

*The AAC  
International  
Adoption  
Conference  
from  
1979  
to  
2019  
and  
Beyond*

*April 3, 2019  
to  
April 6, 2019*



*Logo by Sarah Dodson*

*Hyatt Regency Crystal City  
at Reagan National Airport  
Arlington, VA*

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# Welcome from the President!



On behalf of the American Adoption Congress Board of Directors and the AAC Conference Planning Committee, it is my honor to welcome you to this most special 40th Anniversary celebration of our beloved American Adoption Congress. Our theme this year *Honoring our Past Welcoming our Future* reflects our beginnings at the first gathering of our founders here in our nation's capital and all the dedicated adoption advocates who still hold high the banner of adoption reform.

During this conference you will be able to experience the rich history of the AAC via a beautifully crafted PowerPoint featuring over 400 images of people and places of from our history. Special kudos to Marilyn Waugh for her untiring support of the AAC and her masterful skills at collecting the far flung photos you will see.

We have available a comprehensive new AAC Book List that covers the classics (think The Adoption Triangle) to soon be released new classics. We hope you will join us **Thursday evening at 6:30 pm in the Regency Ballroom** for the **Author's Round Table** in Regency Ballrooms A&B featuring the authors who are present and presenting during this conference. You will be able to ask questions of the experts and to have one on one time to have your books signed.

We are honored this year to have Haley Radke of *Adoptees On!* Podcast joining us as a keynote speaker and who will host a Meet Up group following the Thursday and Friday afternoon workshops.

So let's get started! Our **Opening Reception** will be from **5 – 6:30 pm** in the stunning **Chesapeake View Room** on the top floor of the hotel. Join us for hors d'oeuvres and beverages and activities to set the pace for the conference.

**Immediately following** the reception you'll want to head down to the **Regency Ballroom for Dancing with DJ.....** and a chance to loosen up for the days ahead!

Welcome to the 40th Annual American Adoption Congress International Conference!

Amy Winn  
President

## Registration Table will be along the wall by Regency Ballroom A&B

You may pick up your conference materials at any time that the Registration Desk is open. We ask that you do so during these times only so that our volunteers may also attend the activities of the conference.

Day	Registration Time 1	Registration Time 2
Wednesday	11:00 PM - 4:30 PM	None
Thursday	7:00 AM - 8:30 AM	2:15 PM - 3:30 PM
Friday	7:00 AM - 8:30 AM	11:25 AM - 12:30 PM
Saturday	6:45 AM - 8:00 AM	None

# About AAC

Founded in 1979, the American Adoption Congress (AAC) is an all volunteer-driven, tax exempt 501 (C) 3 organization which was incorporated in 1981. The AAC Board of Directors, as well as the AAC Ambassadors serve entirely as volunteers and receive no monetary compensation. The AAC Relies on funds generated by membership dues, sponsors, grant donations and conference revenues.

AAC membership is made up of an international network of adoption and foster constellation members, individuals conceived through assisted reproduction, professionals and others whose lives have been impacted by adoption and foster care. Our members help promote honesty, openness and respect for all family connections, no matter how they were formed.

## Conference Committee Members

**Conference Co-Chair** - Amy Winn

**Conference Co-Chair** - Tim Dorgan

**Event Registrar**- Susan Friel-Williams & Roberta MacDonald

**Brochure** - Roberta MacDonald

**A/V** - EGAMI

Marilyn Waugh

Erica Babino

Kris Probasco

Sarah Dodson

Shawna Hodgson

Marietta Hummons

Leslie Livingston

Tim Monti-Wohlpart

Kay Springer

Cecilia Jackson

## All Meals will be in the Regency Foyer

### **Wednesday**

Opening Reception                      **Chesapeake View Room** at top of hotel  
hors d'oeuvres, 2 free drink tickets, Cash bar

### **Thursday & Friday**

Breakfast buffet

Break out beverages and snacks between workshop session morning and afternoon

Keynote box lunch - Breaks just before Keynotes

### **Saturday - Regency Foyer**

Breakfast buffet

Break out beverages and snacks between workshop morning sessions  
no afternoon breakout

# Conference Details

## Washington, DC

This year's conference is being held just as it was 40 years ago in our nation's capital. With the original intent of our founders to educate and advocate for open birth records, coming to Washington, DC was the clear choice. And 40 years later we are still educating and advocating for open records and returning to Washington, DC brings us back to our roots and is the perfect launching place for our next 40 years of advocacy.

## Workshops

This year's conference workshops will cover a variety of topics for all members of the adoption constellation and the professionals who work within this realm. Diversity, legislation, how-tos of searching and reunion and personal experiences will be shared.

## Certificates of Attendance

All licensed mental health professionals will be able to sign for and receive up to 18 Certificate of Attendance credits all qualifying workshops and keynote presentations.

## Shuttle & Transportation Information

The Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, VA, is conveniently located near Reagan National Airport. Their complimentary hotel shuttle service runs continuously between 4:40 am and midnight at 20 minute intervals. The shuttle picks up from Terminals A & B.

*Would you like to be a part of the  
2020 Conference Planning committee?  
If so please contact Shawna Hodgson at  
shawna.hodgson@yahoo.com*

## Disclaimer

The AAC wishes to provide a safe and welcoming conference space for all attendees, guests and presenters and does not condone unbecoming behavior. Also, the expressed opinions shared by presenters at the conference are solely the opinions of the presenters and not that of the AAC.

# Reflections from 1979 - Washington D.C.

*On page one, "The national conference is finally a reality!! The American Adoption Congress will be meeting May 4-7 in Washington, D.C."*

*"The response so far has been tremendous"*

*"The American Adoption Congress plans to continue after the conference... One activity of the AAC will be to hold an conference every two years with the location changing regions every time." Writeup courtesy of Sharon Forbes & The Adoption Forum of Philadelphia*

*"I never had an experience like that before, " said Jean Paton of the first national conference of the neophyte American Adoption Congress. The event, which drew about 200 adoptees, their spouses, adoptive and birth parents to Washington, D.C. this past week-end was the first congregation of its kind in the nation's history.*

*Miss Paton of Cedaredge, founder of Orphan Voyage and a pioneer in helping the adopted gain an identity was honored for 25 years of dedicated efforts. "I never felt so loved in my life " she recounted.*

*Miss Paton observed "the era of unquestioning acceptance" is past. Delegates urged continuation of efforts toward open birth and adoption records at maturity.*

*From the LOG of the Orphan Voyage*

*Dear Jean*

*I am still riding a wonderful wave of the future and anyone who tilts their head gets quite an earful. Also, history has always been very interesting and 25 years ago you started a trickle, that this year turned into a mighty rushing river. We are all parts of that river now and it will take a while to adjust to our new and surprisingly strong image as we all work together - Bonnie Frank - Adoptive Parent for Open Recs.*

*"WOW, What an experience and one I will never forget "said Susan Darke O.V. Boston newsletter". They came from 32 states, the District of Columbia, Canada and Mexico. Orphan Voyage alone had 25 representatives from across the country."*

*"There is great strength in the movement because it represents the healthy members of the triad. It was at the AAC where I grew years in only days. Here is where a newly awakened member of the triad can be understood, really share and know that they are normal. An organization with this many committed people working together to raise human dignity with the intensity that this group is, must certainly have an effect on the world. Everyone there was deeply and personally involved. The deep intensity of their involvement was in Adoption Reform" Bonnie Frank*

*...TIME....*

*Time is too slow for those who wait, too swift for those who fear; too long for those who grieve;*

*But for those who love--*

*Time is eternity .....*                      *Unsigned*

*(Quoted from Oregon Adoptive Rights Association)*

# Honoring our Past Welcoming the Future

## Keynote Speakers



**Sharon Kaplan Roszia**

**Thursday - April 4, 2019 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM**

*Honoring Our Past, Creating Our Future: Setting the Agenda as We Evolve*

**Naomi Cahn**

**Thursday - April 4, 2019 12:45 PM - 2:15 PM**

*Legal aspects of donor insemination*



**Dr. Cecelia Jackson**

**Friday - April 5, 2019 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM**

*Diversity, Etymological Review and Analysis*

**Haley Radke**

**Friday - April 5, 2019 12:30 AM - 2:00 AM**

*Our Voices Are the Tipping Point*



**New York Assemblyman Robert C. Carroll**

**Saturday - April 6, 2019 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM**

*Open records legislation in New York*

# Wednesday - April 3, 2019

**NOTE:** Unless requested by the presenter all  
keynotes, workshops, performances will be recorded.

When participating in question and answer please speak into microphone.

Audio recordings of all sessions plus video keynotes are available for purchase  
at the EGAMI table.

A flash drive including all recordings will be available  
at a special conference price.

11:00 AM - 4:30 PM	<b>Registration Open</b> (Along wall by Regency Ballroom A&B)
4:30 PM	<b>Registration Closed</b>
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM	<b>Opening Reception</b> (Chesapeake View Room top floor of hotel)
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	<b>Dancing to AA Rock</b> (Regency Ballroom)
9:00 PM - 11:00 PM	<b>Hospitality</b> (Tidewater II)

## Join us Friday evening for our Volunteer Forum

Open to all members whether or not you have volunteered in the past.

An organization is only as strong as its members and volunteers. YOU make the AAC thrive!

For 40 years, volunteers have driven the AAC forward. History shows that organizations such as ours must be able to grow and change if they want to continue to be effective. Change can be good and we want to continue evolving and serving the adoption reform community as we always have, through steadfast advocacy and community outreach.

As we move forward to another 40 years of AAC leadership in adoption education and reform, we know that we need to refresh our systems, refocus on how to work and relate to new challenges. Our country is so vastly different than the one our AAC founders lived in; so it just makes sense that we need to restructure our volunteer systems to fit the needs of the present and future AAC.

We invite you to meet with us and tell us your visions for the future of our AAC. We want to hear your thoughts and ideas on how AAC can continue to strengthen and advocate for adoption reform and legislative change.

Please join us **Friday, April 5th, at 6:30 pm** for cocktails and appetizers in the Regency Ballroom A & B to discuss future volunteer opportunities and YOUR visions for the future of our beloved AAC.

