

37TH ANNUAL

New England Adoption Conference

presented by

Adoption Community of New England, Inc.



Identity in Adoption: Glimpses Beneath the Masks

FEATURING

Debbie B. Riley, M.S., CEO

The Center for Adoption
Support & Education (C.A.S.E.)

and co-author of

Beneath the Mask: Understanding Adopted Teens

Saturday, April 17, 2010 8:00 AM – 4:45 PM

BELLINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL • BELLINGHAM, MA

Greetings!

The Adoption Community of New England, Inc. Board of Directors and the 2010 Conference Committee invite you to the 37th Annual New England Adoption Conference. We are pleased to continue our strong tradition of bringing together hundreds of people touched by adoption to learn, support each other, and exchange ideas and information about adoption at the largest single day adoption conference in the United States. Whether you are a conference veteran or a first time registrant, we are confident that you will find workshops and resources that will meet your needs.

We are very excited to present Debbie B. Riley, M.S. as this year's keynote speaker and featured workshop presenter. Ms. Riley is the Executive Director of the Center for Adoption Support and Education, Inc. (C.A.S.E.), a non-profit organization that provides post-adoption services to families, educators, and adoption professionals. With John Meeks, Ph.D., Ms. Riley co-authored *Beneath the Mask: Understanding Adopted Teens*. The conference theme, *Glimpses Beneath the Masks*, applies Ms. Riley's concepts to other triad members.

This year's conference will include dozens of exhibitors — adoption service providers, support organizations, and vendors with goods of interest to the adoption community. Children of the World, LLC will again sponsor the conference bookstore, providing often hard-to-find, adoption-related and multi-cultural books and music. ACON members may bring their extended family and members of their own adoption triad at the member's fee. This is a great way to learn together and to educate grandparents, aunts, uncles, and the rest of the clan, as well as extended family-to-be.

There are over 85 workshops this year. We have a mix of workshops on tried and true topics with established presenters as well as workshops on new topics to help you navigate the changing world of adoption. Whether you are an adoptive parent seeking to learn more about parenting your child, a birth parent interested in search and reunion, an adopted person interested in returning to your country of origin, a professional looking to hone your skills, or a prospective adopter seeking to discover whether adoption is a good choice for you, this conference has workshops of interest. We have coded workshops to describe their intended audience and have suggested tracks to assist you in your workshop selection.

We hope you will come to the conference to learn, share, and grow. We trust that you will find the day to be a fulfilling and energizing experience.

***Adoption Community of New England, Inc.
Board of Directors
2010 Conference Committee***

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.

Adopted Persons

A3 Human Rights, **A5** Conversations, **A8** Adoptees as Parents, **A14** Universality of Grief
B2 Roots: Unknown, **B7** Broken Ties, **B10** Spiritual Journey, **B16** Sibling Connections
C2 Adopted (Part 1), **C8** I Want to Search, **C16** There and Back, **C19** Homeland Travel
D1 Reunion, **D2** Adopted (Part 2), **D11** Two Hats, **D13** Worn Masks?, **D21** Stories

Birth Families

A3 Human Rights, **A5** Conversations, **A14** Universality of Grief
A21 Late Discovery, **B2** Roots: Unknown, **B7** Broken Ties, **B16** Sibling Connections
C1 Importance Birth Parents, **C7** Journey to Reunion, **C8** I Want to Search, **C18** Depression
D1 Reunion, **D6** Gleaning Knowledge, **D21** Stories

Is Adoption Right for Me/Us?

A2 Intro to Adoption, **A5** Conversations, **A12** Intercountry, **A16** Transracial, **A22** Infertility
B11 Overview, **B13** Is Russia Right, **B14** New Programs, **B22** Domestic vs. Intercountry
C6 Village, **C9** Growing Up Adopted, **C10** Clinical and Legal Aspects, **C17** In China
D5 Emerging Trends, **D6** Gleaning Knowledge, **D10** Ask the Directors, **D18** Single Parents

Parents of Pre-Schoolers

A4 Picture Books, **A11** After Adoption, **A17** Estate Planning, **A19** Transitions Infants
B4 Stories, **B5** Building Blocks, **B19** Changing Face
C12 Children's Development, **C13** Talk Adoption, **C22** Anti-Bias Parenting
D3 Financial Planning, **D4** Calming Wild Things, **D9** Communication Development

Parents of School-Age Kids

A4 Picture Books, **A11** After Adoption, **A13** Consequences, **A17** Estate Planning
B4 Stories, **B6** Schools, **B19** Changing Face
C3 When Therapy, **C9** Growing Up Adopted, **C18** Depression, **C22** Anti-Bias Parenting
D4 Calming Wild Things, **D14** Self Discovery, **D17** Real Family!

Parents of Teens

A1 Adoption Through (Part 1), **A5** Conversations, **A10** Whose Culture, **A13** Consequences
B1 Adoption Through (Part 2), **B2** Roots: Unknown, **B6** Schools
C1 Importance Birth Parents, **C6** Village, **C9** Growing Up Adopted, **C18** Depression
D4 Calming Wild Things, **D12** Perfect Storm, **D16** Building Coalitions, **D17** Real Family!

LGBT Families

A4 Picture Books, **A17** Estate Planning
B4 Stories, **B10** Spiritual Journey, **B17** Same-Sex Adoption
C6 Village, **C22** Anti-Bias Parenting
D3 Financial Planning, **D6** Gleaning Knowledge

Foster Families

A15 Waiting Children Foster Care, **A18** Permanency Conversation
B3 Self Care for Disrupted Attachments, **B7** Broken Ties
C1 Importance Birth Parents, **C5** Mediating Open Adoption
D12 Perfect Storm, **D16** Building Coalitions

Extended Family Members

A5 Conversations, **A12** Intercountry, **A20** For Extended Family, **A21** Late Discovery
B5 Building Blocks, **B10** Spiritual Journey, **B19** Changing Face
C6 Village, **C9** Growing Up Adopted, **C12** Children's Development
D10 Ask the Directors, **D22** Adjustment

Hague Compliant (See page 8 for additional information)

A10 Whose Culture
B15 The Hague Convention
C12 Children's Development, **C17** In China, **C19** Homeland Travel
D9 Communication Development, **D22** Adjustment

Workshop Codes

PA = Pre-adoptive	AF = Adoptive Families	GN = General Audience
AD = Adopted Persons	FF = Foster Families	HC = Hague Compliant
BF = Birth Families	RF = Recently Formed Families	
TR = Triad Members	EX = Extended Families	

Period A (9:45 – 11:00 a.m.)

A1 Adoption through the Eyes of Adolescents, Part 1 (GN, AF, TR, FF)

This workshop will expound on Ms. Riley's keynote presentation. Participants will understand how the normal tasks of adolescents are intensified by adoption. Everyone has a disguise. Masks are what teens use to hide themselves, to protect them, to forget the pain. Participants will gain an awareness of the 6 most common adoption stuck spots, including identity and loss/grief, and how they affect personal and family development. **Presenter:** Debbie B. Riley, M.S., CEO, The Center for Adoption Support and Education (C.A.S.E), Burtonsville, MD; co-author, *Beneath the Mask: Understanding Adopted Teens*.

