



# ACONENEWS

July 2009: Volume 1, Issue 1

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We are pleased to resume publication of *ACONE News*, Adoption Community of New England's quarterly newsletter. *ACONE News* is now available in electronic format. Should you prefer a hard copy, we will make them available upon request. The Board's decision in late 2008 to suspend publication of the newsletter was a very difficult one, and we are glad to set it behind us. With this renewed publication we intend to provide timely, interesting, and thoughtful news, commentary, and opinion from the world of adoption.

We'd like to let you know how ACONE governs itself and manages day-to-day operations. Although the bylaws require that the Board meet at least every two months, we have been meeting monthly to handle all of the issues that arise. In the absence of an executive director, the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, that is, the co-presidents, vice president, clerk, and treasurer, have taken on that function. Please let us know what you think is right, wrong, or otherwise about any aspect of ACONE's work. (Really!) Maureen Tallon is known to many members for her service in 2008 as ACONE's volunteer bookkeeper and librarian. Since late 2008, Maureen has volunteered to manage the office for ACONE, handling numerous responsibilities effectively and exuberantly. The Board is therefore especially thrilled to announce that, in May, it voted to hire Maureen as the office coordinator. We think this move signals ACONE's return to fiscal health and will help position us to meet future challenges.

**Board meetings are open to all ACONE members**, and the next meeting is July 23, 2009 at 7pm. The Board has established various committees to focus on necessary business in smaller groups. These committees are: Finance, Member Services, Public Policy, Public Relations/Marketing, Fundraising/Grant writing, Strategic Planning, Office Structure, Security, Volunteer, and Program/Conference. These committees are open to all members. Please contact the office for more information about the work of the various committees.

We plan to use this column to make sure members are aware of the Board's work. While we know it is not always possible for members to attend meetings, ACONE is your organization, and we invite your participation and feedback. Thank you.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,  
**Bonney Cashin & Herb Friedman**  
Co-Presidents

*When peoples care for you and cry for you,  
they can straighten out your soul.*

Langston Hughes

### Volunteers Needed!

ACONE relies on volunteers, in addition to those serving on the Board of Directors. There is a need for help from members or interested individuals with expertise in the areas of fundraising and grant writing. Assistance is also needed with program facilitation and meet-and-greet programs. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in assisting ACONE, please contact our office.

## WAITING IN MASSACHUSETTS



**Mikey** — 10 years old

Mikey is an adorable ten year old Hispanic boy with an engaging smile who is legally free for adoption. He would benefit from the one-on-one attention of a caring family. Curious, Mikey loves to ask questions and is quite the conversationalist. Mikey loves playing with small cars and trucks. He enjoys reading and takes special pride in his book collection.

Always helpful, Mikey will do anything that is asked of him and even asks to do chores around the house. He enjoys simple foods like macaroni and cheese and cereal. He attends a specialized school where he receives the academic and emotional support that he needs. Due to his past, he continues to use therapy to confront his challenges. Mikey would benefit from a family that would help him reach his fullest potential and maintain his relationship with his brothers. He would do best in a family where he is the youngest or only child.

To learn more about Mikey, visit the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange website at [www.mareinc.org](http://www.mareinc.org) to fill out an information request form or call 617-54-ADOPT (617-542-3678) or 1-800-882-1176.

Registration # 1638

*Below you'll find a brief profile about some of our board members. As you can see we have a very diverse group who bring extensive personal and professional experience to ACONe. In our next newsletter we will introduce you to the rest of our board!.*

Herb Friedman, Co-President, has been a board member since 2005 and a long time member. He's the adoptive parent of an adult son from Honduras adopted at age 7 and is an attorney who specializes in adoption and assisted reproductive technology law. His website is [www.massadopt.com](http://www.massadopt.com).

Bonnie Cashin, Co-President, has been a member of the Board since 2006, following her involvement with NH-ODS. She is an adoptive parent of a younger adolescent adopted domestically as an infant. She is particularly interested in open adoption issues and in expanding ACONe's program throughout New England. Her "day job" is an attorney with a Massachusetts state agency.

Kelly Barnhart spent six years as a consultant to the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families, raising awareness and public response to the need for foster and adoptive families. She was a monthly columnist in BayStateParent magazine, and later served as interim editor, kicking off the now regular adoption pages. Barnhart remains an advocate for children in need of placement, and brings to ACONe her experience in media, marketing and public relations.

Nancy R. Thompson is a new member of the board, and as a parent and a professional has been associated with adoption for over 30 years. She is mother to two sons; a 25 year-old son adopted domestically as a newborn, and a 23 year-old son who was adopted at the age of 6 from Russia. She works for a Massachusetts-based agency as a Senior Social Worker in all aspects of the adoption process, and has a special interest in the adoption of older children.

Denis Calderone is a new addition to the ACONe board of directors. Denis just finalized the adoption of a sibling group from Ethiopia (ages 3.5 years and 1.5 years) and returned with the children at the beginning of May 2009. Denis and his wife are very active in the Ethiopian adoption community in the New England area, having started a metro-west parent support group and participating actively in the support and administration of the Northeast Ethiopian Culture Camp. Denis is a part owner of an information technology consulting company and brings a broad expertise of technical skills to the board that should help propel ACONe into the future.

**CONGRATULATIONS!!**

*Jeanna Genest &*

*Jessica Paxton*

**EACH WON FREE  
MEMBERSHIPS AT OUR  
36TH ANNUAL NEW  
ENGLAND ADOPTION  
CONFERENCE!**

## WAITING IN RHODE ISLAND

**Madalysh** — 14 years old

Madalysh is a joyful young girl who loves to be outdoors and always has a smile on her face. She enjoys dancing, listening to music, swimming, watching cartoons, shopping and going out to eat. She loves all fruits and vegetables. This lovable and happy little girl was born with Angelman's Syndrome, which has caused many developmental delays. Madalysh has an uneven gait and needs assistance with many daily tasks. While with her foster family, she has made much progress in many areas, but especially with dressing herself and helping with the laundry.

Although she is unable to speak, Madalysh understands everything you say and communicates by using hand gestures and a communication book. Madalysh currently attends a special education program in a public school and is making gains academically and socially with the support of her teachers. We are looking for a family that is open to Madalysh's daily needs and to help her reach her full potential. Her family will need to be open to continued contact with her birth family whom she loves.

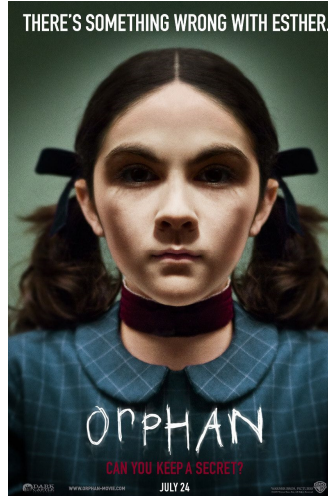
To learn more about Madalysh, visit Adoption Rhode Island's website, [www.adoptionri.org](http://www.adoptionri.org) or call 401.865.6000.

