

# NEW JERSEY'S 23RD ANNUAL

*"Let's Talk  
Adoption"™  
Conference*



November 6, 2004

Rutgers University  
Piscataway, New Jersey

908-273-5694

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

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# New Jersey's "Let's Talk Adoption"<sup>SM</sup> Conference

## *"Learning from Each Other"*

The *"Let's Talk Adoption"* <sup>sm</sup> Conference was originally the idea of Lynne Witkin, an adoptive parent and a social worker and President of Concerned Persons for Adoption in 1979. It was her belief that parents and professionals could and should learn from each other. In the 25 years since then, we have steadfastly followed this guideline.

This year we hope to expand the young adult adoptee attendance – both international and domestic. We have documentaries and panel presentations of homeland visits by young adult Korean and Colombian adoptees. Another panel will discuss general issues of adoptees. Workshops on search and reunion, culture, and effects of institutionalization all are of interest to the adult adoptee & birthparents as well as parents & professionals.

While the emotions involved in an adoption can be intense on all sides – the loss, the grief, the fears, the disappointments, as well as the joys, the love, the openness – we can all gain by listening to each other. So let's learn from each other this year....and always.

*"Let's Talk Adoption"*<sup>tm</sup> is a service mark  
of Concerned Persons for Adoption.

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

### *"Facilitating & Strengthening Adoption Communication in the Family"*

**Patricia Martinez Dorner, MA, LPC, LMFT**

Adoption communication in the family includes the birthfamilies, the children, the adoptive parents and those who surround them – relatives, teachers, etc. This presentation will offer suggestions to facilitate that dialogue. What are the typical issues and when do they show up? What can you do if your child doesn't show any interest in his adoption? What can help to encourage communication, in either closed or open adoptions? These are just a few of the issues that Ms Dorner will address in this presentation.

Patricia Martinez Dorner is the author (& co-author) of the following books: *Talking to Your Child About Adoption*, *Children of Open Adoption*, *How to Open an Adoption*, and *Adoption Search: An Ethical Guide for Professionals*. She is a licensed professional counselor and marriage and family therapist and serves as the Director of Adoption Counseling & Search in San Antonio, Texas. She has been involved professionally in the



field of adoption for 23 years. She is the recipient of the Baran & Pannor Award for Outstanding Contributions in Open Adoption (4/99) and the Angel Adoption Award from the Congressional Coalition on Adoption (9/01). As a speaker and trainer, she provides adoption and foster care education nationally and has appeared on the Today Show as an expert on open adoption. On the home front, she is the adoptive mother of 2 daughters ages 23 and 25, who have experienced open adoptions.

# Social Worker Instructions

## **Continuing Education Hours for NJ & PA Licensed Social Workers; Maximum of 5 Hours.**

Rutgers is charging a processing fee of \$20, which can be prepaid along with your registration.

The following procedure **must** be followed on the day of the conference in order to prove attendance & be credited with the correct number of CEH's.

1. Check in at regular registration desk.
2. Must **also** sign in at CEH desk upon arrival– this will verify the time of your arrival and give credit for the keynote presentation.
3. Be sure to sign the CEH attendance sheet in **each** of the workshops you attend for the additional CEH's.

The CEH's will be processed by the Continuing Education & Professional Development Program, School of Social Work, Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ. 732-445-3178.

## General Information

**Expanded Exhibit Area** – The International Lounge and the Graduate Student Lounge will both be exhibit areas this year. Located in these two rooms will be the NJ licensed agency exhibits, the book sales, adoptee information table, notebook pickup & handout order areas.

**Breakfast/Lunch** – Breakfast is included in your registration fee & will be available in the Fireside Lounge. Lunch is on your own – fast food, deli & pizza are all available at the Busch Campus Center's own food court.

**Handout Program** – In order to help attendees who wish to attend more than one workshop per session or are shut out due to space limitations, we will once again be offering 1-3 page handouts for \$1/workshop (to cover copying & postage). These can be ordered on the day of the conference at the CPFA desk in the exhibit area.