A2 Introduction to Adoption (PA)

For people who are just beginning to explore adoption as a way to build or expand their family. Will include an overview of the types of adoption with their advantages and disadvantages, strategies for decision-making, and what to expect in a typical process. **Presenter:** Joan Lefler Clark, M.Ed., adoption educator and advocate, founder Adoptions Explained LLC, Holliston, MA, former Executive Director, ACONE, adoptive parent.

A3 New England Human Rights Legislation for Adopted Persons (GN, AD)

Experts from five New England states will provide statistics, stories, plans and progress in their respective states regarding access to original birth certificates (OBC) by adult adopted persons. **Presenters:** Bobbi Beavers, co-author of LD 1084 in ME, co-founder of OBC for ME & AAC ME Rep; John J. Greene, co-founder of TRACE 2009; Cindy McGuigan, AAC Treas & MA Rep; Paul Schibbelhute, co-author of SB 335 in NH, AAC VP, ACONE Board member; Jane Servadio, AAC CT Rep.

A4 Picture Books in Adoption: An Enjoyable Reading Experience (PA, RF, EX, AF)

Children's books 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. **Presenter:** Karen Cagan, M.Ed., former teacher, parent by birth and adoption.

A5 Conversations with Birth Parents (GN, PA, AF, AD, EX)

Meet a panel of birth mothers and birth fathers who will share their adoption stories. A facilitated question and answer period will follow. What do birth parents want adoptive families to know? What do adoptive families want to know about adoption from the birth parents' perspective? What is it like to place your baby for adoption? What are some of the influences that impact the decision-making process? What about the days and months following the placement? **Presenter:** Kristen Hirsch, Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, Clinical Director and Birthparent Counselor, MAPS, Portland, ME, and a panel of birth parents.

A6 Waiting for the Match & Believing It Will Happen: Developing Coping Strategies (PA)

Waiting for the match is sometimes the hardest part of the adoption process because there is nothing to do but wait! Through a series of group exercises and discussion, presenter will help participants formulate their own personalized plans for using the waiting period as a time that is filled with more hope than anxiety, and helps to establish firm groundwork for future adoptive parenting. **Presenter:** Carol B. Sheingold, LICSW, Adoption Consultant, Adoption Simplified, Sudbury, MA.

A7 Adoption USA Chartbook: Learning About Adoption Trends and Outcomes (GN)

The US Dept. of Health and Human Services recently released data from the 2007 National Survey of Adoptive Parents conducted by Child Trends. Presenter will summarize what we can learn about characteristics, adoption experiences, and well-being of adopted children and their families in the US from the first large, nationally representative survey of adoptive families across adoption types. **Presenter:** Etta Lappen Davis, MA.Ed., Principal, Etsky Consulting, Bolton, MA, former ACONE Board member, extended family member.

A8 Adopted Persons as Parents (GN, AF, AD)

This workshop will discuss the parenting challenges that arise from being an adopted person, emotions that come up when parenting and the healing that can take place during this time. Presenter will discuss personal experiences described in her book: her experience as an adopted person having children and the issues that arose for her, including cellular memory experiences; the dynamic of the relationship with her adopted mother; how her infertility affected her; and, how by becoming a mother she began to have compassion and understanding for both of her mothers. **Presenter:** Zara Phillips, author, *Mother Me*, director, *Roots: Unknown*.

A9 The Current Status of Ethiopian Adoptions (PA)

The first US adoption agencies started managing cases from Ethiopia in 2003. Since then, about 4,500 Ethiopian children have come home to families in the US. This workshop will explore the recent history of the program, changes in the care of children and ethical concerns. Discussion will also include current adoption practices in Ethiopia, children who need families, adoptive parent requirements, birth family communication and much more. **Presenters:** Erin Wise, LICSW; Lisa Lovett, LICSW; Mariamawit Sileshi; Wide Horizons for Children.

A10 Whose Culture Is It, Anyway? The Literature of Intercountry Adoption (GN, HC)

This workshop will delve into recent books about intercountry adoption, using the writings of some controversial authors to frame the debate. For starters: How do we help adopted persons connect with their birth cultures? How do adoptive parents avoid appropriating a child's heritage? What are the pitfalls for everyone in the adoption triad? **Presenter:** Martha Nichols, MA, Faculty Instructor, Journalism Program, Harvard University Extension School, Contributing Editor at *Women's Review of Books*, Blog Manager of *Adopt-a-tude* and *WOMEN = BOOKS*, freelance writer and editor.

A11 What Does Your Family Need After Adoption and Why? (PA, AF, EX)

This workshop presents a look at the normal preventive steps a family can take after adoption in order to have good attachment and a strong and healthy family throughout the developmental stages. Designed for prospective adopters and adoptive families. **Presenters:** Dr. Joyce Maguire Pavao, CEO; Holly Bishop, LICSW, Clinician; Jennifer Eckert, LCSW, Clinician; Center for Family Connections, Cambridge, MA.

A12 Intercountry Adoption 101 (PA)

Keeping up with the constant changes, options, and procedures you will encounter throughout the intercountry adoption process can be a challenging endeavor. Learn the most up-to-date information about the current requirements and decision making involved in intercountry adoption at this introductory level workshop. We will also provide you with an overview of the steps involved in an intercountry adoption process and give you relevant resources to support you along your adoption journey. **Presenter:** Sue Orban, Partner Coordinator, Children's Home Society & Family Services, St. Paul, MN.

A13 Beyond Consequences, Logic and Control (PA, AF, RF)

If you're dealing with a child who is angry, oppositional, lying, stealing, or hoarding, this workshop will introduce you to a groundbreaking parenting approach that has helped in the most difficult situations. Move through fear and bring love into the darkness of your child's world. This technique has helped families find healing after years of "trying everything and nothing worked." **Presenter:** Laurie Rapp, M.Ed., MSW, Permanency Counselor, Lund Family Center working for Vermont's Project Family, Certified Instructor, *Beyond Consequences* curriculum.

A14 Universality of Grief: Mothers Who Lose Children to Adoption

(BF , AF, AD, TR)

With a PowerPoint overview, presenter will explore the continuum of mother losses and the universality of mothers' grief, the impact of class, age and powerlessness on adoption loss, alternatives to adoption loss, and empowerment of mothers. **Presenter:** Mirah Riben, activist, lecturer, freelance writer, author, *shedding light on...The Dark Side of Adoption* and *The Stork Market: America's Multi-Billion Dollar Unregulated Adoption Industry*.

A15 Who are the Waiting Children in Foster Care? (PA, FF)

Learn about the ages, ethnic backgrounds and placement needs of children from foster care in Massachusetts, who are waiting for permanent families. What is the process of adopting a child from foster care? How do potential adopters use an exchange or other methods to find a child? **Presenter:** Ruth Bodian, MSW, Family Support Services Director, MARE, Boston, MA, adoptive parent.