## Warner Brothers Changes Trailer, but Orphan Movie Concept Still Offends Many

In response to the concerns of the adoptive community, Warner Brothers has now changed the Orphan movie trailer, but the concept of a horror movie based on an adoption gone wrong still has many offended. Scott Rowe, Senior Vice President of Corporate Communications at Warner Brothers issued a statement last week to address the concerns of those who had banned together to form the Facebook group, I am Boycotting Warner Bros. "Orphan" Movie.

Rowe stated that they would change their marketing materials and remove the offensive line, "It must be hard to love an adopted child as much as your own." That line has now been replaced with Esther saying, "I don't think Mommy likes me very much."

But some in the adoptive community still argue that changing a line in the trailer



is not enough. They fear that the movie itself will discourage adoption, especially that of an older child. Others find the title "Orphan" to be inappropriate for a horror film, adding additional negative stereotypes to innocent children who are already vulnerable to teasing from their peers.

Though Warner Brother has clearly made a positive

first step in making the marketing for this film more socially responsible, many obviously believe that there is much more to be done. As of this morning, there are 2,073 members of the Facebook group to boycott the Orphan movie. There is also a petition that can now be signed for those who wish to boycott the movie. To issue a complaint about this movie, contact Appian Way producers Jennifer Davisson Killoran and Leonardo DiCaprio, as well as writer Alex Mace, call (301) 300-1390 or email your complaints to [rob@appianway.net](mailto:rob@appianway.net). You may also contact Warner Bros. executives at [alan.horn@warnerbros.com](mailto:alan.horn@warnerbros.com), [barry.meyer@warnerbros.com](mailto:barry.meyer@warnerbros.com), [susan.fleishman@warnerbros.com](mailto:susan.fleishman@warnerbros.com), [dan.fellman@warnerbros.com](mailto:dan.fellman@warnerbros.com), [jeff.robsonov@warnerbros.com](mailto:jeff.robsonov@warnerbros.com)

—Cathy Doheny, Charlotte International Adoption Examiner

## Record-setting Day for Foster-Care Grads

As graduation season plays out all over Massachusetts, the state Department of Children and Families is celebrating its largest-ever class of graduates.

There are 601 youths in the state foster care system receiving a bachelor's degree, associate's degree, high school diploma, post-secondary vocational certificate or GED, according to state figures.

"Each year our numbers have been increasing," said Maureen Fallon Messeder, the DCF's director of

adolescent support services. "What we try to do is set the expectation for the youth."

The number of graduates in the DCF class of 2009 marks a 21 percent increase over the number of grads in 2007, when 495 students completed their schooling, state figures show.

DCF officials attribute the increasing numbers to efforts begun five years ago to encourage education for youth in the foster care system. Among the proud college-bound students is

Victoria "Tori" Bryant, 18, who graduated yesterday from Bourne High School. Since June 2000, the state has provided free undergraduate tuition to foster children at state-funded colleges and universities.

Massachusetts also provides up to \$5,000 in grants per academic year for foster children who enroll in a post-secondary educational or vocational training program.

— Laura Crimaldi, Boston Herald

WAITING IN CONNECTICUT



**Demetrius**

Adorable and charming are two descriptors for this intelligent young man. Demetrius is outgoing and polite, and his positive demeanor and good manners make it easy for him to participate in various activities and events. He thrives on positive adult relationships and is comfortable talking and interacting with others. Outdoor sports, especially football, are favorite activities and he is an avid Patriots fan! Being an all-around athlete, playing basketball, baseball and soccer are other sports which take up his spare time. Swimming and hiking also keep him active.

Early life challenges have taught Demetrius some tough life lessons and he is very proud of his progress and successes. When re-directed in a constructive way, he can turn negative situations around and take a positive course of action. An adoptive family who is patient, consistent, and loving in their interactions will allow Demetrius to thrive and grow into a fine young man.

To learn more about Demetrius, call CT Department of Children & Families at 1.800.842.6348 or 860.550.6578.

**Adoptions of Abandoned Children Halted by Ethiopian Court**

On May 4, 2009 the Ethiopian First Instance Court temporarily stopped accepting cases involving abandoned children referred by orphanages in Addis Ababa, citing a substantial increase in the number of children being brought for adoption.

The number of abandoned children from orphanages in Addis Ababa has grown dramatically in recent months and Ethiopian authorities have become aware of possible cases of

unethical practices associated with some of them.

Neither the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MOWA) nor the First Instance Court had been accepting abandonment cases from any orphanage in Addis Ababa pending an inquiry. However, on May 23 the Court confirmed that while the investigation into cases of abandoned children continues, it has begun accepting cases of abandoned children

referred from Addis Ababa government orphanages.

These include the following orphanages:

- Kebebe Tsehay Orphanage
- Ketchene Orphanage
- Kolfe Youth Center

Continue to monitor [adoption.state.gov](http://adoption.state.gov) for updated information on Ethiopia.

*U.S. Department of State  
Bureau of Consular Affairs  
Office of Children's Issues*

**Families for Orphans Act Introduced to Legislators**

The Families for Orphans Coalition announces support today for The Families for Orphans Act, introduced in the House on Friday (HR 3070). The Families for Orphans Act (FFOA) will place a new emphasis on the need to improve US policy for supporting healthy development of children globally.

AIDS, war and poverty are causing an explosion in the number of children worldwide who are growing up without parents in orphanages and long term foster care. Spearheaded by Representatives Diane

Watson (D-CA) and John Boozman (R-AR), The Families for Orphans Act will empower the US government to proactively address a global gap in the most basic of human rights – a permanent family for every child.

If enacted, The Families for Orphans Act would establish the Office of Orphan Policy, Diplomacy and Development within the Department of State and provide diplomatic authority to help the 30 million children orphaned worldwide and the 100 million plus vulnerable children who have

lost one parent or are at risk of losing parental care. The new office would be responsible for developing and implementing a comprehensive strategy to support diplomacy and policy focusing on the preservation of families and the provision of permanent families and legal, permanent relationships for orphans. This function is currently not a part of the US government's diplomatic portfolio.

*National Council for Adoption*

**ACONE Raffle!**

We are thrilled to announce that we will have a new raffle offering with each newsletter. This is a great way to help ACONe and to possibly win something wonderful for yourself! The raffle for this issue is an Apple I-Pod Nano 4GB!

To enter please fill out the following form and call, mail or fax it to the ACONe office by August 20th. The winner will be drawn and announced via e-mail on August 21st!

