



43RD ANNUAL ADOPTIVE PARENTS COMMITTEE **ADOPTION CONFERENCE** 

May 7, 2023 | St. John's University

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the President	3
Conference Venue	4
Conference Venue Map	5
About APC	6
APC Conference Committee Directory	7
Conference Committee	7
APC Conference	8
Exhibitor Area	9
APC Conference Tips	10
A Note from APC	11
Susan Fornino Humanitarian Award	12
Keynote Speaker	13
Conference at a Glance	14
Plan Your Day	15
Session Grid	16-17
Sessions with Details	18-27
Advertisers	28-55
Positive Adoption Language	56
Speaker Directory	57-58





# Welcome! 43rd Adoptive Parents Committee (APC) Conference

If you are new to adoption, we would like to congratulate you on taking this step; you are probably very excited and no doubt overwhelmed by all the information coming at you. If you are in the "waiting" phase of your adoption journey, you are probably anxious about all the things you've heard – how the process works, what to expect and what it's going to be like to be a parent. If you have already adopted, we welcome you and are happy to be able to share many timely workshops with you related to parenting, health and adoption concerns.

APC wants to ensure that you have all the information available to you that is necessary to make informed decisions. Toward that end, the Resource Committee shares its knowledge regarding both international and domestic (agency, independent and foster care) adoptions. We work to ensure that our presenters and exhibitors are knowledgeable, ethical, licensed (when necessary) and successful at the service they provide. We have culminated many years' worth of experience to ensure that you are presented with the "best" information. However, please know firstly that APC does not endorse any adoption professional. Their participation in the day's events (and/or other APC meetings) is the result of our mission to provide you with accurate and relevant information. Secondly, while we verify a professional's credentials as much a possible, there is never a guarantee.

Yours truly, Sam Pitkowsky President APC Board of Governors





#### **VENUE**

St. John's University 8000 Utopia Parkway Queens, NY 11439

#### **BUILDING**

Marillac Hall (Check In at the Cafeteria, across from entrance to Tobin Business College where the general meeting is located)

Enter through Gate 4 on Union Turnpike and park in lot.

#### **DIRECTIONS**

For directions to St. John's University by Air, Car or Public Transportation, visit the website link.

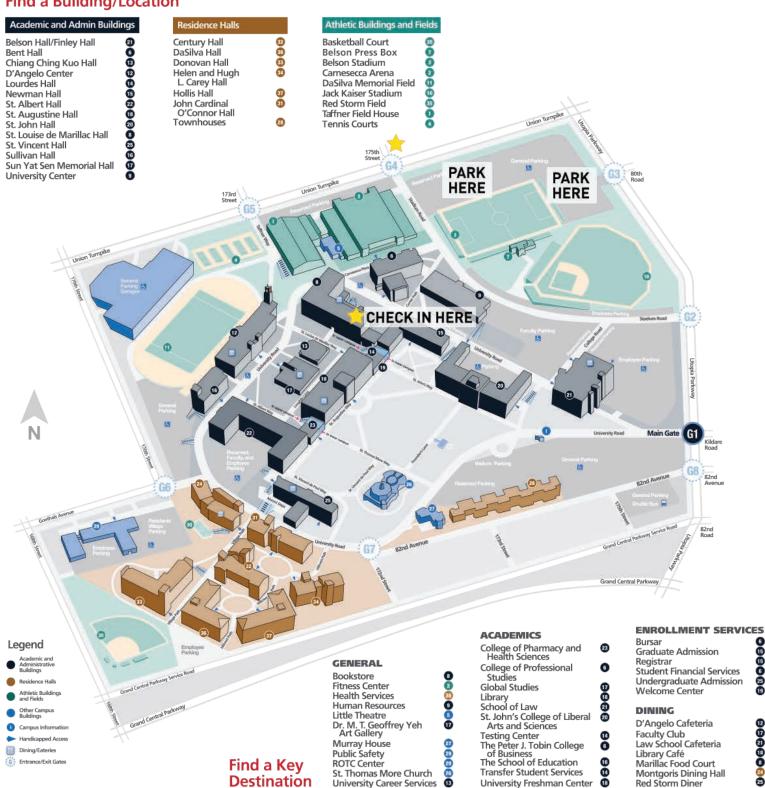
https://www.stjohns.edu/about/campuses-and-locations/queens-campus/directions-and-area-hotels





## **Campus Map and Directory**

#### Find a Building/Location



#### **ABOUT APC**

Celebrating its sixty-eight anniversary, the Adoptive Parents Committee, Inc. (APC), founded in 1955, offers adoption information, support, and education from the time people first consider adoption until their children are grown and starting families of their own. At monthly meetings, workshops, social events, and family activities, APC members support and educate one another. Members can take advantage of the experience and expertise of adoption professionals and other members who have experienced the joy of adoption.

The value of a support group like APC begins long before members adopt and lasts a lifetime. Most members join APC to obtain information on ethical and effective adoption methods. Through pre-adopt workshops, general meetings, the annual conference, and the APC website, members can learn about topics such as:

- > Agency adoption programs
- > Private placement and identified adoption
- > International adoption
- > Adoption through the foster care system

Members are supported in their adoption journey by a network of dedicated volunteers – adoptive parents and adoption professionals – who are available to answer questions and lend a sympathetic ear and strong shoulder to lean on. After becoming parents, members enjoy parenting workshops and social events with other adoptive families.

Through the assistance of various committees, APC members can obtain the tools they need to advocate. They obtain services for their children in regards to school, medical, and/or social issues that affect the adoption community. The APC Legislative Committee promotes positive reform in adoption law on the local, state, and federal level. The Children's Relief Committee assists children still waiting to be adopted by donating clothing, toys, blankets, and personal care products to orphanages and child welfare agencies throughout the world.

#### APC offers its members:

- > Free entry to Pre-Adoption Workshops, Waiting Workshops, and Post-Adoption Workshops.
- > Advance notice of topics and speakers for meetings, and advance information about our Annual Conference, the largest one-day adoption conference in North America.
- > Annual Candle lighting Ceremonies acknowledging families waiting for children and celebrating those who have welcomed children into their hearts and homes.
- > Access to accurate, up-to-date information on adoption-related topics gathered by the APC Resource Committee.
- > Regular updates on local, state, and federal adoption legislation from the Legislative Committee and Legal.
- > Advisory Board, plus representation through ongoing contact with elected officials at the state and federal levels.
- > Outreach to media and the general community

Plus much more information on our website at <u>www.adoptiveparents.org</u>.

We welcome you to the APC family!



#### APC BOARD OF GOVERNORS PRESIDENT

Sam Pitkowsky <a href="mailto:samapc@aol.com">samapc@aol.com</a>
<a href="http://www.adoptiveparents.org">http://www.adoptiveparents.org</a>

#### **NEW YORK**

254 Seaman Avenue, Apt. A2 New York, NY 10034-1250 Telephone: (212) 304-8479 info@adoptiveparents.org

https://www.facebook.com/Adoptive.Parents

President: Barbara Pitkowsky
Meetings: St. Johns University
8000 Utopia Parkway

Queens, NY 11439

Meeting Dates: see website for updates

Upcoming Events: see Movie NIght Invite at the end of the Journal.

We welcome you to the APC family!

PRESIDENT - APC BOARD OF GOVERNORS and CONFERENCE CHAIR Samuel Pitkowsky

#### **COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

Barbara Pitkowsky Rita Torsney-Sullivan Michele Kirsh Heather Wolensky Rich Reisken Frank Smisek James Traynor

#### **SPECIAL THANKS**

St. Johns University and to all of the APC Volunteers, too numerous to mention, who generously donated their time and efforts to make this conference a success and to our understanding and supportive families.

APC COMMITTEE DIRECTORY

APC CONFERENCE COMMITTEE





#### **PLENARY SESSION**

During this time we invite all Conference attendees to meet in the Auditorium to start off our Conference day at 9:00 am, Rob Scheer, CEO of Comfort Cases will deliver the Conference's keynote address.

#### **ACCESSIBILITY**

Although the St. John's University building is wheelchair accessible, some rooms are more easily accessed than others. Conference attendees with mobility issues are asked to identify themselves to the site coordinator in the registration area at the start of the conference day. We will make every effort to accommodate you.

#### **WORKSHOPS**

Following the Opening Session (9:00 am - 10:30 am), there will be 50 workshops in 5 time periods throughout the day. Please note the workshop schedule will be as follows:

SESSION I: 11:00 am - 12:00 pm SESSION II: 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm SESSION III: 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm SESSION IV: 3:15 pm - 4:15 pm SESSION V: 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Last minute program changes will be listed in the Digital Journal.

All workshops are filled on a first come/first seating basis. There is no reserved seating permitted in any rooms. If you are shut out of a favorite workshop topic, please note that similar workshops are being provided during other sessions throughout the day. Check the program or ask for assistance! APC information volunteers are readily available to provide guidance in this area.

#### **FOOD SERVICES**

Food is NOT permitted in the classrooms, auditoriums or theater. This is a policy of St. John's University and since we are guests, we ask that you respect the rules of the school.

#### **REMINDER**

St. John's University is a smoke free campus. Smoking is NOT allowed in any campus buildings.