## Session A | 11:00 - 12:00

### **1. Building Secure Attachment: What's So Hard About That?**

This workshop will describe a psycho-educational curriculum developed by researchers & clinicians at the Yale International Adoption Clinic. It is designed to help adoptive parents develop techniques & insights needed to build healthy relationships with children who have had early deprivation & loss. *Carol Weitzman, MD, Yale Univ. School of Medicine, New Haven, CT*

**2. Issues in Adopting Older Children.** Why do some difficulties – lying, gorging, fighting, stealing – persist in children adopted in later childhood? This workshop explores the interplay between adoption and child development to make sense of the common behavior patterns that so often puzzle adoptive parents. *Ellen Kelly, LCSW, DYFS-Office of Adoption Operations.*

**3. Language Lost; Language Found.** For internationally adopted children, how do language disorders or delays differ from the difficulties of learning a second language? Learn about the ESL program, the causes of rapid loss of first language as well as the pros and cons of preserving it. *Boris Gindis, PhD.*

**4. Domestic Adoption Options-Agency and/or Attorney & their Role in My Adoption Journey.** Differences between a licensed agency & an attorney in the adoption process will be discussed – their specific roles & situations where each might be more helpful. Topics will include traditional & identified adoptions, birthparent counseling & termination of their rights, & post-placement supervision. *Lorraine Kolankowski, Homestudies & Adoption Placement Services & Robert W. Goodman, Esq.*

**5. Successful Korean Reunions.** A panel of adoptive parents and young adult adoptees will discuss their experiences reuniting with their Korean birthparents and culture. This powerful presentation will shed light on options for openness & how it impacts our children. *Lindy Gelber, Camp Sejong & Hyaе Kyung Jo, Adoption Advocates.*

**6. The International Adoption Process.** This workshop will discuss the process of international adoption...from application through post-

placement. International travel will be discussed as well. *Cindy J. Page, LCSW & Deborah A. Rowen, Holt Internatl Children's Services.*

**7. Parenting Biological & Adopted Children.** A panel of parents will discuss the unique challenges facing blended families. Issues of attachment, connectedness, difference & similarity, as well as the difference in parenting experience between an adopted child entering the family prior to or following a biological child will be addressed. *Paula Kaplan-Reiss, PhD, moderator.*

**8. Searching: What Do Kids Really Want to Know?** How do you as parents begin to share the information that you have or don't have? Learn how to deal with kids' questions as well as the search & reunion if it comes for your family. *Joni S. Mantell, LCSW, CSW.*

**9. Adoption 101.** Adoption, like life, has gotten more complicated. This talk will guide prospective adoptive parents through the maze of available information & outline some of the choices they need to make before initiating an adoption. *Laura Stevens, PhD., Wide Horizons for Children.*

## Session B 12:15 - 1:15

**10. Bullying Awareness and Prevention: What Every Parent Should Know.** Bullying is a serious problem. Despite the age-old view that it is something children do naturally, the presenter will show that it is caused by adult modeling & inaction. Learn how to advocate for your children & be a force for change. *Stuart Green, MSW, NJ Coalition for Bullying Awareness & Prevention.*

**11. Opening Closed Adoptions.** Explore when it is appropriate to open an adoption involving minors, who may initiate the process, the preparation of all involved, the emotional processing that occurs, how to involve the children gradually, adult commitment & responsibility. *Patricia Martinez Derner, Keynote Speaker.*

**12. Medical Issues in International Adoption.** This workshop will discuss medical & developmental issues commonly seen in internationally adopted children & review what medical professionals assess when reviewing

pre-adoption medical records & videos. *Carol Weitzman, MD, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT.*

**13. Adoption From a Man's Point of View.** For men only! Reflections on the process of adoption & adjustment to the new role of Dad will be presented by an adoption social worker & father of three children adopted internationally. *Sam Wojnilower, LCSW, Adoptions From the Heart.*

**14. Young Adult Adoptee Panel.** A diverse group of young adult adoptees will share their experiences growing up adopted and answer your questions. *Moderated by Susan Branco, LPC, Center for Adoption Support and Education, Inc.*

**15. Using Ethical Adoption Methods to Avoid Contested Adoptions & Resolve Birth Fathers' Rights.** Learn how the use of ethical methods can both reduce the risk of contested adoptions & effectively aid in recognizing & managing the issues presented by the rights of birthfathers. *Robert Goodman, Esq.*

**16. Pre-Adoption Homestudy for NJ Residents.** The homestudy is a process of educating, evaluating, & preparing couples & individuals for the joys & challenges of adoption & parenting. The requirements will be discussed, as well as areas of differences for domestic and international adoptions. *Lorraine Kolankowski, LSW, Homestudies & Adoption Placement Services.*

**17. Networking: Beyond Ads, Attorneys & Agencies.** Learn some tried & true strategies that may help you in your adoption process. How you can ethically & legally increase your networking that may lead to a referral of a birthmother. *Diane Probert, CSW, LPC, Family Options.*