A16 Is Transracial Adoption Right for Me? Tools and Questions to Consider (PA)

Come and learn about the various tools available to help you determine whether transracial adoption is right for you. We will consider self assessment tools, hear from a panel of adoptive families that have firsthand experience, and listen to the voices of young adults who were adopted into families of a different racial background than their own.

Presenter: Karen Cheyney, JD, LSWA, founder and Director, Bright Futures Adoption Center, a program of RFK Action Corp, Acton, MA, adoptive parent of two transracially adopted children.

A17 Estate Planning for the Adoptive Family (GN, AF)

Who will handle your estate and assets should not be determined by operation of law. When a family is touched by adoption, certain aspects require further thought, such as who would be a suitable guardian and how assets should be used appropriately.

Presenters: Karen Greenberg, JD, past-president of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys, former ACONe Board member; Arlene Kasarjian, JD; both attorneys at Konowitz & Greenberg, P.C., Wellesley, MA.

A18 Engaging Youth in the Permanency Conversation (FF, AD, AF)

Outcomes are dismal for a high percentage of youth aging out of foster care. As a result, many jurisdictions are embracing mandated permanency planning for adolescents. But how can we engage teenagers in this risky endeavor? Using basic principles of Positive Youth Development, learn the language of permanency from the perspective of a teen, strategies and approaches for partnering with youth to attain permanent family relationships, and recognize how some of our current practices are ineffective in achieving that goal. **Presenter:** Kim Stevens, M.Ed., Program Manager, Community Champions Network, North American Council on Adoptable Children, adoptive parent.

A19 Transitions for Infants: Promoting Healthy Adoption Placement Transitions (GN, PA, AF, RF, EX, BF, FF)

A discussion exploring the state of adoption practice and future goals regarding transitions at the time of placement. We will be taking a look at the impact of transitions on the child and how to prepare adults. This workshop will be primarily, though not exclusively, focused on domestic adoption of infants under one year old in voluntary placements. Recommended for adoption professionals, foster care/interim care providers, pre-adoptive parents, and all those interested in working toward healthy placement transitions.

Presenter: Eleanor Allen, JD, LICSW, adoptive parent, staff member with Bright Futures Adoption Center, a program of RFK Children's Action Corp, Acton, MA, private psychotherapy practice, Jamaica Plain, MA.

A20 Adoption 101 for Extended Family Members (EX)

This workshop is a basic overview of the adoption process and key adoption issues for prospective grandparents, aunts, uncles, and close family friends. The goal is to enable extended family members to better support the prospective adopters and the children whom they are planning to adopt. The discussion will focus on private, domestic, intercountry, and foster care adoptions. **Presenters:** Dale Eldridge, LICSW, BCD, Coordinator, Adoptive Parent Services; Raquel Woodard, LICSW, BCD, Coordinator, Birth Parent and Children's Services, Adoption Choices, JFS of Metrowest, Framingham, MA.

A21 Late Discovery Adoption: Personal Story and Discussion (GN, AD)

In 2001 at age 36 the presenter found out that he and his brother were adopted. Discovery of one's adoption story in adulthood triggers a myriad of questions and struggles. The presenter will discuss his own experiences including the close relationship he has developed with his birth mother. Open to everyone interested in learning and sharing about the experience of late discovery adoption. **Presenter:** Jeffrey Borus, adopted person and adoptive parent.

A22 Moving from Infertility to Adoption (PA)

This workshop will address the feelings of loss, failure, uncertainty, fear and anger that individuals and couples often face when they think about moving from infertility treatment to adoption. It will help participants begin to feel hope, optimism and sense of true excitement as they consider adoption. **Presenter:** Ellen Glazer, LICSW, co-author, *Having Your Baby Through Egg Donation and Choosing Assisted Reproduction*.

Period B (11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)

B1. Adoption through the Eyes of Adolescents, Part 2 (GN, AF, TR, FF)

Continuation of Workshop A1. See description on page 2. **Presenter:** Debbie B. Riley, M.S., CEO, the Center for Adoption Support and Education (C.A.S.E.), Burtonsville, MD; co-author, *Beneath the Mask: Understanding Adopted Teens*.

B2. Roots: Unknown (Film) (G, TR)

Screening of award-winning film *Roots: Unknown*, a 30-minute documentary, followed by in depth discussion with the Director. The film tries to answer: How does being adopted affect each relationship? How does adoption affect family and children? What does someone touched by adoption need in order to feel emotionally whole? **Presenter:** Zara Phillips, author, *Mother Me*, director, *Roots: Unknown*.

B3. Self Care for Parents of Children with Disrupted Attachments (AF, FF, EX)

This workshop will initially explore what brain research has to tell us about the impact of disrupted attachments on caregivers. Presenters will discuss ways in which parents can recognize their own emotional triggers when parenting challenging children. You will also learn practical restorative solutions for parents with the hope of leading to happier and more harmonious parent-child relationships. **Presenter:** Sarah Rosenthal, MSW, LICSW, Child and Family Therapist, Lund Family Center, VT, adoptive parent.

B4. Stories for Adoptive Families (G, AF, EX)

Stories are a compelling way to capture a child's attention and imagination. Drawing from traditional folktales, parents will learn to safely explore themes common to adoptive families: identity, belonging, loss and fulfillment. Using presentation, experiential exercises and discussion, participants will learn to use stories to facilitate meaningful discussions around adoption issues. **Presenters:** Lani Peterson, Psy.D., storyteller, adoptive parent; Cindy Rivka Marshall, MA in Communications, storyteller, educator, adoptive parent.

B5. The Building Blocks of Adoption (PA, RF, EX, AF)

Helping children understand adoption is like building a tall building — it requires a sturdy foundation before getting to the detail work on the upper floors. This workshop, about those first steps, will provide guidance on talking, playing, and interacting with young children to help them learn about adoption. **Presenter:** Renee Lubowich, MSW, LICSW, Alliance for Children, adoptive parent; Rita Cheresnowsky, adoptive parent.

B6. Adoption/Foster Care in the Schools (GN, RF, EX, AF, FF)

Schools have a significant impact on the self-esteem and welfare of children. For children who came to their families by adoption and/or foster care, there can be challenges not faced by other children. Learn to recognize how children's losses impact their ability to complete assignments and how schools can accommodate these children without changing their curricular goals and objectives. **Presenter:** Joan Lefler Clark, M.Ed., adoption educator and advocate, founder, Adoptions Explained LLC, Holliston, MA, former Executive Director, ACONe, adoptive parent.

B7. Broken Ties: The Reality of Adoption Loss (Film) (PA, GN, AF, FF, AD, RF, EX, BF, TR)

Using the presenter's documentary film "Broken Ties" (her story about relinquishing her son) as a backdrop, Debra will explore the life-long feelings of guilt, shame, loss, grief and despair. **Presenter:** Debra Baker, filmmaker, awarded the Excellence in Broadcast Media Award in 2002, www.debrabakerfilms.com.

