Developmental Behavioral Pediatricians during pre-adoptive medical reviews, post-adoptive care and diagnosis/management of developmental, behavioral and emotional concerns. Case discussions will highlight strategies for children with complex neurodevelopmental profiles including the role of neuropsychological assessment, school-based services and psychopharmacology. Presenters: Lisa Albers Prock, MD, MPH, FAAP, Director, Adoption Program, Children's Hospital, Boston, MA, Chairperson, American Academy of Pediatrics, Section on Adoption and Foster Care; Milana Stavitsky, MD, FAAP, Universal Pediatric Associates, Natick, MA, Member, AAP section on Adoption and Foster Care.

***D12 Living at the Edge (RF, AF) (SN)**

Are your child's extreme behaviors destroying your family? Discover strategies for identifying the feeling behind the behaviors. Learn how to move away from the edge to a safer environment. Presenter: Suzanne Harrison, foster/adoptive parent of a challenging child, Chair, NH Community and Faith-Based Initiative Advisory Board, ACONE Board Member, Certified Instructor, Advanced Parenting for Challenging Children.

***D13 Ask the Social Worker! (RF, AF)**

Do you have questions about adoption that you haven't been able to ask? This discussion will help to address questions regarding various life stages for members of the adoption triad. Will include working through the adoption process, adjustment after placement, talking with your child about his/her adoption story, adolescence and how to support your child through a search. Presenters: Debra Shrier, MSW, LCSW; Nancy Thompson, MA, LSW, post adoption counselors, Wide Horizons for Children, Waltham, MA and Providence, RI, adoptive parents.

***D14 Healthy Happy Kids (RF, AF)**

Will discuss the relationship between diet and disease and why children and families can be so unhealthy. Will provide health strategies and practical tools to learn how to eat for optimal health and wellness. Presenter: Maureen Meyer, WC, Certified Wellness Coach, adoptive parent.

D15 The Biblical Basis for Adoption:

A Historical Perspective on Natural, National and Spiritual Adoption (GN, PA, RF, EX, AD, AF, TR, BF)

Adoption is an ancient practice and is common throughout the world among many cultures. Greeks, Romans, Egyptians and Babylonians all had adoption systems. In both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible, one can find three different kinds of adoption: natural, national and spiritual adoption. This presentation will look at the history of adoption in the ancient world. Presenter: Lauren Vitrano, BA in Anthropology and Spanish, Certified Montessori educator, former program assistant, Wide Horizons For Children, Waltham, MA, advocate for orphans around the world.

D16 Permanency Mediation (GN, PA, AF, BF)

Is an alternative to a contested court proceeding for children in the state foster care system that uses an independent third party to facilitate a child-centered, family focused approach to permanency planning. This workshop focuses on the benefits of a mediated open adoption agreement to the adoption triad: child, adoptive parents and birth parents. Presenter: Julia Pearson, Program Director for Permanency Mediation, Children's Services of Roxbury, Massachusetts Families for Kids, Boston, MA.

D17 Birth Families in International Adoption (PA, RF, AF)

In countries where contact with birth families is not possible, these "invisible families" are real to the children. Pre and post adoptive families will have an opportunity to discuss: what to do in the absence of any known relatives, meetings with birth parents, ongoing contact with birth relatives in your child's birth country, and relationships with biological siblings placed in other families in the United States. Presenter: Lisa Lovett, LICSW, Clinical Manager, Wide Horizons For Children, Waltham, MA.

***D18 Adopting from Russia (PA)**

For those thinking of adopting from Russia, families who have recently adopted will speak of their experiences, discuss the current adoption climate in Russia, and give an overview of the general adoption process in Russia. Facilitator: Laura Dilts, Special Events Coordinator, FRUA NE, and a panel of adoptive parents, members of Families for Russian and Ukrainian Adoption (FRUA).

***D19 Single Parent Discussion (PA, RF, AF)**

For pre- and post single adoptive parents to meet and share questions and concerns about their decision to become single parents. Presenter: Members of SPACE, the Single Parent Chapter of ACONE.

D20 All Reunions are Not Created Equal (GN, AD, AF, TR, BF)

They are as different as the individuals involved. Issues will be explored in detail why some reunions go well and others do not. Genetic attraction will also be addressed. Presenter: Deborah Blanchard, triad educator, Assistant Director, The Adoption Connection, ACONe Board of Directors, birth parent.

D21 Writing to Heal Your Inner Self (GN, PA, RF, EX, AD, AF, TR, BF)

Will start with the basics of writing: finding your “voice”, plotting, characterization, point of view, story arc, and dialogue, and then move onto manuscript editing and publishing options. Presenter: Donna Montalbano, Co-Founder, New England Alliance of Self Published Authors (NEASPA), Host, Speaking of Adoption Radio Show, Co-owner, Purple Quill Press.

D22 Talking with Potential Birth Parents In Domestic Adoption (PA)

Are you hesitant or anxious about meeting or having communication with birth parents? Are you nervous about what to say or not to say? How do you respond to difficult questions? How do you talk about whether you’ll have contact after the baby is born? What if the birth parents want to name the baby? Will address communication with birthparents and your questions. Presenter: Marla Ruth Allisan, JD, LICSW, Founder and Director, Full Circle Adoptions, Northampton, MA.

D23 Traveling to Pick Up Your Child (PA)

Information every adoptive parent needs on how to research, plan, prepare, pack and dress for any country. The best books and tools, what to ask your agency, handling travel complications, excess baggage, money and traveling with infants. Presenter: Kristen Hales, Instructor, Travel and Tourism Dept., NH Technical Institute, former United Airlines customer service representative, adoptive parent.

