

CONCERNED PERSONS

*For Adoption*

[www.cpfan.org](http://www.cpfan.org)



*"Every Child Deserves A Family"™*



## **37<sup>th</sup> Annual Concerned Persons for Adoption**

**"Let's Talk Adoption"<sup>sm</sup> Conference**

**Saturday, May 4, 2019**

**8:30 am – 4:00 pm**

**Coordinated by Concerned Persons for Adoption (CPFA)  
and Rutgers University School of Social Work**

**with the New Jersey Interagency Council (NJIC)**

**Providing Assistance with Program Marketing**

Updated 4/11/19

**Keynote Address: 9:15 am – 10:15 am**

**Adam Pertman, President, CEO and Founder of the National Center on Adoption and Permanency**

The National Center of Adoption and Permanency, a unique nonprofit that provides research, resources, education, training, consulting and advocacy to improve the lives of children, families and the professionals who serve them. NCAP’s mission is to move child welfare policy and practice beyond the traditional “child-placement” model to a new paradigm focused on enabling children and their families to succeed.



**Rethinking Adoption in the 21st Century: Progressing from “Child Placement” to “Family Success”**

The mantra in our field has long been that every child deserves a safe, permanent, loving family – and policy and practice has been shaped over the decades primarily to accomplish that objective. The population of children being served today (as well as that of parents) has changed radically however; so many of those families are indeed safe, permanent, and loving – but life is a struggle every day. In this presentation, Adam Pertman provides an overview of the historic changes that have taken place and – in an upbeat, hopeful keynote – outlines what needs to happen to genuinely help children and families into the future. The bottom line is moving law, policy, and practice beyond the goal of “child placement” to a new paradigm that focuses on enabling children and families to succeed. (ALL ATTENDEES, HC, SW-4)

**Online Registration and Payment at [www.cpfan.org](http://www.cpfan.org)**

**Acknowledgements:**

Postcard design and printing by Thinkpod Printing Design and Promotions, Pequannock, NJ. Special thanks to all the CPFA volunteers who make this conference possible.

**Conference Schedule**

| <b>TIME</b>   | <b>PROGRAM</b>  | <b>LOCATION</b>   |
|---------------|---|---|
| 7:45 – 8:55   | Registration/Check-in<br>Agency Exhibits<br>Book Sales<br>Breakfast | Foyer<br>International Lounge<br>Fireside Lounge<br>Fireside Lounge |
| 8:55 – 9:15   | Welcome   | Multi-Purpose Room  |
| 9:15 – 10:15  | Keynote Address   | Multi-Purpose Room  |
| 10:30 – 11:30 | Workshop Session A  | Breakout Rooms  |
| 11:45 – 12:45 | Workshop Session B  | Breakout Rooms  |
| 12:45 – 1:45  | Lunch   | Food Court  |
| 1:45 – 2:45   | Workshop Session C  | Breakout Rooms  |
| 3:00 – 4:00   | Workshop Session D  | Breakout Rooms  |

**NJ Licensed Agency Exhibits, Special Exhibits and Book Sales** – Arrive early to give yourself time to visit the agency exhibits, special exhibits and book sales. Exhibits and book sales open at 8:00 am. Most exhibitors leave promptly at 4:00 pm. Book signing by authors will occur in the book sales area during the lunch hour (not during workshops).

## Special Exhibits – Fireside Lounge

**Breakfast/Lunch** – Continental breakfast catered by Gerlanda’s is included in your registration fee and will be available in the Fireside Lounge. Lunch is on your own. Fast food, deli and pizza are all available at the Busch Campus Center’s food court in the same building as the conference.

**Handouts** – If you are interested in picking up a handout for a particular workshop please visit the CPFA Exhibit Table at the end of the day to see if there are extra handouts donated by the speakers.

## Sponsors

The Let’s Talk Adoption <sup>sm</sup> Conference is coordinated by Concerned Persons for Adoption (CPFA) and is co-sponsored by the New Jersey Interagency Adoption Council and Rutgers University School of Social Work, Office of Continuing Education.

