



**39th Annual Concerned Persons for Adoption
“Let’s Talk Adoption”sm Virtual Conference**

Saturday, March 5, 2022

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

**Coordinated by Concerned Persons for Adoption (CPFA) and
co-sponsored by the Adoption Agency Council of New Jersey and
Rutgers University School of Social Work**

About Concerned Persons for Adoption (CPFA)

CPFA is a non-profit organization in the state of NJ dedicated to the belief that every child deserves a family. CPFA is not an adoption agency, but an all-volunteer organization working to support those who wish to adopt, and to provide educational and networking resources to everyone in the adoption community. Visit our website at www.cpfan.org. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

Keynote Speaker
Jeanette Yoffe, M.A., MF.T.



Keynote Address: Supporting Needs and Strengthening Bonds in Adoption

Today more than ever, we are understanding the psychological and emotional impact of adoption on the adoptee. Jeanette will share her story as an adoptee and psychotherapist working in the field for over 20 years. She will introduce a list of skill-sets for parents and professionals, meant to support and strengthen parenting an adoptee. Because of Jeanette’s extensive experience working with adoptive parents, coupled with her lived experiences as an adoptee, she weaves together the rich and comprehensive field of attachment theory and research, as well as techniques rooted in proven therapeutic interventions for working with children and teenagers connected by adoption.

About our Keynote Speaker

Jeanette Yoffe, M.A., MF.T., is the Executive Director and Founder of [Celia Center](#), a non-profit support center which meets the critical needs of all those connected by foster care and adoption and all those who serve the community of foster care and adoption in Los Angeles, CA and beyond. She is also an adoptions and foster care psychotherapist and director of [Yoffe Therapy](#). Yoffe’s desire to become a therapist with a special focus on adopted and foster care issues derived from her own experience of being adopted and moving through the foster care system.

Yoffe has been in the field for over 20 years, providing mental health education and support, as a psychotherapist, foster care social worker, clinical director, and trainer for Los Angeles County Child & Family Services and the Department of Mental Health. She continues to teach parents, social workers and therapists on adoption and foster care challenges, trauma-informed parenting, impact of pre-adoption trauma, grief/loss, open adoption, and provides support to adult adoptees searching for long lost family members, as well as assists in reunion and family reunification. She is a Court Appointed Reunification Expert for Los Angeles Superior Court in cases involving children at risk for separation. She has appeared on the OWN and TLC Network, as a Psychotherapist teaching about Adoption in the shows Raising Whitley and Long Lost Family. She has written two books, [What is Adoption? For Kids](#) and [Groundbreaking Interventions: Working with Traumatized Children, Teens and Families in Foster Care and Adoption](#) (available on Amazon) and a play about growing up in foster care adoption [“What’s Your Name, Who’s Your Daddy?”](#) (available on Audible and on Amazon).

For more info visit JeanetteYoffe.com.

Online Registration and Payment Information at www.cpfanj.org

Virtual Conference Platform

We will be using Zoom as our virtual conference platform. You will need to download Zoom onto a phone, tablet or computer. We encourage you to do this prior to March 5, 2022.

A Zoom pre-registration link will be sent to all registered attendees on March 4, 2022.

You **MUST** complete the pre-registration to attend the conference.

After completing the pre-registration, you will receive the Zoom login information required to enter the conference.

Conference Schedule

Saturday, March 5

8:50-9:00 am	Check-in
9:00-9:15 am	Welcome
9:15-10:15 am	Keynote Speaker
10:15-10:30 am	Break
10:30-12:00 pm	Session A
12:00-12:30 pm	Lunch
12:30-2:00 pm	Session B
2:00-2:15 pm	Break
2:15-3:15 pm	Session C
3:15-4:00 pm	Wrap up and Exhibitors/Break Out Rooms

Program handouts and general information will be posted on www.cpfanj.org beginning March 4, 2022.

NJ Licensed Agency and Special Exhibitors – Will be available Saturday, March 5, 2022 from 3:15 pm-4:00 pm to answer your questions. Agencies and Special Exhibitors will also have information posted at www.cpfanj.org beginning March 4.

Continuing Education Hours (CEHs)

Continuing Education Hours are available through the Office of Continuing Education at the Rutgers School of Social Work in accordance with New Jersey Administrative Code 13:44G and recognized by:

- NJ Board of Social Work Examiners
- PA State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Professional Counselors
- NJ Department of Education, approval code #1965
- National Board for Certified Counselors, provider #6389
- Continuing Education Hours are approved for NJ licensed: Social Workers, Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists and Teachers *unless noted*.