B8. What is Open Adoption? (GN, PA, AF, RF, EX, BF)

Learn what open adoption is and what open adoption is not, how it can benefit your child, and how it can help you be the best parent you can be. This workshop will discuss strategies for having a successful open adoption and discuss the complexities and challenges of open adoption. **Presenter:** Karen Cheyney, JD, LSWA, founder and Director, Bright Futures Adoption Center, a program of RFK Children's Action Corp, Acton, MA, adoptive parent of two children through open adoption.

B9. White Families Raising Black Children: Supporting Healthy Racial/Ethnic Identity Development (PA, AF, FF, AD, RF, EX)

We will discuss the Evan B. Donaldson report *Beyond Culture Camp* and what it means for White families raising Black children. Share ideas for how to incorporate Black culture into adoptive family life, share challenges and fears of parenting across race, and network with other transracial families and pre-adoptive families. **Presenter:** Laura Hillier, adoptive parent of an African-American child.

B10. Adoption as a Spiritual Journey (GN, TR, EX)

Parents and professionals share stories of powerful coincidences or "synchronicities" that occur in the adoption process. We will examine stories shared by adoption triad members of coincidences in their adoption journeys that defy logical explanation and provide a sense of spirituality. Families are invited to bring their stories to the workshop. **Presenter:** Leah O'Leary, LICSW, Executive Director, A Red Thread Adoption Services, Inc., Norwood, MA.

B11. Overview of Domestic Infant Adoption: Preparing Profiles and Meeting with Expectant Parents Considering Adoption (PA, EX)

This workshop will demystify the process of domestic adoption choices, which can be confusing and overwhelming. We will discuss full-service agency adoptions, facilitator-assisted adoptions, and identified adoptions working with attorneys and agencies throughout the US. Participants will gain valuable information including preparation of profiles, talking with expectant parents considering an adoption plan, and open, semi-open and closed adoptions. **Presenters:** Amy Cohen, Executive Director; Nancy Rosenhaus, Associate Director; both Adoptions With Love, Inc., Newton, MA; Betsy Hochberg, LICSW, Director, Adoption Resources, Waltham, MA.

B12. Community Champions Network: A Grassroots Effort for Post-Adoption Supports and Services (GN, AF)

NACAC's Community Champions Network was founded with financial support from Jockey Being Family™, Jockey International's corporate citizenship initiative to strengthen adoptive families for successful futures. Learn how this project, with the ultimate goal of providing increased stability to thousands of adoptive families, is working with 13 community coalitions across North America to create sustainable post-adoption services through a combination of grassroots organizing, public awareness campaigns, and advocacy efforts. **Presenter:** Kim Stevens, M.Ed., Program Manager, Community Champions Network, North American Council on Adoptable Children, adoptive parent.

B13. Is Russia Right for You? (PA)

Presenter will cover the latest information on adopting from the Russian Federation, including any recent and/or potential changes to the law regarding Russian adoption. Current trends both domestically and internationally will be discussed. The presenter will highlight information about the adoption process as well as what prospective adopters should look for when selecting an agency. **Presenter:** Larisa Mason, founder and Executive Director, International Assistance Group, Pittsburgh, PA.

B14. Are You Adventurous, Flexible, Patient? Is Adoption From a Newly Opened or Reopened Intercountry Program Right for Your Family? (PA)

In the changing world of intercountry adoption, agencies sometimes introduce new, smaller adoption programs. We will help participants explore this option for building their families. We will explain what is involved in developing a new adoption program and what prospective adopters should expect (and not expect) from their agencies. We will also discuss the inherent challenges for the first families in a new program and how to evaluate whether this is a good fit for you. **Presenters:** Emily Griesing, MSW, Africa Case Manager; Lisa Lovett, LICSW; both from Wide Horizons for Children, Waltham, MA.

- B15. The Hague Convention: What Prospective Adopters Need to Know (PA, HC)**
 This workshop is for families that have not yet filed their I-600A or I-800A forms. What is the Hague Convention? To which adoptions does it apply? What is the difference between Hague and non-Hague adoption cases? What are the requirements for home studies, adoptive parent training, and interagency work? What protections does Hague provide? **Presenter:** Etta Lappen Davis, MA.Ed., Principal, Etsky Consulting, Bolton, MA, former ACONE Board member, extended family member.
- B16. The Importance of Birth Sibling Connections (GN, AD, AF, FF)**
 Current practice is to keep siblings together whenever possible, but children placed in foster care and for adoption are still deprived of connections with their birth siblings. This workshop will explore the lifelong importance of sibling relationships, reasons for maintaining those relationships even when placement together is not possible, stories of sibling reconnection, and stories of birth siblings meeting for the first time in adulthood. **Presenter:** Debra N. Olshever, M.Ed., LCSW, Adoption Associates, Newton, MA.
- B17. Same-Sex Marriage/Same-Sex Adoption: New Developments (PA)**
 This workshop will explore the options available to lesbians and gay men who wish to build families through adoption, as well as ways in which you can legally protect your family. Presenters will discuss how and why your decision to marry has an impact on your adoption options. **Presenters:** Joyce Kauffman, M.Ed., JD; Laura Nemeyer, Ed.D., Director, Adoption Resource Associates, Inc, Cambridge, MA.
- B18. Infertility to Adoption...Embracing Hope (GN, PA, EX)**
 Workshop will focus on the emotional journey through which many travel as they shift from the dream of giving birth, to experiencing infertility, and then to creating a family through adoption. This process can be confusing and daunting at times and this workshop will address factors that assist as well as complicate the journey towards deciding to adopt. **Presenter:** Anne Coleman, Ph.D., LMHC, Special Lecturer, Graduate Counseling Program, Providence College, RI, facilitator, ACONE Triad group and RESOLVE Waiting Families group, adoptive parent, adopted person, nationally certified psychologist, psychotherapist, Adoption & Beyond Counseling Services, Norwood, MA, ACONE Board Member.
- B19. The Changing Face of Family & How it Plays Out on the Playground (GN, AD, PA, AF)**
 Adoptive families are part of the changing face of family in America today. Yet while adoption is more pervasive - and virtually everyone agrees that it can play a positive role in society - some people still believe adoption myths that are portrayed by the media. Adopted children are often the ones who meet these misperceptions head-on in the classroom and on the playground. This workshop will include a balanced discussion of the facts and myths of adoption today and offer ways that all involved can be educators, including adopted children themselves. **Presenter:** Rose Kent, author of the award-winning children's novel, *Kimchi & Calamari*, parent of adoptive and multiracial children.
- B20. Wanting Another Child: Parents Considering Adoption (PA)**
 Parents considering adoption have unique concerns. Their choice may not appear as clear cut as it would if they did not have a child. Learn how to acknowledge and weigh the factors impacting your adoption choice and how to reach the decision that is appropriate for your family. **Presenter:** Harriet (Holly) Simons, Ph.D., LICSW, private practice, RESOLVE support group leader, author, *Wanting Another Child: Coping with Secondary Infertility*.
- B21. The Future of Intercountry Adoption (GN, PA)**
 Where have we been? Where are we now? Where are we going? What are the trends in intercountry adoption? This presentation will focus on the current needs of children around the world and discuss how this has changed over the years. We will also look at the current need for families of older children, sibling groups and children with identified special needs. **Presenter:** Sue Orban, Partner Coordinator, Children's Home Society & Family Services, St. Paul, MN.
- B22. Domestic vs. Intercountry: How Do We Decide? (PA)**
 This workshop will identify and explore which path to adoption would be best for prospective adopters. A panel of families will share how and why they made their decision. **Presenter:** Ellen Glazer, LICSW, private practice, Newton, MA, author, *Experiencing Infertility: Stories to Inform and Inspire*, co-author, *Choosing Assisted Reproduction*.