## About Concerned Persons for Adoption (CPFA)

CPFA is a non-profit organization in the state of NJ dedicated to the belief that every child deserves a family. CPFA is not an adoption agency, but an all-volunteer organization working to support those who wish to adopt and to provide educational and networking resources to everyone in the adoption community. Visit our website at [www.cpfanjanj.org](http://www.cpfanjanj.org). Like us on Facebook.

## Continuing Education Hours (CEH’s)

Continuing education hours are available through The Office of Continuing Education at the Rutgers School of Social Work in accordance with New Jersey Administrative Code 13:44G and recognized by:

- NJ Board of Social Work Examiners
- PA State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Professional Counselors
- NJ Department of Education, approval code #1965
- National Board for Certified Counselors, provider # 6389\*
- Continuing education hours are approved for NJ licensed: Social Workers, Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists and Teachers *unless noted*.

\*CEHs are currently pending. As soon as we learn of the status, we will update this document and the web page.

After you register for the LTA Conference, you will receive a web link that must be used to pay the \$20 Continuing Education Hours (CEH) processing fee to the Office of Continuing Education at Rutgers School of Social Work. Please note, not every conference program is eligible for CEHs.

On the day of the conference, you must do the following in order to prove attendance and be credited with the correct number of CEH’s.

- Check in at regular registration desk
- In addition, sign in at the CEH desk upon arrival – this will verify the time of your arrival and give you credit for the keynote presentation
- **Sign the CEH attendance sheet in each one of the workshops that you attend. If you attend a two hour workshop, you must sign in for each hour of the two hour workshop.** CEHs will be processed through the Office of Continuing Education at the Rutgers University School of Social Work and certificates will be emailed to participants three to four weeks **after** the conference. For more information contact the office at 848-932-8758.

## Conference Workshop Codes, Suggestions, and Certificate of Attendance

Please note that the following WORKSHOP CODES are presented with each workshop description on the following pages for Sessions A, B, C, and D. The notations are provided only as suggestions to help guide your selections of relevant workshops. You are welcome to choose any workshop of interest.

|    |  |
|----|--|
| AP | ADOPTEES   |
| AD | ADOPTIVE PARENTS   |
| BP | BIRTHPARENTS   |
| CW | CHILD WELFARE PROFESSIONALS  |
| ED | EDUCATORS  |
| FP | FOSTER PARENTS (See Note #1 below)                                     |
| HC | MAY QUALIFY AS HAGUE CONVENTION COMPLIANT TRAINING (See Note #2 below) |
| HP | HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS  |
| KG | KINSHIP GUARDIANS  |
| PA | PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE PARENTS   |

SOCIAL WORKERS AND ADOPTION PROFESSIONALS (Seen Note #3 below)

|      |  |
|------|--|
| SW-1 | SOCIAL AND CULTURAL COMPETENCY REQUIREMENT |
| SW-2 | CLINICAL                                   |
| SW-3 | ETHICS                                     |
| SW-4 | GENERAL                                    |

**Note #1-** FOR FOSTER/RESOURCE PARENTS CURRENTLY LICENSED BY DCP&P: The conference is approved by the NJ Child Welfare Training Academy for five (5) training hours. "Certificate of Attendance" can be obtained at the end of the conference.

**Note #2 –** FOR PRE-ADOPTIVE PARENTS DOING INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS: A CPFA "Certificate of Attendance," available at the end of the conference, may help partially fill the requirement for the 10 hours of "preparation and training" as required by the Hague Convention. Workshops that may qualify as Hague compliant training are listed with the code HC. In all cases, you should check with your agency FIRST to verify which workshops they would approve as part of The Hague Convention "preparation and training" requirements.

**Note #3 –** FOR NJ, NY AND PA LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS & LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS (CEH approval for LPCs is pending ): Workshops that Rutgers University, School of Social Work have approved to meet the Social and Cultural Competency, Clinical and Ethics requirements for Social Workers are listed with the above codes. Please see guidelines on receiving Continuing Education Hours on previous page.