#### **EXHIBITOR AREA**

The Exhibitor Area, featuring representatives from many adoption agencies and related professionals, will be located on the 1st floor near Registration Area from 8:00 am to 4:15 pm. This is your opportunity to meet with and ask questions of agency representatives and adoption professionals about their services and programs.

#### **REMINDER**

APC does not endorse any Adoption Agency or Professional.

#### 2023 CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS

Adoptimist Adoption STAR Adoption by Shepherd Care **AFFCNY** Alliance for Children Brian Esser, Esq. Children's Home Society Family Center Forever Families Through Adoption Holt International Children's Services Jeanine Castagna Esq, Laurie Goldheim, Esq. Lisa Peck Goldberg, Esq. New Alternatives for Children Rebecca Mendel, Esq. Rumbold and Seidelman, LLC Tekk Adoption **Tapestry Books** You Gotta Believe





#### **HELPFUL TIPS FOR ATTENDEES**

- > Decide in advance which workshops you would like to attend and then choose an alternate for each workshop hour in case of overcrowding.
- > Take notes. Pick up handouts wherever they are available.
- > If you attend with another person, plan your day so that you can attend separate workshops during each session in order to maximize your time at the conference.
- > While there are two scheduled half-hour breaks for lunch, it may be in your best interest to spend an entire workshop session browsing the Exhibitor Area and Bookstore. You will still gain valuable information.
- > Utilize the APC Information Volunteers throughout the conference areas whenever you need. They can assist you quickly and get you where you need to be. And after all, that's what they're here for!
- > Videotaping and/or audio recording devices are not permitted.
- > Ask questions in workshops. "The only stupid question is the one left unasked."
- > Network whenever possible. Networking is a great way to learn even more about adoption from those who have gone through the process, are going through the process, or work as adoption professionals.

#### **ABOUT OUR WEBSITE**

Thank you once again for attending the APC Annual Conference! To continue learning about adoption and getting news and updates about APC, please make sure you check out our website at <u>adoptiveparents.org</u>. Please look for the evaluation forms on line so you can help us plan an even better conference next year! When you visit our site, you will find information about upcoming chapter events and meetings, adoption news, the latest in legislation and more. Our website is also where you will find our contact information, and links to many of the exhibitors from today's conference.

#### **NEED EVEN MORE APC?**

Check us out on social media. See you online!

Facebook at <a href="http://www.facebook.com/Adoptive.Parents">http://www.facebook.com/Adoptive.Parents</a>
Instagram <a href="https://www.instagram.com/adoptive-parents-committee/">https://www.instagram.com/adoptive-parents-committee/</a>
LinkedIn <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/company/adoptive-parents-committee">https://www.linkedin.com/company/adoptive-parents-committee</a>



## AN IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE APC

We always recommend that you check with the state licensing specialist when using an agency by going to childwelfare.gov and clicking on Adoption Directory, then completing the appropriate search criteria. You can also check with the Better Business Bureau and the Attorney General. By the way, if there is a complaint lodged against an agency, you may request more details in writing under the Freedom of Information Act from the Attorney General. For international adoptions, you may want to use adoptioncouncil.org (National Council for Adoption) to check whether the agency is accredited by a particular country and to examine specific country regulations. Also, adoption.state.gov will provide country by country information. Please remember, that especially in the international arena, things change very quickly.

One of the most important services APC provides is availability of both pre-adoption workshop leaders and volunteers who are knowledgeable and have direct access to timely information for you. Networking at our meetings affords you the opportunity to meet others who have some experiences to share as well. We encourage you to attend meetings even if you find a topic to not be relevant to your specific needs. Spend some time introducing yourselves to volunteers and other families – ask questions, take contact information and "use us." Use our Facebook group as well to keep in contact with your APC family. Check the website for adoption-related news and APC updates.

A word of caution: the internet is an amazing tool. However, be careful when reading blogs or reviews of a professional – do you know who wrote it or what their situation is? There is a wealth of information out there, both accurate and not-so-accurate. Be careful not to rely on one source. Remember, the internet cannot give you a hug, but your APC family can!

The adoption process ALWAYS works; perhaps not in the way you planned exactly, but if you stick with it, you WILL be successful.

## SUSAN FORNINO HUMANITARIAN AWARD

The Adoptive Parents Committee has been addressing needs of children awaiting placement and those who would adopt them since 1955. We are the oldest adoptive parent support group in the United States, and the major reason for our longevity is that we are an organization that is run solely by volunteers; individuals who believe it is an obligation to help create families through adoption. The people who volunteer in APC may never be honored on the nightly news or have testimonial dinners given in their honor, but without their dedication, most of us would not have our children.

Susan Fornino was often the first voice people met when they called APC. She was warm, friendly and caring to people who called for information. Never one for the limelight, she went about her various jobs and responsibilities in an organized and competent manner. She was always willing to take on any task, doing most jobs with a smile on her face and in her voice. Susan handled membership for the New York City chapter and registration for State Conferences run by the chapter. Her most important and satisfying position was that of workshop leader, coordinator and instructor for the New York City chapter, although she also served as New York City chapter co-president and gave many pre-adoption workshops over the years.

To be eligible for the Susan Fornino Humanitarian Award, a volunteer must have worked for many years within APC and must have had a profound and positive impact on the organization, the membership and the institution of adoption. Certainly this year's recipient fits this profile!



## KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Rob Scheer Comfort Cases Founder



At any given time, there are approximately 437,000 youth in foster care in the United States. An estimated 700 children enter the system each day, and most arrive with little more than the clothes on their backs. Those who do have belongings are often given a trash bag in which to pack up and carry their life's treasures.

Rob Scheer experienced this indignity firsthand. Over forty years ago, he entered foster care and walked up to his foster home carrying a tattered and torn trash bag. He aged out of foster care at the age of 18, became homeless, and again carried his possessions in a trash bag.

After serving in the military and moving on to have a successful career as a banker, Rob, along with his husband Reece, decided to grow their family by adopting from the foster care system. Eleven years ago, four of his children arrived on his doorstep with their belongings in trash bags. Rob was floored. How, after forty years, were children in the foster care system still carrying their things in a bag used for trash? Rob and his family decided it was time to change this practice and the idea for Comfort Cases was born. With the vision of assembling backpacks filled with comfort and personal care items to deliver to local DCFS, the Scheer family invited their community to pack some cases. The first Packing Party was held in December of 2013 and shortly thereafter Comfort Cases was established as an official 501(c)3.

Over the last 7 years, Comfort Cases has been featured on The Ellen Show, The Today Show, The View, and NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt. In 2017, an Upworthy video featuring Comfort Cases received over 150 million views and in 2018 Rob Scheer was named one of CNN's Heroes. Rob and Reece Scheer most recently appeared in Bryce Dallas Howard's documentary film Dads on AppleTV+.

Rob is also the author of A Forever Family: Fostering Change One Child at a Time, a memoir that tells the inspiring story of his journey from foster care to foster parent and his drive to rebuild a broken system.

To date, over 100,000 Comfort Cases and Comfort XL duffel bags have been distributed to children in foster care in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Rob's ultimate goal is for every youth to receive a Comfort Case upon entering foster care. He currently lives in Maryland with his husband Reece and their five children.



## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

8:00 am 2:00 pm.	REGISTRATION  Main Lobby Area - St John's University
11:45 am 2:00 pm.	LUNCH Prepaid Lunches available in Exhibit Hall
8:00 am 4:15 pm.	EXHIBITOR AREA Ask Questions and Connect with our Exhibitors
9:00 am 10:15 am.	PLENARY SESSION  Marillac, Lower Level Auditorium  • Welcome: Sam Pitowsky, Conference Chairpersson and President APC Board of Governors  • Adoption Triad Candle Lighting  • Keynote Address - Rob Scheer, CEO of Comfort Cases
11:00 am 12:00 pm.	WORKSHOP SESSION I
12:30 pm 1:30 pm.	WORKSHOP SESSION II
2:00 pm 3:00 pm.	WORKSHOP SESSION III
3:15 pm 4:15 pm.	WORKSHOP SESSION IV
4:30 pm 5:30 pm.	WORKSHOP SESSION V

## **PLAN YOUR DAY**

Plan alternate sessions just in case you are closed out of your first choice and/or your family wishes to split up to attend as many workshops and obtain as much information as possible.

	1st Choice [Parent A]	2nd Choice [Parent B]	3rd Choice [Parent A]	4th Choice [Parent B]
SESSION I 11:00 am 12:00 pm.				
SESSION II 12:30 pm 1:30 pm.				
SESSION III 2:00 pm 3:00 pm.				
SESSION IV 3:15 pm 4:15 pm.				
SESSION V 4:30 pm 5:30 pm.				

