

SESSION D (Workshops 28 to 36)

3:45 pm – 4:45 pm

- 28. "Stop waiting, start expecting!"** Becoming a parent is one of the biggest changes, if not THE biggest you will have in your life and not knowing when that is going to happen is extremely stressful. If you are waiting to adopt through a legal and legitimate provider you are an expectant parent. Parenting and particularly adoptive parenting is a new experience. Learn how to utilize this waiting time. *Lindsay Conover, MSW/LSW Counselor for the Infertility and Adoption Counseling Center (1 CEH)*
- 29. "Understanding Kid's Behavior".** A child's extreme acting out behavior is often blamed as the reason a placement is disrupting, occasionally leading to the dissolution of a finalized adoption. This workshop will look at the underlying message in the behavior of a child in a pre-adoptive placement or within an adoptive family and build an understanding that the behavior is often a child's expression of loss, grief, growing intimacy, or fear. The presenter will provide a toolkit for workers and families to better meet the challenges presented by these intense behaviors to keep the family intact. *Barry Chaffkin, LCSW, CEO Changing The World One Child At A Time (1 CEH)*
- 30. "A Search for Birth Family: Medical Crisis Results in Unexpected Discoveries".** When adoptee Carol Barbieri's son was diagnosed with a life-threatening heart condition, the search for her birth family became crucial to saving his life. Denied access to her original birth certificate by New Jersey law, Carol was forced to find alternate ways of locating her birth family. Discovering that she was abandoned as an infant and separated from her twin sister are only some of the secrets that Carol uncovered by the end of her search. Includes a musical performance about adoption entitled "Your Secret's Safe With Me." *Carol Barbieri (1 CEH)*
- 31. "Healing in Motion: Trauma Treatment for Adopted Children, Parents & Caregivers".** Adopted children, whether adopted in their first few months of life or later on in their childhood, hold within their body and mind wounds of loss, pain, and emotional trauma. This workshop will present the benefits of a physical practice of yoga as a means of tapping into emotional wounds through non-invasive means. We will talk about how trauma sits in the body and its physical origins. We will discuss how yoga is a useful tool in tapping into and healing from trauma, emotional pain, anxiety, and loss. *Teresa Bennett-Pasquale, MSW, LSW, Trauma Psychotherapist & International Adoptee & Penni Feiner "Kula for Karma" RYT Yoga Teacher (1 CEH)*
- 32. "Is That Your Mom?"** Nancy Borders, LCSW and her 33 year old son Todd will talk about the special challenges, amusing moments, and special joys transracial families face. Todd, now an adult, will discuss his experiences with peers, school and growing up in a transracial family. Together, they will share with the audience their learnings, anecdotes and experiences of living in a family that was "different". *Nancy Borders, LCSW (1 CEH)*
- 33. "Conversations We Might Have Had: Adult Adoptees' Reflections Session 2: Conversations you wish you had with your birth parents".** As adults, we can think of things we wish we'd discussed with our parents, but didn't. These workshops will explore the unspoken conversations we wish we'd had with our adoptive parents and birth parents, especially about adoption. Session 2 will deal with reconciling questions of family history, abandonment, cultural identity and questions from the audience. Please send questions you'd like discussed to Kim & Bronwyn (kimchichiking@yahoo.com), (jbchartier@yahoo.com) by November 1. Participants can sign up for one or both of the sessions. *Kim King and Bronwyn Chartier moderators, with panelists Jeremy Robbi, Leah Goetter, Larry Newman (1 CEH)*
- 34. "Being a Single Adoptive Parent".** This is a panel discussion with single adoptive parents. Discussion includes how to build an emotional support system, developing backup systems, financial challenges, how to incorporate appropriate gender identity models in life, plus other important issues. *Moderated by Joanne Reynolds MSW, A Loving Choice Adoptions (1 CEH)*
- 35. "Deficit of Attention in Adopted and Foster Children: Not All ADD/ADHD is Bouncing off the Walls".** Deficit of attention, with or without hyperactivity, is one of the most common behavioral complaints in the post-placement period. The effectiveness of any intervention greatly depends on an accurate diagnosis of the underlying problem. Topics to be covered will include causes of attention deficit, conditions that can mimic ADHD, ways to evaluate children, as well as different treatment options. *Alla Gordina, MD, FAAP (1 CEH)*
- 36. "Why opening adoption records in New Jersey is an Adoptive Parent Issue".** Viewing of the film "For the Life of Me" by award-winning filmmaker Jean Strauss (www.JeanStrauss.com), told through first-person narrative how adopted adults feel about the void in their genealogical family history created by the sealed records system. NJ adoptees Joe DeGeronimo and Pam Hasegawa are featured in the film. Discussion led by *Alison Larkin, adult adoptee, actress and author and Pam Hasegawa, adult adoptee and adoption advocate (1 CEH)*