Number of raffle entries requested (\$5 for 1 or \$20 for 5)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit card number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 CVC Code from back of card \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount to Charge card \_\_\_\_\_



## WAITING IN RHODE ISLAND

**Brittany** — 10 years old

Brittany is a very personable and engaging ten year old girl. Brittany loves to sing, jump rope, play card games, and she loves to learn new things. She is very connected to her younger sister, however, at this time, placement will be separate with regular visits. Brittany has a great attitude and is very willing to give it her all.

Brittany is doing very well in school; academically and behaviorally. She loves gym, and music class, and art too. She also loves her language arts class that allows her to learn about books and explore different places. Brittany also loves to be in the pool and show off her swimming skills. Brittany is working on being adoption ready and she is very hopeful to find a forever family soon.

To learn more about Brittany, visit [www.adoptuskids.org](http://www.adoptuskids.org) to fill out an information request form, call 888-200-4005, or email [info@adoptuskids.org](mailto:info@adoptuskids.org) for more information.

Registration # — RI0120062168

If you are a member and would like to be featured in our ACONe Member Spotlight section, please mail or email your composition to the ACONe Office. We will have a drawing from all the submissions sent in, and if your composition is chosen, we will contact you. We also encourage you to include pictures in your submissions.

*Dear Susan...*

Sue Nickerson

Thumbing through the growing stack of mail littering my dining room table, the typed envelope bearing my name catches my attention. Tearing open the flap, preparing to rip up the contents to deposit in the circular file along with the rest of the junk mail, my eyes start to skim over the typed page...

Dear Susan...September 26...I was born a Hamlet"...What is this?!

Returning to the top of the page, slowly reading every line, the words begin to penetrate my mind. With a pounding heart and disbelief registering on my face, tears pooling in my eyes and spilling over to roll slowly down my cheeks, I realize that the unthinkable, the unbelievable, the one thing that I never thought would happen, is unfolding before me. My son, who I relinquished for adoption over 30 years ago, is asking to meet me.

I'm not sure how I functioned during the next few days. I was numb with the shock of hearing from my son after all these years, and memories of the past, long suppressed, played over and over in my mind like an old, sad movie. It was difficult for me to envision a grown man named Rick, while remembering walking out of the hospital leaving behind my 6 day old infant named Jeffrey.

What do you possibly say to your child that you gave away, who you've thought about, wondered about, worried about every day for over 30 years? I didn't know if he could understand what it was like in 1970, to be 16 years old, unmarried, ashamed and scared to death of the future without my baby. All I knew was that he wanted to see me and I was petrified to make the telephone call.

Five days after reading Rick's letter of contact, I had gathered enough courage to make the call. I sat on the floor in the den, huddled in a corner, the room lit only by the morning sun. Gripping the phone in one hand and my birthson's letter in the other, a voice is screaming inside my head. "Dial the number! You have to dial the number!" A calmness begins to settle over

me and I push the buttons on the telephone and listen to the ring. I want so badly to hang up the phone but my arm refuses to move. Someone picks up...

"Hello?"

"Richard?"

"Yes?"

There is a slight pause.

"This is Susan Nickerson."

All my fears are washed away by the tears beginning to flow as I listen to my son's voice for the first time in 30 years...

This is the beginning of the story that took place 8 and 1/2 years ago. The rocky road of reunion is a journey like no other, and although my son and I now only communicate by email, I know that he is well, happy and living a life that he can be proud of, and I have found peace within myself for the decision I made all those years ago.

**YOU SHOULD KNOW!**

The Hague Adoption Convention process provides additional protections to prospective adoptive parents, children, and birth parents. The primary principles of the Hague Adoption Convention include: (1) ensuring that each adoption is in the best interests of the child, and (2) preventing the abduction, the sale of, or traffic of children related to intercountry adoption. The United States strongly supports these principles.

To learn more about the Hague Convention and its affect on the international adoption process, visit <http://adoption.state.gov/>

Cheryl N. Smith, Esq.

## WAITING IN MASSACHUSETTS



Morris — 5 1/2 years old

Morris is a charming African American boy with sparkling brown eyes and a warm smile. He is an imaginative youngster who plays well on his own. In his specialized foster home he likes to help with household chores, and he regularly attends church with his foster mother. Morris' favorite activities include drawing, listening to music and playing in the park. He also likes watching cartoons, especially Sponge Bob.

Morris has experienced much emotional trauma in his young life, and is working through these issues with the help of therapy and medication. He also receives special educational services in school for academic support. Morris can be strong-willed and likes to have things go his way. At times he may act without thinking, and he is working on improving his relationships with peers. He feels more comfortable around much older children and thrives on one-on-one adult attention.

Morris would do best in a two-parent home with no children or with teenage children. However, a single mother with a strong support system will also be considered. It is important that the family be flexible and patient, and take time to explain things to Morris as he responds well to this. Morris is legally free for adoption and ready to have a family to call his own. He receives many services in MA that will need to continue after he is placed for adoption and has a younger brother who he may need contact with in the future.

To learn more about Morris, visit the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) website at [www.mareinc.org](http://www.mareinc.org) to fill out an information request form or call 617-54-ADOPT (617-542-3678) or 1-800-882-1176.

Registration # 2587

My husband and I recently adopted a baby girl through domestic agency adoption. She is just the love of our lives and we have thoroughly enjoyed every minute of learning how to be her parents. In addition to being a new adoptive mother, I am also an estate planning attorney, so after our daughter was born, I sat down to rewrite our Wills. I realized that the fact that we have an adopted child raised a whole host of questions which, even after nine years of practice, took on a whole new meaning to me. The more I thought about it, the more I realized that there are several issues and decisions that parents in adoptive families must be educated about that do not exist in families with only biological children.

#### Estate Planning in General

Every parent that has a minor child needs to have an estate plan in order to ensure that child is protected and cared for, both personally and financially. An estate plan typically consists of a set of documents that set forth your wishes with respect to your person (i.e., health care decisions), your estate (i.e., financial decisions) and your children (i.e., guardianship decisions). The documents include a Will, a Trust, a Health Care Proxy, a Durable Power of Attorney, and a Parental Appointment of Guardian for Minors. While a good estate planning attorney can walk you through what each of these documents does, there are additional issues specific to adoption that an adoptive parent must consider when establishing an estate plan. Some of these issues are discussed below.

#### Choice of Guardian

Choosing a guardian to care for your children in the event you become incapacitated or die is never an easy decision for any parent. But when you are an adoptive parent, it is even more

complicated. The person you select to fill this role must be sensitive to the unique circumstances of your family, and it may require some extra thought and direction on your part to make sure your wishes are carried out. Things to consider include making sure that your chosen guardian has all the facts about your child's adoption so that as appropriate, they can share this information with your child. Also, if you are in an open adoption, will the person you choose as guardian follow through with helping to maintain that open relationship? In my own Will, I specifically state that if a nominated guardian is unwilling or unable to maintain a relationship with our daughter's birth parents, that they respectfully decline to serve as guardian, in which case the nominated alternates will step in.