Sincerely,  
Shawna Hodgson  
Volunteer Coordinator  
AAC Board of Directors

THIS EVENT REPLACES THE STATE REP DINNER

# Thursday - April 4, 2019

- 6:30 AM - 8:00 AM     **Breakfast** (Regency Foyer)
- 7:00 AM - 8:30 AM     **Registration Open** (Along wall by Regency Ballroom A&B)  
8:30 AM                 **Registration Closed**
- 8:00 AM - 8:30 AM     **Official Opening** (Regency Ballrooms A&B)
- 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM    **Keynote: *Honoring our Past, Creating Our Future:  
Setting the Agenda as We Evolve***

## **Sharon Kaplan Roszia (Regency Ballrooms A&B)**

Adoption practices and policies have significantly changed over time, and it is important to understand their evolution, as well as the implications of these changes. This keynote presentation will highlight research findings on outcomes of infant and older child adoptions from foster care, openness in adoption, interracial, transracial and intercountry adoptions, and adoptions by lesbian and gay families. Implications and recommendations for birth and adoptive family and recommendations for birth and adoptive family members, as well as adoption professionals, will be provided.

- 10:00 AM - 10:15 AM    **BREAK** (President's Quarters Atrium)  
10:15 AM - 11:15 AM    **WORKSHOP SERIES 1-3**

## **WORKSHOP 1 - *RISE: Building a Statewide Collaborative To Transform Adoption Policy and Practice***

### **Erica Curry Van Ee (Kennedy - 3rd Floor)**

Adoption is a lifelong journey with a multigenerational impact. While policies and practices around the world largely depend on where you live and what year you were born, there are some universal truths. Adult adoptees are rarely consulted about our experience to help shape reform efforts. Access to health history, ancestry and cultural heritage continue to be denied to millions of adoptees. Expectant mothers don't receive prenatal care that protects informed consent and promotes family preservation. Adoptive parents aren't prepared for complex trauma, leaving them feeling overwhelmed, frustrated and alone. Dominant cultural narratives oversimplify adoption, losses incurred with international and transracial adoption, and the complexity of the adopted experience. Minimization of the ongoing impact of adoption leaves professionals uninformed and unprepared to have language and tools that promote healing. We need comprehensive approaches that encourage adoptees to rise up, share their stories and lead the way for the next generation.

## **WORKSHOP 2 - *Managing Competing Demands, The Life of a Caregiver***

### **Kevin Darrow Brown (Jefferson - 3rd Floor)**

Adoptive and foster caregivers face unique stressors and seemingly daunting challenges. When opening homes and hearts to children, life can feel turned upside down. Demands vie for time, logistics and emotional space. Identity and self-care suffer. Regain a sense of self and learn to manage life's competing demands.

# Thursday - April 4, 2019 (Continued)

10:15 AM - 11:15 AM

**WORKSHOP SERIES 1 - 3 (continued)**

## **WORKSHOP 3 - *Who Am I? Where Did I Come From?***

**Susan Moyer (Lincoln - 3rd Floor)**

A discussion on the importance for all adoptees to have the right to know where we came from. The common thread that all adoptees share regardless of the circumstances surrounding their adoption. Why adoptees should have access to their birth records to be able to put together the missing pieces of their own personal puzzle to answer the questions... Who Am I? Where Did I Come From? Susan, an adoptee of closed adoption will talk about her thirty- year journey to find her biological family from her newly published memoir *The Lonely Child*. She will share the many obstacles, amazing discoveries and what it was like to find the birth family she so longed for and why she is no longer the Lonely Child. Susan will offer encouragement to those searching, to never give up and why it is important for every State to open up adoptee's birth records.

11:15 AM - 11:30 AM

**BREAK** (President's Quarters Atrium)

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

**WORKSHOP SERIES 4 - 7**

## **WORKSHOP 4 - *Open Adoption, An Adoptee's Journey***

**Danielle Rector Gorretta (Kennedy- 3rd Floor)**

Adopted at birth through an open adoption and raised to believe that you can't have too much family, Danielle shares her journey through to adulthood building memories and relationships with various members of her birth, adoptive, and chosen family.

## **WORKSHOP 5 - *Neurodevelopment In Loss and Trauma***

**John Sobraske (Jefferson - 3rd Floor)**

This workshop takes a look at how profound loss, trauma, attachment, and neurodevelopment intertwine for children who have been adopted, faced foster care, orphanage life, neglect, or abuse. The presenter will identify how loss, stress and trauma affect the young brain and hormone system, sense of self, and relationships. Practical interventions will be provided.

## **WORKSHOP 6 - *Changing the Narrative of Adoption in Media***

**Gabrielle Glaser (Lincoln - 3rd Floor)**

For a century, the media and popular culture have presented adoption in North America as a discreet event that's best for all parties involved. It was, and is, anything but the happily-ever-after package that is relentlessly peddled. This workshop will help explore how adoptees and first mothers can assist journalists and storytellers dispel the powerful mythology perpetuated by glowing (and unquestioned) stories of celebrity adoptions, including those of Angelina Jolie, Sandra Bullock, and Hoda Kotb. It will also examine how to counteract the onscreen stereotypes that vilify first parents and pathologize adoptees, such as those in 2018's "Instant Family," "Private Life," and "Papa," among others. This workshop will gear to adoptees, birth families, adoptive families and professionals.

## **WORKSHOP 7 - *FASDS: Steps and Solutions for a Life Long Journey***

**Rebecca Tillou (Roosevelt - 3rd Floor)**

Come and sit in on a PowerPoint presentation that explains what Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASDs) are, the daily struggles those with FASDs may face, and the speaker's life story of living with an unknown diagnosis until age 33. Come listen and learn about ideas that stem from the speaker's life experiences aimed at educators to assist them in teaching those whose brains are easily overstimulated. Learn the importance of different doctors knowing the importance of abstaining from alcohol if you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant.

# Thursday - April 4, 2019 (Continued)

12:30 PM - 12:45 PM **BREAK - Box Lunch** (Regency Foyer)

12:45 PM - 2:15 PM **KEYNOTE: Legal aspects of Donor Insemination**

## **Naomi Cahn (Regency Ballrooms A&B)**

This talk will consider the broad social implications of assisted reproductive technology (ART) and the interests of various stakeholders in ART. It will address the need for further regulation of ART in three areas: fertility markets, parentage determinations, and identity issues for offspring of ART.

2:15 PM - 2:30 PM **BREAK** (President's Quarters Atrium)

2:15 PM - 3:30 PM **Registration Open** (Along wall by Regency Ballroom A&B)

3:30 PM **Registration Closed**

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM **WORKSHOP SERIES 8 - 11**

## **WORKSHOP 8 - Open Adoption: A Parent's Journey**

**Thomas Rector (Kennedy - 3rd Floor)**

We want to see our children flourish and our family dynamic succeed. In this workshop, one adoptive dad shares how his children's open adoptions revealed new insights on how memories, environment, and human development impact experiences, behavior and decisions, and how to use this knowledge to enhance open adoption dynamics.

## **WORKSHOP 9 - Beyond Birth Country**

**Melanie Chung-Sherman and Karen Doyle Buckwalter (Jefferson - 3rd Floor)**

When parents adopt/foster across racial lines there are unique dynamics that must be considered across the life span. Healthy racial identity (distinct and different from culture) is fundamentally integral in building positive self-esteem, healthy interactions, and confidence in order for transracial adoptees and foster youth to navigate the world around them. Increasingly, adult transracial adoptees are voicing the challenges of being unprepared to cope with racism once they leave their adoptive families. This workshop will examine the impact of the "trauma of racism" has on adopted kids of color throughout the lifespan. Healthy racial identity formation within the transracial adoptee experience is key aspect adoption-competent care. Learning how to address the impacts of race in relation to adoptee's social and emotional development builds a sense of trust and empowerment. We will examine how to discuss race, address racial bullying, and build trust-based connection through the lens of racial awareness, relationship, and compassion.

## **WORKSHOP 10 - A Birthmother's Story**

**Kris Landry (Lincoln - 3rd Floor)**

In 1964 birthmothers were told that once they gave their babies up for adoption, they could go on with their lives as though nothing had happened. How do birthmothers heal from the impact of such a profound lie? What do we do with the secrets we hold? Who are we apart from the shadow of the secret being held? Exploring a birthmother's story, we will attempt to answer these questions through the power of story – the story of how a heart can awaken from brokenness, be transformed by truth, and freed by love.

"There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you." Maya Angelou

# Thursday - April 4, 2019 (Continued)

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

**WORKSHOP SERIES 8 - 11 (Continued)**

## **WORKSHOP 11 - *Supporting Mental Health Needs of Adopted Youth, YES WE CAN!***

**Lisa Maynard and Edith Davis-Brown (Roosevelt - 3rd Floor)**

An engaging and highly interactive workshop presenting a model for implementing a state-wide training initiative in child welfare and mental health settings. The National Adoption Competency Mental Health Training Initiative (NTI) within the Center for Adoption Support and Education (C.A.S.E.) aims to better equip child welfare and mental health professionals to address the complex mental health needs of children along the full-continuum who have been adopted, in guardianship, and in foster care.

3:30 PM - 3:45 PM **BREAK** (President's Quarters Atrium)

3:45 PM - 4:45 PM **WORKSHOP SERIES 12 - 14**

## **WORKSHOP 12 - *On Adoption and Addiction***

**David Bohl (Kennedy - 3rd Floor)**

Drawing from research, as well as using his own professional and personal experience, David B. Bohl will offer a discussion on the link between adoption and substance use disorder. On Adoption and Addiction is geared toward a general audience (birthparents, adoptees, adoptive parents) as well as professionals. It is suitable for both types of audiences as it's a dialogue based on David B. Bohl's personal experience—as an adoptee and a person with substance use disorder—that will be supported by his expertise as an Addiction Professional.

## **WORKSHOP 13 - *Adoption Forensics, What We Need to Know as Clinicians***

**Dr. Tracy Carlis (Jefferson - 3rd Floor)**

While only 2-3 % of the population (5-10 million) are adopted people and over 320 million are non-adopted people, adoptees are over represented in the juvenile criminal system, prison system, psychiatric institutional system and in drug and alcohol rehabilitation settings. They are most often the individuals who are serial killers, mass murders and those who commit parricides. The FBI estimates that of the 500 serial killers in the US, 16% are American born and adopted and that 70% or 2/3rds of all inmates in California's prisons have spent time in foster care. Statistically adoptees are 15 times more likely to kill one or both of their adoptive parents (parricide) than are biological children. As a profession of adoption specific therapist, we need to know how to treat adoptees and understand the underlying psychopathology and risk factors inherent as it pertains to all adopted individuals.

## **WORKSHOP 14 - *You're Not My Real Mom***

**Julie Falkowski (Lincoln - 3rd Floor)**

As a Mom of seven, five of whom are adopted, I have been studying the effects of trauma and how to support my children. I am looking forward to sharing my experiences. With an A.S. in Human Service, B.A. in Asian Studies, and an M.S. in College Student Personnel Administration, plus my life experiences, I thought I was ready to handle the rollercoaster of foster care and adoption. I am just beginning.