### [Online Registration Instructions](#)

**Online Registration and Payment at [www.cpfanj.org](http://www.cpfanj.org)  
Online registration closes at midnight April 26, 2019**

To cancel a registration, email the conference advisor at [info@cpfanj.org](mailto:info@cpfanj.org). No refunds can be given after April 26, 2019.

## **Explanation of Fees:**

**Registration Fee: \$60 per person (\$100/couple)** – The couple rate is designed for two people who are raising a child together. It is not intended for co-workers or other family members.

**Walk-in Registration Fee: \$85 per person (\$150/couple)**

**Full-time Students: \$30 per person**

**CEH Handling Fee: \$20** – A maximum of 5 CEH's are available for NJ and PA Licensed Social Workers and Licensed Professional Counselors (CEH approval for LPCs is pending) – 1 for keynote and 1 per workshop hour. Social workers and Licensed Professional Counselors should see special check-in instructions under "**Continuing Education Hours.**"

**\$25 CPFA Membership – NEW OR RENEWAL** – Optional

**\$45 CPFA TWO YEAR Membership – NEW OR RENEWAL** – Optional

**All attendees must CHECK IN at the REGISTRATION DESK upon arrival** – Information packets and schedules will be distributed at this time.

Email [info@cpfanej.org](mailto:info@cpfanej.org) for any online registration questions.

***Register early for best choice of workshops!***

**For those who need to mail in their registration** – Download the registration form at [www.cpfanej.org](http://www.cpfanej.org), complete form and mail with full payment (make check payable to CPFA). For faster processing, we highly recommend on-line registration. Mail-in registrations must be postmarked by April 26, 2019. If post marked after April 26, 2019, a late fee of \$25 per person will be charged. You will receive a confirmation via email so please print your email address clearly on the registration form.

**Please Mail to:**

LTA Conference  
c/o Stuart Turnbull  
12 Wilson Terrace  
West Orange NJ 07052

## **Workshops**

### **Session A (Workshops 1-8) 10:30-11:30 am**

1. **Pride and Prejudice in Adoption and Foster Care** (AP, AD, BP, CW, ED, FP, HP, KG, PA, SW-4, HC) Among the traits all parents want to instill and nurture in their children is a strong sense of self-worth, self-confidence and self-respect. The message too many children in foster or adoptive settings receive is a decidedly mixed one, however, being told they should be proud of who they are even as stigmas and negative stereotypes relating to them and their families persist. The challenges are often greater for children/youth who are older, internationally adopted or in multiracial families – and they are now being exacerbated by very-public controversies relating to race, immigration status and deportation (including of adoptees). This workshop will be structured as a highly interactive conversation that will bring in all these issues, provide research on positive

identity development, discuss attendees' real-life experiences and concerns, and brainstorm about how parents, children/youth, other family members, and professionals can and should respond. *Adam Pertman, CEO and Founder of the National Center on Adoption and Permanency*

**2. Finding Self 2 Hour Session - Part 1(Continues B9)** (AP, CW, ED, FP, KG, PA, SW-2, HC) Identity is widely recognized as an important, individualized, and complex process among adoptees. Adoptees construct and reconstruct various identities to align with their different life stages. Particularly, transracial adoptions produce additional layers to the identity processes. Trauma and loss impact identity formation and development for the adoptee. Engagement with these areas cause adoptees to confront a range of experiences such as security, bias, racialization, and rejection. To best support adoptees in meeting their needs, it is critical that those close to them are aware of what they may be confronting. For this training, we will define identity and its various stages, analyze how socio-ecological systems impact the development of adoptees' identities, give voice to adult adoptees' identity experiences, and identify ways parents or providers can help support adoptees foster a healthy sense of identity. *Christine Tangel, LCSW; Alía Hauwert, MSW Intern*

**3. Can adoption and attachment live together?** (AD, CW, ED, FP, KG, PA, SW-4, HC) As a PACS Senior Clinician serving children and families touched by adoption, the topic of adoption and attachment is often presented as a challenge. Parents and children alike can view these most crucial family formation elements as boxing contenders. This workshop seeks to examine adoption and attachment within the context of strengthening the connection and the understanding of how both adoption and attachment can be formidable allies. *Jacqueline Adams, MSW; Kevin Fried, PhD*

