



# Winter 2014

## CPFA NEWSLETTER

### CONCERNED PERSONS FOR ADOPTION

*"Every Child Deserves a Family"*

#### A Message from our Presidents



What an eventful 2013! This last year we planned, coordinated and held TWO Annual CPFA "Let's Talk Adoption" conferences at Rutgers University since due to Hurricane Sandy, we moved the November 2012 conference to January 2013. Coordinating and actually holding two such huge events, averaging over 350 participants for each conference within one calendar year was quite the feat to say the least! Our heartfelt thanks goes to Kathleen Strakosch Walz who has been the conference coordinator for the past six years. This year she has decided that it is time to hang up the reins and spend more time with her family. We would like to thank Kathleen for her dedication and hard work all these many years!! Coordinating one of the biggest and best conferences in the northeast is not an easy task! Kathleen has balanced full time work, parenthood, assisting aging parents as well as coordinated the "Let's Talk Adoption" conference. A workload not many can achieve. We are grateful for her leadership and know that she will continue to be involved with CPFA. As CPFA restructures, rest assured that our adoption conference will continue to be one of the best offered in the state. If you are interested in becoming a part of the conference planning committee, please contact us, as we would love to hear from you!

In 2013 we offered many great activities: five social events which included our Heritage party, Summer picnic, Halloween party, Teen/Tween bowling party and Holiday party; four Adoption Book Club discussions, our free "Mini-Conference" for parents and kids, our annual Golf Outing, as well as our "Let's Talk Adoption" conference mentioned above.

Continued on page 2.

#### Mark Your Calendar! (see [www.cpfanj.org](http://www.cpfanj.org) for details)

**Saturday, March 8th**

**Annual Heritage Party - 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm**

First Presbyterian Church of Whippany - 494 Route 10 West at Whippany Road, Whippany

**Saturday, April 5th**

**3rd Annual Mini-Conference:**

**For Parents and Kids Ages 7-12 - 9:00 am - 2:00 pm**

Presbyterian Center at St. Cloud Presbyterian Church - 20 Old Indian Road, West Orange

**Thursday, April 24th**

**CPFA Adoption Book Group - 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm**

"Language of Flowers": A Novel by Vanessa Diffenbaugh. Meeting held at Panera Bread, 187 Colombia Turnpike, Florham Park, NJ

**Thursday, May 8th**

**15th Annual Golf Outing - All Day**

The only fundraiser for CPFA. Held at Black Bear Golf Course, Franklin, NJ - Details to follow.

**Spring 2014**

**Turtle Back Zoo CPFA Family Day**

West Orange, NJ (TBA - Details to follow)

**CPFA - Celebrating 40 Years of Service to the NJ Adoption Community!**

**New Members & Guests Always Welcome!**

Most Programs held at The First Presbyterian Church of Whippany, NJ  
484 Route 10 West at Whippany Road, Whippany, NJ

Directions: From Route 80 take 287 to Route 10 East. Travel approximately two miles on Route 10 East making the first U-Turn after Whippany Road.

\*Do not contact the church for program information or directions.

#### Mission Statement

CPFA is a non-profit organization in the State of New Jersey dedicated to the belief that every child deserves a family. CPFA is not an adoption agency, but a volunteer organization working to support those who wish to adopt, and to provide educational and networking resources to those who have adopted.

**Visit our website at [www.cpfanj.org](http://www.cpfanj.org)**

## A Message from our Presidents - Cont'd

We are happy to announce that 2014 will also be filled with great adoption related activities and events! In addition, we will be working to improve our on website [www.cpfanjanj.org](http://www.cpfanjanj.org) as well as enhance our CPFANJ Facebook page. To view our full events calendar please check our website and this quarterly newsletter and e-mails sent to members.

Since this is our first newsletter of 2014, may we offer a New Year's resolution? We invite you to join our parties, book discussions and/or conferences. We invite you to join a committee, volunteer to help with just one CPFA event or many. We need you to help us continue our good work for adoptive families. Remember we are ALL VOLUNTEERS, most of us like you, busy, with little time to give. I personally think what makes our CPFA board and committee members so special is that we are completely dedicated to our motto: "Every Child Deserves a Family." We love our kids; we love our families; please join us so you too can help and meet other adoptive families; have your children meet other adopted kids. Our kids need to know that "they are not alone" in their adoption journey; give them the opportunity to meet other kids like them. Giving back can reap great rewards for you, your family and your children. Join us. It could be the best holiday gift and New Year's Resolution you can give to yourself and your family. If you would like to be a part of any particular committee or just have questions about CPFA, e-mail us through the website or contact Pat Bennett at [paben48@gmail.com](mailto:paben48@gmail.com) to find out more. We at CPFA wish you all a happy and fruitful 2014. We look forward in seeing you at our events.