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 conference fee refunds after April 9, 2010. Until April 9th 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 on or faxed by 5:00 pm, Friday, April 9, 2010 or sooner if capacity is reached. Walk-in registration will be accepted on conference day as space allows. Lunch is not available for conference day walk-ins or registrations received after 5:00 pm, Friday, April 9, 2010.

Food on Conference Day:

You have the option of purchasing a box lunch with your registration (will include sandwich, chips, fruit, bottled water, and dessert). Vegetarian and non-vegetarian lunches will be available. There will be a cash breakfast bar with beverages, yogurt, fruit, 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.

Hague Compliant Track: (See page 1 for suggested tracks.)

ACONE has identified workshops that focus on content required by Hague regulation 22 CFR 96.48 as Hague-Compliant training. These workshops are signified with (HC). ACONe does not imply, nor should it be assumed, that these training hours will be recognized by all adoption service providers. Each prospective adoptive parent should discuss conference registration plans with his/her placement and home study providers to facilitate registration for training that is compatible with the providers' requirements.

Handicap Access:

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

Directions:

Bellingham High School, 60 Blackstone Street, Bellingham, MA 02019

From Rte. 495 take exit 17 towards Bellingham. Merge onto W. Central Street/Rte.140. Continue on 140 for about 2 miles. Turn left at Blackstone Street. School is approximately a ½ mile on the left.

Fee Waivers:

Available for conference-related volunteer 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 birth family 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
9:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	A _____	A _____	A _____
11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	B _____	B _____	B _____
2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	C _____	C _____	C _____
3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.	D _____	D _____	D _____

PRESENTER/PANELIST: No Yes

PURCHASE BOX LUNCH: No Yes / \$10

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: New / \$50 Renewal / \$50

(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 3/12)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> \$125
Standard <i>(PM/FR 3/13 – 4/9)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$90	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150
Late <i>(PM/FR 4/10 – 4/17)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$110	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175

For registrations received after 5pm 4/9, 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.** Fax: 508.366.6813
45 Lyman Street, #2, Westborough, MA 01581

QUESTIONS: 508.366.6812 or info@AdoptionCommunityofNE.org

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

Save! Join now and attend at the member rate!

Extended family and birth family 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.*

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11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	B _____	B _____	B _____
2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	C _____	C _____	C _____
3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.	D _____	D _____	D _____

PRESENTER/PANELIST: No Yes

PURCHASE BOX LUNCH: No Yes / \$10

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: New / \$50 Renewal / \$50

(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 3/12)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> \$125
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For registrations received after 5pm 4/9, attendees need to bring their own lunch.

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TOTAL

\$ _____

\$ _____

\$ _____

\$ _____

\$ _____

PAYMENT: Check Enclosed – or – Visa MasterCard Discover

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Name on Card 3 Digit # on Back of Card

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

QUESTIONS: 508.366.6812 or info@AdoptionCommunityofNE.org

Period C (2:00 – 3:15 p.m.)

C1. The Importance of Birth Parents in the Lives of Adopted Children (GN, TR, EX)

This workshop provides the opportunity for participants to examine how and why birth parents are so significant to adopted children, and how adoptive parents' attitudes toward birth parents impact their children's self-concept and identity. Age-appropriate communication about birth parents and sharing difficult information are also addressed. **Presenter:** Debbie B. Riley, M.S., CEO, the Center for Adoption Support and Education (C.A.S.E), Burtonsville, MD; co-author, *Beneath the Mask: Understanding Adopted Teens*.

C2. Watching and Discussing *Adopted the Movie: Part 1 (Film)* (GN, AD, TR)

This double session workshop will include a viewing of *Adopted the Movie* and a discussion following the film. *Adopted the Movie* reveals the grit rather than the glamour of transracial adoption. First-time director, Barb Lee, goes deep into the intimate lives of two well-meaning families and shows us the subtle challenges they face. One family is just beginning the process of adopting a baby from China and is filled with hope and possibility. The other family's adopted Korean daughter is now 32 years old. **Presenters:** Katie Nafziger, LICSW; Jacey Norton, adoptive parent, founder, Korean Adoption Circle.

C3. Understanding Why and When Therapy is Helpful to Children and Teenagers (AF, FF, RF)

Not all therapy is "talk" therapy and therapy is not just for "problems!" Learn about different approaches suited to you or your child's stage of development and individual needs. A variety of techniques will be explained that can help children (in pre-school, grade school or high school) express and integrate their experience of adoption. **Presenter:** Debra N. Olshever, M.Ed., LCSW, Adoption Associates, Newton, MA.

C4. *Living On The Fault Line, Where Race and Family Meet (Film)* (GN, AF, AD)

A documentary film that explores the intersection where family love meets racial injustice in the experiences of transracial families created through adoption. This workshop will consist of a 60 minute screening of the film followed by a facilitated discussion. **Presenter:** Jeff Farber, producer, director, cinematographer, award-winning independent filmmaker.

C5. Mediating an Open Adoption Agreement (PA, FF)

Permanency Mediation is a specialized alternative to a contested court proceeding for children in the state foster care system using an independent third party to facilitate a child-centered, family-focused approach to permanency planning. This workshop will focus on working with the triad and the benefits and components of a mediated open adoption agreement. **Presenter:** Julia A. B. Pearson, Program Director, Permanency Mediation at Children's Services of Roxbury, Massachusetts Families for Kids.

C6. It DOES Take a Village to Raise a Child: Supporting Adoptive Families (PA, AF, EX)

Using correct adoption language and offering to babysit are just the beginning! Explore how extended families and friends can be most helpful to adoptive families, and how prospective adopters and adoptive families can seek support from friends and family. Tools and strategies for developing and strengthening a support network and for making a pro-active support plan. **Presenter:** Etta Lappen Davis, MA.Ed., Principal, Etsky Consulting, Bolton, MA, former ACONE Board member; extended family member.

C7. Journey to Reunion: Birth Mothers' Perspective (BF, TR, AD)

This workshop will look at reunion from the point of view of birth mothers. Three birth mothers will share their unique journeys: one who searched and found her son and one birth mother who is living in an open adoption. **Presenter:** Mary Lou Cullen, President, Concerned United Birthparents, Inc.