9:00	0-10:30 Op	9:00-10:30 Opening Session and Keynote with Rob Scheer	7.0	CEO of Comfort Cases		
Track	Room	Session I 11:00 – 12:00	Session II 12:30 – 1:30	Session III 2:00-3:00	Session IV 3:15-4:15	Session V 4:30–5:30
A	Marillac	Successful Domestic Adoptions - Agency or Independent Placement Michael Goldstein, Esq. Joy Goldstein, LCSW Laurie Goldheim, Esq. Zachary Fried	Adoption Advertising for the Budget and Time Conscious Family Ben Santiardo	Young Adult Adoptee Panel	Affording Adoption Michele Fried	International Agency Panel
В	101	International Adoption 101 Sue Orban, USCIS & State Dept.	Open Adoption Joni Mantell LCSW Rebecca Mendel, Esq	International Adoption Process and Paperwork Sue Orban, UCSIS & State Dept.	Medical Issues in International Adoption Paul Lee, MD	The Comprehensive Medical Examination for the Adopted Child Paul Lee, MD
0	119	Understanding Risks in International and Domestic Adoption Dr. Jane Aronson, DO, FAAP	Positive Relationships with Birth Family Pre & Post Placement Joy Goldstein, LCSW	Creating Adoption Profiles Joy Goldstein LCSW Lisa Treitman, LMSW	Crossing State Lines: Issues in Domestic Adoption Placement Rebecca Mendel, Esq	
О	122	The Adoption Home Study in New York and Connecticut Steven Baranowski LCSW	Useful Answers to Practical Questions Herb Pitkowsky, Esq.	Latest News and Updates on Asia Adoption Sama Alghali, MSS, LMSW	Talking to Friends and Family about Adoption Ellen Murphy Keeley, LMSW	NY Adoption Home Study Ellen Murphy Keeley, LMSW
н	118	Infertility to Adoption: The Journey Anne F. Malave, PhD	Choosing: Adoption or Third Party Reproduction Anne F. Malave PhD	Parenting After Family Building Challenges – What to Expect Lisa Rosenthal, MS.Ed.	Adoption or Assisted Reproductive Options: Which Family Building Path is Right for You Denise Seidelman Esq Joni Mantell LCSW	How to Survive and Thrive While You're Waiting Leslie Zindulka, LCSW
Щ	137	Family Building in NJ: Agency, Independent and Foster Care Laurie Steinberg, Esq	Exploring Transracial Adoption - The Shift from Color Blind to Color Conscious Michele Fried Zachary Fried	Talking to Expectant Parents Nidia Sica LCSW	10 Questions You Wanted to Ask Your Agency or Attorney but Were Afraid to Ask Brian Esser Esq	"Where's My Mommy (or Daddy)?" A Guide to Answering Tough Questions When Your Child's Family Looks Different Brian Esser, Esq
O	139	The Myths and Realities of Foster Adoption Lisa Peck Goldberg, Esq. Leslie Silver Hoffman, Esq. Vivian Sklar, Esq	A Comparison of Foster and Private Adoption Lisa Peck Goldberg, Esq Leslie Silver Hoffman, Esq. Vivian Sklar, Esq	Adoption from Foster Care Learn Why and How Rachel Hood, LMSW	Voices from Foster Care: Fostering and Adoption Yasmin Mistry, BFA, MS, CASA	

0-5:30	Special ocess Deiches	t Adoption ian, Esq	greements amily nips ein Esq LMSW	
Session V 4:30-5:30	Deciphering the Special Education Process Caryl Svendsen Deiches	Private Placement Adoption Denise Seidelman, Esq	Post Adoption Agreements and Birth Family Relationships Michael Goldstein Esq Lisa Treitman, LMSW	
Session IV 3:15-4:15	How to Access Post Adoption Support in NYS Caryl Svendsen Deiches	Independent Domestic Adoption Jeanine Castagna, Esq	Adopting as a Single Parent Michael Goldstein Esq.	New York Law: Birth Mother and Birth Father Rights Laurie Goldheim Esq.
Session III 2:00-3:00	Helping Your Child with ADHD Thrive Emily Becker-Weidman, Ph.D	NY Domestic Adoption Agency vs Private Placement Denise Seidelman, Esq Mia Diamond Padwa, LMSW Melissa Struck	Love is a Not Enough: Real Conversations About Transracial Adoption E Stefani Moon MA, LPC IMH E	Surrogacy, Egg Donation, Sperm Donation, Embryo Donation Laurie Goldheim, Esq Rebecca Mendel, Esq.
Session II 12:30 - 1:30	Complex Trauma and Attachment Emily Becker-Weidman, Ph.D	International Adoption: A Viable Pathway to Parenthood E Stefani Moon MA, LPC IMH E	Understanding the Potential Developmental Effects of In Utero Substance Exposure Stephanie Rolin, MD, MPH Alicia Rolin, MD ScM	Starting the Adoption Process: Certification is the First Step Jeanine Castagna Esq.
Session I 11:00-12:00	How to Identify Red Flags and Other Pitfalls on the Road to Adoption Jeanine Castagna, Esq.	Infant or Older Child Adoption: Which is Right for Me/Us? Nicole Cummins, BA	Building Your Adoption Team Brian Esser, Esq Leslie Zindulka, LCSW	Talking to Your Child about Adoption: Infancy to Age 6 Joni Mantell, LCSW
Room	207	219	225	232
Track	Ξ	-	7	×

## **SESSION I** 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

#### **1A** SUCCESSFUL DOMESTIC ADOPTIONS: AGENCY OR INDEPENDENT PLACEMENT -WHICH IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

Marillac

Michael S. Goldstein, Esq. | Joy Goldstein, LCSW, ACSW, Executive Director, Forever Families Through Adoption Laurie Goldheim, Esq. | Zachary Fried, Executive Director, Adoption Star Panelists will discuss successful domestic adoption and the differences between agency and independent adoptions.

#### 1B **INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION 101**

101

Susan Orban, Outreach Coordinator, The Adoption Programs of Children's Home & Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota | Representatives from USCIS and State Department

Each year thousands of children join their family through international adoption from Asia, Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe. Who are the children? What are their needs? What countries are currently placing? What is the process? When you leave this workshop you will know the answers to these questions. This workshop will lay a foundation for someone new to adoption or help the initiated to learn about countries now placing children.

#### 1C UNDERSTANDING RISKS IN INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC ADOPTION

119

Dr. Jane Aronson, DO, FAAP

This workshop will explore the medical and psychological risks of both domestic and international adoption. We will focus on the process of how parents perceive the risks and how they might problem solve to understand the risks in a realistic way, and discuss the risks that may arise over time as the child grows up.

#### 1D THE ADOPTION HOME STUDY IN NEW YORK AND CONNECTICUT

122

Steven Baranowski LCSW

What is the social worker really looking for? How many interviews are there and with whom? Get an in-depth view of the home study process and learn how to take the anxiety out of the experience.

#### 1E INFERTILITY TO ADOPTION: THE JOURNEY

118

Anne F. Malave, Ph.D.

This workshop will provide a roadmap for the journey from infertility to adoption with helpful landmarks along the way that will simplify the process and help with decision-making. Topics covered will include readiness to adopt, when to end fertility treatment, and how to let go of the dream of the biological child.

#### 1F FAMILY BUILDING IN NJ: AGENCY, INDEPENDENT AND FOSTER CARE

137

Laurie Steinberg, Esa.

This workshop will be a "how to guide" for family building specific to New Jersey residents. We will talk about the different processes and legal and practical aspects for each path: agency, independent adoption with an attorney and foster care. Bring your questions!



Marillac Lower Level, Auditorium

## SESSION I 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

#### 1G THE MYTHS AND REALITIES OF FOSTER ADOPTION

139

Lisa Peck Goldberg, Esq. | Leslie Silver Hoffman, Esq. | Vivian Sklar, Esq.

There are approximately a half a million babies and children in foster care in the U.S. That's way too many! You can build your family and give a child a beautiful life by fostering to adopt. You can pursue foster and private adoption at the same time. Let me explain the system to you, debunk the myths, and get real about how one fosters to adopt.

#### 1H HOW TO IDENTIFY RED FLAGS AND OTHER PITFALLS ON THE ROAD TO ADOPTION

207

Jeanine Castagna, Esq.

The adoption process can be exciting, stressful and sometimes overwhelming. In this workshop we will help you get ahead of some of the problems that can arise when you begin advertising, networking and speaking with expectant parents. Learn about the "red flags" for potential problems and scams, so that you can be more confident as you go through this process.

#### 1I INFANT OR OLDER CHILD ADOPTION: WHICH IS RIGHT FOR ME/US?

219

Nicole Cummins, B,A., A-OK Program Manager, Adoption Star

When we look into adopting, sometimes we do not know what path is right for our family. Deciding between an infant or the many older children available for adoption, it often comes down to knowing what to expect within each route. Come learn more about older child adoption, and keeping your heart open to the possibility of adopting a waiting older child from the U.S. It can be the most amazing outcome. Or leave knowing that infant adoption is right for your family.

#### 1J BUILDING YOUR ADOPTION TEAM

225

Brian Esser, Esa. | Leslie Zindulka, LCSW

Most pre-adoptive parents expect that they will meet lawyers and social workers on their path to adoption. But what other adoption professionals can help on the journey? Even families who are pursuing adoption through an agency may require the support and expertise of financial consultants, profile writers, marketing experts, pediatricians and therapists. Learn what types of services to expect from your agency or lawyer, and for which services you should think about retaining outside expertise.