D24 Monetary Issues Surrounding the Adoption Process (PA)

Topics will include sources of funding, budgeting, grants, the adoption tax credit, family medical leave, and financial assistance from employers and other sources. Presenter: John Longo, AAMS, Financial Consultant, A.G. Edwards, adoptive parent.

***D25 Welcoming Older Children Into Your Family (PA, RF)**

Issues at home, school and community will be presented, in an open discussion about internationally adopting older children. The joys as well as the heartaches will be reviewed. All are welcome who are thinking about such an adoption or who are in the process of building a family. Presenter: Ava Sarafan, MSW, LICSW, Social Work Supervisor, MAPS International, Portland, ME, adoptive parent, and parents who will share personal experiences.

***D26 Introduction to China: Language Training (PA, RF, AF)**

For pre- and post-adoptive parents includes handy Chinese phrases about greetings, shopping, bargaining, asking for help, and the “motherly words” to help you communicate with your new child from China. Presenter: Sally Lo (Xin Xin), President, Global Connect Forum, Shrewsbury, MA.

***D27 Sibling Rivalry and Adoption (RF, AF)**

Will address strategies for handling sibling rivalry/conflict in adoptive families and strategies for fostering positive relationships between siblings (whether living together or apart, including relationships with a child’s birth siblings). Presenter: Karen Cheyney, JD, LSWA, Director, Bright Futures Adoption Center, adoptive mother of two through open adoption.

***D28 Traveling Back to Birth Country (GN, AD, AF)**

Adoptive parents and a young adult adoptee who have traveled back to South America will share the experiences of travel without contact with birth family and travel where birth family has been found. Learn about the range of discoveries when one is open to such a trip. Presenter: A panel presentation.

***D29 What’s My Story: The Power of Storytelling in Adoptive Families (RF, EX, AF)**

Will discuss the value of storytelling as a tool for adopted children to develop their identity. Will offer ideas for families to pass down their legacies while acknowledging the unique aspects of their children’s histories, and book recommendations. Presenter: Rose Kent, Parent by birth and adoption, author of *KIMCHI AND CALAMARI*, a children’s book for ages 8-13, former naval officer and public relations manager, Albany, NY.

The 13th Annual Training Day for Professionals:

The 13th Annual Training Day for Professionals will be held at The Sheraton (formerly the Radisson), Milford, MA on Friday, April 27, 2007. Go to www.AdoptionCommunityofNE.org for more information.

Hotel Accommodations in the Area:

In Milford:

THE SHERATON508.478.7010
LA QUINTA INN508.478.8243
MILFORD INN508.634.2499

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS 508.634.1054
COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT . . . 508.634.9500
FAIRFIELD INN 508.478.0900



What Does ACONE Do?

- Presents the Annual New England Adoption Conference, for all who are touched by adoption, with specific tracks for birth parents, adopted people, adoptive parents and those considering adoption.
- Supports a network of chapters throughout New England providing social, educational and/or support opportunities.
- Publishes *ACONE News*, providing listings of adoption and foster care related events and publications, national and regional adoption news, current legislative information, book reviews and more.
- Supports all members of the triad with information and programming.
- Presents seminars about starting the adoption process, preparing to bring home your child, and ongoing educational programs.
- Sponsors educational and cultural events of interest to families.
- Monitors activity in adoption practice, legislation, its implementation and acts as an organized voice for all those touched by adoption.
- Promotes projects to aid children waiting for permanency.
- Maintains the Mental Health Services and Physical Health Services directories of foster and adoption sensitive professionals.
- Develops new databases of services for all triad members.

What Does Membership in ACONE Include?

- All members of your immediate family
- Annual subscription to *ACONE News*
- Use of the Lending Library via the mail which includes over 1000 titles in audio, video and print formats
- Membership in local and/or specialized ACONE chapters
- Reduced fee for, and priority in, registration for ACONE events
- Access to the Mental Health Services and Physical Health Services Directories
- Access to additional databases currently in development

How Can I Become a Member of ACONE?

Use the registration form on Page 9 and 10 or visit www.AdoptionCommunityofNE.org

Adoption Community of New England, Inc. is a non-profit organization serving all those touched by adoption and sponsors this conference for anyone interested in adoption issues. ACONE does not endorse any one kind of adoption, only the right of every child to permanency. Individual presenters are chosen because of their expertise in a given area. ACONE is not responsible for the content of individual workshops or the opinions of individual attendees. The conference is educational and intended to enlighten but should not take the place of professional services.

Adoption Community of New England, Inc.

45 Lyman Street, #2 South Terrace
Westborough, MA 01581

Conference Schedule

8:00 – 8:45 a.m. Check-In, Continental Breakfast, Exhibits Open
8:45 – 9:25 a.m. Welcome, Annual Meeting,
Anniversary Celebration & Awards
9:40 – 10:55 a.m. Period A
11:10 – 12:25 p.m. Period B
12:30 – 2:00 p.m. Lunch, Exhibits, & Meet the Author
2:05 – 3:20 p.m. Period C
3:30 – 4:45 p.m. Period D

Bookstore Area, Exhibits and Meet the Author

The Bookstore Area and Exhibits will be open at 8:00 a.m. Exhibitors will include adoption agencies, vendors, support organizations and services of interest to all those touched by adoption. Meet the Author will take place in the Bookstore/Main Lobby from 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Workshop Selection and Directions

We ask that you save this brochure as a record of the workshops you have selected, directions and contact information.

www.AdoptionCommunityofNE.org • 508.366.6812 • Fax 508.366.6813