

**A Message from
our Co-Presidents**



Dana Fried



Carolyn Bosa

Hello CPFA Members and Guests!

Happy New Year to all! We hope that you and your family are doing well, and with the Covid vaccination program underway, that the start of 2021 feels a bit brighter and more promising in turning the proverbial corner.

We are so grateful for the community support during our holiday gift drive. Through the generous donation of Fiserv Inc. coordinated by a CPFA member, our Facebook gift drive, and support from the CPFA Board of Directors, we were able to raise more than \$3,200 for children in foster care! Through this effort, social committee coordinators were able to hand pick, order, wrap and deliver gifts and gift cards to over 110 foster children throughout the state! We are very proud and appreciative of our members and supporters, especially during these challenging times, and to the commitment and dedication of our CPFA social committee coordinators.

We are busy working on the 38th Annual "Let's Talk Adoption"sm Conference that will take place virtually on the mornings of Friday, March 12 and Saturday, March 13. Similar to our previous conferences, we are working with the Rutgers School of Social Work and the Adoption Agency Council of New Jersey. Please check our website and Facebook page for more information. We truly hope you can join us, from the comfort of your home!

We continue to plan virtual events such as our Book Club discussions, our "Can We Talk" parent chats on topics of interest, social events and more. You will find information on events, articles, and updates on our website, Facebook and Instagram.

Our wish for you is to be encouraged, stay safe and be well.

Dana Fried and Carolyn Bosa
CPFA Co-Presidents

Mark Your Calendar!

visit www.cpfanjanj.org for details

Sunday, February 7 | 3:00pm – 5:00pm

**"Men's Only" Super Bowl
Sunday Gathering (via Zoom)**

A great opportunity for the dad's to gather and talk about sports, family life, challenges and joys. Bring a snack and a drink to enjoy while talking. Register via our website or email info@cpfanjanj.org to receive the event link.

Friday, March 12

Saturday, March 13 | 9:00am – 1:30pm

**38th Annual "Let's Talk
Adoption"sm Conference
To Be Held Virtually!**

Join us virtually for sessions on pre- and post-adoptive issues. Visit our website for the most up to date information.

Friday, April 9 | 8:00pm – 9:30pm

"Can We Talk?" (via Zoom)

A great way to connect with other adoptive parents to share thoughts, ideas, struggles, victories, and more – from the comfort of your home! More information will be available closer to the date. Register via our website or email info@cpfanjanj.org to receive the event link.

Thursday, April 22 | 7:30pm – 9:00pm

Adoption Book Group (via Zoom)

Please join us for a lively and thought-provoking discussion on "My Name is Why" by Lemn Sissay. If you would like to participate, please email kathleen.s.walz56@gmail.com with "CPFA Book Group Zoom" in the subject line. You will receive an email with the Zoom meeting link, password and instructions on joining.

CPFA

*Celebrating
49 Years of
Service to the
NJ Adoption
Community!*

New Members & Guests 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 email info@cpfanjanj.org. 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 network resources to those who have adopted.



Martin Luther King's Birthday: Let's All Search for Identity

by Dr. Jane Aronson



Lying in bed unable to sleep, I ponder the stress children are feeling in this chaotic time of a global pandemic, as they sit at home, unable to go to school. This pandemic, 100 years after the last one in 1918, in the midst of violence and intolerance globally, has revealed that people are not accepting of diversity. We seem to have challenges with anyone who is not like us. "We have met the enemy and he is us" (Walt Perry/Pogo).

People on this fragile planet don't tolerate difference and yet humans need to feel different. There are 7 billion people on Earth and we each have our own special identity. A goal of humanity is to love our individual identities and to respect unique identities over our lifespan. Erik Erikson, the celebrated psychologist, created a map of how we grow and examine our identities throughout our lifetime...not just as children and adolescents.

His book "Childhood and Society", published in 1964, is a bible to me, since the seventies when I was in college. I majored in psychology and was "pre-med"; I liked two of his proposed stages, generativity and identity. He wanted us to examine our identity all our lives. He believed that our search for identity was how we would achieve personal growth and generativity was how we would "give back" to our communities.

I have traveled abroad to learn about how children live without parental care...vulnerable and at-risk children...I yearned to address their needs and provide them with access to health care, education and psychosocial support through service programs in their own countries.

I am a pediatrician, global health educator, and adoption medicine specialist and I advocate for kids. I am curious and want to know about the culture of children who have lost parental care and experienced abandonment and trauma. I love adoption, but only small numbers of children can achieve permanency through adoption. There are hundreds of millions of children around the world, living in orphanages, refugee camps, homeless, in shelters, and in foster care. All of those children are searching for their identities.