## Thursday - April 4, 2019 (Continued)

4:45 PM - 5:00 PM	<b>BREAK</b>
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	<b>Various Support Groups (To be announced at Confence)</b>
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	<b>Adoptees ON Meetup</b> with Haley Radke (Regency Ballroom)
5:00 PM	<b>Dinner on your own</b>
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM	<b>Author's Round Table</b> (Regency Ballrooms A&B)
9:00 PM - 11:00 PM	<b>Hospitality (Tidwater II)</b>

## Friday - April 5, 2019

6:30 AM - 8:00 AM	<b>Breakfast</b> (Regency Foyer)
7:00 AM - 8:30 AM	<b>Restriction Open</b> (Along wall by Regency Ballroom A&B)
8:30 AM	<b>Registration Closed</b>
8:30 AM - 10:00 AM	<b>Keynote: Diversity, Etymological Review and Analysis</b> <b>Dr. Cecelia Jackson (Regency Ballrooms A&amp;B)</b>
In our present world of ubiquitous diversity, there is the responsibility of cultural, ethnic and racial sensitivity in the global adoptive paradigm. Whether a parent, prospective parent, adoptee, or professional; the review and analysis of etymological content and values embracing multi-cultural, multi-ethnicity, and multi-racial differences in adopted children strongly secures bridges of acceptance. Moreover, these educational tools dispel myths, nurture a sense of inclusiveness in adoptees, and provide strategies for endearment and embracing differences in the more broad adoptive community.	
10:00 - 10:15 AM	<b>BREAK</b> (Regency Foyer)
10:15 AM - 11:15 PM	<b>WORKSHOP SERIES 15 - 17</b>

### **WORKSHOP 15 - "Clean" Adoption Reform: An AAC Legislative Policy Built for the Future**

#### **Tim Monti-Wohlpart and Shawna Hodgson (Potomac 1 - Ballroom Level)**

Tim Monti-Wohlpart (National Legislative Chair / NY State Rep) and Shawna Hodgson (Volunteer Coordinator / Texas activist) will discuss the recent enactment of the American Adoption Congress' new legislative policy to support the restoration of unrestricted access to original birth certificates for all adult adoptees. Put simply, the days of timidly sticking our toes in the water of adoptee equal rights are officially over! Tim and Shawna will also discuss some of the similar, and dissimilar, challenges they face relative to the political landscape in New York, Texas and beyond. Discussion with attendees will allow for review of:

- 1) how does one start and lobby legislation,
- 2) suggestions for a media strategy and
- 3) how to actively debunk the arguments of adoptee rights opponents.

# Friday - April 5, 2019 (Continued)

10:15 AM - 11:15 PM

**WORKSHOP SERIES 15 - 17 (Continued)**

## **WORKSHOP 16 - *The Legacy of Attachment***

**Karen Buckwalter and Lori Thomas (Potomac 2 - Ballroom Level)**

Patterns and states of mind related to attachment are passed down generationally in both biological and adoptive families. There is a robust correlation between a parent's attachment classification, as assessed by the Adult Attachment Interview, and their child's attachment pattern. In addition, parents sometimes unconsciously carry hurts from their own past into the parent child relationship and these "ghosts" in the adoption may challenge attachment security. This workshop will address various adult and child attachment patterns and the impact of them related to parenting adopted children. Participants will gain an understanding of why awareness of one's own attachment history is critically important to successfully parent's one's own children toward secure attachment and learn ways to consider this as adoptive parents and professionals.

## **WORKSHOP 17 - *The Challenges and Impact of Adoption and Foster Care***

**Marietta Hummons (Potomac 3 - Ballroom Level)**

This workshop will explore the challenges of adoption placements from perspectives of those impacted. Family relationships/dynamics will be explored, and a discussion held on best practices and ways to bridge the gap between professionals and those impacted exploring a range of situations and emotions, including transracial adoptions.

11:15 AM - 11:30 AM

**BREAK** (Regency Foyer)

11:15 AM - 12:30 PM

**Registration Open** (Along wall by Regency Ballroom A&B)

12:30 PM

**Registration Closed**

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

**WORKSHOP SERIES 18- 20**

## **WORKSHOP 18 - *Walking the Walk, How to Avoid Pitfalls and Unlock the Keys to Success in Reunions***

**Sarah Burns and Dave Campbell (Potomac 1- Ballroom Level)**

This panel discussion will be comprised of adoptees and birth family members. The focus will be on unlocking the keys to a successful reunion as well as discovering and avoiding the pitfalls. It will include adoptees and birth family members in various stages of reunion, including Sarah Burns and David Campbell. The workshop will include question and answer time. This will be an original presentation and will give voice to the ongoing needs of the adoption community. It will touch on the following topics:

- How do we define success and how do we find it in a reunion?
- What "mistakes" that make some reunions difficult can be avoided?
- What happens to a partner/spouse during a search & reunion?
- Preserving our mental health: why is reunion so crazy-making?
- When the honeymoon is over: How do we navigate the reunion over the years?

# Friday - April 5, 2019 (Continued)

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

**WORKSHOP SERIES 18- 20 (Continued)**

## **WORKSHOP 19 - *What, a Disability? Autism, You've Got to Appreciate It***

**Gail Ward and Ishmael Muhammad (Potomac 2 - Ballroom Level)**

Have you ever noticed how people are different? As a parent and educator, you would think I would have noticed sooner about my son's differences compared to others. Isn't being successful in life hard, tough and challenging? We "did it" with my child with autism. To know someone with Asperger's syndrome should be appreciated for their uniqueness. Brain Power Today will take you on a journey in understanding the characteristics that can be strengthened for success. Autism, you've got to appreciate it!

## **WORKSHOP 20 - *Adoption Abandonment Disorder, My Journey***

**Buddy Knight (Potomac 3 - Ballroom Level)**

When is nothing "good enough"? Why the dissatisfaction with any accomplishment? What led to a total meltdown? Raised in a loving and functional family, was I driven, or was I just "broken"? How did I end up with depression, PTSD, and Adoption Abandonment Disorder? Come hear the story of my journey through multiple "crashes" and years of struggle

12:30 PM - 12:45 PM

**BREAK - Box Lunch** (Regency Foyer)

12:45 PM - 2:15 PM

**Keynote: *Our Voices are the Tipping Point***

**Haley Radke (Regency Ballrooms A&B)**

Generations of secret-keeping and silence have brought us here. When we keep our stories sugar-coated or "just between us" we are allowing adoption myths to propagate. Speaking out and being truly vulnerable has huge risks but without our voices, there will be no change. Haley shares how speaking privately with friends and family and opening up publicly about our struggles with the current adoption narrative will create the momentum we need to see for adoption reform.

2:15 PM - 2:30 PM

**BREAK** (Regency Foyer)

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

**WORKSHOP SERIES 21 - 23**

## **WORKSHOP 21 - *The Empowered Adoptee***

**Julie Lopez (Potomac 1 - Ballroom Level)**

Learn the science behind the adoptee mental health dilemma - what is implicit memory anyway? And why does it hold the keys for adoptee healing? Walk away with knowledge that will empower any part of the triad to become a positive agent in this healing journey. (Note: Content applicable for supporting improved performance of any kind but tailored to the adoptee experience.)

## **WORKSHOP 22 - *An Ecological System's View of Reunions***

**Marie Dolfi (Potomac 2 - Ballroom Level)**

Workshop will introduce the ecological systems paradigm (society, culture, communities, home life) and the adverse relinquishment and adoption experiences assessment as tools for understanding the complexities of adoption triad members' relationships and reunions. With a greater understanding of the influences on adoption triad members lives, adoption triad members can understand the intricacies and emotional intensities of reunions with a new perspective. New perspectives often provide insights to relationships, identification of support systems, and ways to navigate complex relationships.

# Friday - April 5, 2019 (Continued)

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

**WORKSHOP SERIES 21 - 23 (Continued)**

## **WORKSHOP 23 - *Illegitimate Knowledge? Experts & Adoption Rights***

**Claire McGettrick (Potomac 3 - Ballroom Level)**

Despite the rapid growth of genealogical tourism worldwide, many countries maintain closed, secret adoption systems, often imposing draconian policies against adopted people seeking information about themselves and their natural families. Why are non-adopted people enthusiastically supported in the quest for family and personal information, while it is considered 'illegitimate' for adopted people to do the same thing? My PhD research seeks to answer questions such as this. This paper will outline preliminary findings, which suggest that expert knowledge on adoption is dominated by the field of psychology. I argue that the psychopathological model espoused by some psychologists serves to intensify prejudices against adopted people, and that a sociological approach to adoption research will avoid psychology's emphasis on emotional damage. Finally, I propose that transitional justice principles offer an alternative means for adoption activists to demand equal rights as reparation for the human rights abuses perpetrated through closed secret adoption systems.

3:30 PM - 3:45 PM

**BREAK (Regency Foyer)**

3:45 PM - 4:45 PM

**WORKSHOP SERIES 25 - 27**

## **WORKSHOP 24 - *Donor Conceptions: Past, Present and Future***

**Kris Probasco (Potomac 1- Ballroom Level)**

Donor conceptions began in 1884, with secrets, lies and anonymity, just as our adoption history. There are approximately 100,000 donor offspring's born in the United States each year. This workshop will discuss the lessons learned from the past, and what current donor conception programs are providing. We will discuss modern eugenics as consumer driven and market based, where children are increasingly regarded as made to order. A look to the future for a national donor conception registry and mandatory limits of children per donor will be discussed. It is important for the adoption community to understand the similarities between donor conceptions and adoption issues. The adoption community understanding these similarities will certainly help with action in preserving genetic connections for donor conceived people.

## **WORKSHOP 25 - *Locating Family On the Internet***

**Marilyn Waugh (Potomac 2- Ballroom Level)**

Searching for family members on the Internet can be difficult if you don't know on-line sites that can be helpful. Learn how to effectively search with free websites and low cost resources. This workshop is geared toward adoptees, first/birth families, adoptive families as well as agency professionals. Several helpful handouts will be provided to attendees

## **WORKSHOP 26 - "40 Year Chunks: A Brief History of Adoptee Rights and What May Be in the Future"**

**Gregory Luce (Potomac 3 - Ballroom Level)**

This workshop will examine the development of adoptee rights through forty-year chunks of history, from 1897 through today - including what we may expect over the next 40 years.