After you register for the “Let’s Talk Adoption” Conference, you will receive a web link that must be used to pay the \$20 Continuing Education Hours (CEHs) processing fee to the Office of Continuing Education at Rutgers School of Social Work. **Please note, not every conference program is eligible for CEHs. Please check the session listings. Sessions that are approved for CEHs will be marked accordingly. NOTE: CEHs have not been posted yet for the sessions. We will notify anyone who indicates they are seeking CEHs on their registration form as soon as they are available.**

You must do the following for each session in order to prove attendance and be credited with the correct number of CEHs:

- Every individual requesting CEHs must be logged in on their own device.
- Log in for the full keynote session
- Ensure that you appear on the Zoom platform with your first and last name.
- Remain in your selected CEH session for the entire time. Attendance will be taken in each CEH session.

CEHs will be processed through the Office of Continuing Education at Rutgers University School of Social Work; certificates will be emailed to participants two weeks after the conference. For more information, contact the office at 848.932.8758.

Conference Workshop Codes, Suggestions, and Certificate of Attendance

Please note that the following WORKSHOP CODES are presented with each workshop description on the following pages for Sessions A, B and C. The notations are provided only as suggestions to help guide your selections of relevant workshops. You are welcome to choose any workshop of interest.

AD	ADOPTees
AP	ADOPTIVE PARENTS
BP	BIRTHPARENTS
CW	CHILD WELFARE PROFESSIONALS
ED	EDUCATORS
FP	FOSTER PARENTS (See Note #1 below)
HC	MAY QUALIFY AS HAGUE CONVENTION COMPLIANT TRAINING (See Note #2 below)
HP	HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS
KG	KINSHIP GUARDIANS
PA	PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE PARENTS

SOCIAL WORKERS AND ADOPTION PROFESSIONALS (See Note #3 below)

SW-1	SOCIAL AND CULTURAL
SW-2	CLINICAL
SW-3	ETHICS
SW-4	GENERAL

Note #1 –FOR FOSTER/RESOURCE PARENTS CURRENTLY LICENSED BY DCP&P: The conference is approved by the NJ Child Welfare Training Academy for five (5) training hours. “Certificate of Attendance” can be obtained at the end of the conference.

Note #2 –FOR PRE-ADOPTIVE PARENTS DOING INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS: A CPFA “Certificate of Attendance,” available at the end of the conference, may help partially fill the requirement for the 10 hours of “preparation and training” as required by the Hague Convention. Workshops that **may** qualify as Hague compliant

training are listed with the code HC. In all cases, you should check with your agency FIRST to verify which workshops they would approve as part of The Hague Convention “preparation and training” requirements.

Note #3 – FOR NJ AND PA LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS: Workshops that Rutgers University School of Social Work has approved to meet the Social and Cultural Competency, Clinical, Ethics and General requirements for Social Workers are listed with the above codes. Please see guidelines on receiving Continuing Education Hours on previous page.

Registration and Conference Fees

Online registration and payment information is located at www.cpfanj.org. Online registration closes at midnight, March 2, 2022. To cancel a registration, email the conference advisor at info@cpfanj.org. No refunds can be given after March 4, 2022.

All sessions will be recorded and made available to conference attendees only, after the conference.

\$35 per person (\$40/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.

\$20 per person - Full-time Students/DCP&P Staff

CEH Handling Fee: \$20 – A maximum of 5 CEHs are available for NJ and PA Licensed Social Workers – for keynote (1) and workshops (1 or 1.5). Social Workers should see special check-in instructions under “Continuing Education Hours.” Note: Not all workshops are eligible for CEHs.

\$25 CPFA Membership – NEW OR RENEWAL – Optional

\$45 CPFA TWO-YEAR Membership – NEW OR RENEWAL – Optional

We also accept donations.

Email info@cpfanj.org for any registration questions.

For those who need to mail-in their registration, please call 973.986.5702.

Sessions

Session A (Workshops 1-3) 10:30 am-12:00 pm

Ten Parenting Skills an Adoptee Wants Every Parent to Know, (AD, AP, BP, CW, ED, FP, HC, KG, PA) This workshop helps participants understand the basis of attachment and trust that is needed for healthy psychological and emotional development, especially with children who have been adopted. Understand from the inside out the internal “real” struggle for adoptees and why a different parenting approach is needed. Participants will gain knowledge of effective adoption-competent therapeutic interventions as well as effective parenting principals based in Attachment Theory and Trauma Informed Practice. This workshop will provide guidance for families new to foster care and adoption, as well as prepare them for future issues. It will also promote insight for experienced parents and professionals who want to learn new and effective ways to facilitate attachment between parent and child. *Jeanette Yoffe, M.A., M.F.T.*

White Parents who are Parenting Children of Color: Navigating Race and Identity, (AD, AP, CW, ED, FP, HC, KG, PA) Parenting a child who of a different race than the parent raises particular stresses and responsibilities given the racialized structure of this country. White parents, in particular, are faced with understanding their own racial identity, which often has previously been unexamined, while at the same time equipping their child/teen to integrate how they see themselves as a racial being.