I often recommend that adoptive parents prepare a letter, to be kept with their estate planning documents, spelling out the circumstances surrounding their child's adoption and giving directions regarding continued contact with the birth family and anything else they feel is important about their child's adoption.

#### Inheritance Rights

Before your adoption is finalized, your child has no legal rights to your estate. Depending from where your child is adopted and the type of adoption you have, it can take anywhere from 6 months to a matter of years to finalize an adoption. As soon as your child is placed with you, assuming it is intended to be a permanent placement, you should consider signing new Wills to include that child. Your Will can include language that treats a child placed for adoption the same as a biological child or a child whose adoption has been finalized.

#### Trusts

I always recommend that parents of young children leave their assets to a trust for the benefit of their child. It is never advisable to leave assets to a minor, first and foremost because legally they cannot take control of an inheritance, but also because leaving assets to a minor means continued court involvement and oversight until your child reaches the age of majority. With adoption, and particularly open adoption, the need for a trust is magnified as there may be people other than your immediate family that have a direct interest in your child's life and well being. Keeping assets held for your child in a Trust under the control of a Trustee that you have chosen (rather than being subject to judicial process) is the best way to protect your child's interests and preserve your assets for their benefit.

Because a Trust is usually not a public document (as opposed to a Will which gets filed with the Probate Court), it also serves as a mechanism to privately set forth special financial considerations for your child, as further discussed below.

ACONE is  
Linked in.

LinkedIn has over 41 million members in over 200 countries and territories around the world. LinkedIn exists to help you make better use of your professional network and help the people you trust in return. Our mission is to connect the world's professionals to accelerate their success.

[Sign up and find ACONE now!](#)

## WAITING IN MAINE



Sadie — 8 years old

Mercedes, who prefers to be called Sadie, is a sweet girl who is interested in a variety of activities. She loves to sing and can remember the words to songs after only hearing them a few times on the radio. She is very articulate and communicates very well. Sadie was born in July of 2001.

Sadie likes to play with her dolls and dollhouses when she is playing inside. When the weather is warm, Sadie enjoys swimming and swinging on the swing set in the backyard. Another of Sadie's favorite activities is riding a four-wheeler. With an adult, Sadie will ride through puddles and fields on the back of a four-wheeler. She really likes to be in the outdoors! Sadie would do best in a family where she is the youngest or only child.

For more information about Sadie, please contact Kathy Smith with the Maine Department of Health and Human Services in Rockland, Maine. Within the state of Maine, you can call toll free 1-800-432-7802. Outside of Maine, you can reach Kathy by calling (207) 596-4262.

**Special Financial Considerations**

There may be costs associated with raising an adopted child that go beyond making sure they are clothed, sheltered, fed and educated. If your plan for your child includes annual visits with the birth family, or a trip to the country from where they were adopted, this is something you should spell out. If they were adopted internationally, and you want them to have exposure to the culture of their homeland, you should incorporate provisions in your Trust specifically directing your Trustee to pay for travel, cultural programs, or anything else that might be related.

**Supplemental Needs Trusts**

If your child has any disabilities or special needs, it will be even more important that you provide for him or her after you are gone. You should consider establishing a supplemental needs trust for your child to ensure that your child meet the financial eligibility rules for private or government assistance programs while preserving the assets you leave to him or her for needs not met by such programs.

**Continued Planning**

Finally, you should periodically review your estate plan with an experienced estate planning

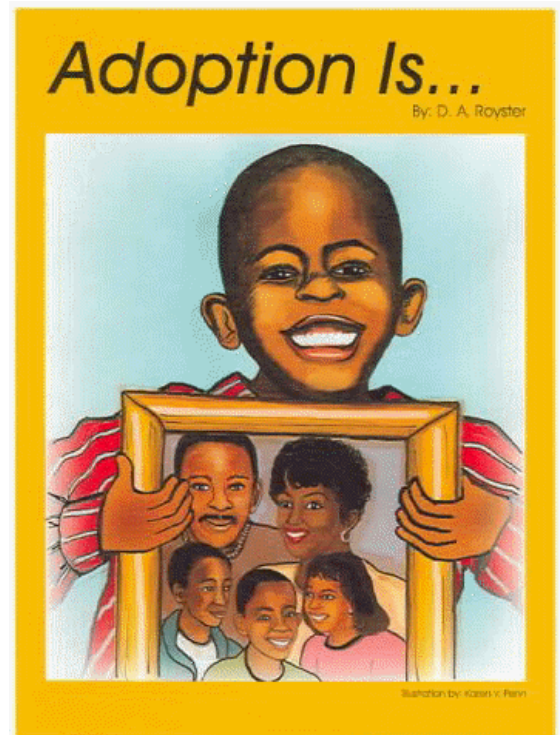
attorney. Changes in the law, your family structure or financial situation are all events that warrant a revisit of your plan as they can have a dramatic impact on your estate plan.

*Cheryl N. Smith is an estate planning attorney at the law firm of Bass, Doherty and Finks, P.C. [www.bassdoherty.com](http://www.bassdoherty.com) She is also mom to her beautiful daughter adopted at birth through domestic, open adoption. She can be reached via email at [csmith@bassdoherty.com](mailto:csmith@bassdoherty.com) or via telephone at (617)787-8948.*

**Book Review: *Adoption Is ...***

This book for children can serve as a nice beginning for introducing the concept of adoption at an early age. Written so simply that most first graders can read it to themselves, the story manages to answer numerous questions about adoption, foster care, and "forever families" from the perspective of the child. It is a rare find too that the illustrations depict an African American child and family, with diversity spread throughout in pictures of Asian, Hispanic and Caucasian children. The topic of the social worker and their role in helping bring together the permanent family is addressed in terms that are clearly understandable and comforting. With an overall tone that is positive and uplifting, parents and teachers alike will find value in reading this book to all children. **Adoption Is...** would make a wonderful addition to any personal library.

*Book review by Maureen Tallon, adoptive Mom, owner of **Children of the World**, and ACONE Office Coordinator*



**Adoption Is...** may be purchased at [www.childrenoftheworld.biz](http://www.childrenoftheworld.biz) and 20% of the sale will be donated to ACONE.

WAITING IN VERMONT



Tessa — 11 years old

Things I Like: Music, animals, and art.

Activities I Enjoy: Going for walks and going out to eat.

What I Want in a Family: I want to be able to stay busy, but also enjoy quality time at home with my family.

What I Want Families to Know About Me: I like animals and have lived with dogs and cats.

What We Would like You to Know about Tessa: Tessa has endured much trauma in her young life. While she has her struggles, she also has a lot to offer a family. She has a great sense of humor and an endearing smile. She enjoys being active, but also enjoys sitting at home watching a movie. Tessa currently lives in a residential setting where she receives therapy, which will need to continue after she joins her new family.

