



Strengthening Adoptive Family Ties!

www.coalitionofadoptivefamilies.org

COFAF Events!

Click the links below for more information!

Fall Series:



10/20/16 - “Growing Up Adopted From Childhood to the Teens”

In October we will discuss how adoption core issues, (*loss, rejection, guilt/shame, grief,*

GoFundMe Campaign Success

www.gofundme.com/cofaf

Thanks to generous donors we raised over \$4,400 in our “30 days of Giving” campaign for adoptive family programming. If you did not get a chance to give there is still time - go to www.gofundme.com/cofaf page or the **Donate** button our web cite

www.coalitionofadoptivefamilies.org.

Donor Champions So Far!

Vicki Vincent

Norma Butterfield

Spike Tyler

Diane Kilivris

Ann O’Connell

Sandy Prebil

Brenda Jackson

Sue Gnann

identity, intimacy, and control) can show up during the teenage years around identity and self-esteem. Initiating conversations about adoption can get tougher but no less important as our kids grapple with who they are. COFAF discussion group are co-presented by an adoption professional and an adult adoptee. A suggested donation of \$5.00 per person is requested.

Presenters: Paula Andree and Angela Christensen

Save The Date! Adoption Services Mini Fair 11/17/16 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm at 1550 Old Henderson Rd., COFAF will host a Mini Fair of Adoption Services. It's so hard to know what services exist to support adoptive families. This mini-fair of adoptive services is an opportunity to get to know some of the adoption -focused services that exist in Central Ohio. The following is a partial list of participants:

- Julieann Ash.....*Midwest Educational Therapists*
- Bonnie Michael.....*Adoption Attorney*
- Burton Griess.....*Home Remedy*
- Veronica Lac.....*Dreams on Horseback*
- Christin Bartunek.....*Caring for Kids*
- Karen McFarland.....*Building Blocks Adoption Service*
- Erin Stemm.....*Family and Youth Law Center*
- Amber Harris.....*The Village Network*
- Linda Orick.....*A Circle of Attachment*
- Paula Andree.....*Family Attachment & Trauma Center*

- Bruce Weston
- Matt Jorat
- Pam Lombardi
- Marni Hall
- Laurel Hobden
- Sara Smith
- Diana Keller
- Betsy Smalley
- Nancy O'Connell
- Pat Miller
- Jennifer Brooks
- Ed and Diane Steele
- Michael and Sandy Weiss
- Mary and Bill Dinasky
- Institute for Human Services

Coalition of Adoptive Families on You Tube!

Explaining what it feels like to be an adoptee and an adoptive parent—why it can be so hard—and why it matters—is strikingly illustrated through six videos we have created to raise awareness and funds. If you are anyone touched by adoption, these short videos go right to the heart of the adoption experience. If you are a family created through domestic or international adoption, the videos make clear that many of the experiences are the same. The Coalition of Adoptive Families supports all adoptive families. Check them out on You Tube under *Coalition of Adoptive Families* and **SPREAD THE WORD!**

COFAF Facebook Page: A Source for Adoption News and Information!

Frank and honest information and news related to adoption is rare via most media outlets- so we are on the look out for information that enlightens and brings understanding to the adoption experience.

More Events:

[11/17/16 - "Tackling the Core Issues: Mini Fair of Adoption Services"](#)

Spotlight on New Board Members:

Spike Tyler

Spike was born and raised in rural central New York State.

He attended Ohio State University and met his wife Lois his senior year. She is from Columbus and they have been here ever since. Spike received an MSW from OSU and worked as a clinical social worker for 10 years, first at Franklin County Children Services and then what was at that time Southwest Community Mental Health Center in the Forensic Psychiatry program. In the late 70's, early 80's Spike switched careers to Data Processing. He started out as a programmer, moved into a requirements/test analyst role, and then into project management. Spike is currently an IT project manager with Nationwide where he has worked for 15+ years.

Spike and his wife adopted their only child, a daughter, at birth. Their daughter is presently 37 years old and a single parent of a 12-year-old girl.

Visit the Coalition of Adoptive Families

Facebook page and "like us" to spread the word!

[Like us on Facebook!](#)

Marni Hall

Marni is a 1967 Adoptee who received her original birth certificate after Ohio opened its adoption records. She found her birth mother, and experienced a successful reunion. Marni spent 2015 focused on adoption where she attended support meetings, read books, and networked with others touched by adoption. As a result, she discovered she had never processed the impact adoption had on her life. She began the process of unpacking those feelings and grieving the loss she had experienced. Marni is now passionate about adoption and the importance of being in conversation.

Professionally, she is a CPA specializing in government accounting. Since 2013 Marni has worked for the Columbus City Auditor where she focus on financial reporting.

Prior to that she performed financial reporting for two of Ohio's public pension systems from 1999-2013. Marni spend the first ten years of her career in public accounting where she specialized in the audits of governments and not-for-profits. She also enjoys community service, and has have served on several non-profit boards over the past 20 years. Because of her experience with auditing and financial

reporting of not-for-profits, most of her board experience has been serving as Treasurer of those boards including COFAF. The previous boards she has served on were Action for Children, UMCH Family Services, Black Tie Ball, Clintonville Academy.

What We are Reading

THE CONNECTED CHILD/Karyn B. Purvis and David R. Cross, Ph.D./McGraw Hill, 2007

Have you ever been concerned that your adopted child recoils from your hugs or touch -- or, conversely, approaches strangers indiscriminately? That despite his young age, he hoardes or steals food or acts aggressively toward others? I myself was puzzled by my daughter's inability to ever sleep peacefully when she arrived in this country. A bit later, during her early school years, her father and teachers and I struggled to determine the cause of her pronounced delays with speaking, reading, and basic comprehension and reasoning. Little did we grasp what we know now -- that her first year of life, spent in an orphanage after being separated from her biological mother shortly after birth, cancelled out all-important bonding and attachment and resulted in complex developmental delays. THE CONNECTED CHILD, by Karyn B. Purvis and David R. Cross, is not only a wonderful read, but a book that covers every topic of conceivable interest to any adoptive parent, from the importance of eye contact and nurturing, play and touch, and sensitive handling of food issues to the reasons to avoid timeouts and the best kind of therapy for adopted kids. Easy to read, with many checklists and practical examples provided, the book repeatedly emphasizes the following as the key ingredients to improved family relationships and functioning: forging strong emotional bonds between you and your child, making the family a safe haven and ally in order to alleviate your child's fears, establishing clear yet thoughtful parental authority, and helping your child connect with his/her own feelings, even the most negative. Best of all, despite the very real challenges faced by adoptees and their families, the authors' constructive, do-able tips makes this an extremely positive and hopeful book.

By Ellen Seibert

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