**4. Preparing Adoptive Families for Transracial Adoption** (AD, CW, ED, FP, KG, PA, SW-1, HC) Many families have considered adopting a child of a race different than their own but may not have fully considered all the aspects and challenges involved. Social workers are critical to preparing a family to consider raising a child of color and providing them with the necessary tools, skills, and strategies. This workshop will focus on increasing racial and social diversity, building a multicultural home, and the importance of providing mentors/mirrors for transracially adopted children. We will spend time focusing on the appropriate age and developmental stage to address issues of racism and how to raise an African American child in America using videos from those who have lived it and adoptive parent panelists who have adopted transracially. *Christopher Peszka, MSS, LSW; Meredith Erdman, BSW, CSW*

**5. Staying the Course: The Importance of Emotional Regulation for Adoptive and Foster Families** (AP, CW, FP, KG, PA, SW-2, HC) This workshop will provide information on the importance of emotional regulation for all members of the adoptive or foster family; causes of dysregulation; and a variety of tools and strategies for fostering emotional regulation and building tools for self-regulation. This is critical information for both adoptive/foster parents and the social worker or family therapists who work with them. *Sharon Sorrentino, PhD; John O'Keefe*

**6. Medical Issues Relating to Domestic Adoption** (FP, KG, PA, HC) This workshop will focus on issues relating to some of the medical risks prospective parents may encounter when matching with a birth mother - drug exposure, infections, chronic medical conditions, social characteristics, etc. We will review different scenarios and how a scenario may, or may not, effect the health and well-being of the current pregnancy as well as what medical risks are very concerning and what factors are not very alarming. *Melissa Goldstein, MD*

**7. "Be in the 'Know': Connecting Youth to Resources for Post-Secondary Success – Thinking about college or career school?"** (AP, CW, ED, FP, PA) Regardless of what you want to be, you most likely will be heading toward higher education of some kind. With so much to consider, preparing for life after high school can seem like an overwhelming task. It is never too early, or too late, to explore your options for college or career school. This course will walk through some key steps in preparing for college and provide resources that can help you along the way. *Marjorie Blicharz, M.Ed*

**8. Not Just Child's Play 2 Hour Session - Part 1 (Part 2 B10)** (AD, CW, ED, FP, KG, PA, SW-4, HC) Too often we talk about adoptive children, but not with them. Come learn from an experienced adoption social worker, children's workshop presenter, and adoptive mom, about playful workshops for children engaging them in discussions about being adopted. These interactive and creative activities promote positive conversations about adoption with children and adoptive parents to enrich their understanding of their child's experience of being adopted. Appropriate for children adopted either domestically or internationally, through the public or private sectors and for adoption professionals who work with families who facilitate conversations about adoption.  
*Regina Levin, MSW, LSW*

**Session B (Workshops 9-16) 11:45-12:45 pm**

**9. Finding Self 2 Hour Session - Part 2 (Part 1 - A2 )** (AP, CW, ED, FP, KG, PA, SW-2, HC) Identity is widely recognized as an important, individualized, and complex process among adoptees. Adoptees construct and reconstruct various identities to align with their different life stages. Particularly, transracial adoptions produce additional layers to the identity processes. Trauma and loss impact identity formation and development for the adoptee. Engagement with these areas cause adoptees to confront a range of experiences such as security, bias, racialization, and rejection. To best support adoptees in meeting their needs, it is critical that those close to them are aware of what they may be confronting. For this training, we will define identity and its various stages, analyze how socio-ecological systems impact the development of adoptees' identities, give voice to adult adoptees' identity experiences, and identify ways parents or providers can practically help support adoptees foster a healthy sense of identity. The overall goal for this workshop is to provide a strong foundation through information about identity, so that adoptees can be best supported to navigate different life stages. *Christine Tangel, LCSW; Alía Hauwert, MSW Intern*