C8. I Want to Search: Where Do I Start? (BF, AD)

For birth parents and adopted persons who are thinking about searching, this workshop will give you a roadmap from the perspective of a search and reunion counseling professional. We'll talk about places to start, how to contact your agency, how to locate your records if your agency has closed, what information is available to you by law, preparing yourself for the kinds of identifying and non-identifying information you might receive, and how to seek professional assistance when you need it. **Presenter:** Elaine C. Abdow, LSW, Adoption Program Coordinator, Adoption By Choice Program, Catholic Social Services of Fall River, Inc., MA.

C9. How the Child Experiences Growing Up Adopted (GN, AD, PA, FF, RF, TR)

This very informative, emotional and powerful workshop will focus on how growing up as an adopted person impacts the emotional world of children, parents, and entire family. This presentation is sure to inspire. Bring your questions! **Presenter:** Jeffrey R. LaCure, MSW, LICSW, private practice, Wellesley High School, MA, adopted person.

C10. Clinical and Legal Aspects of Domestic Infant Adoption (PA)

This workshop will cover the legal, procedural, and clinical aspects of growing your family through domestic infant adoption. There will be special attention to areas such as health history, birth fathers, substance exposure, overall adoption costs, and other areas that worry prospective adoptive parents. We will explore the myths and realities, the subtleties and practical tips, the costs and the rewards of this path to parenthood.

Presenter: Marla Ruth Allisan JD, LICSW, founder, Director, Full Circle Adoptions, Northampton, MA.

C11. When Couples Disagree About Adoption (PA)

Deciding to adopt is a complex process. It is even more difficult if partners are in different places about adopting. While many couples may be somewhat out-of-sync initially, acknowledging and reconciling differing perspectives is quite possible. Learn how to explore adoption without becoming polarized and how to reach a decision which is right for both potential parents. **Presenter:** Harriet (Holly) Simons, Ph.D., LICSW, therapist, RESOLVE support group leader, author, presenter on infertility.

C12. Understanding Children's Development: Positive Strategies and Positive Outcomes (PA, AF, RF, EX)

Risk factors for developmental challenges before birth, at birth and after birth will be presented. Emphasis will be placed on maximizing infants' and children's physical, behavioral and overall development within home, community and learning environments. Parent, medical, therapeutic, and school-based provider collaboration will be considered.

Presenter: Wendy Schmidt, OT/L, MPA, The Center for Child Health & Development LLC, Newburyport, MA.

C13. Let's Talk About Adoption (AD, AF, EX, RF)

Become comfortable talking about adoption with family, friends and strangers. This workshop will review tips for talking about adoption and using the W.I.S.E. Up method. Two adopted teenagers will present role-played scenes. **Presenter:** Jennifer Radl, social worker, trainer for foster and adoptive families, adoptive parent.

C14. More Than Words: Adult Korean Adopted Persons Discuss Identity, Resources and Community (GN, AD)

Boston Korean Adoptees, Inc. (BKA) members will discuss experiences and perspectives both as teens and as adults. Topic will include identity formation, birth family searches and reunions, and the adult Korean adopted persons community. Additional resources such as BKA's book club, local mentoring programs, films, literature and research studies on identity will be presented. **Presenters:** Nate Bae Kupel, BKA President; Kerri Johnson, BKA Vice President; Anna Henry, BKA Board Member; Maria Hudson, Coordinator Tufts University Korean Student Association, Big Brother/Big Sister Program.

C15. Assessing Agencies for Ethical Practice in Intercountry Adoption (PA)

Debates about ethical practice in intercountry adoption are on the rise. Increasingly, adoptive parents want to be assured that their child comes to them legally and ethically. Learn what questions to ask and how to identify an ethical agency before you begin your adoption journey. **Presenter:** Pat Hoopes, MSW, LICSW, Director of Clinical Services, Wide Horizons For Children, Waltham, MA.

C16. There and Back Again — An International Search and Reunion Journey (AF, AD, EX, BF, TR)

Share in the experience of preparing for an international search, the travel, and the unexpected twists, turns and revelations. An adopted person and an experienced translator will describe the preparation needed for an international search, and the details of their travels, which led to the ultimate goal – a reunion! **Presenters:** Nicolas Miguel Clark, adopted person, former ACONe Board member; Kate Plato, Spanish translator with experience living in Central America.

C17. In China: Special Families for Special Children (PA, EX, HC)

Half of the children being adopted from China have identified special needs. We will look at who these children are and identify the types of special families that are adopting these children. We will also feature a panel of parents who have adopted children with special needs from China. **Presenters:** Andrea Marshall, Horizon Kids Coordinator; Kim Bernstein, MSW, LICSW, Program Manager; both at Wide Horizons for Children, Inc, Waltham, MA.

C18. Adoption and Depression (GN, TR)

Are adoption and depression somehow linked? When does the sadness felt by many people touched by adoption cross over into depression, a crucial mental health issue? This workshop explores the differences between the typical sorrow adopted persons, birth and adoptive family members may feel, and depression that requires medical attention. Ways to address adoption sadness and clinical depression are identified. **Presenters:** Deborah H. Siegel, Ph.D., LICSW; Frederic G. Reamer, Ph.D.; Professors, School of Social Work, Rhode Island College.

C19. The Why, What and How of Identity Building via Homeland Travel (AF, AD)

A new, groundbreaking study published by the Evan B. Donaldson Institute points out, "Positive racial/ethnic identity development is most effectively facilitated by 'lived' experiences such as travel to native country, racially diverse schools, and role models from their same race/ethnicity." The research offered practical suggestions that help in the search for identity. This workshop answers, "Why is birth country travel so significant?" "What do adopted persons experience that has such powerful impact?" "How can international adopted persons gain this most important, 'lived' experience?" **Presenter:** Heather Ames, MSW, LICSW, adoptive parent.

C20. Adopting From Russia (PA)

For those thinking of adopting from Russia, members of Families for Russian and Ukrainian Adoption (FRUA) will be discussing the current adoption climate in Russia, as well as giving an overview of the general adoption process in Russia. Panelists who recently adopted from Russia will speak about their experiences and answer questions. **Presenters:** Todd Kates, Ph.D., FRUA panel members: Laura & Hank Dilts; Victoria Barrett; Adele Raade Ph.D.; Anne Harvey Kilburn; Karen Sheldon; all adoptive parents.

C21. Traveling To Pick Up Your Child (PA)

Information on how to research, plan, pack, and dress for any country. How to deal with new airport security procedures, handling travel complications, excess baggage, money, traveling with infants and children, what to ask your agency, and the best books and tools to prepare for your trip. **Presenter:** Kristen Hales, Customer Service Representative, United Airlines, former Professor of Travel and Tourism, New Hampshire Technical Institute, adoptive parent.

C22. Anti-Bias Parenting: Raising Children Who Value Difference (GN, AF, RF)

This workshop will explore how anti-bias parenting helps children construct identity, interact empathically with people from diverse backgrounds, and believe in the value of human diversity and fair treatment of all people. Presenter will discuss the damaging effects of bias and steps parents can take to raise children who are able to stand up for themselves and others in the face of bias. Anti-bias resources will be presented. **Presenter:** Eleanor Allen, JD, LICSW, adoptive parent, staff member with Bright Futures Adoption Center, a program of RFK Children's Action Corp, Acton, MA, private psychotherapy practice, Jamaica Plain, MA.