## Friday - April 5, 2019 (Continued)

4:45 PM - 5:00 PM	<b>BREAK</b> (Regency Foyer)
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	<b>Various Support Groups</b> (To be announced at conference)
6:00 PM	<b>Dinner on you own</b>
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM	<b>Volunteer Planning Session</b> (Regency Ballroom A&B)
9:00 PM - 11:00 PM	<b>Hospitality</b> (Tidewater II)

## Saturday - April 6, 2019

6:30 AM - 8:00 AM	<b>Breakfast</b> (Regency Foyer)
6:45 AM - 8:00 AM	<b>Registration Open</b> (Along wall by Regency Ballroom A&B)
8:00 AM	<b>Registration Closed</b>

8:00 AM - 9:30 AM      **Keynote: Open Records Legislation in New York**  
**New York Assemblyman Robert Carroll** (Regency Ballrooms A&B)

New York State Assemblymember Robert Carroll (D-44) will discuss the current state of legislation to restore unrestricted access to original birth certificates for all adult adoptees in the New York State legislature and share why he believes clean adoption reform is so important not only for New York State but for the entire country.

9:30 AM - 9:45 AM	<b>BREAK</b> (Regency Foyer)
9:45 AM - 10:45 AM	<b>WORKSHOP SERIES 27- 29</b>

**WORKSHOP 27 - Expressing The Primal Wound, Poetry as Healing**  
**Liz DeBetta** (Potomac 1 - Ballroom Level)

Poetry has the ability to heal and transform by allowing the writer to emotionally express pain and trauma in a way that not only releases accumulated stress, but also creates a connection to others. In this workshop adoptees will learn the theory behind creative expression and the healing of trauma and put it into practice by generating their own poetry to express grief, loss, and emotional pain. Learn the benefits of using writing as a tool to manage emotions and process them. Join me to explore the therapeutic links between expressive writing and healing of trauma and learn how to build a narrative through poetry that helps integrate the loss of the original family and self to create knowledge and understanding that facilitates psychological growth and can help organize the emotional effects of the primal wound.

# Saturday - April 6, 2019 (Continued)

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM

**WORKSHOP SERIES 27- 29 (Continued)**

## **WORKSHOP 28 - *How & When To Discuss Adoption With Your Child***

**Kathy Roth and Audra Coons (Potomac 2 - Ballroom Level)**

A common question asked by adoptive parents is, "How and when do I talk to my child about his/her adoption?" This workshop will provide adoptive families as well as professionals who work with adopting/adoptive parents with evidence-based information, helpful tools, and resources to assist in navigating the ongoing discussions related to adoption with their child throughout the various stages of development. Presenters will discuss the importance of open, honest and supportive conversations about the experience of grief/loss in adoption, birth family and history, and family building in order to ensure secure identity formation, strengthen parent-child attachment/bonds and promote healthy relationships.

## **WORKSHOP 29 - *Our Disenfranchised Grief, Understanding and Healing***

**Janet Nordine (Potomac 3 - Ballroom Level)**

Disenfranchised grief is a loss that cannot be openly acknowledged, publicly mourned, or socially supported. Many in the adoption constellation experience a myriad of emotions at various stages in their lives regarding their part in the adoption process, and all can experience this type of grief that is difficult to explain, confusing, and for some, overwhelming. This workshop will provide support, hope, and practical ideas to help those who experience disenfranchised grief.

10:45 AM - 11:00 AM

**BREAK** (Regency Foyer)

## **AAC Mission Statement**

The American Adoption Congress is comprised of individuals, families and organizations committed to adoption reform. We represent those whose lives are touched by adoption or other loss of family continuity.

We promote honesty, openness and respect for family connections in adoption, foster care and assisted reproduction. We provide education for our members and professional communities about the lifelong process of adoption. We advocate legislation that will grant every individual access to information about his or her family and heritage.

### **The AAC is committed to:**

- Increasing public awareness about the realities of adopted life for birth and adoptive families
- Changing public policies related to adoption practices in order to acknowledge adoption as an extension of family
- Enacting legislation in all states that guarantees access to identifying information for all adopted persons and their birth and adoptive families through records access and preservation of open adoption agreements
- Facilitating birth family reunification for all adopted adults, without prior restraint, through search and support group networking and/or social service assistance

# Saturday - April 6, 2019 (Continued)

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

## **WORKSHOP SERIES 30- 32**

### **WORKSHOP 30 - *Working with Loss and Trauma Related to Forced and Post-Adoption Practices* Dr. Sue Green (Potomac 1 - Ballroom Level)**

This training was developed by VANISH following Australian Federal and State Government apologies for past and forced adoption practices. The workshop will provide an overview of the training's seven learning outcomes and use a sample of activities and resources drawn from two, namely:

1. Recognize the context and impact of past, forced adoption practices, and
2. Identify the effects of loss, and possible effects of grief and trauma in mothers and fathers who lost their child through adoption and individuals who were adopted.

Activities will include video of the apology and personal experiences, an overview of national impact research into health and well-being and a case conceptualization model which incorporates possible adoption-related presenting difficulties that may bring a person to counselling or seek support in search and contact. Time will be allowed for participants to ask questions about past and current adoption practices in Australia.

### **WORKSHOP 31 - *When Adoption Reunion Breaks Down* Haley Radke and Caitriona Palmer (Potomac 2 - Ballroom Level)**

Caitriona and Haley will share their personal experiences of reunion and subsequent secondary rejection from their first mothers. Learn how they have coped with this second loss, what they would do differently, and how compassion for the trauma that their first parents endured has helped them navigate this new reality.

### **WORKSHOP 32 - *Write It Out, Listen In* Denise Emanuel Clemen (Potomac 3 - Ballroom Level)**

This 90-minute creative writing workshop, requiring no previous writing experience, will promote reflection, interpretation, and understanding of the adoption experience from the perspective of participant birthmothers/first mothers and adoptees. Short excerpts of a variety of prose and poetry presented by the workshop leader will inspire participants to write about their own adoption experiences. Writings from participant birthparents/adoptees will be voluntarily shared within the workshop. The writing itself will not be critiqued.

12:30 PM - 12:45 AM

## **BREAK - Box Lunch** (Regency Foyer)

12:45 PM - 1:45 PM

### **AAC Town Hall Meeting** - (Regency Ballroom A&B)

A place for our conference attendees to join us and give us your feedback on the conference you just attended. Let us know how you think we can make AAC's upcoming conferences even better. Are there specific Keynote you would like to hear? Are there specific themes you would like to hear more about?

1:45 PM - 2:00 PM

## **BREAK**

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

### **AAC Board Meeting** - (Potomac Rooms 1&2 - Ballroom Level)

# AAC Notices

## **ADOPTees' ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATE ACCESS U.S. STATES OVERVIEW**

Total states with some form of access: 29 (30 in July 2019)  
Unrestricted access (9): AL, AK\*, CO, HI, KS\*, ME, OR, NH and RI  
Access began in 2016(4): CT, HI, IN and MO  
Access began in 2017 (1): NJ  
Access began or resumed in 2017(1): PA  
Access expanded in 2018 (2): MO, IN  
*Access began in 2018 (1): AR*  
*Access to begin in 2019 (1): SC*

*\*Alaska and Kansas never sealed adoptees' original birth certificates*

See details for all states on the AAC website:  
<http://www.americanadoptioncongress.org/state.php>

### **AAC MEMBERSHIP** has its benefits...

- > Discounted registration to all AAC Conferences
- > Access to the member only area of the AAC website
- > Delivery of the AAC newsletter *Adoption Issue* to your email
- > Updates and information on upcoming forums and conferences
- > Special NEWS Alerts on current topics and trends affecting adoption
- > Opportunity to meet new friends who share common bonds/interests

Please send me more information from the American Adoption Congress on the following:

Membership  Annual Conferences  How I can volunteer

How to become a presenter at next year's conference  How To Donate

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Country/Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(mail to: AAC 130 15th St NW Suite B-103, Washington, DC 20036 or call 202.483.2299)

## AAC Legislative Policy

It is the formal policy of The American Adoption Congress to support state-by-state legislative efforts to restore unrestricted access to original birth certificates (OBC) for all adult adoptees. This is also known as “clean” adoption reform, which is in accordance with widely accepted best practices in adoption. As an umbrella organization, the AAC will also support efforts to gain access to all adoption agency and court records if planned within legislation or government actions.

### ***Do you have a story, poem or book review ?***

Then write your story, poem or book review and  
have it posted into the AAC Newsletter

Contact - Nancy Feldman at [owabim@comcast.net](mailto:owabim@comcast.net)

Would you like to Present at the 2020 Conference?

Then submit a Workshop Proposal for the  
AAC 41st International Conference

Submissions begin **August 1, 2019**

Please look for updates on the AAC website and Facebook page.

## Support Groups\*

Support Group	Location	Facilitator
Constellation / Triad		
Female Adoptee		Erica Babino
Male Adoptee		
Birth/First Parent		
Adoptive Parent		Leslie Livingston
Professional		Amy Winn
LGBTQ		
Assisted Reproduction		Kris Probasco
Late Discovery Adoptee		

\*Note: An individual support group may be cancelled if attendance doesn't support the need.



***Presenter***  
***Biographies***

# Presenter Biographies



**Bohl, David** (CSAC MAC) - Independent Addiction Consultant and Recovery Advocate, is the author of the award-winning memoir *Parallel Universes—The Story of Rebirth*. He is a member of the National Association for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors (NAADAC), American Adoption Congress (AAC), and Concerned United Birthparents (CUB). He lives with his wife in Milwaukee, Wisconsin (**Workshop 12**)

**Brown, Kevin Darrow** (MSW, LICSW) - known as Darrow – has worked in the mental/behavioral health field for nearly 12 years. In the 20+ prior years, he had a long and successful career in information technology and management. Darrow currently has a counseling and consulting private practice, where he works with individuals, couples and families facing a wide range of challenges and stressors. Darrow is the Threat Assessment Case Manager at Johns Hopkins University and Health Systems, where he provides case management and triage support toward the institution's efforts to mitigate workplace and campus violence risks. Darrow also provides consult to private and public institutions – helping them to address disruptive behaviors (ex. Bullying) and threatening behavior in the workplace. Darrow and his family reside in Tacoma, WA. In August 2018, they moved to Washington state from Baltimore, MD, where they had lived for 14 years. Darrow and his spouse have been foster parents for over 11 years and adoptive parents for 9. They have two children, ages 9 and 6 – one from private adoption and one placed with them through the child welfare system in August 2017. They have cared for 8 children from the child welfare system since 2007 and hope to complete the adoption of their youngest child this spring. (**Workshop 2**)



**Buckwalter, Karen Doyle** (LCSW) - is Director of Program Strategy at Chaddock, a multi-service agency providing a range of residential, educational, and community-based services for youth, birth through age 21. Karen has worked with fostered and adopted children and their families for over 25 years. She has a specific research interest in the intergenerational transmission of attachment patterns in adoptive families. She has co-authored peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters as well as articles published in *Adoption Today* and *Fostering Families Today* Magazines. Karen released her first book *Attachment Theory in Action*, co-edited with Debbie Reed, in 2017. (**Workshop 9 and 16**)