Those of us who have adopted children or who work in the adoption profession understand the potential identity and attachment issues due to trauma. Listening to our children and encouraging them to think about their identity is paramount. They may know very little about their birth families, but we need to promise children that they can explore their identities to find themselves.

Frankly, all of the inhabitants of the planet would be more peaceful and safe, if they could discover their identity and accept the identities of others.

Dr. Jane Aronson serves as Voluntary Pediatric Faculty at Cornell Weill Medicine, is the Director of International Pediatric Health Services, PLLC, is the Founder and former CEO of Worldwide Orphans Foundation from 1997-2019, is the Director of the Global Behavioral Health Network for Children and Young People, and a Consultant to the CPFA Board of Directors.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Co-President	Dana Fried	Newsletter Editor	Janet Pollio
Co-President	Carolyn Bosa	Newsletter Circulation	Miriam Frolov
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Recording Secretary	Wendy Paladini	Coordinator	Carolyn Bosa
Book Club Coordinator	Kathleen Walz	Membership	Miriam Frolov
LTA Conference	Lynn Riker	Publicity	Carolyn Bosa
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Social	Lorriane Chorzay	Website	Stuart Turnbull

**To contact a board or committee member, please email
info@cpfanj.org**





*Families Growing Together
Through Adoption*

38th Annual “Let’s Talk Adoption”sm Virtual Conference

Friday, March 12 & Saturday, March 13

Keynote Address:

Knowing the Unknowable:

Insight from Adoptees Working in Adoption

Presented by:

Steve Kalb, LMSW

Director of Post Adoption Services, Holt International

Joli Hanlon, BA

Director of Holt Adoptee Camp, Holt International

Caitlin Howe, MA

Adoptee Programs Coordinator, Holt International

Schedule:

Check-in	8:45 am-9:00 am
Welcome	9:00 am-9:15 am
Keynote*/Session B**	9:15 am-10:45 am
Break	10:45 am-11:00 am
Session A*/Session C**	11:00 am-12:30 pm
Agency/Special Exhibitors/ Chat Room	12:30 pm-1:30 pm

*Friday, March 12; **Saturday, March 13

Please visit www.cpfanjanj.org for workshop descriptions, fees, CEH information, and registration details.

CONCERNED
PERSONS
FOR
ADOPTION
CPFANJ.ORG

RUTGERS
School of Social Work

Adoption Agency Council
of New Jersey

2020 Angels in Adoption® Honoree Janet Pollio

Congratulations to CPFA Board of Director's member Janet Pollio for being selected as a Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute's (CCAI) Angels in Adoption® for 2020!

Due to the pandemic, the 2020 Angels in Adoption® Program was held virtually. It kicked off with a gala on the evening of September 30th, with additional programming throughout October.



Janet has been deeply involved in New Jersey's adoption community for the past 25 years. In late 1994, Janet and her husband decided to build their family through adoption. They joined CPFA to seek information and support, and then successfully adopted two children domestically. Since joining CPFA, Janet has served many roles including President, Vice President, and chair of the Programming Committee. Today, Janet continues to volunteer in numerous ways including supporting the yearly CPFA/Rutgers University “Let’s Talk Adoption”sm Conference, and serving on the Board of Directors. Janet is also the editor of the CPFA newsletter. While many choose to stop their volunteer involvement once their children become adults, Janet has selflessly continued to serve.

For the past 21 years, CCAI has hosted the Angels in Adoption® Program on Capitol Hill. The CCAI Angels in Adoption® 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 honorees represent the wide spectrum of individuals involved in child welfare who are making a difference. Since the program's inception in 1999, more than 2,700 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; 2018-Wendy Paladini; and 2019-Lynn Riker.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Annual Holiday Party

The CPFA Social Committee chairpersons were not going to let the Covid pandemic sideline the annual Holiday Party and gift collection for children in foster care! They coordinated the first virtual Holiday Party that was held on Saturday, December 5th. It was a small gathering of about eight families on Zoom. The children in attendance participated in a fun scavenger hunt, listened to a holiday story, and drew pictures and wrote notes to Santa. After the activities, the parents had the opportunity to remain on Zoom to chat and catch up. It was great to see old friends and reconnect!

Future Events

As we move forward into 2021 still facing the many challenges posed by the pandemic, we will continue to look for ways to provide opportunities for our adoption community to connect and support one another. We welcome ideas for future virtual social events; please send an email to info@cpfaj.org with "Social Committee Event Ideas" in the subject line. We look forward to coming together this year in creative new ways!

Tremendous Support for the CPFA Holiday Gift Drive



The Social Committee Chairperson delivered gifts for over 110 foster children in New Jersey. CPFA appreciates the generosity of our supporters!

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.

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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



www.cpfanjanj.org



Concerned Persons for Adoption—CPFA NJ



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