What We are Seeking in a Family for Tessa: A variety of family structures will be considered for Tessa; however, a single mom with lots of love and attention to give may be the best fit. Her ideal family will commit to her; provide guidance, structure, and stability; and stick by her through life's ups and downs. They will understand the effects of trauma on children, support her through the rest of her treatment, and be open to a slow and thoughtful transition into her new home.

To learn more about Tessa, please send a copy of your home study or Vermont foster care license to:

Permanency Planning Counselor,  
 Tammy Lalime, at  
 Project Family at Lund  
 100 Main St., Suite 230  
 Newport, VT 05855  
[tammy.lalime@ahs.state.vt.us](mailto:tammy.lalime@ahs.state.vt.us)

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> and be sure to attend this fun family event at St. Theresa's Church in Tiverton! Costumes galore! More than last year, including a great selection of big kid and adult sizes.

**Sponsors, Bakers, Baskets, & Volunteers!**

Help us get this event off the ground. Join our growing list of **Event Sponsors** by making a small tax deductible donation to the Ocean State Chapter. A gift from \$5-\$10-\$20 will help us defray our event expenses and send more of the event proceeds to where it's needed most. Your gift will be acknowledged by mail and your name will be included on our sponsor poster at the event.

Send ACONE-RI donations directly to:  
 ACONE-RI  
 c/o Victoria Barrett  
 5 Pine Tree Road  
 Tiverton, RI 02878

We are also in need of a few **Raffle Baskets** for our in-house raffle. Nothing too high-end and keep the kids in mind too...they really like to take a chance on a prize! Ideas for baskets include: arts & crafts, gift certificates, Halloween or autumn themed gifts.

Finally, we will be looking for **Bakers and Volunteers** for the day of the event. We had a huge bake sale last year which was a big hit with the attendees.

You can join the fun that day by being a part of our crew of volunteers. Tasks include, unloading the 300+ costumes and setting up the bake sale and raffle. We also need costume elves to help keep the costume inventory organized, etc. And there's more...including face painting, greeters, cashiers, selling raffle tickets, overseeing the book browsing table and of course, CLEAN UP.

**Send us your costumes!**

We are forever collecting costumes. Don't be shy....ask everyone you know to dig up their gently used costumes and donate them for a great cause! All sizes accepted and accessories and old decorations too. Let's help ACONE-RI get to 400+ costumes this year so that we don't run out in the first hour of the event!!

*History Lesson*

*An Excerpt from  
 The Secret of Me*

*"Remember when we were in fifth grade and the teacher gave us that assignment*

*to make our family tree?" I ask, Cathy is on my bed, painting her toenails purple*

*while I water my rubber tree and Kate's yucca. "Yeah," she laughs, "Mom and Dad wanted me*

*to list all of their ancestors. I cut pictures out of Essence magazine instead, and glued*

*them on this piece of cardboard I cut out to look like a tree. "What did you do?" she asks.*

*"It made me so mad, my face must have turned the color of that nail polish. I turned*

*in a mini-tree, with just me, Mom, Dad, Bob, and Kate. Ms. Abbott's eyes about bugged out.*

*"Where's the rest of your tree?" she said, real snotty like. I said: 'Struck by lightning.'"*

*Meg Kearney  
 Persea Books: New York  
 Copyright © 2005*

## What Affects Expectant Parents' Choices of Lesbian and Gay Prospective Adoptive Families?

by Marla Ruth Allisan

JD, LICSW, Founder and Director of Full Circle Adoptions

If you are a professional within the adoption community and would like to contribute an article to ACONENEWS, please mail or email your composition to the ACONE Office. We will have a drawing from all the submissions sent in, and if your composition is chosen, we will contact you. We also encourage you to include pictures in your submissions.

### CALL FOR WORKSHOP PROPOSALS

We are now planning for the 2010 Annual ACONE Conference!

**Deadline is November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

If you would like to submit a proposal or a request for a specific topic, please be sure to have your information to the office by November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009. We are interested in workshops covering, but not limited to:

- Domestic/international/older child adoptions
- Special needs adoptions
- Foster care, search and reunion
- Transition from infertility
- Pre-school, school-age and Adolescent issues
- Trauma and attachment
- Adult adoptees
- Birth families
- Blended families
- Waiting families
- Alternative families
- Extended family members

With each proposal, please provide:

- Suggested Title
- 3-4 Sentence Description
- Presenter name
- Full Contact Information
- Credentials
- Current Position
- Relevant Experience
- Book/s you would like to see available in the bookstore
- Names and contact information for co-presenters or panelists.

If you would like to request a specific topic you would like to see covered, or a certain presenter, please be sure to let the office know.

Contact the office for a proposal form.

Full Circle Adoptions enjoys a reputation as an agency committed to helping families who many think might have a harder time being chosen, in addition to families who most think of as being easily chosen. We have helped families who are "older," those with challenging medical conditions, different physical abilities, different ethnicities/religions, inter-cultural, and socio-economic backgrounds, families living abroad, and lesbians and gays who are single or coupled. This essay will focus on some of the behind-the-scenes observations of the dynamics of expectant parents choosing a lesbian or gay family.

The very first expectant parent at Full Circle who chose a lesbian couple was a young woman who was considering the profiles of both a heterosexual couple and a lesbian couple. "Will they have a harder time being chosen?" she asked, pointing to the lesbian couple's profile. I answered, "Probably." I wasn't sure in that moment why she had asked. She thought a bit and then said, "Well, then I think I should choose them (pointing to the lesbian couple) if I'm open to them." While that was a historic moment for the agency, in fact, the underlying reasoning behind her choice of a lesbian couple was not that different in theme than other choices I have seen.

When expectant parents are making choices of prospective adoptive parents, one pattern is that they often want to "work

justice." They know that this is a powerful decision. In a way, they get to "play G-d" in deciding who will get the opportunity to parent their child. With this reasoning they may choose a family who has been waiting the longest, the family who doesn't yet have a child or a family who they feel might otherwise have a harder time being chosen for a variety of reasons. (Having said this, even if it is true that some expectant parents will choose a family who hasn't had a chance to be parents yet, we haven't seen any problem placing with families who already have children. Some expectant parents treasured their own siblings and choose a family with children to make sure their child has brothers and sisters.)

One of several reasons that I founded Full Circle was that the agency I had previously worked for wouldn't place with lesbian women and gay men, despite the fact that the regulations barred discrimination on these grounds. When we first started out helping gay men, many expectant mothers were interested in choosing gay couples because they liked the idea of preserving their sense of being the child's "only mother." The expectant parents who chose gay male couples have tended to be, in our experience, more educated, higher functioning in their lives, and more mature generally. Some expectant parents (both men and women) have selected gay male couples because

there was a gay man in their childhoods (a teacher, relative or family friend) who was instrumental to their positive experience of growing up. They may have known of that family member's lack of opportunity to be a parent. They, therefore, have a chance to help someone in a similar situation.