Dana Fried  
CPFA Co-President

## Board of Directors

President	Pat Bennett	908-273-5694
Vice President	Anna Marie O'Loughlin	973-492-5921
Treasurer	Carolyn Hadakowski	973-361-0655
Corresponding Secretary	Janet Pollio	973-659-9772
Recording Secretary	Barbara Podstawski	973-838-1646

## Executive Committee Chairpersons

Co-President	Dana Fried	973-285-0956
Co-President	Wendy Paladini	609-466-3284
Treasurer	Pascale Lafontant	732-321-1835
Recording Secretary	Patti Lacey	201-261-0853
Book Club Coordinator	Kathleen Walz	973-625-5628
Conference Coordinator	Kathleen Walz	973-625-5628
Social	Lynn Riker	973-736-7032
Newsletter Editor	Michelle Mulhern	973-586-9669
Newsletter Circulation	Miriam Frolow	973-293-2621
Mini Conference Coordinator	Wendy Paladini	609-466-3284
Membership	Cindy Mizelle	973-309-1747
Publicity	Carolyn Bosa	201-536-7889
Ways and Means	Hugh O'Neill	908-879-8476

Remember we are all volunteers! Please contact us if you would like to help!

Interested in Joining our CPFA Executive Committee?  
We are now in the process of filling our positions!  
Contact us to find out how you can help  
other adoptive families and CPFA!

## A Follow Up to our Conference Keynote Speaker... Holly van Gulden



### Check out Holly van Gulden's and Charlotte Vick's book, *Learning the Dance of Attachment, An Adoptive/Foster Parent's Guide to Nurturing Healthy Development*.

"This is a child development guide specifically written for adoptive and foster parents. It explains the normal stages of childhood emotional development and contrasts it with dysfunctional behaviors caused by early life deprivation and abuse. This book is helpful as a training tool for potential foster and adoptive parents. Parents already facing frustrating and unexplained behaviors can read this guide to understand the causes of their child's misbehavior and learn techniques to overcome problems. Child welfare professionals should use *The Dance of Attachment* as a support tool for clients and families."

To purchase, order on-line at [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com) or check out your local bookstore.

## Adoption Tax Credit

Adoptive families can offset their adoption costs by utilizing the Federal Adoption Tax Credit, which is non-refundable. For 2013, the maximum adoption tax credit is \$12,970, for all qualifying adoption expenses, and is non-refundable.

In January 2013, the Federal Adoption Tax Credit was made permanent. The adoption credit is not refundable, which means that only those individuals with tax liability (taxes owed) will benefit. The credit will remain flat for special needs adoptions (those involving children who are deemed hard to place by a child welfare agency), allowing those families to claim the maximum credit regardless of expenses. For more information, log onto [www.nacac.org/taxcredit/taxcredit20122013.html](http://www.nacac.org/taxcredit/taxcredit20122013.html).

*- Thank You! -*

This past year we had some very generous donations to CPFA!

Our special thanks to:  
Hugh O'Neill in conjunction with Sanofi US Employees PAC  
Jordan Fried, United Way

Anonymous from:  
-Travelers Community Connections  
-Charitable Trust  
-United Way

## New Jersey's 32nd "Let's Talk Adoption"<sup>SM</sup> Conference held on November 9, 2013

The year 2013 was one to be remembered for many reasons, one of which was that CPFA ran two full-day conferences, one on January 13 (postponed from 2012 due to Sandy) and one on November 9, 2013. Amazingly, attendance was robust at both events with three hundred eighteen people in attendance at the fall conference.

Holly van Gulden's keynote address "To Have and To Hold: Learning the Dance of Attachment" was profound and set the tenor for a day of 36 informative workshops given by 47 speakers and panelists. Many speakers were new to our conference and we hope to see them again. There were workshops for everyone – adult adoptees, foster parents, adoptive parents (prospective and seasoned), birth parents, social workers and counselors, educators, and students.

A special lunchtime discussion about "Re-Homing", the horrific new phenomena where adoptive parents have 'advertised' their child on the internet and relinquished them (informally) to strangers who answered their ad, was led by panelists Alla Gordina, MD, IBCLC, FAAP; Rita Taddonio, LCSW; Lorraine Kolankowski, LCSW; Karen Simmons and Sarah McCarthy (The Children's Law Center), and moderated by Pat Bennett. Ways to move forward and tackle this reprehensible issue, including better education for adoptive parents, were discussed.

We extend our gratitude to the seven special exhibitors, the fourteen New Jersey licensed Agency exhibitors, and the Wachung Booksellers for providing attendees with valuable information and resources! We also thank Gina Sharpe LCSW and Pam Simone from Rutgers University School of Social Work, Institute for Families who co-sponsor the conference and are responsible for the CEH program; Lorraine Kolankowski from NJ Interagency Adoption Council; Dan Turano and his staff from the Busch Campus Center for logistical and technical support; and Gerlanda's for breakfast and beverages! And last but not least, the 22 CPFA volunteers who worked hard during the year and the day of the conference to provide another exceptional event: Sangeeta Benbow, Mike Bennett, Pat Bennett, Carolyn Bosa, Shauna Canter, Dana Fried, Miriam Frolow, Pam Hasegawa, Lauren Katz, Mary Keane, Patti Lacey, Pascale Lafontant, Cindy Mizelle, Anna Marie O'Loughlin, Wendy Paladini, Barbara Podstawski, Janet Pollio, Lynn Riker, Marty Roden, Stuart Turnbull, John Walz, Laura Wilkinson. THANK YOU! Congratulations, again, to our Lynn Witkin/CPFA Scholarship winner Ms. Yolanda Franklin! Yolanda's favorite quote is by Maya Angelou: "I've learned that people will forget what you've said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." We wish her the best of luck in her education and career, and that she fulfills her dream of service as she continues to touch the lives of others.