#### 1K TALKING TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT ADOPTION: INFANCY TO AGE 6

232

Joni Mantell, LCSW, Director, IAC Center

This workshop will focus on both the parents' and child's concerns during these early years. Parents will learn what their child can understand at these early ages, how to explore the issues with their child, how to help them answer early questions about adoption. Most importantly, we will explore how to create a safe, open empathetic family atmosphere in which adoption can be discussed as the child develops. Helpful resources and books for children and families will be shared.



## **SESSION II** 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

#### 2A ADOPTION ADVERTISING FOR THE BUDGET AND TIME CONSCIOUS FAMILY



Ben Santiardo, Founder, Tekk Adoptions

This workshop will explore everything you need to know about adoption advertising on the web. We will talk about the differences between digital and print advertising. We will discuss Facebook and its pitfalls, using a profile vs, using a website. We will also cover the average budget for advertising and what you need to know about online security.

#### 2B **OPEN ADOPTION**



Joni Mantell LCSW, Director, IAC Center | Rebecca Mendel, Esq.

The reality is that most adoptions are open. What open means for everyone is different. Learn about open adoption and help learn what type of openness feels right for you. Hear from a licensed social worker about the emotional impacts of open adoption, what you should consider, and proper communication with your child and your child's birth parents. Hear from an attorney about the legal considerations of open adoption and what you should expect with legal negotiations of your open adoption agreement.

#### 2C POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH BIRTH PARENTS PRE AND POST PLACEMENT



Joy Goldstein, LCSW, ACSW, Executive Director, Forever Families Through Adoption

A licensed clinical social worker/adoption agency executive director who is also an adoptive parent, will discuss and interact with audience and birth parents on how to effectively communicate with birth parents, pre-and post-contact, and how to handle the anxieties common to all.

#### 2D **USEFUL ANSWERS TO PRACTICAL QUESTIONS**



Herb Piktowsky, Esq.

This workshop will focus on a discussion of basic estate planning: Why you need a Will; What happens if you don't have a Will. How to designate a Guardian and Trustee for your minor child's person and property. The need and benefits of having a Durable Power of Attorney, various types of Trusts. Availability and eligibility criteria for Adoption Tax Credits.

#### 2E CHOOSING: ADOPTION OR THIRD-PARTY REPRODUCTION: DONOR EGG/SPERM, EMBRYO, GESTATIONAL CARRIER/SURROGATE



Anne F. Malave, Ph.D.

This workshop will help clarify the often-overwhelming family-building task, for all family forms including heterosexual and LGBTQ individuals and couples, of choosing whether to adopt or to pursue Assisted Reproductive Technology, including Third Party Reproduction (egg, sperm, and embryo donation and gestational surrogacy). Decision-making tools will be provided to create a roadmap that will simplify the process. Topics covered include: the pros and cons of each family-building pathway, readiness to adopt, when to end fertility treatment, how to let go of the dream of the biological child, and "disclosure"-talking to the child and others about origins.

#### 2F EXPLORING TRANSRACIAL ADOPTION - THE SHIFT FROM COLOR BLIND TO COLOR CONSCIOUS



Michele Fried, Founder, Adoption Star | Zachary Fried, Executive Director, Adoption Star

With many isolated events impacting people of color across the country, this workshop will explore ways to successfully and effectively raise children within a transracial family. With concerns that the needs of black children are not met by a "colorblind" approach to placement, adoption advocates are recommending that race should be considered in selecting adoptive families and that race-oriented pre-adoption training be a necessity in transracial adoption. Thisworkshop will focus on assessing family's needs when adopting transracially, methods to assist in developing cultural competence and awareness of "color consciousness" in raising their child, as well as parenting a child of another race amidst scary events targeting minorities taking place all around us.



Marillac Lower Level, Auditorium



## SESSION II 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

#### 2G A COMPARISON OF FOSTER AND PRIVATE ADOPTION

139

Lisa Peck Goldberg, Esq. | Leslie Silver Hoffman, Esq. | Vivian Sklar, Esq.

Can you simultaneously pursue foster adoption and private adoption? Can you use the same home study for both? Are the financial considerations the same? Do you need an attorney or an agency to guide you? How are these different types of adoption similar and different? This workshop will educate you on the similarities and differences of public and private adoption.

#### 2H COMPLEX TRAUMA AND ATTACHMENT

207

Emily Becker-Weidman, PhD, Clinical Director, Center for Family Development

When a child's early attachment history consists of abuse, neglect, or multiple placements, the child does not have the opportunity to experience the dyadic interactions necessary for normal development and often has a reduced readiness or ability to participate in such experiences. While some children, when placed in a foster or adoptive home that provides appropriate parenting, are able to learn how to engage in dyadic experiences, other children, have much greater difficulty responding to their new parents. For these children, specialized parenting and treatment is often required. This talk will explain how early trauma effects attachment security and brain development. We will discuss parenting principles that facilitate security of attachments and incorporate an attitude based on playfulness, acceptance, curiosity, and empathy.

#### 2I INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION: A VIABLE PATHWAY TO PARENTHOOD

219

E Stefani Moon MA, LPC IMH E, Associate Director, of International Adoption, Spence Chapin Services to Families and Children

Many couples exploring adoption as a pathway to parenthood don't realize that international adoption is still a viable option. During this discussion we will share more information about Spence-Chapin's current, long-standing programs in South Africa and Colombia, including the children in need of families, the wonderful in-country opportunities, and the steps to take to begin your journey.

# 2J UNDERSTANDING THE POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTAL EFFECTS OF IN UTERO SUBSTANCE EXPOSURE

225

Stephanie Rolin, MD, MPH | Alicia Rolin, MD ScM

Prenatal exposure to substances can have short-term and long-term effects on cognitive, behavioral, social and emotional development. In this workshop, you will learn about the potential development effects of in utero substance exposure. Understanding the possible short- and long-term effects of these exposures in terms of health, development and behavior can help guide and prepare families.

#### 2K STARTING THE ADOPTION PROCESS: CERTIFICATION IS THE FIRST STEP



Jeanine Castagna, Esq.

All the answers to the questions you haven't asked! What is a certification? What to expect during the home study? How to prepare for your home study? What is your attorney's role in certification? What is the next step?

## SESSION III 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

## 3A

#### YOUNG ADULT ADOPTEE PANEL

Your child will grow into an adult adoptee in an environment shaped by you and those around you. How will they turn out? What adoption issues might they experience emotionally while growing up? How will the world react to their having been adopted? What role might adoption play in their life choices? You can learn a lot by listening to the stories of young adult adoptees and asking key questions.

### 3B 101

#### INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION PROCESS AND PAPERWORK

Sue Orban Outreach Coordinator, The Adoption Programs of Children's Home & Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota | Representatives from USCIS and State Department

International adoption continues to grow more complex and presents with many challenges, yet each year, thousands of children continue to find their forever families. This workshop will briefly discuss the international adoption process, including the difference between Hague and non-Hague adoptions, USCIS requirements, types of adoption programs and resources available. The factors and complexities to consider in making a decision to pursue international adoption will also be explored. Representatives from the US State Department Office of Children's Issues and USCIS will be part of the presentation and available for questions.

#### 3C CREATING ADOPTION PROFILES

Joy Goldstein LCSW, Executive Director, Forever Families Through Adoption | Lisa Treitman, LMSW, Forever Families Through Adoption

Your profile book/website is often the first way an expectant parent can learn about you. Showing who you are through your profile is very important. This session will focus on adoption profile books (hard copy and internet sites) and will include such topics as content and proper terminology.

#### 3D LATEST NEWS AND UPDATES ON ASIA ADOPTION

Sama Alghali, MSS, LMSW, Branch Director, Holt International Children's Services

The presentation will give an overview of adopting from countries in Asia and then will focus specifically on adoption in China and Taiwan. We will present the current guidelines, timelines and everything you need to know to complete an adoption from these two countries. There will be time for Q & A after the presentation.

#### 3E PARENTING AFTER FAMILY BUILDING CHALLENGES - WHAT TO EXPECT

Lisa Rosenthal, MS. Ed, Illume Fertility Center

Parenting is challenging. That's a given. Parenting after the ordeal of infertility, possible fertility treatment, the adoption process- that's a whole other level of challenging. What should you expect? How might you be different as a parent? What do we tell the children and when? All this and more.





## SESSION III 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

#### 3F TALKING TO EXPECTANT PARENTS

Nidia Sica LCSW, Executive Director, Adoption by Shepherd Care

The pain and loss that brought you to adoption is the same pain and loss the expectant parents are facing as they consider adoption. Both types of grief are real and raw and your empathy can build a bridge between you and the expectant parents. We will explore, what questions to ask, when to ask them how to develop a relationship based on trust and respect. Bring your questions to this important workshop.

#### 3G ADOPTION FROM FOSTER CARE: LEARN WHY AND HOW

Rachel Hood LMSW, Director of Homefinding and Placement Services, You Gotta Believe

This interactive workshop will explore the benefits of adopting older youth from foster care. We will use short video clips to spark conversations about youth and teens in foster care, why they need families, what developmental needs they have, and what joys they can bring to any family willing to make an unconditional commitment. Our youth advocates will share insights from their journeys and our Director of Homefinding and Placement Services will provide details on the process of adoption from foster care.