**Burns, Sarah** - Sarah Burns is a birthmother who has been reunited with her son, Dave Campbell, for 17 years. She is Editor and former Vice-President of Concerned United Birthparents (CUB) and is currently the Southern California State Director for AAC. Ms. Burns holds degrees from Boston College/Newton College of the Sacred Heart (BA); the University of Madrid (MA) and Harvard Kennedy School of Government (MPA). She is very active in advocating for adoption reform and family preservation and a frequent presenter at AAC and CUB retreats. **(Workshop 18)**



**Cahn, Naomi** - Professor Naomi Cahn is the Harold H. Greene Professor at The George Washington University Law School, where she is also the Associate Dean for Faculty Development. She has written extensively in areas at the intersection of adoption, assisted reproductive technology, family law, feminist jurisprudence, health law, and socioeconomic class, and she is the author or co-author of numerous books and articles, including Contemporary Family Law (with Profs. Abrams, Ross, Meyer, & McClain, 2015), Homeward Bound: Modern Families, Elder Care, & Loss (with Rev. Amy Zietlow, 2017), Marriage Markets (with Prof. June Carbone, 2014), The New Kinship: Constructing Donor-Conceived Families (2013), Test Tube Families: Why the Fertility Market Needs Regulation (2008), as well as Families by Law: An Adoption Reader (with Prof. Joan Heifetz Hollinger, 2004). She is an ACTEC Fellow, a member of the American Law Institute, and a board member of the Donor Sibling Registry. Professor Cahn is the Consultant/Reporter for the Uniform Law Commission's Draft Committee on the Economic Rights of Unmarried Cohabitants. She received the Lifetime Achievement in Family Law Award from the University of Illinois Law School in 2017. **(KEYNOTE)**



**Campbell, Dave** - Dave Campbell was born in June 1968, and adopted and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area. At 33, he searched for his biological family and reunited with his birthmother, Sarah Burns. A graduate of the University of Oregon, he is the father of three adult children and works in the film and entertainment industry. He has participated in previous panel discussions for AAC and CUB **(Workshop 18)**

**Carlis, Tracy Dr. (PhD)** - is a licensed clinical psychologist in private practice. Dr. Carlis specializes in all areas of adoption including individual and group therapy with children and adult adoptees, international and domestic adoptions, adoptive families and birthparents. She is an adoption educator in the child welfare community, the medical and legal professions, and adoptive and foster parent organizations and has taught classes at the University level. In addition she has been an expert witness in a number of legal cases involving parricides by adoptive teens and young adults. As member of the adoption constellation herself, she has specialized in the field of adoption for over twenty-five years. Professionally trained through the Kinship Alliance, she is also a member of the American Adoption Congress and Concerned United Birthparents. She has been in a reunion with her birth family for several decades and has successfully woven her adoptive and birth families lives back together. **(Workshop 13)**



**Carroll, Robert C.** (New York Assemblyman) - A lifelong resident of Windsor Terrace and Kensington, Brooklyn, Robert Carroll represents the 44th District in the New York State Assembly. Carroll attended P.S. 230 and graduated from Xaverian High School, SUNY Binghamton (where he studied History and Theatre) and New York Law School. Before being elected to the Assembly he was a practicing attorney specializing in contract law, election law, trusts and estates, and real estate law. Carroll is the Chair of the Sub Committee on Museums and Cultural Institutions in the Assembly as well as a member of the Cities, Election Law, Environmental Conservation, Corporations, Authorities & Commission and the Arts and Tourism Committees. Carroll has been a leading advocate on behalf of adoptees in the state legislature since being elected in 2016. **(KEYNOTE 3)**



**Chung-Sherman, Melanie** (LCSW, PLLC) - is a licensed clinical social worker, licensed child placing administrator, and TSBSWE-Board approved clinical supervisor through the State of Texas. She is the founder of a private practice in Allen, Texas where she specializes in working with children, teens, adults, and families. Melanie has worked in the field of child welfare since 1999 in various roles including child placement, administration, and direct clinical practice involving adoption, foster care, and kinship family services. She is also an adjunct professor of Social Work at Collin College in North Texas. Her passion includes education and training others within the community to help lift the voices of marginalized and oppressed groups. **(Workshop 9)**

**Clemen, Denise** - Denise Emanuel Clemen's fiction and essays have appeared or are forthcoming in the anthology "Only Light Can Do That" (PEN Center USA) Superstition Review, Georgetown Review (including an honorable mention for their prize), Delmarva Review, New Plains Review, Berkeley Fiction Review, Sand Hill Review, Literary Mama and many others. She's received fellowships to the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Vermont Studio Center, Ragdale Foundation, and was an Auvillar fellow in France in 2009. Denise has an MFA in creative writing from the University of Nebraska. Her memoir, "Birth Mother," was published by SheBooks in 2014. **(Workshop 33)**



**Coons, Audra** - Audra is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (SW#13435) in the state of Florida and is Certified as an Adoption Competent Therapist by Florida's Department of Children and Families. She



obtained her bachelor's degree in psychology from University of Evansville and her master's degree in Social Work from University of Central Florida. Audra has 10 years of experience working with individuals, families, and groups in various social work and mental health settings. Over 5 years ago, she discovered her passion to work with members of the adoption community and advocate for birth and adoptive families' best interests. She is currently the co-founder of Foundations for Growth, a private organization specializing in adoption education, counseling and support services for members of the adoption triad and is an advocate for openness in adoption. She has previously held leadership, counseling, and outreach roles for a national adoption agency, and has been trained both by state programs and private agencies on adoption competencies. Audra has experience providing educational training, counseling

and placement services to/for expectant parents, birthparents, adopting parents, adoptive families and fellow professionals, and greatly enjoys being a part of facilitating open adoption relationships among members of the constellation. **(Workshop 29)**

**Davis-Brown, Edith** (M.P.H.) - is an Implementation Specialist with the Center for Adoption Support and Education (C.A.S.E.) for the National Adoption Competency Mental Health Training Initiative (NTI). She has more than 20 years of experience in program development, management and implementation, program monitoring and evaluation, group facilitation, and training/technical assistance delivery. She has managed projects for healthcare management firms and national organizations in areas such as health equity, substance abuse prevention and treatment, HIV/AIDS treatment/prevention, and emergency mental health disaster response. Ms. Davis-Brown is also co-founder of the Gregory B. Davis Foundation, a small non-profit formed to preserve the legacy of her youngest sibling, who died of AIDS. **(Workshop 11)**



**DeBetta, Liz** (PhD candidate Humanities & Culture, Union Institute & University, certificates in Women's and Gender Studies/Creative Writing), MA in English from the City University of NY (College of Staten Island, BA in Theatre/Speech from Wagner College.) - A Lecturer of English at Utah Valley University, and the writing and performance mentor for Act Risk No More, Liz is also a member of Actor's Equity and SAG-AFTRA. She is interested in performance based narrative writing for healing and social change from a feminist perspective within the areas of adoption culture and reproductive justice as a way of disrupting dominant narratives and shifting paradigms for adoptees and birth mothers. Her writing has been published on DearAdoption.com and in #MeToo: Essays About Why this Happened, What it Means and How to Make Sure it Never Happens Again. She is the co-facilitator of Adoptees Connect in Salt Lake City and is currently researching the benefits of creative writing to heal adoptee trauma. **(Workshop 28)**



**Dolfi, Marie** - Marie Dolfi is an adoption social worker and speaker who has studied relinquishment and adoption issues by attending workshops, conferences, reading books and research, and most importantly learning from adoption triad members themselves. Over the years, Marie's career has taken many forms from: advocate for funding post adoption services and access to original birth certificates, board member for adoption organizations, counseling adoption triad members in her private practice, adoption support group leader and most recently the founder of the Adoption Training Network. To learn more about Marie visit <https://mariedolfi.com> and the Adoption Training Network at <https://adoptiontrainingnetwork.com> (opening in summer 2019). **(Workshop 23)**

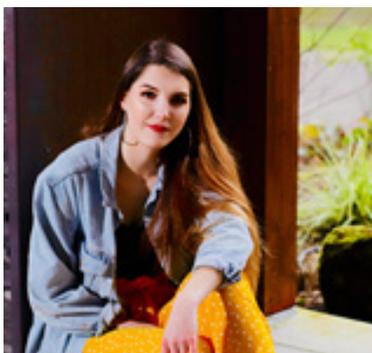


**Falkowski, Julie** - (A.S. Human Sciences, B.A. Asian Studies, M.S.



College Student Personnel Administration) A mom of seven, five of whom are adopted, I have been studying the effects of trauma and how to support my children. I am looking forward to sharing my experiences. With an A.S. in Human Service, B.A. in Asian Studies, and an M.S. in College Student Personnel Administration, plus my life experiences, I thought I was ready to handle the rollercoaster of foster care and adoption. I am just beginning. **(Workshop 14)**

**Glaser, Gabrielle** - Gabrielle Glaser is an award-winning investigative journalist and the New York Times-bestselling author who has written about gender, sexuality, and health for decades. She is at work on a book called "American Baby: A Mother, A Child, and the Shadow History of Adoption," to be published in 2020 by Viking Books. It will follow the story of Margaret Erle Katz, who was coerced into surrendering her son, David Rosenberg, to adoption through Louise Wise Services after his 1961 birth. The two reunited after DNA test results linked Rosenberg to a distant cousin, an amateur genealogist who located Katz within weeks. Katz and Rosenberg met for three weeks before David's death from the very illnesses about which Katz, who had married Rosenberg's father, had spent her life trying to warn him. The messages were never passed on. Their story will be told in service of the millions of parents and children lost to one another during the Baby Scoop Era. It will examine how first mothers were treated by the adoption-industrial complex, and how surrendered children were commodified and studied for its gains. **(Workshop 6)**



**Gorretta, Danielle Rector** - Danielle Rector Gorretta is an adoptee, mother of two, and a CNA. Adopted at birth through an open adoption, she has built a healthy family dynamic with various members of both her birth and adoptive families. **(Workshop 4)**

**Green, Sue Dr.** - Dr Sue Green is a psychologist, mediator and trainer. As an adopted person, she has been involved in the adoption community for over 30 years and was actively involved in the landmark Victorian Adoption Act 1984, which introduced retrospective access for adult adoptees to identifying information and previously closed adoption records. She currently sits on the Board of VANISH which provides search and contact assistance, counselling and support groups. Her approach to training and facilitation is inclusive, drawing on the needs and wisdom of participants as well as imparting some fun and knowledge along the way. **(Workshop 31)**