**18. Raising a Child of a Different Race – Infancy to Young Adulthood.** Two social worker/parents who have adopted transracially will discuss differences, similarities, identity & racism. They are now parents of an 8 year old and a 28 year old. A short segment of a video will be shown. *Nancy Borders, LCSW and Kim Garfinkel, LSW, Youth Consultation Services.*

## **Session C 2:30 - 3:30**

**19. Affording Adoption.** Adoption costs can be daunting and leave many people feeling like they cannot pursue their dreams of having or expanding their family. This workshop will address some of the costs of domestic &

international adoption and ways in which they can be paid. *Rose Aquavia, CSW, LCSW, Spence-Chapin Children's Services, NY.*

**20. Developing Resilience: A Life-Long Journey for Adoptive Parents & Their Children.** Resilience is the ability to adapt well & rise above adversity, trauma, tragedy, & stress. This talk will explain how it can be nurtured in children. Learn how you can strengthen your family's ability to thrive in the face of challenges, particularly those that may be unique to adoption. *Alexandra M. Barbo, PhD.*

**21. Can One Ever Go Home Again?** A panel of young adults, adopted internationally, share expectations & experiences of returning to the countries of their birth. Attendees may wish to view the short documentary film, "The Colombia Project: 2 Stories of Adoption" during lunch prior to this session. *Moderated by Marisa Catalina Casey, adoptee, author.*

**22. Putting Your Best Foot Forward: A Guide to Making the Most of Your Adoption Profile.** The presenters will help pre-adoptive parents with: selection of photos, how to get the "Dear Birth Family" letter started, what to include & what to leave out, as well as how to write an ad & what to do when the phone rings. *Christine Letizia & Cathy McNee, A Loving Choice Adoption Associates.*

**23. Telling Children Their Difficult Stories.** How and when should a parent share difficult, painful information about their child's history? This workshop will help adoptive parents create a complete picture of their child's story – the good and the bad. *Barbara A. Rall, LCSW, NJARCH.*

**24. They're Americans Now, Why all the Fuss About Culture?** Why is cultural identity imperative for normative identity development? The founders of a local heritage camp & motherland trips that have supported families & adoptees for over 13 years will share their experiences. *Lindy Gelber, LSN, Linda Priore, & Hyae Kyung Jo, M.Ed., Camp Sejong & the Sejong Cultural Outreach.*

**25. Testing the Limits: Post-Institutionalized Behavior in Internationally Adopted "Older" Children.** The major source of behavior problems in PI children – how it reveals itself in school & at home - & appropriate strategies for parents will be addressed. Psychological evaluations, & school-based remedial programs will be reviewed. *Boris Gindis, PhD.*

**26. What it Means to be a Mother.** Using a short video, *Birthmother Portrait*, these two adoption professionals, one a birthmother and the other an adoptive mother, will help you understand both sides. Will the birthmother be a threat? When will you feel like the mother? Realize what it means to be a mother. *Diane Propert, CSW, LPC, & Lynette Leming, Family Options.*

**27. How to Find the Right Agency for You.** Learn the various aspects of choosing an agency, such as: local vs out of state, fee structure, total costs, agency experience & track record, programs offered, direct services provided, what questions to ask. *Sam Wojnilower, LCSW, Adoptions From the Heart.*

## Session D 3:45 - 4:45

**28. Search & Reunion.** The search is an event of mammoth proportions for all involved. Learn why people search, typical stages & outcomes, the rollercoaster, developmental recycling, claiming & being claimed, redefining relationships & finally dealing with reality (whatever it may be). *Patricia Martinez Dorner, Keynote Speaker.*

**29. International Adoption: Opportunities & Resources.** Learn which agencies licensed in NJ do international adoptions, which countries they serve, information on specific countries & their requirements. A comprehensive list of resources will be provided to assist you during the entire adoption journey. *Kathleen Walz, CPFA Vice-President.*

**30. Contact & Communication with Birthparents.** The presenters will discuss reasons for maintaining contact with birthparents, methods of communication & emotional issues associated with this contact. *Brenda Freed-Mazel, LCSW and Monica Gagne, MSW, Golden Cradle Adoption Services.*

**31. Negotiating the Special Education Maze.** The special education system is designed to provide services to children with disabilities, but parents need to know their rights. Topics will include eligibility, classification categories, accommodations, inclusion, IEPs, due process hearings, & preschool services. Bring your questions! *David C. Nast, PhD, Dir., Ctr for Academic Support, County College of Morris.*