#### 3H HELPING YOUR CHILD WITH ADHD THRIVE

207 Emily Becker-Wiedman, Ph.D.

We will start by explaining what ADHD is and how to identify it in your child. We will debunk several myths about ADHD and clarify what executive functioning really means. The presentation will discuss difficulties kids with ADHD may have at school, home, and socially, as well as areas of strength. Finally, we will discuss strategies that can help and how you can best support your child with ADHD.

#### 3I NY DOMESTIC ADOPTION: AGENCY vs PRIVATE PLACEMENT ADOPTION

Denise Seidelman, Esq. | Mia Diamond Padwa, LMSW, Director, Adoption & Children's Services/Compliance Officer, Family Services of Westchester | Melissa Struck

There is no "right" answer as to which path to adoption is best for you. In this workshop, we explore the pros and cons of agency vs private adoption, and what considerations about you in particular might make one path rather than the other the right one for you.

#### 3J LOVE IS NOT ENOUGH: REAL CONVERSATIONS ABOUT TRANSRACIAL ADOPTION

E. Stefani Moon MA, LPC IMH E, Associate Director, of International Adoption, Spence Chapin Services to Families and Children

The Beatles said "All you need is love" but we know from years of lived experience, that in transracial adoption, love is not enough. Our children cannot afford for us to take a colorblind approach. Please join us for a candid conversation about what it means to be a conspicuous family, talking with your child about race, and what our children need from us.

#### 3K SURROGACY, EGG DONATION, SPERM DONATION, EMBRYO DONATION

Laurie Goldheim, Esq. | Rebecca Mendel, LCSW

Come learn the legal landscape of Assisted Reproduction. This program will explain the legal process, legal considerations and much more.



## **SESSION IV** 3:15 pm - 4:15 pm

#### 4A AFFORDING ADOPTION



Michele Fried, Founder, Adoption Star

How can we afford to adopt? What are the financial risks involved? How do we protect ourselves? Join us to learn about the financial aspects involved in all types of adoption, including grants and other funding source available to families. This interactive workshop is a necessity for those considering adoption.

#### 4B MEDICAL ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION



Paul Lee, MD., Adoption Doctors.com

This workshop will focus on issues relating to some of the medical and developmental risks prospective parents may encounter when adoption a child from abroad, living in foster care or an institutional environment. These include failure to thrive, rickets, exposure to infectious diseases, anemia, lead exposure, tuberculsis, developmental delays and sensory issues.

#### 4C CROSSING STATE LINES: ISSUES IN DOMESTIC ADOPTION PLACEMENT



Rebecca Mendel. Esq.

You have decided to adopt, and depending upon your plans, it is possible that your child may be born out of state. This workshop will explore the process, challenges and resources needed for adoptive parents who must receive approval from both the sending and receiving states in order to cross state lines with their child. We will focus on New York ICPC and will discuss personal issues and practical perspectives for adoptive parents to consider in caring for an infant out of state in a hotel after placement, before finally being able to come home.

#### 4D TALKING TO FRIENDS AND FAMILY ABOUT ADOPTION



Ellen Murphy Keeley, LMSW

This workshop will focus on the many ways to discuss adoption with children, family members, teachers and other people in our lives. This workshop will help attendees learn the language and social skills needed when talking to others about adoption. We will explore how to have conversations with children who have been adopted, family, friends, neighbors, school staff and the general public. Attention will be given to understanding why this is difficult and how to develop helpful strategies.

#### 4E ADOPTION OR ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE OPTIONS: WHICH FAMILY BUILDING PATH IS RIGHT FOR YOU?



Denise Seidelman, Esq. | Joni Mantell, LCSW, Director, IAC Center

People who are unable to conceive and/or birth a child on their own have the option of pursuing two very distinct paths to parenthood. While the outcome is the same, the legal, emotional, medical and financial aspects of those two paths vary dramatically. Denise Seidelman and Joni Mantell are both professionals concentrating their respective practices in the area of adoption and assisted reproduction. Denise, an attorney, will compare and contrast the legal issues families confront while Joni Mantell, a psychotherapist, will discuss the very distinct psychological issues raised by each method of family formation. The goal of this session is to give you the information you need to make the decision that you can live with for a lifetime.



Marillac Lower Level, Auditorium



## SESSION IV 3:15 pm - 4:15 pm

#### 4F 10 QUESTIONS YOU WANTED TO ASK YOUR AGENCY OR ATTORNEY BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK

137

Brian Esser Esq.

We will explore some important questions that may come up while you are working with an attorney or agency. Anything from wondering about money, to what if the expectant family decides to parent, will be answered for you. Bring your questions!

# 4G VOICES FROM FOSTER CARE: UNDERSTANDING FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION FROM THE YOUTH'S PERSPECTIVE

139

Yasmin Mistry, BFA, BSBA, MS, CASA

Yasmin Mistry will present her documentary short film "Feeling Wanted." The film was created in collaboration with foster youth, and shares the story of a young woman growing up in the NYC foster care system. Film Synopsis: Charell, age 6, woke up to find herself alone. She made breakfast, dropped her baby sister off with a neighbor, and walked to school. With her father incarcerated for murder, a mother on drugs and a childhood in foster care, Charell knew it was time to break the cycle. Following the 14 minute film Yasmin will lead an interactive discussion with film subject, Charell Star. The discussion will be geared towards current and prospective foster & adoptive parents, social workers and advocates - giving them a better understanding of the foster care system through the foster youth's perspective.

#### 4H HOW TO ACCESS POST-ADOPTION SUPPORT IN NYS

207

Caryl Svendsen Deiches, Family Support Specialist, AFFCNY

The Adoption and Foster Family Coalition of New York (AFFCNY) is a post-adopt support service funded by the Office of Family and Children Services in New York State. AFFCNY unites foster, adoptive, and kinship care families, giving them a voice and providing support, information, and advocacy. No foster, adoptive, or kinship care family in New York State will feel alone or unsupported, come learn what tools, support and community is available to your family through post adopt support in NYS.

#### 4I INDEPENDENT DOMESTIC ADOPTION

219

Jeanine Castagna, Esq.

An attorney concentrating in adoption will discuss the path to a successful domestic adoption. Topics will include emotions and legalities involved, potential adoption costs, birth parents' rights, waiting periods, red flags and "how to's" with a full explanation of the process involved.

#### 4J ADOPTING AS A SINGLE PARENT

225

Michael S. Goldstein, Esq. LCSW

Single people can adopt! In this workshop we will explore what to expect when going through the adoption process, how to be identified by a birth parent, how to plan for adoption as a single parent, and things to consider when your child joins your family, such as building a support network and navigating work and childcare.

#### 4K NEW YORK LAW: BIRTH MOTHER AND BIRTH FATHER RIGHTS

232

Laurie Goldheim Esq.

This important workshop will cover the rights of birthparents during the adoption process. Join us to learn about revocation periods, expenses and the legal process in New York.

## SESSION V 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm

#### 5A INTERNATIONAL AGENCY PANEL



A panel of international adoption agency professionals will discuss the available options in international adoption. Which countries are open, what kinds of programs are available, and issues to consider with each of these choices.

#### 5B THE COMPREHENSIVE MEDICAL EXAMINATION FOR THE ADOPTED CHILD



Paul Lee, MD., Adoption Doctors.com

Newly adopted children have unique medical and developmental needs. During this session, we will review all the components of the first medical visit, including the physical exam, laboratory tests and immunizations.

We will also discuss the critical topics of transition – how parents can better understand feeding, sleeping, and behavioral adjustments. Participants will be encouraged to ask questions and bring their experience to the discussion.

#### 5D NY ADOPTION HOME STUDY



Ellen Murphy Keeley, LMSW

Join an adoption social worker as she guides you through the home study process for every type of adoption. Bring your questions and concerns.

#### 5E TALKING TO FRIENDS AND FAMLIY ABOUT ADOPTON



Leslie Zindulka, LCSW

The wait for your adopted child can seem never-ending. You've already decided between domestic or international adoption, between independent attorney or agency adoption, between transracial, age range, special needs and level of openness and have completed your Home Study. You have been in fact "waiting" to add a child to your family for what seems like forever already and "now" you're told is when the waiting starts?

The true and dreadful answer to that question is "Yes." However, this time of waiting does not have to be filled with anxiety or checking each day off that calendar in your kitchen. Share your feelings about your hopes, desires, and dreams for your future child. Share your fears about the unexpected and the struggle of waiting.

This workshop will include my "Social Worker Approved" tips for surviving the wait!



Lower Level, Auditorium

## SESSION V 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm

# "WHERE'S MY MOMMY (OR DADDY)?" A GUIDE TO ANSWERING TOUGH QUESTIONS WHEN YOUR CHILD'S FAMILY LOOKS DIFFERENT

Brian Esser, Esq.

Single adoptive parents and same-sex couples will likely face questions like this at some point in time in their child's life. My sons liked to ask questions like this while we were getting ready for school, particularly on days when we were running late already. Whenever they ask, some other child on the playground asks, or you have to answer intrusive questions in front of your child, it is important to model pride in your family and give your child tools to answer these questions on their own in the future.

In this workshop we will talk when and how these issues come up; how to talk to your child about their family both privately at home and in front of other people, and how the discussion you have with your child will evolve over time. This session is intended to be a discussion, not a lecture.