I once asked a very mature, articulate mother of an eleven year old son why she had chosen a gay male couple as a prospective adoptive family for her expected child. She said, "Well, everyone assumes I'm maternal or parent-material because I have a son. The sad reality is I have made repeated efforts for his father to be the primary parent. I love my son, but I do not particularly relish parenting. I chose names because I want to make a point: These two gay men are far more maternal than am I." (As her placement has unfolded, she and her son visit her daughter/his sister twice a year, traveling to Europe where the adoptive parents and child live).

I once expressed curiosity about why a different expectant mother hadn't considered a lesbian couple. She answered, candidly and poignantly, that she judged herself for not being able to care for her expected child. She expected that women would judge her more harshly than men and "two women" would translate to even more judgment. This was a version of reality that she held which seems quite unfortunate.

## WAITING IN MASSACHUSETTS



**Brian (11), John(10) & Anthony (8)**

Brian, John and Anthony are African American and Caucasian siblings who hope to find a family they can grow up in together.

Brian, age eleven, can be quiet and needs to be drawn into conversation. He likes being helpful around his foster home and walking the family dog. In his spare time, Brian likes drawing, building with LEGOS, riding his bicycle and playing sports. Brian can become easily frustrated and does best with structure and consistency. He attends weekly therapy and is in a special educational program that is helping him learn to better manage his emotions and behaviors.

John is a caring, affectionate ten year old who enjoys talking to people and receiving attention. His interests are similar to his brother's and include drawing and playing outside. John does well with redirection to stay on task and attends weekly therapy to help with his emotional needs. He has a special educational plan to address his need for structure to help him remain on task at school.

As the youngest, seven year old Anthony likes being independent and trying to figure out things on his own. He is a sweet, sensitive and loving boy who gets along well with the other children in the foster home. Anthony likes drawing, building with LEGOS, playing outside, and racing and crashing his toy cars. Anthony enjoys school though he is struggling with learning to read.

Legally free for adoption, these brothers are hoping to find a two-parent home with a strong male role model. They would do well as the only or youngest children in a home that allows them contact with their sister. There is an adoption agreement with their birth mother for two supervised visits per year.

To learn more about Brian, John, and Anthony, visit the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) website at [www.mareinc.org](http://www.mareinc.org) to fill out an information request form or call 617-54-ADOPT (617-542-3678) or 1-800-882-1176.

Registration #s 3429, 3430 & 3431

## What Affects Expectant Parents' Choices of Lesbian and Gay Prospective Adoptive Families?

(Continued...)

For one thing, having known discrimination, lesbian women and gay men often have quite a bit of authentic compassion for the circumstances of others. Lesbians are often feminists, women who have particular compassion for the different experiences of women. But what I heard in her comment was that her choice might have been a very sad consequence of the ways that some girls in their teen years interact with each other—judgmental, catty, and competitive at times.

As a result of this comment, which I suspect may reflect a fairly common misconception, I recommend the movie **Mean Girls**. The movie actually has nothing really to do with lesbians, but rather has to do with the ways girls sometimes treat each other. I thought her reasoning could have been a longer term "consequence" of some of that behavior. While ostensibly a humorous "chick flick" aimed at the teen crowd, I actually think **Mean Girls** is a very thought provoking movie. What I suggest to lesbian families is that they make a point of conveying their sincere feelings, and communicate a lack of judgment about the woman's present lack of capacity to raise her child. Meanwhile, I encourage them to find a way to speak about their sincere empathy and (feminist) insight that, but for different circumstances, they could be facing a similar decision.

Another experience comes to mind. I was talking once with an expectant mother in a very rural part of the South. She was not passive or shy. When we asked the open ended question about what family forms she

wanted to consider, she said, "Many of my friends are gay, but I don't want them for my child." I could have stopped there. I could have assumed some homophobic attitude such as the fear that a child's sexual orientation would be affected by their parents' lifestyle. (In fact, outcome research shows that children raised by lesbian women and gay men are simply more open-minded than children raised by heterosexual parents. Their sexual orientation is not affected—if anything, lesbian and gay parents know the importance of supporting a young adult's individual expression and choices.)

But I had the courage to ask her—why? She answered candidly—I'm afraid of AIDS. There was a gay male couple in the group of profiles whom she genuinely liked, but this was what held her back. "How about if we have a three-way conversation and I ask them directly about their safe sex practices, whether they have been tested, what they have done and would do to prevent HIV?" She was surprised—"Really, we could ask?" I said, "Why not?"

I called the adoptive parents and confirmed that they were comfortable and the conversation followed. She was greatly reassured, commented that they sounded safer than she was, given that she had engaged in unprotected sex resulting in this pregnancy and ultimately chose that family to be the parents for her son. The point of sharing this experience is that sometimes a few authentic questions can help everyone acknowledge and transcend assumptions.

Having chosen a lesbian or

gay family, not all states are legally up to speed. Some states will allow placement to an open lesbian/gay family. Others require that the home study be for one of the partners, acknowledging their relationship, but legalizing placement with only one partner. Some will recognize their legal marriage; others will not. Full Circle has experience with the legal complexities of placement with lesbian and gay families in many states and "outgoing" inter-country placement with lesbian and gay families as well. We are adept at understanding the appropriate and lawful ways to accomplish the expressed wishes of the birthparents to place with any particular family.

Over the years, Full Circle has had the honor of helping US and European lesbian and gay families become parents. If you're curious about the different profiles and what expectant parents might read, you can go to <http://www.fullcircleadoption.com/letters2.htm> (scroll down to "Placed Listings" and click on the names of two men or two women). We welcome diversity. We think that expectant parents are looking to work justice, to find a family who reminds them of their own family or the family they wish that they'd had, and they're looking for authenticity and genuine availability to raise and love a child. We're proud to help lesbian and gay families share their love, wisdom, guidance and compassion with the children they've come to adopt and care for as parents.

## WAITING IN VERMONT



Logan — 7 years old

Logan enjoys playing with Lego's, video games, riding bikes, puzzles, arts & crafts. His favorite superhero is Spiderman.

Logan has excellent manners, is very friendly, and is motivated to please those around him. He presents with attachment issues, which means that he has poor boundaries and will superficially attach to any individual that shows him attention.

Logan would do best with two active parents who enjoy outdoor activities. He really wants a dad who can do things with him, like taking him fishing and teaching him about all the things that fathers and sons enjoy. Being the only child would be Logan's best option as he requires a lot of attention. However, he would benefit from having an older male sibling to act as a role model.

His family must be willing to participate in attachment therapy with him; allow him to bond with them at his own pace; work with Logan's current therapist and team to help him transition into their home; and let him have fun, play, and just be a kid. His new family should also be willing to consider ongoing contact with Logan's birth family.