**10. Not Just Child's Play 2 Hour Session - Part 2 (Part 1 A8)** (AD, CW, ED, FP, KG, PA, SW-4, HC) Too often we talk about adoptive children, but not with them. From an experienced adoption social worker, children's workshop presenter, and adoptive mom, come learn about playful workshops for children to engage them in discussions about being adopted. These are interactive and creative activities that promote positive conversations about adoption that workshop leaders can offer children, as well as to engage adoptive parents in "after workshop" discussions to enrich their understanding of their child's experience of being adopted. Appropriate for children adopted both domestically and internationally, either through the public or private sectors. These workshops have all been presented to adoptive families at various adoptive family support group events and conferences.  
*Regina Levin, MSW, LSW*

**11. Children and Trauma: How Did I Get Here?** (AP, CW, ED, FP, KG, PA, SW-4, HC) The workshop will focus on the definition of trauma and complex trauma, what leads to trauma and PTSD and coping strategies to best support traumatized individuals. Trauma/complex trauma will be explained and discussed regarding what presenting behavior leads to trauma i.e. unhealthy attachments, repeated abuse/ neglect. The workshop will also discuss behaviors associated with trauma and what symptoms lead to diagnosis of PTSD. The presenter will discuss how trauma is exhibited by children and adolescent youth and how to identify and implement effective coping strategies to mitigate disruptive behavior. *Assumy Gumbs, LMSW*

**12. Red Flags in Adoption** (CW, ED, PA) What should you consider when selecting to move forward with an adoption? How do you choose an agency or an attorney? How can you be confident of working with a particular birthmother/family? This workshop will help you identify red flags that that may disrupt your adoption.  
*Debra Jaques, MA; Sharon Murray, LPC, LMHC, NCC*

13. We apologize session 13 has been cancelled as of 3/25/19.

**14. School Success for the Adoptee: Meeting the Challenges** (AP, CW, ED, FP, KG, PA, SW-1, SW-4, HC) Adoptees and their families encounter unique challenges within the educational system. The multiple layers of trauma, including racism, impact students' developmental stages and academic trajectories. In this presentation, the dilemmas for adoptees in a school setting will be identified. Theoretical frameworks will provide insight and guidance to promote school success. Tips for parents and educators will be shared and opportunity for brainstorming additional strategies will be encouraged. *Christine Morales, LCSW; Amy Strickler, LMSW*

**15. Every Child Needs a Family: NJ's Older Waiting Children** (AP, FP, PA) This workshop will provide information about NJ's population of older children and teens waiting for adoption. We will talk about the process of becoming licensed and adopting through DCP&P. Videos, photos, stories about, and profiles of our older waiting youth will be shown. Families will be able to learn about our diverse population of young people waiting for adoptive families, and will gain information that will help decide whether older child adoption would be a good option for their families. *Katherine Twomey, MSW; Daniel Sianozecki, BS*

**16. DNA, Social Media and Open Birth Certificate Laws: How to talk with your Adopted Child in Age Appropriate ways about Birth Family Connection** (AP, AP, BP, CW, ED, FP, KG, PA) This interactive workshop is for therapists and members of the adoption constellation who wish to learn the latest information about search for, and connection to, biological family. Laws recently passed in NJ, PA and, in committee in New York, allow adoptees and certain members of their family access to their original birth certificates (OBC). Currently only 15 states allow OBC access; however, DNA and social media have changed the way adoptees and their biological family members are connecting. Attendees will learn: how identity is formed and changes throughout the lifespan; symptoms related to "genealogical bewilderment;" best practice and most efficacious modalities when working with members of the adoption constellation; adoption friendly and age appropriate conversations; impact of OBC laws; and basic information about use of DNA services to locate biological family members. *Susan Merkel, MSW, LSW*

### **Session C (Workshops 17-24) 1:45-2:45 pm**

**17. Trauma-Informed Care: Caring for Children Impacted by Trauma 2 Hour Session-Part 1 (Part 2 D25)** (AP, CW, ED, FP, KG, PA, SW-4, HC) This workshop is intended for parents of all kinds (i.e. pre- and/or post-adoptive parents, birth parents, foster/resource parents), child welfare workers, and novice mental health/social work providers. The first half of the workshop will focus on trauma symptoms, specifically what they are and how to recognize them. Attendees will learn to how to identify signs of trauma such as problems with sleeping, eating, and regulating emotions. Attendees will learn how to distinguish between unhealthy and healthy ways that children cope with trauma. The second half of the workshop will focus on addressing trauma. Attendees will learn about evidence-based trauma treatment and how to advocate for trauma-informed therapeutic treatment. Finally, attendees will learn specific, ready-to-use strategies for addressing trauma symptoms in the home. *Maria Alba, BA; Amanda Elliott, MA; Lindsay Liotta Anderson, PsyD*