C23. Adoptive Parents and the Impact of Personal Trauma History (PA, AF, RF, EX)

Presenter explores how a parent's traumatic past can influence the response to a child with a trauma history, which will impact the parent/child relationship. The importance of therapy, healing, and use of personal narrative are highlighted. Clinical vignettes illustrate possible scenarios and responses from clinicians and foster/adoptive parents. The use of mutual assessment, attachment styles and exploratory work in the home study process are described. **Presenter:** Deb Shrier, MSW, LICSW, Senior Social Worker, Post Adoption Counselor, Wide Horizons for Children, Waltham, MA, TIES Adoptive Families Travel Staff; former ACON Board member.

Period D (3:30 – 4:45 p.m.)

- D1. Reunion: Before, During and After (Film) (PA, GN, AF, AD, RD, EX, BF, TR)**
Viewing of presenter's personal documentary *Lost and Found*, which depicts her search for and reunion with her son, 30 years after she relinquished him. The workshop will explore how to prepare psychologically, emotional aspects of searching, being ready, and making first contact. We will also discuss reunions that have been interrupted. Audience discussion is encouraged. **Presenter:** Debra Baker, filmmaker, awarded the Excellence in Broadcast Media Award in 2002, www.debrabakerfilms.com.
- D2. Watching and Discussing *Adopted the Movie: Part 2* (GN, AD, TR)**
Continuation of Workshop C2 See description on page 11. **Presenters:** Katie Nafziger, LICSW; Jacey Norton, adoptive parent, founder, Korean Adoption Circle.
- D3. Financial Planning for Your Family (GN)**
Learn the important financial issues for which a family needs to plan. We will discuss college planning, retirement planning, protection planning and the general cost of raising a child. **Presenter:** Jennifer Adams, CFP, Certified Financial Advisor, Investment Advisor, Ameriprise.
- D4. My Bedroom...Calming The Wild Things in My Space (AF, RF, PA, FF)**
Using the principles of Feng Shui, attendees will learn how to redesign a bedroom by aligning and balancing the space in order to mend the past, support the present, and expand the future. This is an interactive workshop. Bring photographs of a bedroom to learn how Feng Shui can help you create a room that is comfortable, peaceful and healthy. **Presenter:** Julie Pelletier-Rutkowski, RN, Director of Education and Nursing, Medical Professional Institute, Malden, MA.
- D5. Emerging Trends in Intercountry Adoption: Why Does it Seem So Much Harder Than When My Neighbor Adopted? (PA)**
This workshop will focus on broad updates, program trends, and the continued viability of intercountry adoption as a means of building family. Presenters will discuss significant changes and their reasons, as well as some current possibilities. Issues highlighted will include the increased availability of toddler-aged children, choosing lesser-taken paths rather than large, tried and true programs, and the development of programs in Africa. **Presenters:** Maryanne Ludwig, MSW, LICSW, Director of Placement Services/Eastern Region; Amy Garber, MSW, LICSW, Clinical Social Worker; both at Wide Horizons For Children, Inc.
- D6. Gleaning Knowledge on the Web (GN)**
No matter how you are touched by adoption, this workshop session will provide useful tools for quickly finding online information related to all aspects of adoption and child welfare. Learn tips for: searching Child Welfare Information Gateway's growing online library of over 60,000 documents; shortcuts to locating State laws and policies; foster and adoptive parent groups; contact information for services that provide access to adoption records in each State; training curricula on a variety of topics; and promising practice research in a variety of areas. If time allows, additional online resources will be explored. **Presenter:** TBA
- D7. Keeping the Connections: A Panel Discussion (GN, PA, AF, RF, TR, BF, EX)**
Adoption has moved from secrecy to increasing communication among members of the adoption triad. Many people who have been touched by adoption feel that this increase in open communication is beneficial to all and some people feel unable to participate in an exchange of information. Adoption triad members participating in varying degrees of openness in their adoptions will discuss their experiences, maintaining boundaries, and establishing healthy relationships. **Presenters:** Amy Cohen, Executive Director; Nancy Rosenhaus, Associate Director; both at Adoptions With Love, Inc., Newton MA.
- D8. Traveling With an Adopted Child to Adopt a Sibling (GN, PA, AF, EX)**
Workshop will address concerns parents face and factors to consider when deciding whether to have a child travel with them when adopting a sibling. Discussion will include how the adoption of a younger sibling may be experienced through the eyes of an older adopted sibling. **Presenter:** Anne Coleman, Ph.D., LMHC, Special Lecturer, Graduate Counseling Program, Providence College, facilitator, ACONe Triad group and RESOLVE Waiting Families group, adoptive parent, adopted person, nationally certified psychologist, psychotherapist, Adoption & Beyond Counseling Services, Norwood, MA, ACONe Board Member.

D9. Speech, Language, and Communication Development in the Internationally Adopted Child (PA, RA, RF, HC)

The internationally adopted child is at risk for speech, language, and communication challenges. What “red flag” behaviors may indicate a possible communication disorder? Presenter will discuss the types of communication assessment practices or behavioral observations that are appropriate for IA children. How can you locate an adoption-competent speech-language pathologist? **Presenter:** Adele S. Raade, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Boston University.

D10. Ask the Directors (GN, TR)

This workshop is an opportunity to ask agency directors your questions about adoption. **Presenters:** Betsy Hochberg, Adoption Resources, Jewish Family Services, Waltham; Karen Cheyney, JD, LSWA, Director, Bright Futures Adoption Center, a program of RFK Children’s Action Corp, Acton, MA, adoptive parent.

D11. Wearing Two Hats: Adoptive Parents Who Are Also Adopted (AF, AD)

Adoptive parents who were themselves adopted offer a unique perspective on what it feels like to grow up in an adoptive family AND the challenges for adoptive parents. This panel, comprised of people who are both adoptive parents and adopted persons, will discuss ways in which adoptive parents can help their children with identity and self-image as well as other issues that may come up. **Presenters:** Martha Lamb, MA, Adoption Social Worker, Alliance For Children, Needham, MA, adoptive parent, former ACONE Board member.

D12. The Perfect Storm: Weathering the Turbulent Adolescent Years With Your Adopted Pre-teen or Teen (AF, RF, FF)

During adolescence, teens must achieve the tasks of identity formation, separation, forming a sexual self, a sense of right and wrong, and a purpose in life — that’s a tall order for any teenager, but it can be especially difficult for an *adopted* teen. Research shows us that “extreme conflict and rupture in relationships with parents is painful and dangerous” and may prevent teens from accomplishing their normative stages of development. This workshop will offer parenting suggestions to help teens stay on task while keeping our relationships with them healthy and supportive — and sane! **Presenter:** Pamela Lowell, MSW, LICSW, BCD, private practice, RI, author of *Returnable Girl* and *Survival Mediations for Parents of Teens*.