#### 5H DECIPHERING THE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROCESS

207 Caryl Svendsen Deiches, Family Support Specialist, AFFCNY

This workshop will provide an overview of what is Special Education, who is an appropriate education rights holder, common warning signs that a child might need special education and related services, how to request a special education assessment, how to prepare for an IEP meeting, and helpful educational resources. Bring your questions as there will be ample time for an insightful Q&A session.

#### 51 PRIVATE PLACEMENT ADOPTION

219 Denise Seidelman, Esq.

Private placement adoption involves working with an attorney throughout your adoption journey. This workshop will present a step-by-step guide to the legal, practical and emotional aspects of the process. Come with your questions!

#### 5J POST ADOPTION AGREEMENTS AND BIRTH FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

Michael Goldstein Esq. | Lisa Treitman, LMSW, Forever Families Through Adoption

We will speak on Post Adoption Contact Agreements ("PACA") and "open" relationships in an adoption. A PACA is a written agreement between the parties to an adoption. A PACA can detail how and when contact and/or communication will take place following finalization of the adoption, so long as it is in the child's best interests. The enforceability of a PACA and the effect it will have on an adoption prior to and after finalization will be discussed.



# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS & ADVERTISERS





# Licensed New York State Agency

Full-Service Domestic Placement Program

Home Studies & Post Placement Supervision



Part of the Hudson Valley Adoption Services Family

hudsonheartsadoption.org

58 West 58th St., Suite 7B New York, NY 10019







Tapestry Books, founded in 1994 continues to be the leader in adoption books and resources. Tapestry Books provides the newest and most comprehensive supply of adoption books, films and resources for the adoption professional, the adoption triad and the community-at-large. If you would like more information on Tapestry Books or its resources, you can call us at 716-544-0204 or email us at resources@tapestrybooks.com!

## Stay tuned for our new website later in the year!



**FACEBOOK** www.facebook.com/ tapestrybooks



**TWITTER** www.twitter.com/ tapestrybooks









Follow us on (O')





Founded in 1975 Children's House International is proud to celebrate over 47 years of working as a non-profit international adoption agency. We work in 15 Countries. Let us help you on your adoption journey. Hague Accredited.

Web: www.ChildrensHouseInternational.com

Email: info@chiadopt.org

Phone: 360-383-0623 Fax: 360-383-0640





Kathy Ann Brodsky, LCSW TheAdoptionMaven, LLC

Homestudies & Post Placements Adoption Options & Counseling Thanks for letting me be a part of your journey-Kathy



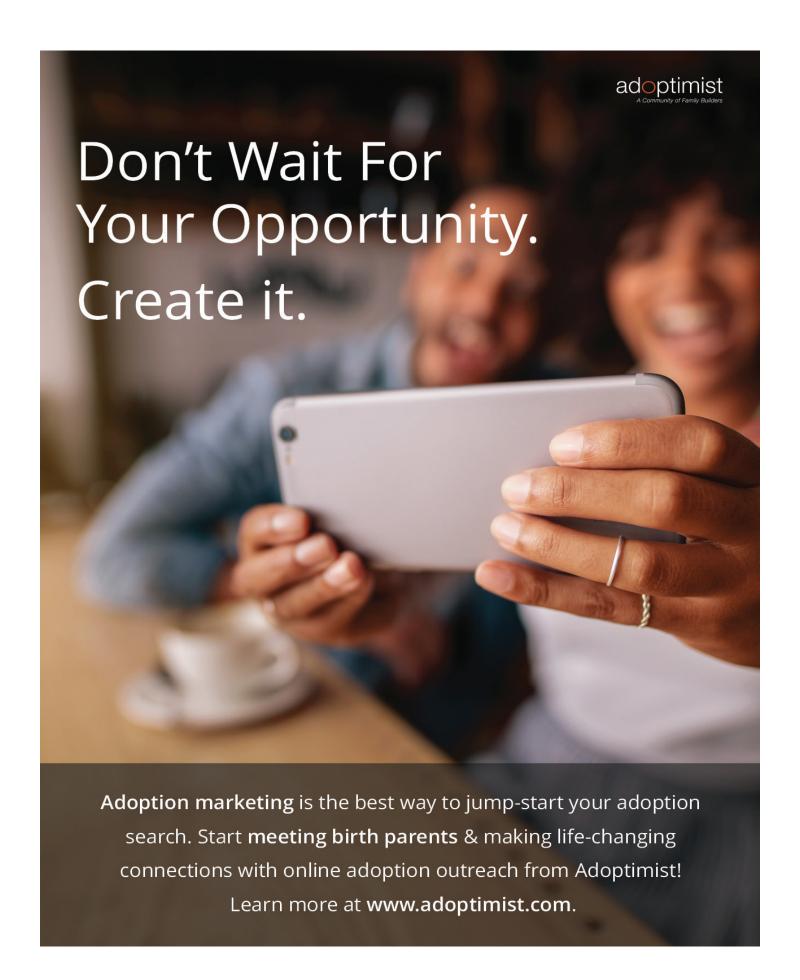
TheAdoptionMaven.blogspot.com
TheAdoptionMaven@gmail.com
917-567-4935

Former Director of the Ametz Adoption Program/JCCA • Path2Parenthood Adoption & POV's Adoption Series Advisory Board Member Head Writer for Adoption.net • Congressional Coalition on Adoption "Angel in Adoption" Award Recipient • Adoptive Mom











# www.allforchildrenadoption.org

Our adoption agency has been creating families in the US and around the globe since 1974. We are advocates for children, birth parents and adoptive families. We believe that all children have a right to a permanent, loving family of their very own.

- Home Study Services
- Full Service Domestic Adoptions
- International Adoptions in: Bulgaria, Colombia, Hungary, Romania, Vietnam

Licensed in:
NY, NJ, CT, PA, MA, RI, FL, AR, TX
Hague Accredited







## Adoption and (In) Fertility Counseling

### Anne F. Malavé, Ph.D. 119 West 57<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 720 New York, NY 10019 (Midtown) 212-787-

Drannemalave@gmail.com www.drannemalave.com

Information, Decision-Making, Exploration, Support, Intercountry Adoption Evaluations

## Ash Psychological Services, LLC

Specializing in Infertility, Adoption, and Parenting

Eva M. Ash, Ph.D. Licensed Psychologist

44 Elm Street, Suite 8
Huntington, NY 11743-4493
(631) 327-0115
doctorash@mac.com
http://www.calmparenting.com







- Full Website Packages
   (Hosting and Custom Domain Name Included)
- Site Traffic Reports\*
- Online Membership Services
- Showcase Video Creation Service
- Google Advertising Service
- Parent Profiles .... and more!

Questions? Contact Us at TekkAdoption.com

Feel free to schedule a callback on our ContactUs page.

\*Available w/ Premium Package Only

For more details about our services please visit:

www.TekkAdoption.com/Information/ForAdoptiveParents.aspx







# Forever Families Through Ado A Is a Hague Accredited, New York and Connecticut authorized

FFTA is a Hague Accredited, New York and Connecticut authorized, not-for-profit, adoption placement agency and resource center founded on the belief that every child has the right to grow up in a loving, nurturing, secure and forever home.

FFTA's goal is to find a home for every child eligible for permanent adoption, regardless of age, racial or ethnic background, or physical or emotional challenge.

FFTA treats all people with the respect and compassion they deserve, regardless of race, religion, gender identity, marital status, sexual orientation, age, nationality or disability. FFTA is the recipient of the HRC SEAL of Recognition since 2011.

FFTA was co-founded by Joy S. Goldstein, LCSW, ACSW, an adoptive parent and licensed clinical social worker, who has been working in adoption for 35 years. FFTA is staffed by caring and experienced social workers, attorneys, adoptive parents, and adoptees who are here to assist you in building your family.

62 Bowman Avenue, Rye Brook, NY 10573 T: (914) 939-1180 ♥ F: (914) 939-1181 Adopt@ForeverFamiliesThroughAdoption.org www.ForeverFamilesThroughAdoption.org

#### MICHAEL S. GOLDSTEIN, ESQ., LCSW

Adoption, Family Law and Counseling



62 Bowman Avenue, Rye Brook, NY 10573

T: (914) 939-1111• F: (914) 939-2369

Spanish Speaking Staff Available
email: Info@AdoptGold.com • www.AdoptGold.com

#### DREAMS DO COME TRUE

Over 35 Years of Adoption Experience

Domestic Adoptions/Same Sex Parents/Couples/Single Adoptions • Re-Adoptions
Step/Second Parent Adoptions • Agency Adoptions
Foster Care/Kinship Adoptions • Private Counseling (all members of the Triad)
Legal Services for those needing assistance with international/immigration work

Governor Emeritus and Legal Advisor of the Adoptive Parent Committee (APC)

Co-Founder of Forever Families Through Adoption (FFTA)

Founder of Foster Teen Employment Network (FTEN)

Founder and Current Fellow, American Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys (AAAA)

Founding Member of the New York Attorneys for Adoption & Family Formation (NYAAFF)



#### Leslie I. Zindulka, LCSW-R

Adoption Social Work, New York

Lam a New York State Licensed Clinical Social Worker providing Adoption Social Work services. I help families hoping to adopt.