Logan can be very impulsive, often acting before thinking through the possible consequences; however, he can be easily redirected if those around him notice and intervene before he has a "meltdown." He needs firm structure, consistency, and a lot of attention, especially one-on-one attention from adults he cares about. Logan needs a family that will remain emotionally non-reactive and can disengage when he is acting out.

If you are interested in opening your home to Logan, please send a copy of your home study or Vermont foster care license to Permanency Planning Counselor,

Tammy Lalime  
Project Family at Lund  
100 Main St., Suite 230  
Newport, VT 05855  
[tammy.lalime@ahs.state.vt.us](mailto:tammy.lalime@ahs.state.vt.us)

Study on the Experiences of Adopted WomenWho Become Mothers

Are you an adopted woman, over 18 years old, who has given birth to your first biological child within the last 5 years? I am looking for adopted women who would like to take part in a research project as part of a doctoral degree. I am conducting a research study on the experiences of adopted women who become mothers of biological children. Participating in the study involves completing a short questionnaire, a face-to-face interview, and a short telephone follow-up interview. The total time for participation should range from 2 to 3 hours. If you answered yes to these questions and would like to talk about your experiences of pregnancy and motherhood, or have any questions about the research, then please contact Andrea at (415)-686-7364 or email [andrearule@mac.com](mailto:andrearule@mac.com)

## Chinese Adopted Children: Their Adoption and Identity

The Adoption and Development Project at Tufts University is studying how well Chinese adopted children understand aspects of adoption and their identity. Additionally it seeks to understand how families handle/deal with the adoption and ethnic or racial differences of their child. If you are interested in participating or learning more about this study, contact Tufts University's Department of Child Development at 617.627.5909 or visit their website at <http://tuftsadp.org>.

## English Language Development in Internationally Adopted Children

Participants between one and five years of age are needed for a study of English language development in internationally adopted children. The study involves two language evaluation sessions with certified speech-language pathologists and audiologists. For more information contact Dr. Emily Soltano of Worcester State College at [emily.soltano@worcester.edu](mailto:emily.soltano@worcester.edu) or 508.929.8764.

Post-placement  
Services Provided by  
Adoption Agencies

The Center for Adoption Support and Education (CASE) in Maryland is conducting a study of post-placement adoption services provided to families and children by adoption agencies. In partnership with Social Dynamics, they are in the process of conducting a survey of families that have never received therapeutic adoption services and have at least one adopted child between 5 and 18 years of age.

For more information about the survey, view their flyer at [http://www.whfc.org/PDF/CASE\\_Study.pdf](http://www.whfc.org/PDF/CASE_Study.pdf).

2008 Best  
Adoption-Friendly  
Workplaces List!

Each year, the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption announces a list of the employers, like Citizen's Financial Group, Inc and Fannie Mae, with the best adoption benefits in the nation. Rankings are based on the amount of financial reimbursement and paid leave for employees who adopt. Honorees include the top 100, the top ten by size and the top 5 by industry.

## WAITING IN MASSACHUSETTS



**Dakota & Hunter** — 10 & 8 years old

Dakota and Hunter are likeable, red-haired brothers who have lived together in the same foster home for over a year. Polite and well-liked, Dakota is a healthy ten year old who is all boy. He can be quiet at times and enjoys drawing in addition to outdoor activities. Dakota tries hard in school and is making good progress in reading and spelling with the help of an Individualized Educational Plan.

Hunter, eight years old, is also well-liked in his foster home and by his teachers in school. Hunter likes attention and can be anxious, particularly in school and with peers. He recently began therapy to address his emotional needs. These brothers are legally free for adoption, and they are ready to be placed in a single or two-parent home with or without other children. They hope for a family that will always be there for them. A family is being sought that will consider an open adoption agreement with their biological father, possibly one or two visits a year.

To learn more about Dakota and Hunter, visit the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) website at [www.mareinc.org](http://www.mareinc.org) to fill out an information request form or call 617-54-ADOPT (617-542-3678) or 1-800-882-1176.

Registration # 3386 & 3387

#### A Look at Adoption

<http://adoptioncommunityofne.org/pages/programs/all/a-look-at-adoption.php>

July 25, 2009	2:00 – 5:30 pm
August 29, 2009	2:00 – 5:30 pm
September 26, 2009	2:00 – 5:30 pm
October 24, 2009	2:00 – 5:30 pm

#### Baby Care for Pre-Adoptive First-Time Parents

<http://adoptioncommunityofne.org/pages/programs/all/baby-care.php>

August 4, 2009	6:30 – 9:30 pm (International only)
August 5, 2009	6:30 – 9:30 pm (Domestic only)
September 12, 2009	9:00 am – 1:00 pm
October 3, 2009	9:00 am – 1:00 pm

#### Birth Families Meet to Discuss Adoption

<http://adoptioncommunityofne.org/pages/programs/all/birth-families-meet.php>

August 15, 2009	10:00 am – Noon
September 19, 2009	10:00 am – Noon
October 17, 2009	10:00 am – Noon

#### Adopted Persons Meet for Discussion

<http://adoptioncommunityofne.org/pages/programs/all/adopted-persons-meet.php>

August 19, 2009	7:00 – 9:00 pm
September 23, 2009	7:00 – 9:00 pm
October 28, 2009	7:00 – 9:00 pm

#### A Support Group for Waiting Parents

<http://adoptioncommunityofne.org/pages/programs/all/support-group-for-waiting-parents.php>

August 12, 2009	6:30 – 8:30 pm
September 26, 2009	10:00 am - Noon
October 24, 2009	10:00 am - Noon

#### Triad Group

<http://adoptioncommunityofne.org/pages/programs/all/triad-group.php>

August 1, 2009	10:00 am – Noon
September 12, 2009	10:00 am – Noon
October 3, 2009	10:00 am - Noon

#### Legal Aspects of Adoption

<http://adoptioncommunityofne.org/pages/programs/all/legal-aspects-of-adoption.php>

August 5, 2009	7:30 — 9:00 pm
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#### Your Child and the School Experience

<http://adoptioncommunityofne.org/pages/programs/all/your-child-and-the-school-experience.php>

August 19, 2009	7:00— 9:00 pm
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All of these programs take place at the ACONE office in Westborough, MA.

If you have any questions about these programs and events, please contact the office.

## Additions to the ACONE Lending Library

The ACONE Lending Library provides a borrowing service free of charge for members. It contains over 1000 items in print, audio, CD, video and DVD format. A complete listing of all library materials may be viewed by visiting our website and searching the database by author, title, or keyword. This list includes some of our acquisitions of the most current titles in the field as well as donated items representing a cross section of interests.