D13. Have You Worn Masks? A Facilitated Discussion for Adopted Persons (AD)

This discussion group will provide a safe and open forum for conversations about all issues that face adopted persons and will be led by two adult adopted persons experienced in group facilitation. Open to adopted persons only. **Presenter:** Bonnie Schafer, ACONE Board member.

D14. Inside/Outside Self-Discovery Program: Promoting Self-Esteem (GN, AF)

This new, evidence-based, dynamic curriculum written by Helene Feinberg-Walker, Sarah Barrett, and Jane Shure, is designed to help youth develop skills to navigate the challenging terrain of early adolescence. The program promotes emotional health, resiliency and self-awareness. This workshop will present an overview of the curriculum and ACONE’s plans to pilot the program next summer for middle school students who were adopted. **Presenter:** Etta Lappen Davis, MA.Ed. Principal, Etsky Consulting, Bolton, MA, former ACONE Board member, extended family member, licensed teacher.

D15. Being Fully Informed: Medical Information for Families Considering Adoption (PA)

This presentation will examine medical and developmental issues related to adoption. Information will cover both pre-natal and post natal topics. The lecture is appropriate for adoption agency staff and prospective adopters. The two presenters have over 23 years of experience in intercountry adoption and are now counseling prospective adopters considering domestic adoption. **Presenters:** Laurie C. Miller, MD, Director; Linda G. Tirella, OTR/L,MS,MHA, Developmental Specialist, Co-Director; both with the International Adoption Clinic, Tufts Medical Center, Boston, MA.

D16. Building Coalitions for System Change (FF, AF, RF)

Often seeing themselves as adversaries, parents, youth and child welfare professionals are most effective as partners. This workshop will give participants the tools and understanding they need to develop consensus, value the principle of WII-FM (what's in it for me), craft a coherent and achievable message, gather meaningful data, and develop an advocacy agenda that can succeed. Based on the Community Champions Network experience. **Presenter:** Kim Stevens, Program Manager, Community Champions Network, adoptive parent, child welfare professional.

D17. “You’re Not My Real Family” How to Respond (GN, AF, FF)

What's an adoptive parent to do when their child declares, “You’re not my family!”? This workshop explores the different kinds of situations in which this comment emerges and suggests an array of responses that address the child's underlying feelings. **Presenters:** Deborah H. Siegel, Ph.D., LICSW; Frederic G. Reamer, Ph.D.; both Professors, School of Social Work, Rhode Island College.

D18. Discussion for Single Parents (PA, AF)

A forum for open, honest discussion of the joys, realities and unique challenges of being a single adoptive parent. For single adoptive parents, waiting parents and prospective adopters. **Facilitators:** Jeanne Blauner, single adoptive mother, former ACONE Board member; Todd Kates, single adoptive father, FRUA (Families for Russian and Ukrainian Adoption) volunteer.

D19. Discovering Russian Roots: Returning to Russia with Your Adopted Child (AD, AF)

This presentation focuses on maintaining the heritage of children adopted from Russia. Emphasis is on exposing the family to the rich artistic and cultural traditions of Russia as well as building a strong connection with Russian life and culture. Focused tours to Russia for families with adopted children 10+ are included. **Presenter:** Marina Forbes, M.A., Director of International Programs, New England Language Center, Rochester, NH.

D20. Telling Our Stories (GN, TR)

Whether you are an adopted person, birth parent, or an adoptive parent, questions arise about why, when, what, and to whom you tell the story of your own adoption journey. Come work with professional storytellers to learn about personal storytelling that can be healing/helpful/powerful for both tellers and listeners. **Presenters:** Lani Peterson, Psy.D., storyteller, adoptive parent; Cindy Rivka Marshall, MA in Communications, storyteller, educator, adoptive parent.

D21. Adjustment in Intercountry Adoption (PA, EX, HC)

Children who join their new families through intercountry adoption will have experiences quite different from children who have started their lives in the US. Learn about the changes/challenges the child(ren) will experience when coming home and how best to prepare for your new family member. **Presenter:** Joan Lefler Clark, M.Ed., adoption educator and advocate, founder, Adoptions Explained LLC, Holliston, MA, former Executive Director, ACONE, adoptive parent.

D22. Returning to Birth Country and Opening Doors: Meeting Birth Family, Exploring Culture and Continuing Our Adoption Journey (GN, AF, AD, RF, EX, TR)

Once considered impossible to do, more and more parents are taking steps towards making connections with their internationally adopted child's birth family. Learn how one adoptive mother made her decision to locate her daughter's birth family and travel back to birth country. Understand some of the challenges and choices that mother and daughter made as they ventured into this long-awaited, life-changing experience. Attendees will gain insight on ways to prepare for a trip, make international contacts and receive clinical support before, during and after the experience. **Presenters:** Linda Heald, adoptive parent; Deb Shrier, MSW, LICSW, Senior Social Worker, Post Adoption Counselor, Wide Horizons for Children, Waltham, MA, TIES Adoptive Families Travel Staff, former ACONE Board member.

Hotel Accommodations in the Area:

RESIDENCE INN BY MARRIOTT, FRANKLIN	508.541.8188
LA QUINTA INN, MILFORD	800.531.5900
DOUBLETREE HOTEL, MILFORD	508.478.7010
HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS, MILFORD	508.634.1054
COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT, MILFORD	508.634.9500
FAIRFIELD INN BY MARRIOTT, NORTH MILFORD	508.478.0900
HAWTHORNE SUITES, FRANKLIN	508.553.3500



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 persons, adoptive parents and those considering adoption.
- Maintains the Mental Health Services Provider and Physical Health Services Provider Databases.
- Supports all members of the triad with information, programming and support groups, specifically for adopted persons, birth family members and adoptive families.
- Presents seminars about starting the adoption process, preparing to bring home your child, and ongoing educational programs.
- Monitors and reports on developments in adoption; develops policy statements and promotes best practices.
- Advocates for legislative change and acts as an organized voice for all those touched by adoption.
- Promotes projects to aid children waiting for permanency.
- Supports a network of chapters throughout New England providing social, educational and /or support opportunities.
- Develops Sharing the Journey, a database for members.

What Does Membership in ACONE Include?

- ACONE E-News which will be e-mailed to you quarterly
- Access to our extensive Lending Library
- Access to our extensive Mental Health Database
- Great discounts on our monthly programs
- Great discounts on our Annual Conference
- E-mail updates on important events and news relating to Adoption Community of New England, Inc.
- Opportunities to volunteer at ACONE! (Contact the office for more information!)

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

Westborough, MA 01581

Conference Schedule

8:00 – 8:30 a.m. Check-In, Continental Breakfast, Exhibits Open
8:30 – 9:30 a.m. Welcome, Annual Meeting, Keynote Address
9:45 – 11:00 a.m. Period A
11:15 – 12:30 p.m. Period B
12:30 – 2:00 p.m. Lunch, Exhibits, & Meet the Author
2:00 – 3:15 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 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