Proud Adoptive Parent \* Adoption Home Study Specialist School Social Work Specialist \*Post Adoption Supervision Counseling for Children \* Tweens \* Families \* Expectant and Birth Mothers Options Counseling

#### New York and New Jersey Hague Accredited Authorized Agency Affiliated

#### Personal Experience ... Personal Attention

Practice Devoted Exclusively to Providing Caring and Supportive Services for over 20 years throughout the entire Pre and Post Adoption Process

Pre-Adoption Consultations \* Domestic Independent Home Studies Agency Home Studies \* International Home Studies \* Post-Adoption Visits and Reports \* Second Parent LGBTQ Adoptions \* Step Parent Adoptions \* Birth Mother Counseling \* Referrals

#### \*\*For all your adoption needs\*\*

Call or email today to speak with me personally about how to reach your adoption goals

Let me join you on your journey to complete

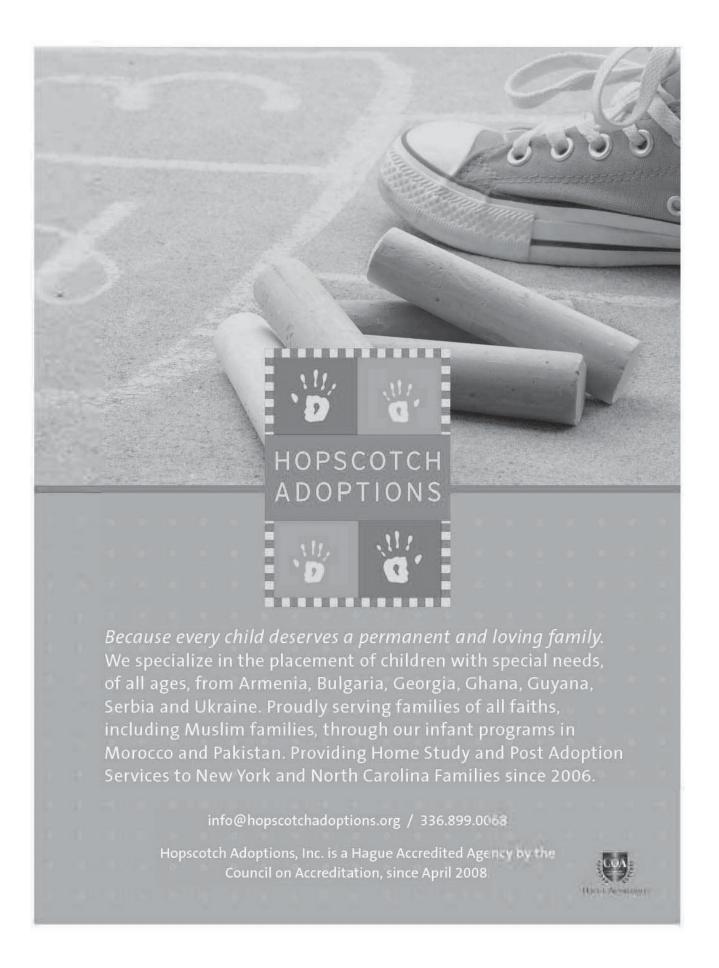
Your Forever Family

#### Leslie I. Zindulka, LSW, LCSW-R

New Jersey Licensed Social Worker New York Licensed Clinical Social Worker

(631) 754-3723 | leslie@adoptionsocialworkny.com | http://www.adoptionsocialworkny.com/





# Law Office of Brian Esser

Building Families, Protecting Families



The Law Office of Brian Esser is a Brooklyn-based boutique practice concentrating on adoption, reproductive law, and estate planning. I provide thoughtful guidance to help build and protect families of all kinds.

- Domestic Private Adoptions
- · Domestic Agency Adoptions
- Foster Care Adoptions
- International Adoptions
- Step and Second Parent Adoptions
- Donation Agreements
- Surrogacy
- LGBT Families
- · Estate Planning

#### LAW OFFICE OF BRIAN ESSER

540 President Street, Third Floor Brooklyn, NY 11215

Ph: (718) 747-8447

Fax: (718) 799-9170





brian@esserlawoffice.com | www.esserlawoffice.com | Twitter: @BrianEsserEsq

Attorney Advertising



# JEANINE CASTAGNA ATTORNEY AT LAW

PRACTICE DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO ADOPTION





~ DESIGNATED AS AN ANGEL IN ADOPTION BY THE CONGRESSIONAL COALITION ON ADOPTION INSTITUTE ~



(516) 495-7906 JEANINE@JCADOPTIONLAW.COM WWW.JCADOPTIONLAW.COM



CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO ALL
IN THE ADOPTIVE PARENTS COMMITTEE
ON ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE AND YEAR

THE LAW OFFICES OF

#### HERBERT G. PITKOWSKY, ESQ.

(Adoptive Parent)
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW

A GENERAL PRACTICE CONCENTRATING IN THE AREAS OF:
ESTATE PLANNING - DRAFTING WILLS, TRUSTS AND GUARDIANSHIPS
INCLUDING ADVANCE DIRECTIVES - DURABLE POWERS OF ATTORNEY,
CHILD MEDICAL AUTHORIZATIONS, HEALTHCARE PROXIES
PROBATES AND ADMINISTRATIONS AND
ALL PHASES OF REAL ESTATE - PURCHASE OR SALE:

FREE CONSULTATIONS

APC DISCOUNTS

VIRTUAL AND HOME APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE

3232 PERRY AVENUE OCEANSIDE, NEW YORK 11572-4219 PHONE (516) 594-1944 FAX (516) 594-0989 HGPESQ@optonline.net







THE ADOPTION PROGRAM AT CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AT MONTEFIORE

# BECAUSE ADOPTION IS A LIFELONG JOURNEY

We're one of the few adoption programs in the country offering pre-adoption consultation, post-adoption evaluation and ongoing medical care.

Contact us for more information.

1-855-5-ADOPTMD (1-855-523-6786)

elschult@montefiore.org

www.cham.org/adoptionprogram





Montefiore DOING MORE<sup>™</sup>





# PROUDLY SUPPORTS THE ADOPTIVE PARENTS COMMITTEE!

ROSIN STEINHAGEN MENDEL, PLLC 228 East 45<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 900 New York, New York 10017 (212) 972-5430

Please visit our website: <a href="www.lawrsm.com">www.lawrsm.com</a>
Or email us: <a href="mailto:information@lawrsm.com">information@lawrsm.com</a>

PRIVATE PLACEMENT / INDEPENDENT ADOPTIONS
PRIVATE AGENCY ADOPTIONS
STEP-PARENT and SECOND PARENT ADOPTIONS
INTERSTATE ADOPTIONS
ADULT ADOPTIONS
RE-ADOPTIONS and REGISTRATION OF FOREIGN ADOPTIONS
FOSTER CARE ADOPTIONS
BIRTH PARENT/EXPECTANT PARENT REPRESENTATION
ASSISTED REPRODUCTION

Representing Adoptive Parents and Birth Parents in the Adoption Process for over 30 years.





# Rumbold & Seidelman, LLP ATTORNEYS AT LAW

### ADOPTION REPRODUCTIVE LAW

PRIVATE PLACEMENT

SURROGACY

AGENCY

CO-PARENTING AGREEMENTS

STEP-PARENT

DONATION AGREEMENTS
EGG/SPERM/EMBRYO

SECOND PARENT

**EMBRYO DISPOSITION** 

Tel: 914.779.1050

Web: www.adoptionlawny.com

E-mail: info@adoptionlawny.com



Licensed in New York and New Jersey



# SPENCE-CHAPIN

### **Building and Strengthening Families**



More than 100 years of expertise in international and domestic adoption, as well as post-adoption support.

**Home Study Services Special Needs Adoption Domestic Adoption** 

**International Adoption** from South Africa. **Bulgaria and Colombia** 

www.spence-chapin.org | 212-400-8150













# Plant the Seeds of Your Family Tree with **Thoughtful Adoption Planning**

2015 Recipient of Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute Angel in Adoption "

TOP 2015 Member, Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys

OFFICES OF

# DEBORAH E. SPIVACK

FAMILYBUILDINGLAW.NET



Practicing in NJ, PA & DE Schedule A Consultation Today

856-857-1155





Mia Diamond Padwa, Director 78 Main Street, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706 mpadwa@fsw.org (914) 274-8334 x 232





#### We navigate the adoption process for:

- Children in foster care
- International children
- Infants
- Identified/Kinship children

#### We help you explore adoption through:

- · Free orientations held the third Tuesday of every month at 6 PM
- Private consultations if desired



#### Our services include:

- Homestudies for all adoption types
- Parent Education (Hague-certified/ International and Deciding Together/ Foster Care curricula
- Search & Match for Pre-Adoptive Children in foster care
- Post-Placement Supervision & Support with referrals to resources
- Prospective Birthparent Counseling
- Infant Placements

#### Some of the places from which our A&CS of FSW families have adopted children:

- New York China
- Connecticut
- Massachusetts
- Kansas
- Louisiana
- Missouri
- Ohio
- Oregon
- Texas

- India
- Ethiopia
- Philippines
- Colombia Haiti
- Guyana
- Nigeria
- Burkina Faso













#### Providing Grants & Loans for International & Domestic Adoption

- · Awarding Grants Weekly
- No Application Deadlines
- No Religious or Marital Requirements

Our staff is available by phone and email to answer questions and guide families through our process.