**18. Trauma and the Brain: Creating skills for teens of safety and identity with a somatic approach.** (AP, AD, CW, ED, FP, KG, PA) All children's brains develop from the "Bottom up." This progression allows children to process trauma and identity. Before the child can regulate emotion (safety) and execute cognitive skills (explore identity) the low brain needs to be activated. Due to trauma, many children who have experienced adoption and foster care missed out on the connections of the lower brain. Barbara Neiman, Occupational Therapist, yoga teacher and author of "The Adopted Teen Workbook " will share researched interventions and strategies for teens to develop safety, regulating emotion, and to ultimately explore their identity. *Barbara Neiman, OT, Author, Adoptive Parent*

**19. Citizenship Issues for Foreign Born Adoptees** (AD, CW, AP, PA) This workshop, for adoptees, adoptive parents and the social workers who advise them will address the importance of and the process for obtaining



the proper citizenship status for adopted children born outside of the United States. The attorney will address re-adoption, name change, the Certificate of Citizenship, types of visas and the US Passport vs the Certificate of Citizenship. *Paul Gilbert, ESQ*

**20. How to Prepare for the NJ Homestudy Process (PA)** This session will provide an explanation of what a home study is and an overview of the process as well as provide you with specific information needed for the state of New Jersey. *Karen Lanza, MA, MSW, LCSW*

**21. Using Neurofeedback to Treat Developmental Trauma (AP, AD, CW, ED, FP, HP, KG, SW-2, HC)** Many adopted children have a history of attachment issues, affect dysregulation, sensory dysregulation and/or neglect. Neurofeedback has been shown to be an effective intervention for many of these children and adolescents. This workshop will describe neurofeedback and how it has been helpful for this population. *Mark Pesner, PhD*

**22. Advocating for your Child in School – Adoption Style! (AD, CW, ED, FP, HP, KG, PA, SW-4)** Adopted children are at a high risk of early childhood trauma and loss issues that impact them in many ways, including their ability to learn. Parents and educators need to understand these unique needs and how they impact learning and behaviors. Participants will be provided with information on how to advocate for what adopted children need at school. Effective parent/teacher communication and successful trauma-informed, adoption-competent strategies will be presented. *Melissa Sadin, EdD*

**23. Embodied Parenting (AP, CW, ED, FP, KG, PA, HC)** This workshop will help adoptive and foster parents and the professionals who work with them understand connection and attachment through the lens of the body. By feeling yourself in resonance with the other, you will gain tools to recognize and deepen moments of healthy connection with your adopted child. This workshop is especially useful for parents of babies and very young children but will build skills and awareness for parents of children of all ages. *Jennifer Griesbach, LCSW*

**24. “Rough Roads Can Lead to Great Destinations” (AP, AD, CW, ED, FP, KG, PA, SW-4, HC)** Participants will be provided with a unique view into the hearts, minds and souls of the transracially adopted person. Both parents and professionals will learn more about healthy formation of identity in transracial adoptees, included but not limited to best practices (and what can be done even better....) in parenting and working with a child/youth of a different race/culture than their adoptive parents; and how to lead open and culturally responsive conversations about race, ethnicity, and other “isms” the adoptee may experience. Issues regarding the child’s birth family, decision to relinquish, and how much of whom they are, is related to their DNA vs their upbringing will be discussed. Practical tips for parents will be offered. *Tara Linh Leaman, JD*