**Hodgson, Shawna** - is a Texas born adoptee and sixth generation Texan. At age 40, she identified her birth family using DNA testing and shortly after, reunited with her birth parents and two siblings. Shawna became active in adoptee rights/OBC access legislation in Texas in 2014 and worked closely with bill sponsors in both the House and Senate. In 2015, Shawna co founded the grassroots organization Adoptee Support Advocates based in her hometown of Houston, Texas. In 2017, Shawna co founded Equality 4 Adoptees, designed to network with other adoptee rights groups around the country. In addition to her adoptee rights advocacy, Shawna is a trained and certificated mediator, including advanced family law mediation and a member of the Texas Association of Mediators. Her training makes her particularly adept in communicating with others, and her heartfelt candor encourages others to listen. This has been invaluable while communicating with legislators and their staff regarding OBC access and adoption reform. **(Workshop 15)**



**Hummons, Marietta** - is married and a mother of two children who were adopted as infants, a daughter, now age 20 and a son age 17. She resides in West Chester Ohio. Marietta holds a master's degree in education and has worked for over 40 years as an educator with both children and adult learners. She currently works part time as an Intervention Specialist serving children with special needs. Additionally, she spends much of her time volunteering in the community and advocating for children. She recently published An Expected End, an adoption story about the adoption reunion with her daughter's birth family. She has presented at national and local Education and Adoption Conferences sharing her experience and expertise. **(Workshop 17)**



**Jackson, Cecilia** - Dr. Cecilia Jarmon Davis-Jackson is a retired English, philosophy, and English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher. She has a Master's Degree in Education and in Clinical Counseling, a Doctorate in Divinity, and has over 30 years of experience educating and counseling international/ multi-racial, multi-ethnic, and multi-cultural children and families. Cecilia is an author of over 30 professional publications, an inspirational speaker, educational consultant, curriculum developer, founder of Reaching Women and Children of the Nations, intercontinental leader of Kingdom International Nations for Christ, Co-Founder and Assistant Provost of "I AM" Fellowship's Non-Conventional School of Ministry with her husband, Dr. Anthony Jackson. Functioning with a passion for practical application, Dr. Jackson cogently inspires cross-generational audiences and impacts assemblies of diverse nationalities, socio-economic clusters and dissimilar ethnicities. Contact: [elizjuan333@gmail.com](mailto:elizjuan333@gmail.com) **(KEYNOTE)**





**Knight, Buddy** - Buddy was raised in a small town in the Deep South by a loving family. He is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. A retired Naval officer, he has worked as an engineer and in the retail sector. Currently, he is the Director of Knights' Quest Ministries, which he founded to educate and equip parents on Internet Dangers. Buddy will soon celebrate 38 years of marriage to his wife, Jane. They have 4 grown children, including two nurses, one sailor, and one Marine. He and Jane live in Fort Worth, TX. **(Workshop 20)**

**Landry, Kris** - Kris Landry is an author, speaker and coach whose life journey is marked by her diverse roles – from professional singer, to hospice chaplain, to her current mission of guiding others to healing through telling their stories. Having graduated from Mount Holyoke College and earning a master's degree in education from Boston College, she also trained to become a Certified Catholic Chaplain – working with hospice patients in their final days. While there, she developed a deep heart for helping people tell their final stories – and grew courage to tell her own personal story of releasing her daughter for adoption. Kris recently received the Outstanding Literary Artist Award from the Martin County Arts Council of Florida for her book, *The Last Tipi, A Journey to Healing Through Storytelling*. In her book she shares her story about giving her daughter up for adoption, the search for that daughter thirty years later, and the physical and emotional costs of keeping that secret. Kris had spoken around the country to groups interested in helping people tell their stories before it's too late. **(Workshop 10)**



**Lopez, Julie** - Dr. Julie Lopez is an adoptee who first trained as a system engineer, but ultimately discovered her passion lay with an infinitely more complicated system—the human system. A former university professor, she founded Viva Partnership, a mental health collaborative specializing in non-verbal treatment approaches, including brain- and body-based therapies. Having experienced her own seemingly nonsensical struggles as an adoptee with the “perfect life,” Dr. Julie loves sharing the science that helped remove her own personal and professional roadblocks and also inspires her work. She currently runs a postgraduate training program on Trauma Informed Clinical Practice. And was the architect of the free online mental health resource center - The Resilient

Brain Project. [www.resilientbrainproject.com](http://www.resilientbrainproject.com) **(Workshop 22)**

**Luce, Gregory** - Gregory D. Luce is a DC-born adoptee and a Minnesota attorney who exclusively represents adult adoptees. He helps his clients navigate legal challenges in obtaining original birth certificates, citizenship, and other identifying information to which they are entitled. He also works to implement broader legal and legislative strategies as a means to upend a legal framework that operates in most states to deny adoptees their basic and fundamental truths. His law firm, Adoptee Rights Law Center PLLC, is a co-founder and core partner in the New York Adoptee Rights Coalition and the Texas Adoptee Rights Coalition. He lives with his family in Minneapolis. **(Workshop 27)**

**Maynard, Lisa** (LMSW, ACSW, TCTSY-F-) - is a Licensed Social Worker with expertise in trauma, attachment, and adoption. Lisa is an Implementation Specialist with the Center for Adoption Support and Education (C.A.S.E.) for the National Adoption Mental Health Competency Initiative (NTI). Lisa holds an LMSW, New York State, earning a MSW from State University of New York, Buffalo. Lisa has received the 2010 North American Council on Adoptable Children "Adoption Activist Award". Lisa also maintains a private therapy practice in Upstate New York, integrating yoga philosophy, meditation and mindfulness in her work with clients, guiding them to explore life challenges in a safe, supportive environment. **(Workshop 11)**



**McGettrick, Claire** - Claire McGettrick is an Irish Research Council postgraduate scholar at the School of Sociology in University College Dublin. Her PhD project, 'Illegitimate Knowledge? Experts, Knowledge and the Struggle for Adoption Rights', is a sociological examination of the bodies of expert knowledge on adoption, which seeks to understand how and why adopted people are managed as a distinct social group in adoption policy and practice. Claire is also an adopted person and survivors' rights advocate. She is co-founder of Justice for Magdalenes Research and Adoption Rights Alliance. She coordinates the Magdalene Names Project (<http://jfmresearch.com/home/magdalene-names-project>), and jointly coordinates the Clann Project (<http://clannproject.org>). **(Workshop 24)**

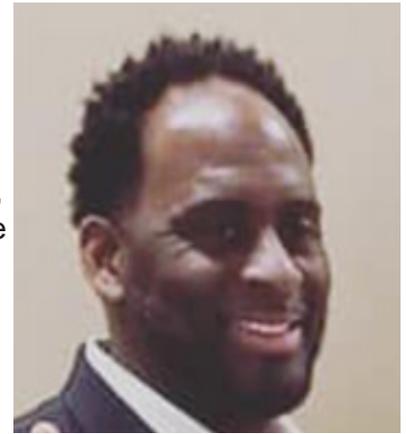


**Monti-Wohlpert, Tim** - (BS, MS.Ed) is a New York born adoptee, in reunion since 1998. He is the AAC's National Legislative Chair and New York State Representative. In 2002 and 2003, he served as Vice President and Legislative Liaison for New York Statewide Adoption Reform. At that time, he lobbied for unrestricted original birth certificate access for adult adoptees. In 2015, he began a grass-roots effort to restore the unrestricted access bill after it was changed in June 2015. His public petition, supporting that effort, has been provided to key legislators, Governor Cuomo and the Department of Health. He holds a B.S. in marketing, with minor in political science, and a Master of Education. He lives in Brooklyn.. **(Workshop 15)**



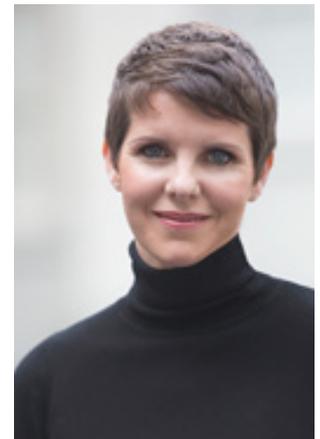
**Moyer, Susan** - Susan Moyer is a speaker/writer/adoptee's rights advocate and author of *The Lonely Child: The Journey Of Search To Find My Biological Family*. Susan lives in upstate New York. **(Workshop 3)**

**Muhammad, Ishmael** - (MA -Communications, BA Psychology) is a native Houstonian and national presenter for Brain Power Today. Along with being a national presenter for Brain Power Today, Ishmael is a coach, mentor, and a certified Special Education Teacher in Texas. His words are carefully considered and very powerful. **(Workshop 19)**



**Nordine, Janet** - Janet Nordine is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist from Las Vegas, NV. For the past 6 years, she has worked exclusively with children in the foster care system, who are in the process of adoption, and who have been adopted with [www.healthymindslv.com](http://www.healthymindslv.com). She is a Trust Based Relational Intervention ( TBRI ) Practitioner and a Registered Play Therapist Candidate. Janet is a co-facilitator of the Las Vegas Adoptees Connect group and writes a popular adoption blog at [www.experiencecourage.com](http://www.experiencecourage.com). She is a baby-scoop era adoptee and is reunited with her first family. For fun, she loves to spend time with her family, her dog, traveling and enjoys all the fine dining that Las Vegas has to offer! **(Workshop 30)**

**Palmer, Caitriona** - Caitriona Palmer is the author of the bestselling memoir, *An Affair with my Mother: A Story of Adoption, Secrecy and Love* (Penguin, 2016). A writer, journalist, and Irish adoptee, Caitriona is a frequent commentator on the legacy of secrecy and shame generated by Ireland's closed adoption system. A native of Dublin, Caitriona is a graduate of University College Dublin and Boston College where she was a Fulbright scholar from 1995 – 1997. Her most recent book, *Climate Justice* (Bloomsbury, 2018), co-written with former President of Ireland and UN Special Envoy on Climate Change, Mary Robinson, was short-listed for the 2018 An Post Irish Book Awards non-fiction book of the year. **(Workshop 32)**



**Probasco, Kris** (LCSW, LSCSW) - is a licensed clinical social worker practicing in Kansas City. Since 1972, she has practiced in adoption, reproduction and infertility. She consults with fertility programs providing services for donor conceptions, surrogacy and embryo adoptions. Her focus has always been preparing families for the best interest of the child in knowing their donor story. Her current interest is in birth psychology. **(Workshop 25)**