#### More than 180 Grants were Awarded in 2018

866-999-2445

www.achildwaits.org





Children's Home & LSS

# Attend a Free Virtual Info Meeting

Foster Care | Adoption | Post Adoption





Scan to view upcoming meetings & register today!



welcome@chlss.org | chlss.org





# Lisa Goldberg Adoptions

BuildingNYFamilies.com

Compassionate, legal help for private domestic adoption & foster adoption

(914)-420-6163

#### MEDICAL ISSUES ARISE DURING THE ADOPTION PROCESS

Get pre-adoption and post-adoption medical advice with an experienced adoption physician.



Melissa Jill Goldstein, M.D.
Carnegie Hill Pediatrics
1125 Park Avenue, Suite 1A
New York, NY 10128
212-289-1400
mgoldsteinmd@carnegiehillpediatrics.com
www.carnegiehillpediatrics.com

Dr. Melissa Goldstein dedicates much of her pediatric practice to helping families navigate the challenging steps of adopting--practicing adoption medicine and offering pre and post-adoption medical counseling.

Dr. Goldstein can screen preliminary videos and photographs, review birth mother obstetrical reports, and analyze records pertaining to children being considered for adoption. She has expert knowledge about health issues unique to adoptees.



# We say



## Rocks!

We congratulate APC for helping thousands of children find families - 67 years of supporting their parents. A labor of love, the work of APC is crucial to children's well-being they grow better in families! We are proud to call APC a friend.

#### Downey Side, Inc.

CS Providing adoption services to families since 1967 CS

100 Underhill St. Yonkers, NY 10710-3615

nkers, NY 10710-3615 212.714.2200

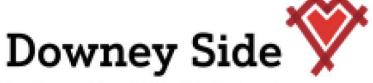
CentralOffice@DowneySide.org ° Lavallettel 800-872-4453 (800-US-CHILD)

103 Washington Ave.

Lavallette, NJ 08735-2351 732.359.8434

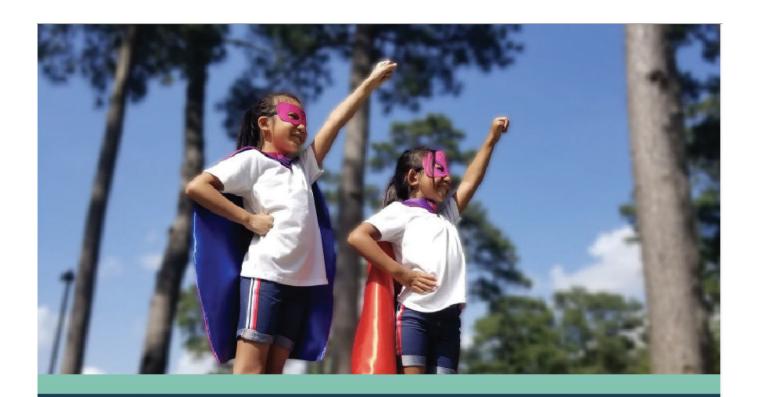
LavalletteNJ@DowneySide.org

www.DowneySide.org



On the side of FOSTER KIDS seeking FOREVER FAMILIES





UNITING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SINCE 2007



Advocacy | Volunteer Opportunities Child-centered | Adoption | Education Medical/Developmental Screening

MEET OUR SUPERKIDS AT HTTP://BIT.LY/SUPERKIDSBLOG



# RAISING AN ADOPTED CHILD? GRANDCHILD? OTHER RELATIVE?



# LET THE FAMILY CENTER HELP!

OFFERING FREE SUPPORT SERVICES IN ALL FIVE BOROUGHS TO HELP MAKE FAMILIES STRONGER, LONGER.

Call us to learn more 718-230-1379 ext. 140 or visit www.thefamilycenter.org



# Consider adoption today!





thousands of teens in Foster Care are looking for love, support and encouragement from a parent like you!

yougottabelieve.org

718.372.3003



SERVING NASSAU AND SUFFOLK COUNTIES

631.598.1983 (888) 80HELPLINE

Help for Parents!

A free support, information and educational program open to all adoptive families and relative caregivers who have custody or guardianship of children.



Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition

**NEW YORK** 

AAAA AFTER THE KIDS MOVE IN with Dat O'Brien



LIVE EVERY SUNDAY at 6:30 PM EST On NY WGBB 1240AM and 95.9FM



Podcast archieves can be found at www.AFFCNY.org/RADIO





The way we talk – and the words we choose – say a lot about what we think and value. When we use positive adoption language, we say that adoption is a way to build a family just as birth is. Both are important, but one is not more important than the other.

Choose the following positive adoption language instead of the negative talk that helps perpetuate the myth that adoption is second best. By using positive adoption language, you'll reflect the true nature of adoption, free of innuendo.

**POSITIVE LANGUAGE** 

Birthparent Biological Parent

Birth child

My child

Born to unmarried parents Terminate parental rights Make an adoption plan

To parent
Waiting child
Biological father
Making contact with

Parent

International adoption

Adoption triad

Permission to sign a release

Search

Child placed for adoption

Court termination Child with special needs

Child from abroad

Was adopted

**NEGATIVE LANGUAGE** 

Real parent Natural parent Own child

Adopted child; Own child

Illegitimate Give up Give away To keep

Adoptable child; Available child

Begettor Reunion

Adoptive parent Foreign adoption Adoption triangle

Disclosure

Track down parents An unwanted child Child taken away Handicapped child Foreign child Is adopted

Words not only convey facts, they also evoke feelings. When a TV movie talks about a "custody battle" between "real parents" and "other parents," society gets the wrong impression that only birthparents are real parents and that adoptive parents aren't real parents. Members of society may also wrongly conclude that all adoptions are "battles."

Positive adoption language can stop the spread of misconceptions such as these. By using positive adoption language, we educate others about adoption. We choose emotionally "correct" words over emotionally-laden words. We speak and write in positive adoption language with the hopes of impacting others so that this language will someday become the norm.

Permission to reprint this page granted by OURS Magazine, Families of America, 3333 Hwy. 100 N. Minneapolis, MN 55422



#### SPEAKER DIRECTORY

Dr. Jane Aronson, DO, FAAP orphandoctor@gmail.com

Sama Alghali samaa@holtinternational.org

Steven Baranowski LCSW baranowski.steven@gmail.com

Emily Becker-Wiedman, Ph.D emilybw@gmail.com

Jeanine Castagna, Esq. jeanine@jcadoptionlaw.com

Nicole Cummins nicole@adoptionstar.com

Caryl Svendsen Deiches <a href="mailto:cdeiches@gmail.com">cdeiches@gmail.com</a>

Brian Esser Esq. brian@esserlawoffice.com

Michele Fried michele@adoptionstar.com

Zachary Fried zachary@adoptionstar.com

Lisa Peck Goldberg, Esq. lisagoldbergadoptions@gmail.com

Laurie Goldheim Esq. lgoldheim@adoptionrights.com

Joy Goldstein LCSW joyg@foreverfamiliesthroughadoption.org

Michael Goldstein, Esq. mgoldstein@adoptgold.com



#### SPEAKER DIRECTORY

Rachel Hood <a href="mailto:rhood@yougottabelieve.org">rhood@yougottabelieve.org</a>

Ellen Murphy Keeley, LCSW emhadopt@aol.com

Paul Lee, MD adoptiondoctor@gmail.com

Anne F. Malave, Ph.D drannemalave@gmail.com

Joni Mantell MSW jmantell MSW@gmail.com

Rebecca Mendel, Esq rmendel@lawrsm.com

Yasmin Mistry, BFA, MS, CASA info@fostercarefilm.com

E Stefani Moon smoon@spence-chapin.org

Sue Orban, CHLSS sue.orban@chlss.org

Mia Diamond Padwa, LMSW mpadwa@fsw.org

Herb Pitkowsky, Esq. hgpesq@optonline.net

Alicia Rolin, MD, ScM alicia.rolin@gmail.com

Stephanie Rolin, MD, MPH <a href="mailto:steph.rolin@gmail.com">steph.rolin@gmail.com</a>

Lisa Rosenthal, M.S.Ed. <a href="mailto:lrosenthal@illumefertility.com">lrosenthal@illumefertility.com</a>

Ben Santiardo bsantiardo@tekkadoption.com

Denise Seidelman Esq. dseidelman@adoptionlawny.com

Nidia Sica LCSW nidia@adoptabsc.org

Leslie Silver Hoffman Esq. lisagoldbergadoptions@gmail.com

Vivian Sklar, Esq. <a href="mailto:lisagoldbergadoptions@gmail.com">lisagoldbergadoptions@gmail.com</a>

Laurie Steinberg, Esq. lauri@pineandsteinberg.com

Melissa Struck dseidelman@adoptionlawny.com

Lisa Treitman, LMSW joyg@foreverfamiliesthroughadoption.org

Leslie Zindulka, LCSW lesliezindulkalcswr@gmail.com