#### **Session D (Workshops 25-31) 3:00-4:00 pm**

**25. Trauma-Informed Care: Caring for Children Impacted by Trauma 2 Hour Session-Part 2 (Part 1 C17) (AP, CW, ED, FP, KG, PA, SW-4, HC)** This workshop is intended for parents of all kinds (i.e. pre- and/or post-adoptive parents, birth parents, foster/resource parents), child welfare workers, and novice mental health/social work providers. The first half of the workshop will focus on trauma symptoms, specifically what they are and how to recognize them. Attendees will learn how to identify signs of trauma such as problems with sleeping, eating, and regulating emotions. Attendees will learn how to distinguish between unhealthy and healthy ways that children cope with trauma. The second half of the workshop will focus on addressing trauma. Attendees will learn about evidence-based trauma treatment and how to advocate for trauma-informed therapeutic treatment. Finally, attendees will learn specific, ready-to-use strategies for addressing trauma symptoms in the home. *Maria Alba, BA; Amanda Elliott, MA; Lindsay Liotta Anderson, PsyD*

**26. The Wild Wild Web: Understanding the Internet’s Historic Impact on Adoption (AD, AP, BP, CW, ED, FP, HP, KG, PA, SW-4, HC)** Social media and other elements of the Internet are instigating life-altering changes in every

aspect of adoption, many of which are unpredictable and poorly understood. These historic shifts range from creating challenges and opportunities for child-placement, counseling, outreach and other professional practices (including post-placement services); to facilitating search and reunion to an extent never before imagined; to complicating the ability of courts, agencies and parents to determine the nature of contact between minor children and members of their families of origin. In short, for good and for ill, the Internet is rewriting the rules of adoption. Both parents and professionals need to keep abreast of these changes. *Adam Pertman, CEO and Founder of the National Center on Adoption and Permanency*

**27. Beyond the SATs: Preparing Adopted Teens for College and Young Adulthood** (AD, ED, FP, KG, PA, SW-4) This presentation will consider the developmental process of teens and young adults with special attention on how we can better prepare our adopted children for the transition to college, young adulthood and leaving home. Information and resources to help them build their own lives will be provided with particular attention to how identity formation is complicated for the adoptee growing into adulthood. *Jennifer Griesbach, LCSW*

**28. CAN WE TALK?" Parents-Only Discussion** (AD, FP, KG) Feeling overwhelmed by parenting? Are you facing challenging behavior from your child? Don't know where to turn? How to deal with the problems? Embarrassed to mention anything to your social worker? Come listen, ask and share your thoughts, concerns and more with experienced adoptive parents during this "for parents only - no professionals invited" chat. *CPFA Members*

**29. Using Restorative Practices: A Powerful Alternative to Traditional Scold and Reward Behavior Modification Techniques** (AP, CW, ED, FP, KG, PA ) In this workshop the facilitator will illustrate how the restorative practices behavior modification approach when used proactively can prevent the lack of a trusting relationship, empathy and appreciation that often exists between a child and their parent, caregiver, service provider, teacher, social worker, nurse, therapist or with other children. Additionally the facilitator will illustrate how, when these techniques are used in response to an incident involving disruptive behavior and offense/harm to another party, the restorative approach serves as an effective alternative to more traditional punitive (scold/reward) and/or control "do to" or permissive "do for" approaches. *Chris D'Marco, LSS*

**30. Transracial Adoption** (AP, ED, FP, KG, PA, HC) Transracial and transcultural adoption has a long history in the United States, and it has become more common in recent years. Adopting a child of another race or culture can be a richly rewarding choice for many families although there are also many unique challenges and concerns. This workshop describes some issues and opportunities to consider as you prepare for a transracial or transcultural adoption. *Desiree Huffnagle, LSW*

**31. The Search for Identity in Adoptees: What's the One Thing You Wish You Knew About Your Adoption?** (AP, AD, FP, KG, SW-4) Identity may be a search for information, but it is also a search for meaning. Please join the presenter in a discussion about your journey. Dr. Bianchi will facilitate the discussion based on her experience as a therapist, and she would also like to hear directly from adoptees and adoptive parents about what they think a therapist should understand! This session may offer insights for professionals as he/she works with his/her own clients. *Catherine Bianchi, PhD*

