



CONCERNED PERSONS FOR ADOPTION

A Message from our Co-Presidents



Dana Fried



Carolyn Bosa

Hello CPFA Members and Guests!

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday with family and friends. It's hard to believe that 2020 is in full swing! It seems the older we, and our children get, the faster time moves! With new year resolutions in the air, let's make it a "resolution" to become more involved with groups that make us happy, support us and help our children grow and thrive into fine young tweens, teens and adults. We invite you to make CPFA one of your groups.

Getting involved with CPFA means that you can join us for several social events, Adoption Book Group discussions, our 20th Annual Golf Classic fundraiser on Wednesday, May 27th, and our 38th Annual "Let's Talk Adoption"sm Conference, co-sponsored with the Rutgers University School of Social Work, Office of Continuing Education on Saturday, May 2nd. If you can't join us for some of our special events, we can certainly use your help planning or advertising them!

In this newsletter we are happy to share the great success of our holiday gift drive to benefit foster children and to provide some useful parenting information, as well as information on the conference and events.

Remember, CPFA is an organization run solely by volunteers and we encourage you to become involved with us!

Therefore, resolve to make 2020 a banner year to make new friends, reconnect with old friends, and have your children connect with their peers who joined their families through adoption.

Check out our website, like us on Facebook, and follow us on Instagram! We look forward to seeing you at our events!

Dana Fried and Carolyn Bosa
CPFA Co-Presidents

"Every Child Deserves a Family"

CPFA – Celebrating 48 Years of Service to the NJ Adoption Community!

Mark Your Calendar!

visit www.cpfanjan.org for details and registration

Saturday, March 7 | 12:00pm – 3:00pm

Annual Heritage Party

First Presbyterian Church of Whippany . 494 Whippany Road . Whippany

Thursday, April 23 | 7:30pm – 9:00pm

Adoption Book Group

"Before and After: The Incredible Real-Life Stories of Orphans Who Survived the Tennessee Children's Home Society" by Judy Christie and Lisa Wingate and "Far From the Tree: Parents, Children and the Search for Identity" by Andrew Solomon (chapters 4,5,6)

Panera Bread . 187 Colombia Turnpike . Florham Park

Saturday, May 2 | 8:30am – 4:00pm

38th Annual "Let's Talk Adoption"sm Conference

Rutgers University Busch Campus Center . Piscataway

Sunday, May 17 | 12:30pm

Family Day at Turtle Back Zoo

560 Northfield Avenue . West Orange

Wednesday, May 27

20th Annual CPFA Golf Classic

Black Bear Golf Course . 138 Route 23 . Franklin

New Members & Guests Always Welcome!

To learn more about the history of the organization, detailed information on upcoming events and locations, how you can become a member or volunteer, please visit our website or call one of the board or committee members listed on page 3. Please do not contact any of the event locations for 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.



Holiday Party Donations Reach Many

Every year at the Holiday Party we collect toys, gift cards, and monetary donations. For the last several years we've also had some special people at Fiserv, located in Morris Plains, provide additional funds! And this year was even more exciting, with donations from students in the Montclair State University Social Work Department! Once collected, some of our volunteer elves get busy using the monetary donations to shop for additional gifts. Those same elves sort and organize all the gifts and deliver them to a New Jersey Division of Children and Families (DCF) office from which they will be distributed to foster children to make their holidays a little brighter.

This year was the best yet thanks to all of our generous donors! In mid-December the gifts were delivered to the Union County DCF office in Plainfield. The staff was thrilled and very appreciative! We were able to fulfill the wish lists for 58 children! How awesome is that? CPFA could not do this without our generous and kind-hearted donors, and we thank each-and-every-one of them! It took a "village"...college students, Fiserv employees, CPFA members, and the CPFA volunteer elves to make this a happier holiday for so many of the children in foster care! Great job to all, and thank you for all of your kindness and generosity.

Recent Events

The Family Bowling Party in November was a success, with pins crashing and lots of laughing! The Holiday Party in December was also a lot of fun, with the children enjoying crafts, games, and a visit from a jolly old man!