**A:** Audio **P:** Print **V:** Video **D:** DVD **C:** CD'

P502 - Patty's Journey (1996)

By Donna Scott Norling

P503 - Without a Map (2007)

By Meredith Hall

P505 - Solution Focused Therapy with Children (1997)

By Matthew D. Selekman

P506 - Raising Cain (1998)

By Richard J. Delaney, Ph.D.

P510 - In their Parents' Voices (2007)

By Rita J Simon & Rhonda M. Roorda

P511 - Swimming Up the Sun (2008)

By Nicole J. Burton

## WAITING IN MAINE



**Julia**—16 years old

Julia is an affectionate young lady who enjoys arts and crafts, shopping and spending time with her friends. Julia is quite creative and artistic. She especially likes to knit and scrapbook. Due to some of her life experiences, Julia is behind in school, but she makes up for that with hard work and a strong desire to succeed. Because of her determination, Julia was able to skip to a grade that was more age appropriate for her. She does receive special education support to help her continue to catch up. She has a strong desire to go to college and become a caseworker.

The best family for Julia would be one that can be supportive to her as she learns how to have healthy relationships and grieves all the losses she has experienced. A family would need to show Julia that they can provide structure, follow-through, and make sure that Julia knows that they will always be there for her. Julia enjoys younger children and animals, but would also do well as an only child. Julia has a grandmother and sister that she sees regularly, and she would expect this to continue in an adoptive family. Adoption subsidy may be available to the most appropriate family for Julia.

To learn more about Julia, visit [www.adoptuskids.org](http://www.adoptuskids.org) or call A Family for ME at 877.505.0545 or 207.588.0996.

Registration # - ME040367

**BENNY****Play About Adoption & Identity**

The John Montgomery Theatre Company announces the World Premiere of **Benny**, a bold new play about adoption and identity by Suzanne Bachner presented as part of the Midtown International Theater Festival. Benny plays on the following schedule through Saturday, August 1st:

Thursday, July 16th @ 6:30pm  
 Friday, July 17th @ 7pm  
 Sunday, July 26th @ 4:30pm  
 Wednesday, July 29th @ 4:30pm  
 Saturday, August 1st @ 3pm

Tickets are \$20.50 for adults and \$17.50 for students and seniors and can be purchased at [www.midtownfestival.org](http://www.midtownfestival.org), or by calling 866-811-4111. Tickets are also available in person at the box office one half hour before show time.

The June Havoc Theatre is located at 312 West 36th Street between 8th and 9th Avenues in Manhattan. Take the A, C or E train to 34TH Street.

**FCC Kids Issue — A Journal of Families with Children from China**

Families with Children from China (of Greater New York) has been publishing a journal for 6 years now, and it has been a great success. The New FCC Journal Includes a Kids Issue, which is devoted to original works submitted by FCC kids. It is a wonderful way for our children to participate in FCC, and display their original work.

**Work must be submitted electronically, before July 31.** Digital submissions only. If submitting art, please send scanned works only.

No originals – scanned at 300 dpi (so we can enlarge the image).

**WHAT TO SEND:**

Art, writing, photographs or other creations. Works about China or being adopted are welcome, but other subjects are welcome, too. One entry per child please.

**NOTE: The first 150 entries received will be considered. Entries received**

**thereafter will be considered for the following issue.**

Stories, no longer than 650 words. Please send all materials by e-mail in an attached file.

The E-mail must include the following: Parents Name, Address, Email & Phone #, Child's Name, Chinese Name, Province & City, Age Of Child, and the Title of the Piece.

Entries should be submitted to Kids Issue designer, Roe Intrieri, at: [roe.intrieri@storyworldwide.com](mailto:roe.intrieri@storyworldwide.com) You may also contact Roe Intrieri via e-mail at [roe.intrieri@storyworldwide.com](mailto:roe.intrieri@storyworldwide.com) or phone at: (646) 437-0629 for more information.

**FCC Membership is Required**

A current 2009 FCC-New England or FCC-Greater New York membership is required for submission to the FCC Kids Issue.



An official publication of  
Adoption Community of  
New England, Inc.

Phone: 508.366.6812

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E-mail:

[info@AdoptionCommunityofNE.org](mailto:info@AdoptionCommunityofNE.org)

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## Parent Groups at Adoptive Families Together

Adoptive Families Together (AFT) offers several parent-run confidential groups to share personal concerns and needs around adoptive parenting. Partnered with Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (MSPCC) AFT provides education, advocacy, support, and more. We also welcome adopted individuals, birth parents, foster parents and all those with a connection to adoption. These are ongoing groups that meet once a month. To view AFT's summer schedule, go to [http://www.mspcc.org/site/DocServer/AFT\\_Summer\\_2009\\_Group\\_Schedule.pdf?docID=3881](http://www.mspcc.org/site/DocServer/AFT_Summer_2009_Group_Schedule.pdf?docID=3881) or contact Nora Farrell at 617-587-1563 or [nofarrell@mspcc.org](mailto:nofarrell@mspcc.org) for more information.

## Red Sox Raffle Fundraiser!

USAAdoption Solutions is an adoption agency based in Lancaster, Mass. and Albany, New York that facilitates domestic foster care adoptions.

The raffle runs through July 25 and the grand prize is two tickets to the Red Sox/Yankees game on Aug. 22, including deluxe limo transportation and a Sox merchandise package. Second and third prize winners will receive pairs of Red Sox tickets or tickets to local games in Worcester and Albany.

Tickets are \$3 each, 5 for \$10 or a book of 10 for \$20. Visit the following website for more information:

<http://www.usadoptionsolutions.org/news/events.php>



All funds raised help to open and support new offices throughout the United States. The more offices we have, the more children we can help place in permanent homes. **Every \$25,000 raised by donors translates into USAAdoption Solutions opening a new office somewhere in the United States!**

## Host a High School Student from China

Forté International is a non-profit exchange association in Washington, DC. Having placed students throughout the state in the past we know students have enjoyed living with families in the area. Currently we have a few high school aged exchange students from China coming to the US starting in August or September who are currently in need of a host family. We are looking to reach individuals, parents and families who might be interested in hosting Chinese students to bolster their and/or their child's exposure to a new language and culture at home.

For families who host our public school exchange students for the 2009-2010 school year, we have an opportunity for their son or daughter to study abroad for 2 weeks in China during July 2010 for free!

The only cost to the family is a small application fee to reserve their spot and a \$650 flight to China from either San Francisco or Los Angeles! Families need not have high school aged children to host.

For more information about this program, contact :

Sarah Crockett,

Program Manager

Forté International Exchange Association

(202) 628-8226.

[sarah@forteintl.com](mailto:sarah@forteintl.com)

## Adoption Community of New England, Inc.,

a non-profit organization serving all people touched by adoption, does not endorse any one kind of adoption, only the right of every child to safety and permanency.

## ACONE News is published quarterly.

Unless otherwise expressly stated, the opinions in this Newsletter are those of the author alone and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion or policy of ACONE or its Board.