Lastly, please HOLD THE DATE for our 33rd "Let's Talk Adoption" Conference on Saturday October 25, 2014! Check our website [www.cpfanjanj.org](http://www.cpfanjanj.org) for up-to-date information. We invite you to become a CPFA volunteer and contribute your skills to the conference. Please contact Wendy Paladini to volunteer.

With thanks for six meaningful years as conference coordinator, Kathleen Strakosch Walz



Our keynote speaker, Holly van Gulden



2013 CPFA Lynne Witkin Scholarship winner Yolanda Franklin



Our wonderful conference volunteers along with our Keynote speaker

## Social Updates

If you have not had an opportunity to join us for a social event – make it a "New Year Goal" – come to at least one! We would love to meet you!

Our next event - the Annual Heritage Party will be on Saturday, March 8 from 12-3 pm. We will feature the Philippines as our heritage of the year. Look forward to a traditional Filipino martial arts demonstration – you will get to participate too! We feature our own ethnic foods and music, but we will also have food, music, crafts and activities from the Philippines. Bring a dish or two to share from your family's heritage as well as keepsakes, books, pictures, games, etc. We will be meeting at the First Presbyterian Church of Whippany. For complete information and registration go to this link: [https://fs17.formsite.com/cpfanjanj/Heritage14/secure\\_index.html](https://fs17.formsite.com/cpfanjanj/Heritage14/secure_index.html)

Everyone who attended had a great time at our three annual fall events: Halloween party, Tween and Teen Bowling and our Holiday party. At the Halloween party the children enjoyed creating spooky Halloween decorations, making fun things to eat and showing off their cool costumes. At the Tween and Teen Bowling party everyone enjoyed trying to get the strike or spare and a few video games at the end. The Holiday Party included our special guest, Santa and wonderful food and activities. CPFA along with tremendous support of FISERV employees donated gifts to 50 children in foster care (20 more than last year). A big thank you to all those who donated!

KUDOs to all of you who volunteer at our social events! We hope to see you at the Heritage Party on March 8th!

Lynn Riker, Social Chair



Our "special guest" giving gifts to our kids

A special thank you to Vanessa Lomastro who coordinated with Fiserv corporation. Together they collected over \$1,000 for gift cards to children and teens in currently in foster care!

**Saturday, March 8th**

**Annual Heritage Party:** 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
 First Presbyterian Church, Whippany  
 Please RSVP by Wednesday, March 5, 2014  
[https://fs17.formsite.com/cpfanj/Heritage14/secure\\_index.html](https://fs17.formsite.com/cpfanj/Heritage14/secure_index.html) or l.riker@verizon.net. Questions? Contact Lynn Riker, 973.986.5702.

**Saturday, October 25th**

**33rd Annual "Lets Talk Adoption" Conference:**  
 All Day  
 Rutgers University Busch Campus Piscataway, NJ

**Saturday, April 5th**

**3rd Annual Mini-Conference:** 9:00 am – 2:00 pm  
 Presbyterian Center at St. Cloud Presbyterian Church, 20 Old Indian Road West Orange, NJ

**For Parents and Kids (ages 7-12)**

The mini-conference is open to adoptive parents, potential adoptive parents, foster parents and adoptees, ages 7 to 12. The conference will offer workshops on a variety of topics for adults and children, activities for children and a pizza lunch/networking session.

This is a great opportunity to speak with professionals and other adoptive parents and adoptees on a more intimate level. Space is limited, so please register early. Registration and more detailed information about our mini-conference and workshops will be available on our website soon.

**Membership & Renewal Form**

PLEASE TEAR OFF AND RETURN WITH PAYMENT

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Payable to: CPFA**

**Mail To:** Cindy Mizelle  
 14 Lea Place, Rockaway, NJ 07866

**Please Check off the Appropriate Box Below:**

- \$25 New/Renewing Membership & Newsletter
- \$45 New/Renewing Membership & Newsletter for 2 years

Social Events Are Free To All Members & Their Families! | Dues are tax-deductable and are paid annually.



**CONCERNED PERSONS FOR ADOPTION**

P.O. BOX 179  
 WHIPPANY, NJ 07981

"Every Child Deserves A Family"

**IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?**

The expiration date of your membership is shown on your address label.

Please remember to renew your membership on the back so that you don't miss any issues.

TO CHANGE YOUR MAILING ADDRESS, PLEASE CALL 973-293-2621 OR CONTACT US THROUGH OUR WEBSITE

**Visit our website at [www.cpfanj.org](http://www.cpfanj.org)**