Upcoming Events

Be sure to join us on March 7th for our annual **Heritage Party!** This fun event celebrates our diversity while exploring and tasting the richness of other cultures by sampling traditional foods brought by the attendees. There will be music, fun, and delicious food! Please bring a dish to share that represents yours or your child's heritage. If you would like, bring or wear something that represents your heritage! We look forward to seeing you and experiencing the many cultures! Party will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Whippany from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

On May 17th we'll host a family trip to **Turtle Back Zoo** in West Orange! Join other CPFA families and check out the adorable penguins, majestic cougars, goofy gibbons, and more. It's sure to be a fun day for all!

For more information on the upcoming social events, please visit our website.

38th Annual CPFA "LET'S TALK ADOPTION"SM Conference

Growing Together in Adoption



Saturday, May 2nd
8:30am – 4:00pm

Rutgers University · Busch Campus Center · Piscataway, New Jersey

Over 25 workshops for
pre-/post-adoptive parents, foster parents,
child welfare professionals, adoptees,
and kinship guardians.

Registration begins in late February!

Coordinated by

**CONCERNED
PERSONS
for
adoption**
(CPFA)

Co-sponsored by

**Adoption Agency Council
of New Jersey (AACNJ)**

RUTGERS

School of Social Work

Please visit www.cpfanjanj.org for complete information and registration

8th Annual Mini-Conference for Youth and Caregivers — Another Success!



The CPFA board members thank all those who presented at, and attended the mini-conference in October! More than 80 attended the half-day conference, and their feedback was overwhelmingly positive!



2019 Angels in Adoption® Honoree LYNN RIKER

Congratulations to CPFA Executive Board member Lynn Riker for being selected as a Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute's (CCAI) Angels in Adoption® for 2019! As you can imagine, this is quite an honor and achievement. In November,

Lynn and her family attended the Angels in Adoption® leadership program and celebratory gala on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

After Lynn and her husband, Stuart Turnbull, domestically adopted two multiracial boys as infants approximately 15 years ago, they quickly decided to become involved with CPFA. Since then, both Lynn and Stuart have dedicated a significant amount of time to CPFA! Lynn has served on or lead several committees and is currently the lead coordinator of CPFA's "Let's Talk Adoption"™ Conference. In 2015 CPFA was the recipient of the "Voice for Adoption"™ national "Continuing Service to Adoptive Families" award primarily due to Lynn's volunteer work. Lynn's enthusiastic adoption advocacy as well as her continued interest in increasing her own development as an adoptive parent is evident by her and Stuart's attendance at various parenting programs and adoption-related events.

For 20 years, the CCAI has hosted the Angels in Adoption® Program on Capitol Hill. This program is designed to celebrate individuals, couples, families, and organizations from across the nation who have made an extraordinary contribution on behalf of children in need of families. These heroes represent the wide spectrum of individuals involved in child welfare who are making a difference. Since the program's inception in 1999, more than 2,600 "Angels" have received this honor.

CPFA is proud of the board members who previously received this honor: 2001-Pat Bennett; 2002-Anna Marie O'Loughlin; 2005-JoAnn Tatz; 2007-Dana Fried; 2011-Kathleen Walz; 2014-Carolyn Hodakowski; and 2018-Wendy Paladini.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Pat Bennett	908-273-5694
Vice President	Anna Marie O'Loughlin	973-492-5921
Treasurer	Kathleen Walz	973-625-5628
Corresponding Secretary	Janet Pollio	908-296-5838
Secretary	Barbara Podstawski	973-838-1646

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Co-President	Dana Fried	973-285-0956
Co-President	Carolyn Bosa	201-536-7889
Treasurer	Stuart Turnbull	973-736-7032
Recording Secretary	Wendy Paladini	609-466-3284
Book Club Coordinator	Kathleen Walz	973-625-5628
LTA Conference	Lynn Riker	973-736-7032
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Social	Lorriane Chorzay	973-864-2310
Newsletter Editor	Janet Pollio	908-296-5838
Newsletter Circulation	Miriam Frolov	973-243-2621
Mini Conference Coordinator	Carolyn Bosa	201-536-7889
Membership	Miriam Frolov	973-243-2621
Publicity	Carolyn Bosa	201-536-7889
Ways and Means	Hugh O'Neill	908-552-9342
Website	Stuart Turnbull	973-736-7032

The Rewards and Challenges of Being "Open" about Adoption *by Tatum Petrich*

From the moment my husband and I started our adoption process, we embraced the importance of open adoption without hesitation. Little did we know that having an open adoption would mean more than keeping in contact with our son's birth family. We quickly learned that a vital aspect of openness in adoption would also be talking with our son about his adoption from the start. This has come to shape our lives daily and continues to evolve, growing incrementally more complex as our son grows up.