This presentation will focus on developmental differences in how children perceive race, effects of being perceived as a racial minority, microaggressions and also parenting strategies to foster ecological competence. *Margaret O'Donoghue, Ph.D., LCSW*

Introduction to Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression (SOGIE), (AD, AP, BP, CW, ED, FP, KG, PA) There is mounting evidence regarding the importance of creating an affirming home and school environment for youth. In this workshop, attendees will learn what it means to be affirming, and how knowledge of SOGIE identities is an important step towards creating an affirming environment. SOGIE is an acronym for sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. These three separate, but related constructs will be discussed, and the various terms associated with them will be reviewed. The workshop will conclude by understanding the implications of these identities for youth in school and at home. *Stacy Robustelli, PhD, Director of Education, HiTOPS, Inc.*

Session B (Workshops 4-5) 12:30-2:00 pm

Love Can't Replace Identity (AD, AP, BP, CW, ED, FP, HC, KG, PA) This workshop is focused on identity of adoptees from birth through their lifetime. It is meant to educate adoption professionals and parents. Behavioral health issues that can occur when adopted children and foster children grow and develop their identity will be discussed and explored. Each age interval will be reviewed for the kinds of thinking that children/adults experience around their adoption stories i.e. early childhood, latency, school age, adolescence, young people and adults. There will be illustrations of the developmental stages of adoptee identity. There will be time devoted to questions children, young people and adults have about their identity. *Dr. Jane Aronson*

Adoption: A Life Long Loss | How Adoption Impacts Life Transitions (AD, AP, BP, CW, ED, FP, HC, KG, PA) As adopted children grow, they look at their adoption differently. Whether they were adopted as infants or as older children, they come to understand, process and grieve their adoption during different developmental stages. In this workshop, participants will gain awareness of the losses related to adoption through the seven core issues in adoption and how the experience of adoption impacts their life and relationships. Participants will gain skills to facilitate and assist children through their grieving process and address the complex challenges and feelings children may experience throughout various stages of development. *Rebecca Gallese, LCSW, NJ Adoption Resource Clearing House(NJ ARCH)*

Session C (Workshops 6-8) 2:15-3:15 pm

Incorporating Emotional Intelligence and Maintaining Family Relationships in Chaotic Times (AD, AP, CW, ED, FP, HC, KG, PA) The evolution of families by nurturing relationships remains a daunting task in the best of times. This task can be overwhelming during more challenging times such as during the recent pandemic. Reminders of the COVID-19 experience including wearing face masks and social distancing are constant visual signs of our current lives. As we restore and rebuild our lives, how are children and families coping with the emotions this pandemic has brought up for all? As a senior clinician providing counseling services for pre-and post adoptive families, I have witnessed how navigating our world as it changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic presents additional challenges for families. In this workshop, parents, caregivers and professionals will come to understand what emotional intelligence is and how managing emotions can help families to cope with changes, and remain attached as a family in these challenging times. *Jacqueline Adams, LCSW - Children's Aid and Family Services Inc.*

Insight on Effective and Open Communication with your Adopted Child (AD, AP, BP, CW, ED, FP, HC, KG, PA) This panel of adult adoptees will provide pre- and post-adoptive parents with insight on ways they can communicate with their child openly and honestly regarding topics such as the circumstances of their adoption, navigating racial differences, relationships, trauma, birth family search and reunion, and more. *Facilitator, Yael Adler, Romanian Adoptee, Advocate, and Author of From Gypsy to Jersey: An Adoption Journey*

Pre- and Post-Adoption Social Media & Cybersecurity Do's & Don'ts (AD, AP, BP, CW, ED, FP, KG, PA) The ethical impact of decisions about social media are long-term and profound. Privacy and cybersecurity ethics is one domain in which clinicians and pre- and post-adoptive parents should become familiar.

Workshop participants will gain an understanding of pragmatic concepts like "data ownership", "ephemeral media", HIPPA's security rule, and "investigative genetic genealogy (IGG)", as well as the softer "finding the right fit" or "what am I signaling?"

As an adoptive stepmom and an adoptee with personal experience of online searching, this workshop will also provide suggestions on crafting an evolving family "social media policy" that takes into account age of child(ren), the relationship with biological relatives, and the scope and ultimate goals of adoptive parent controls. *Michele Kriegman, CISSP, CISM*

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to all the CPFA volunteers who make this conference possible and the Adoption Agency Council of New Jersey and The Rutgers University School of Social Work.

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, March 5, 2022!