**32. W.I.S.E. Up! Training for Parents.** In this interactive workshop the Center for Adoption Support & Education (CASE) presents their program for handling the comments & questions that all adopted kids get. *Susan Branco, LPC, CASE, Inc.*

**33. The Impact of Institutionalization on Development.**

Institutionalization directly relates to developmental, sensory & emotional issues. This workshop will explore these areas of impact & implications for services, parenting, educational placement & therapeutic intervention. For some adoptees this information can reveal the roots of certain difficulties they may have faced. *Rita Taddonio, CSW, SPARK, Spence Chapin Services.*

**34. New Jersey Private Adoption.** This workshop provides a "how-to" guide to private adoption of children from NJ & around the US, with a full explanation of the practical & legal aspects of the process. *Robin Fleischner, Esq.*

**35. Adoption for Single Women.** A panel of single women will discuss: decision to adopt, choosing a program, time frames, importance of a support system & the realities of single motherhood & career. *Moderated by Mary T. Petrone, Adoptions From the Heart.*

**36. Taking the Plunge: Perceptions & Misperceptions We Bring to Adoptive Parenting.** This presentation will explore some of the thoughts, fears, hopes & dreams parents bring to the adoption process. Concerns over initial attachment, parental entitlement & expectations will be addressed. *Alexandra M. Barbo, PhD.*

*Rather than offer suggested tracks, we've opted for careful descriptions of each workshop. If anyone is unclear as to the content of a workshop, feel free to call 908-273-5694.*

# Schedule

*The entire conference will be held in the Busch Campus Center building.*

8:00- 9:15	Registration/Check-in	Foyer
	Exhibits & book sales	International Lounge & Graduate Student Lounge
	Breakfast	Fireside Lounge
9:15-9:45	Welcome	Multi-Purpose Room
9:45-10:45	Keynote Presentation	Multi-Purpose Room
11:00-12:00	Workshop Session A	Breakout Rooms
12:15-1:15	Workshop Session B	Breakout Rooms
1:15-2:15	Lunch	Food Court
	"A Colombia Story"	TBA
	Exhibits & Book Sales	International Lounge & Graduate Student Lounge
2:30-3:30	Workshop Session C	Breakout Rooms
3:45-4:45	Workshop Session D	Breakout Rooms

We will have an expanded exhibit and book sale area...both in the International Lounge & in the Graduate Student Lounge. Be sure to come early & use both the morning & lunchtimes to browse through both exhibit areas.

Handout order forms can be processed at the CPFA desk in the exhibit area.

***Young adult adoptees -- There will be a meeting/information table among the exhibits. Be sure to check it out!***

# Directions to Busch Campus Center

**Busch Campus - Rutgers University  
Bartholomew Road  
Piscataway, New Jersey 08854**

## ***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.
- Immediately after crossing the bridge take the exit ramp for Route 622, River Road.
- Turn left at the end of the exit ramp. Stay in the right hand lane and take Route 622 West towards Bound Brook.
- Travel about 1/2 mile and turn right on Sutphen Road at signs for Rutgers.
- Go past stadium and turn left at the stop sign on to Frelinghuysen Road.
- Go about 1/4 mile to traffic circle. Go straight across on to Bartholomew Road.
- Go about another 1/4 mile, cross the stop sign and continue on Bartholomew Road.
- The road curves to the left, you will see the Busch Campus Center on your left.
- Park across the street in lot 51. If it is full go back to lot 67.

## ***From the Garden State Parkway (Southbound)***

- 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.