When our son was born in 2015, our commitment to our open adoption was pretty simple. We added a recurring reminder to our to-do list for sending updates to his birth mother, displayed around the house photos from the hospital with the three of us and Travis's birth mother, and added adoption stories to our son's book collection. When I rocked Travis to sleep in my arms, I would tell the story of how his birth mother grew him in her tummy and how lucky we were that she chose us to be his parents.

As Travis grew into a toddler, I found myself taking every opportunity I could to draw connections to his adoption story, and some of my proudest moments as a mother are when Travis references anything related to his adoption. I teared up with excitement, for example, when I had been talking about something

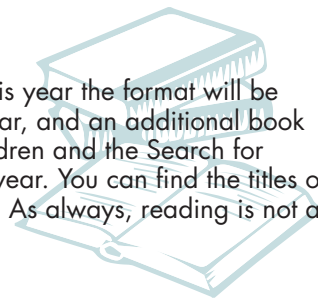
from before he was born, and Travis asked, "You mean when I was growing in [my birth mother's] belly?" He more recently caught me off guard when he asked, "Hey, mom, do you like blueberry nut cereal?" "Yes," I replied, but apparently he thought I needed more convincing as he said: "When I was a little baby, my birth mom used to feed that to me. Do you like it now?" His imagination tickled me, and I assured him with my huge smile and big hug that, "Yes, I definitely like it now."

But for all of these reassurances that our openness has made Travis's adoption a natural part of our family's story and communication, it has also engendered plenty of challenges. Travis recently asked when he'll get to meet his birth mother—not "if" but "when"—and I could do nothing more than say, "Hopefully, someday soon." His birth father was not in the picture and has thus been absent from our stories so far, but I know this is an important piece of Travis's identity that we will need to address as best we can.

We may not be certain exactly how we will tackle these and other related issues with our son as he continues to mature, but the one thing we are certain about is how integral our openness is to his understanding of his identity and just how special that is.

PROGRAMMING NOTES

Based upon feedback from those who have attended the **Adoption Book Group** discussions, this year the format will be slightly different. One longer, non-fiction book will be read and discussed over the course of the year, and an additional book will be read and discussed at each session. The non-fiction book, "Far From the Tree: Parents, Children and the Search for Identity" by Andrew Solomon, will be broken down into three chapters per session throughout the year. You can find the titles of the other books on the front page of this newsletter (for January and April) and at www.cpfanjan.org. As always, reading is not a requirement, and you can just stop in to join the interesting and lively discussion!



The only fundraiser that CPFA holds is the **CPFA Golf Classic**, now in its 20th year! This fun event is held at the Black Bear Golf Course in Franklin. The cost includes breakfast, door prizes, greens fees, and a great luncheon. This year the event will be held on Wednesday, May 27th, rain or shine. For more information, please call Ways & Means Chairperson Hugh O'Neill at 908-552-9342.

Membership & Renewal Form

PLEASE TEAR OFF AND RETURN WITH PAYMENT

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Telephone: _____
 EMail: _____

Make Payable to: CPFA

Mail To: Miriam Frolow

48 Oak Crest Rd., West Orange, NJ 07052

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! | Membership dues are tax-deductible.



CONCERNED PERSONS FOR ADOPTION

PO 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.

You can become a member or renew your membership by mail or by following the link on our website.

TO CHANGE YOUR MAILING ADDRESS, PLEASE CALL 973-243-2621 OR CONTACT US THROUGH OUR WEBSITE

Website: www.cpfanjan.org ~ Facebook: Concerned Persons for Adoption-CPFA NJ