**Radke, Haley** (BA) - is a fierce advocate for adoptee voices to be heard worldwide. The creator and host of the podcast, Adoptees On, Haley has talked with hundreds of adoptees about their adoption experiences. She believes that sharing these intimately personal stories will help change the traditional adoption narrative. Haley has experienced both secondary rejection (from her first mother) and a wonderful (only after plenty of therapy!) reunion with her first father. Haley has a BA in psychology and is passionate about de-stigmatizing mental health issues. Adoptees On has been downloaded over 200,000 times in 90+ countries worldwide. [www.adopteeson.com](http://www.adopteeson.com) (**KEYNOTE, Workshop 32**)



**Rector, Thomas** - Thomas Rector's experience as National Presenter, businessman, Open Adoption panelist, Foster Kinship Trainer, CASA, and the father of five has shaped new insights on how memories, environment, and human development shape our experiences and decisions. (**Workshop 8**)

**Roszia, Sharon Kaplan** (M.S.) - has committed her life's work, beginning in 1963, to alternative forms of family building: adoption, foster care, relative care and open adoptions. She is also a parent by birth, adoption and foster care. She has worked in public and private adoption agencies as well as private practice. Her professional life has included being an executive director, program manager, supervisor, mentor, author, curriculum developer and international lecturer. Sharon has been honored by the American Adoption Congress, National Council on Adoptable Children, ATTACH and received an 'Angels in Adoption' award by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute. Her development of open adoption practice began in the 1970's and the construction of the Seven Core Issues in Adoption began in the 1980's. Sharon is semi-retired, working as a consultant for the National Center on Adoption and Permanency and living in California (**KEYNOTE**)



**Roth, Kathy** (LCSW) - in the state of Florida and is Certified as an Adoption Competent Therapist by Florida's Department of Children and Families. Kathy received her bachelor's degree in Social Work with an Additional Major in Psychology from Michigan State University. In addition, Kathy obtained her master's degree in Social Work with a focus on children, youth and families from the University of Michigan.



Currently, Kathy is the Co-Founder of Foundations for Growth, PLLC, a professional practice specializing in adoption education, support, and counseling services. Kathy believes the role of an adoption professional is to empower, guide, and strengthen birthparents and adoptive families at all stages of the adoption journey to create and maintain healthy families. Kathy participated in the creation of a 21-hour curriculum for pre-service parent preparation and training for adoptive placement of a child(ren) which was approved by the Florida Department of Children and Families, Office of Child Welfare in 2018. Kathy has over 10 years of clinical experience and expertise in working with women, children, and families in the sectors of child welfare, foster care, private practice, and private domestic adoption. Kathy began working as a counselor with families and children at risk for child abuse/neglect and/or involved in the foster care system. Kathy continued her career in the adoption

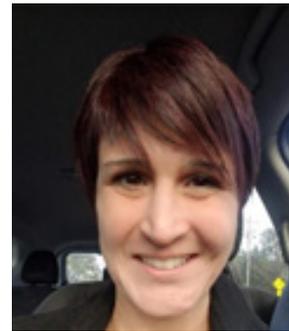
field at a national, private non-profit adoption agency working as birthparent intake counselor and adoption coordinator with members of the adoption triad at various stages of the process. In these positions, she facilitated educational workshops and seminar for adopting parents, support groups, options counseling services, and home study services. In addition to her work in child welfare and adoption, Kathy has provided clinical therapeutic services in a private practice setting to women, children, and families for approximately 6 years. Kathy strives to provide ethical, comprehensive services and is eager to share her passion and expertise with others in the adoption community. **(Workshop 29)**

**Sobraske, John** - John Sobraske is an adopted person, a stepparent of adopted children, and an adoption psychotherapist in private practice. As a graduate fellow at the University of Minnesota, he participated in research on open adoption and early stress. Research interests include adoption history, psychodynamic depth work, and body-mind-energy forms of healing. **(Workshop 5)**



**Thomas, Lori** - Lori Thomas, MA, Professional Counseling is the co-author of *The Jonathan Letters* (2005), a book about caring for and adopting a child with reactive attachment disorder, with Michael Trout. She is also a contributing author to *Attachment Theory in Action: Building Connections Between Children and Parents* (2018). She is an active advocate and public speaker on children's issues. She is the mother of seven children, three through birth and four through adoption. She served on the Board of Directors of The Association for Treatment and Training in the Attachment of Children (ATTACH) for nine years. Lori's energy, knowledge and warmth have made her a sought-after speaker for many groups involved with foster and adopted children. She lives in Northern Virginia with her husband, Paul, their youngest child, and two dogs. Lori completed her master's degree in professional counseling at Liberty University, and is now a counselor in residency at Emmaus Family Counseling Center in Ashburn, VA **(Workshop 16)**

**Tilou, Rebecca** - My name is Rebecca Tillou, and I am a 39-year-old who was adopted at one month old out of New Jersey with closed records. In 2012, after giving birth to my second son, I began a quest for my identity, for my roots. In May of 2013, I found my birth family. I connected with friends and acquaintances of my birth mom who told me she had been an alcoholic. I began a quest to figure out if my life story may be intertwined with a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. At age 33, I was diagnosed by a pediatric geneticist as having Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. I am the author of the Memoir TENACITY, and I am here to tell my story, which is still being written. **(Workshop 7)**



**Van Ee, Erica Curry** - Erica Curry Van Ee is a global thought leader and change maker based in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Adopted from the state of Ohio in 1969 at the height of the closed records era, Erica began searching for her biological family when she turned 18 and continued her search for the next 27 years, with no success. She was elated in 2015 when Ohio advocates were successful in changing the law, opening access to original birth certificates for 400,000 adoptees born during the closed records era. Since then, Erica has reunited with more than 20 biological relatives and traveled the world learning about her family, medical history, cultural background and ancestral heritage. She believes access to unaltered original birth certificates is central to one's identity and a basic human right. Erica is on a mission to change the world through reforming practices and policies in domestic and international adoption.



Erica is President of the Michigan Adoptee Collaborative, co-facilitator of Adoptees Connect - Grand Rapids, and Founder of The Legitimacy Movement. When she is not advocating for adoption reform, she serves with Urban Curry Consulting as a leadership coach, a human development consultant, a change maker, a philanthropist, and an Airbnb host. She loves being a Wife, Stepmom, Grammy, Auntie, Daughter, Sister, Niece, Friend and Cat Mama. **(Workshop 1)**

**Ward, Gail** - Gail Ward is the founder and creator of Brain Power Today. Gail holds a Bachelor's Degree in Science and Master's Degree in Education. She has several teaching certifications including Health, Physical Education, ESL, Special Education, Self-Contained and Principal. While serving as Assistant Principal in Pasadena ISD, Gail is also a professor at a local community college. Both of Gail's sons are adopted with the oldest having Asperger Syndrome and the youngest trying to hide from the fact he is adopted. She has a passion and drive in her that is unstoppable as she strives to make a difference!



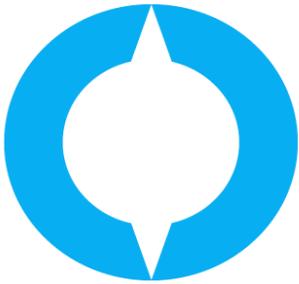
**(Workshop 19)**

**Waugh, Marilyn Mendenhall (MA)** - is a reunited birth mother, Director of Adoption Concerns Triangle of Topeka, past American Adoption Congress (AAC) President and current AAC-KS State Representative. She volunteers on the Spokeo Search Angel Committee, is an AAC Presidential award winner and serves on the Missouri Birth Parent Communication Task Force. The story on the relinquishment of her birth son Michael is featured in the 2015 documentary film "Four Mothers - For Mothers". Marilyn presents frequently at national conferences on adoption search and reunion issues and is a Search Angel who, for the past 25 years, has reunited hundreds of family members separated by adoption or foster care.



**(Workshop 26)**

*A Special Thank You ....*  
**For their generous donations**



SPOKEO - Spokeo is a people search engine focused on helping people research and reconnect with one another. This year we extend a gracious *thank you* to Spokeo for donating two subscriptions to Spokeo, for two winners at our conference.

ANCESTRY - We extend a *thank you* to Ancestry.com for donating a World Level Subscription to AAC for this year's conference. This will be given to a lucky winner who attends.



LEGACY TREE - AAC thanks LegacyTree Genealogists for their generous door prize donation of a detailed research plan or DNA analysis (\$350 value). These genealogists will help you scientifically connect to your family of origin.

FTDNA - We extend a big *thank you* to Family Tree DNA this year for donating one Family Finder Kit to AAC for this year's conference. This kit will be given to one lucky winner attending this year's conference.



# Meet the AAC Board

## AAC President

**Amy Winn** - is an adoptee, a psychotherapist specializing in adoption issues and a decades long advocate for change and healing within the adoption constellation. Amy's goals as the current president of the AAC are to educate, advocate and bring reform to our adoption world.



## Vice President

**Susan Friel-Williams** - is the AAC Vice President, Membership Chair, Event Registrar as well as an AAC Florida State Representative. She is the former America Online Search Forum leader, and has appeared on National TV highlighting search and reunions to educate the public on adoption issues. Susan is a published author with Chicken Soup for the Soul.

## Secretary

**Sarah Dodson** - is an adult adoptee in recent reunion, understanding the delicate balance of emotions, heart and history that fuel the adoption community. Sarah worked on several grassroots, field, and event marketing campaigns, and has worked to develop all types of content, including web, social, print, email, and scripting pieces across several industries. Sarah is currently the Communications / Social Media and Website Chair.

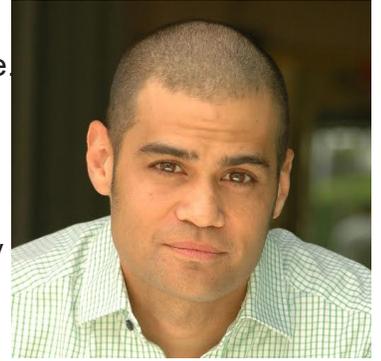


## Treasurer / Professional Liaison / Support Group Liaison

**Kris Probasco** - is an Iowa farm girl, raise with wholesome values. After college in 1972, she began her adoption career and soon after with assisted reproduction. Kris attended the first AAC conference in 1979 in Kansas City. It is with great pleasure to now be on the board of directors. Kris and her husband (also a social worker) have raised 3 daughters and now have 5 grand sons.

## Legislative Chair

**Tim Monti-Wohlpart** - is a New York born adoptee, in reunion since 1998. He is the AAC's National Legislative Chair and New York State Representative. In 2002 and 2003, he served as Vice President and Legislative Liaison for New York Statewide Adoption Reform. At that time, he lobbied for unrestricted original birth certificate access for adult adoptees. In 2015, he began a grass-roots effort to restore the unrestricted access bill after it was changed in June 2015. His public petition, supporting that effort, has been provided to key legislators, Governor Cuomo and the Department of Health. He holds a B.S. in marketing, with minor in political science, and a Master of Education. He lives in Brooklyn.