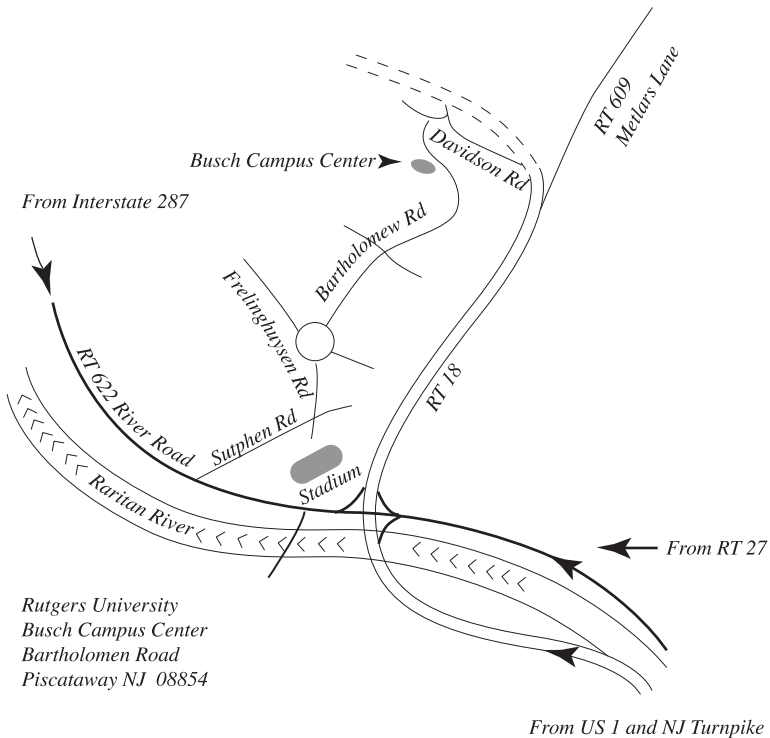
### **From Route 287 (North or South)**

- 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 Sutphen Road at signs for Rutgers.
- Go past stadium and turn left at stop sign on to Frelinghuysen Road.
- Go about 1/4 mile to traffic circle. Go straight across on to Bartholomew Road.
- Go about another 1/4 mile, cross stop sign and continue on Bartholomew Road.
- The road curves to the left, you will see the Busch Campus Center on your left.
- Park across the street in lot 51. If it is full go back to lot 67.

### **Notes:**

- **Rutgers University has numerous campuses. The conference is at the Busch Campus.**
- **There is extensive road construction and there are many road changes in the vicinity of the campus due to the Route 18 extension project.**

**Be sure to check the CPFA web site just before the conference date for the latest directions.**



Rutgers University  
Busch Campus Center  
Bartholomew Road  
Piscataway NJ 08854

From US 1 and NJ Turnpike

# Registration Instructions

Complete registration form and mail with full payment (check payable to CPFA). We cannot accept credit cards. Return to:

**CPFA**  
**29 Cadmus Place**  
**Wayne, NJ 07470**

You will NOT receive a confirmation. No refunds can be given for cancellations after October 30th.

## Explanation of Fees

### Registration Fee:

From now through October 20:      \$35 per person / \$60 per couple  
After October 20:                      \$40 per person / \$70 per 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.

Full time students can register at a special rate of \$20. Please submit proof of student status.

### Optional Fees:

**\$20 CEH Handling Fee** - A maximum of 5 CEH's are available for NJ or PA licensed social workers – 1 per session and 1 for keynote. This fee can be paid along with your registration.

**\$20 CPFA New Membership** – become a member now for \$5 off the regular new member rate.

**\$20 CPFA Membership Renewal** – usual renewal rate, but a convenient way to remember to renew!

All attendees must check in at the registration desk upon arrival. Information packets and schedules will be distributed at this time.

*Social Workers* - See Page 4 for special check-in instructions.

**Register by October 20th for lower fees  
and best choice of workshops!!**

# Registration Form

Person 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name First Name

Person 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name First Name

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City State Zip

Phone (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Evening) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Current CPFA Member?  Yes  No First time at this conference?  Yes  No

*Check all that apply:*

Adoptee  Pre-adoptive parent  Post-adoptive parent  Birthparent  
 Foster parent  Social Worker/Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Workshop Selections (select one by number). Registrations processed by earliest postmark.

	<u>Person 1</u>		<u>Person 2</u>	
	1st choice	2nd choice	1st choice	2nd choice
<b>Session A</b> (1 thru 9)	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>Session B</b> (10 thru 18)	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>Session C</b> (19 thru 27)	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>Session D</b> (28 thru 36)	_____	_____	_____	_____

Social Workers: Check here if you need a CEH certificate & add the \$20 optional fee as shown below.  
 Person 1  Person 2

## Registration Fees\*

**Up Through 10/20:** \_\_\_\_\_ \$35 per person  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$60 per couple

**After 10/20:** \_\_\_\_\_ \$40 per person  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$70 per couple

**Optional Fees:** \_\_\_\_\_ \$20 CEH Fee (social workers only)  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 CPFA NEW Membership (optional)  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 CPFA RENEWAL Membership (optional)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed

**Make check payable to CPFA**

**Mail to: CPFA, 29 Cadmus Place, Wayne, NJ 07470**

\*Full time students can register at a special rate of \$20.  
Please submit proof of student status.



**CONCERNED  
PERSONS**  
*for  
adoption*

PO BOX 179, Whippany, NJ 07981

Address Correction Requested

“Every Child Deserves A Family”

November is National Adoption Month