**PARKING - NEW THIS YEAR – You MUST Register Your Vehicle On-Line**

Let's Talk Adoption Conference guests must use this web link to register for parking BEFORE the conference begins: <https://rudots.nupark.com/events/Events/Register/6e175224-37c0-4b41-af65-c931b6826704>

**Registering for parking on-line allows you to park in Lots 51, 59, 60B & 67 near the Busch Student Center. If you do not register, your vehicle you may receive a citation.**

Special event parking and special event permits are only for **visitors** to the University and does not include free metered parking. Faculty, Staff, and Students must park only in lots they are authorized to park in. If you have a question regarding this special event, please email [Event\\_parking@ipo.rutgers.edu](mailto:Event_parking@ipo.rutgers.edu) to ensure a timely response. If you wish to follow up with a phone call, please contact special events at (848) 932-7744.

**Directions to Rutgers - Busch Student Center**

Busch Student Center - Rutgers University  
604 Bartholomew Road Piscataway, New Jersey 08854  
(848) 445-3962

<http://buschcampus.rutgers.edu/> (click on Busch Campus Center)

From New Jersey Turnpike (North or South)

- Take Exit 9. After the toll booths, bear right and follow signs for Route 18 North –New Brunswick
- Travel about 3.7 miles passing signs for Route 27 and Rutgers University – George Street. Go over the Raritan River on the John Lynch Memorial Bridge
- After crossing the bridge take the exit ramp for Busch Campus / Campus Road
- Go about 1/2 mile to traffic circle
- Take the first exit on circle on to Bartholomew Road
- Go about another 1/4 mile. Go across the stop sign and continue on Bartholomew Road
- The road curves to the left, you will see the Busch Student Center on your left
- Parking is available in Lot 51, 59, 60B, and 67
- Pre-register for parking: <https://rudots.nupark.com/events/Events/Register/6e175224-37c0-4b41-af65-c931b6826704>. Questions: (848) 932-7744

From the Garden State Parkway (South bound)

- Take exit 129 for the New Jersey Turnpike and head south
- Continue with the directions from the New Jersey Turnpike

From the Garden State Parkway (Northbound)

- Take exit 105 for Route 18 North.
- Travel about 24 miles and you will pass the entrance to the New Jersey Turnpike
- Continue with the directions from the New Jersey Turnpike

From Route 1 (North or South)

- Take exit marked Route 18 North – New Brunswick
- Continue with the directions from the New Jersey Turnpike

From Route 287 (North or South)

- Take exit 9 (formerly exit 5) – Bound Brook and Highland Park
- Follow River Road (Route 622) east towards Highland Park
- Travel about 3 miles and turn left on to Route 18 North
- Take the first exit ramp on Route 18 North - Busch Campus / Campus Road
- Go about 1/2 mile to traffic circle
- Take the first exit on circle on to Bartholomew Road
- Go about another 1/4 mile. Go across the stop sign and continue on Bartholomew Road
- The road curves to the left; you will see the Busch Student Center on your left.
- Parking is available in Lot 51, 59, 60B, and 67.
- Pre-register for parking: <https://rudots.nupark.com/events/Events/Register/6e175224-37c0-4b41-af65-c931b6826704>. Questions: (848) 932-7744

Train: Take New Jersey Transit to New Brunswick train station [www.NJTransit.com](http://www.NJTransit.com).

Bus: Walk 1½ blocks to the intersection of College Avenue and Hamilton Street. The “A” bus leaves every 20 minutes starting at 8:00 am directly to Busch Campus. Campus Bus: 732-932-7817.

Cab Service - Victory Cab: 732-545-6666

Hotels: The Heldrich in downtown New Brunswick offers special package rates for events at Rutgers: 866-609-4700. The Hyatt is also in downtown New Brunswick, the Hilton is located at Exit 9 on the NJ Turnpike, and the Doubletree, Courtyard, Fairfield Inn, and Comfort Inn are located at exit 10 on Route 287.

Note:

Rutgers University has numerous campuses. The conference is at the Busch Student Center on Busch Campus in Piscataway.

*We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>!*

**Concerned Persons for Adoption (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 for those who have adopted.