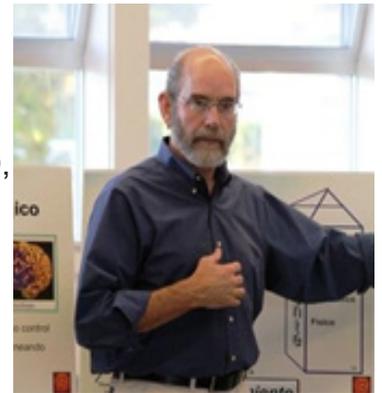
## Volunteer Coordinator

**Shawna Hodgson** - Texas born adoptee and sixth generation Texan. At age 40, she identified her birth family using DNA testing and shortly after, reunited with her birth parents and two siblings. Shawna became active in adoptee rights/OBC access legislation in Texas in 2014 and worked closely with bill sponsors in both the House and Senate. In 2015, Shawna co founded the grassroots organization Adoptee Support Advocates based in her hometown of Houston, Texas. In 2017, Shawna co founded Equality 4 Adoptees, designed to network with other adoptee rights groups around the country. In addition to her adoptee rights advocacy, Shawna is a trained and certificated mediator, including advanced family law mediation and a member of the Texas Association of Mediators. Her training makes her particularly adept in communicating with others, and her heartfelt candor encourages others to listen. This has been invaluable while communicating with legislators and their staff regarding OBC access and adoption reform.



## Board Member at Large - Financial Committee Chair

**Thomas Rector** - Thomas Rector's experience as National Presenter, businessman, Open Adoption panelist, Foster Kinship Trainer, CASA, and the father of five has shaped new insights on how memories, environment, and human development shape our experiences and decisions. He is a CEO, national speaker and presenter on BioSocial Cognition theory, and founder of Accrescent Institute, as well as the former Executive Director for CASA of Del Norte and the current Vice President of the NFPA Board of Directors. He has studied a wide range of topics over the last 20 years in the fields of neuroscience, language development, philosophy, psychology, biology and genetics.



## Puerto Rico Liaison

**Matt Naylor** - Matthew Naylor is a California Adoptee and first learned of half of his adoption story in 2006 and the other half by attending an AAC Conference in 2014 and learning about DNA that has lead to his Puerto Rican ancestry. Matthew is the founder of the non-profit Marquee Academy of Performing Arts – serving under privilege music lessons as well as a board member for Well in the Desert serving the homeless issues in his community. Matthews is developing personal relationships in the Puerto Rican Community with many that have been adopted since first finding out his ancestry. He will be speaking out and helping in the needs to this large Puerto Rican group.



## AAC Board of Directors Contact Information

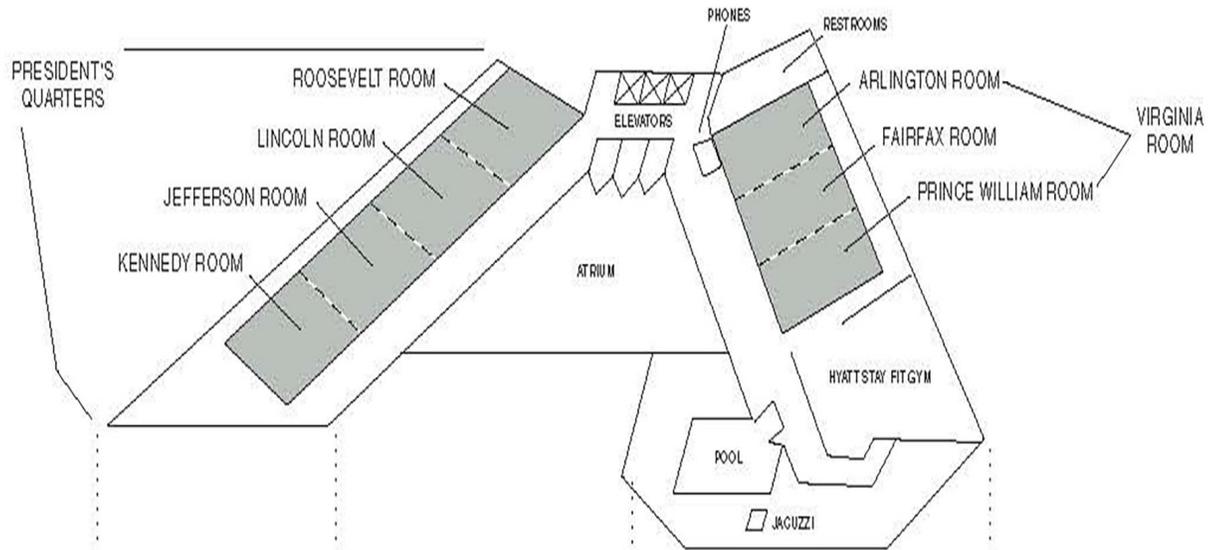
<b>President</b> Amy Winn amyaac2016@gmail.com	<b>Support Group Liaison</b> Kris Probasco krisprobasco@hotmail.com	<b>Educational Chair</b> VACANT
<b>Vice President</b> Susan Friel-Williams aacmembership2016@gmail.com	<b>Communications Chair</b> Sarah Dodson sarahedodson@gmail.com	<b>Canadian Liaison</b> VACANT
<b>Secretary</b> Sarah Dodson sarahedodson@gmail.com	<b>Volunteer Coordinator</b> Shawna Hodgson shawna.hodgson@yahoo.com	<b>AAC Historian</b> VACANT
<b>Treasurer</b> Kris Probasco krisprobasco@hotmail.com	<b>Puerto Rico Liaison</b> Mathew Naylor jmattn@archblue.com	<b>AAC Grant Writer</b> VACANT
<b>Legislative Chair</b> Tim Monti-Wohlpert tmw713@gmail.com	<b>Board Member at Large - Finance Chair</b> Thomas Rector tcr@thomashomecenter.com	<b>Website Administrator</b> VACANT
<b>Membership Chair / Event Registrar</b> Susan Friel-Williams aacmembership2016@gmail.com		
<b>Nominations &amp; Elections</b> Susan Friel-Williams AACElections2016@gmail.com		
<b>Professional Liaison</b> Kris Probasco krisprobasco@hotmail.com		



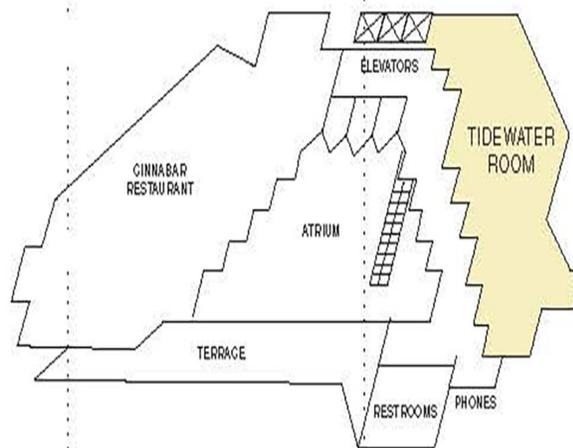


# Floor Plans for Regency Hyatt - Crystal City, Washington D.C.

THIRD FLOOR

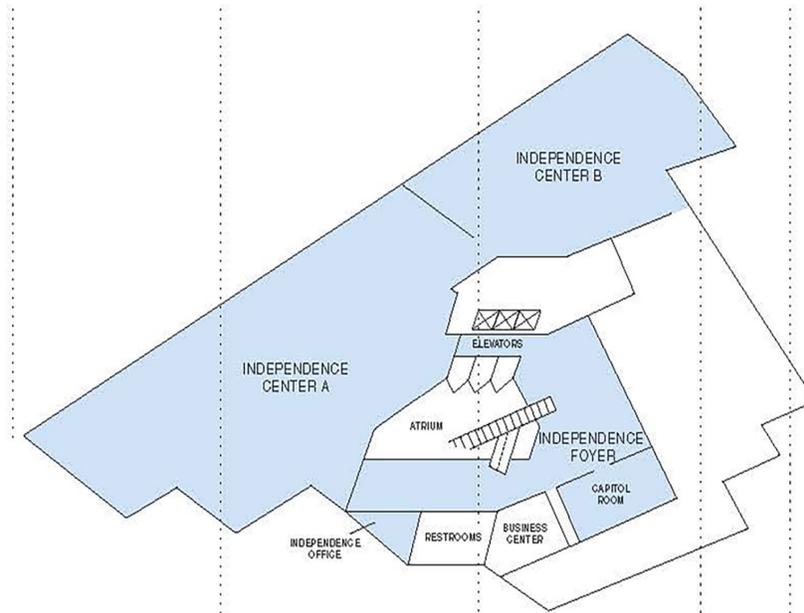


SECOND FLOOR

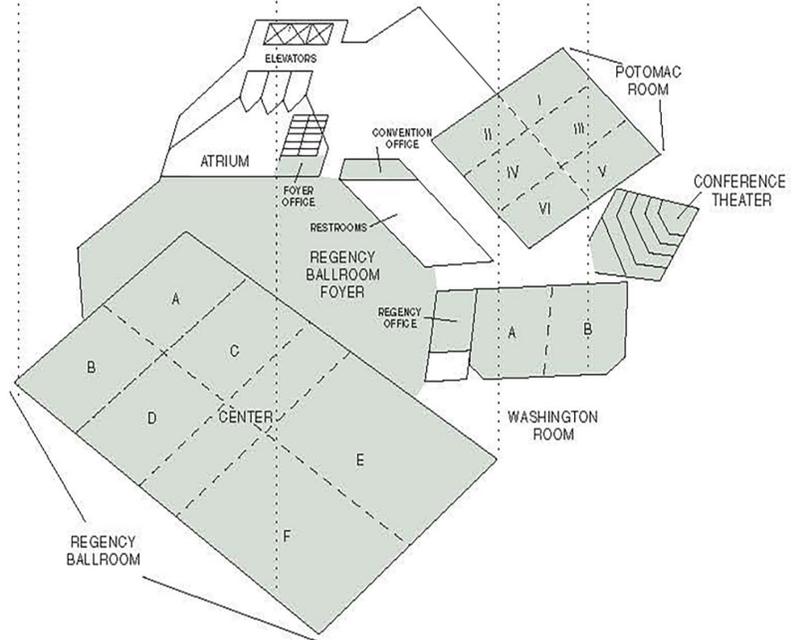


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INDEPENDENCE LEVEL



BALLROOM LEVEL



*Thank You*

Look for where our conference  
will be in 2020  
in your printed or online  
conference brochure!

