

Registration



- Space is limited. Please register early.
- The site is wheelchair-accessible.
- CEUs available for social workers.

Contact Information:

For any special requests or questions regarding this event, please contact The Barker Foundation at **301-664-9664** or email info@barkerfoundation.org.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City and State _____ Zip code _____

Telephone Number(s) _____

E-mail(s) _____

Check any of the following that apply:

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> birth parent | <input type="checkbox"/> adoptive parent | <input type="checkbox"/> prospective adoptive parent | <input type="checkbox"/> adopted person |
| <input type="checkbox"/> foster parent | <input type="checkbox"/> adoption professional | <input type="checkbox"/> therapist | <input type="checkbox"/> adoption attorney |
| <input type="checkbox"/> educator | <input type="checkbox"/> wish to earn CEUs | <input type="checkbox"/> first-time conference attendee | |

Please list first and second choices for Break-out Sessions.

Registration may be limited for some sessions, depending on room size. Please designate A, B, C or D.

My first choice for morning Break-out Session I: _____ My second choice for morning Break-out Session I: _____

My first choice for afternoon Break-out Session II: _____ My second choice for afternoon Break-out Session II: _____

My first choice for afternoon Break-out Session III: _____ My second choice for afternoon Break-out Session III: _____

Number of Persons Attending: _____

Number of Vegetarian Lunches: _____

Please check applicable FEE boxes below. (Registration fee includes lunch & parking)

Early Bird Registration: \$90 per person \$150 per couple

After March 25, 2010: \$110 per person \$160 per couple

Earn CEUs: Add \$10 to fee if NASW member. NASW# _____ (required)
 Add \$15 to fee if NASW# not available, or if not a member

Fulltime students: \$25 per person (Scholarships available; please call to inquire)

Young Adults (Ages 18-25): \$25 per person

Payment: Check enclosed payable to **The Barker Foundation.**

Visa Mastercard AmEx Discover

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Signature: _____

In celebration of **Barker's 65th anniversary**, I am taking this opportunity to enclose a \$_____ tax-deductible contribution in support of Barker's mission to make adoption education available to everyone.



Total Amount: \$_____

Please fax credit card registrations to **301-664-9604** or return registration and check to:

The Barker Foundation/Conference Registration
7979 Old Georgetown Road, First Floor
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

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Break-Out Session Summaries



IA. Strengthening the Foundation of Transracial Families: Applying Ground-breaking Research to Real Life

In a rare opportunity, this workshop brings together one of the leading scholars of Transracial Adoption and an African American adult Transracial Adoptee who is living and writing about the experience. The open discussion will cover the history of Transracial Adoption, the findings of the Simon-Alstein 20-year longitudinal study in the 1990's, and the recently released Evan B. Donaldson report focusing on identity issues in Korean-American adult adoptees. Pulling from the presenters' landmark trilogy of books on this subject as well as personal accounts, a blue print of ways to strengthen adoptive families long-term will be crafted. **Presented by Dr. Rita J. Simon and Rhonda M. Roorda.**

IB. Post-Reunion: An Expanded and Evolving Family Framework

Reunions between adopted adults and their birth parent(s) can take many different directions. Some reunions involve only one or a few meetings, while others result in ongoing contact, regular visits, and shared family celebrations. These new relationships can often significantly affect the lives of adoptive parents, spouses of birth parents, half-siblings and birth grandparents. This panel, consisting of an adopted adult, her adoptive mother, birth mother, and the birth mother's husband and daughter, will explore the changes in their family framework since they reunited several years ago. **Moderated by Varda Makovsky.**

IC. Another Branch on the Family Tree: Making Sense of Donor Conception

Today, many people build or expand their families through sperm or egg donation. This workshop will focus on what it means for a family to have grafted an additional branch onto the family tree. Where does the donor fit into a child's understanding of how he/she joined the family? What can families built through donor conception learn from adoptive families? How does knowledge of donor conception and information about the donor influence identity formation? When and how do members of a "DC" family talk with others about donor conception? The practice of donor conception is changing and with it, the feelings, perceptions and approaches of DC families. **Presented by Ellen Sarasohn Glazer.**

IIA. Reworking the Quilt: Transitioning Foster Youth to Adoptive Homes

A panel of parents who adopted through the foster care system will share the challenges they faced and the lessons they learned while transitioning their children from impermanency to "forever" families. How do children who have faced multiple traumas and upheavals attach to their new families and learn to love and trust? What are the effects when siblings are separated? How can painful truths about the past be disclosed in a way that helps the child to heal? The session will focus on the supports, tools, and resources that can sustain foster-to-adopt families long-term. **Led by Tabitha Kelly and Beverly Clarke.**

IIB. Insights into Blended Families: A Dialogue with Sibs by Birth and Adoption

Families formed by adoption and by birth deal with challenges unique to such families. The panelists—sibling sets from both international and domestic adoptive families—reflect on how parents and youth might best deal with the issues that arise. The young adults will also provide insights into how their sensibilities and world views were enlarged by growing up in a blended family. **Moderated by Marilyn Regier.**

IIC. Parenting the Adopted Child with Unique Needs.

A number of factors have converged in recent years to account for the increasing numbers of adopted children with special and unique needs, including elongated wait times for "healthy" children and federal and state legislation focused on moving older foster youth into permanent homes. This workshop will highlight the importance of pre- and post-adoption services, and cover such issues as motivation to adopt, bonding, magical thinking and denial on the part of adoptive parents

and other key figures in the child's life, accessing resources, and the impact on extended family.

A panel of adoptive parents of children with unique needs talk about the supports they rely on to ensure positive outcomes. **Led by Rachel C. Eidelman.**

IID. Maintaining the Integrity of Parenting When Separation or Divorce Challenges the Adoptive Family

This workshop is intended for both adoptive families and adoption professionals and will provide an opportunity to examine a topic that few want to speak about. In fact, divorce is sometimes referred to as "the last taboo subject in adoption." We will hear from a panel of adoptive parents and others impacted by divorce. Keeping the best interests of the child as paramount, we will focus on the unique challenges of adoption and divorce, and the skills that parents need in order to maintain stability, consistency and nurturance. **Moderated by Abbe Levine.**

IIIA. Mending Your Family's Patches: Discussing the Difficult Adoption Issues with Your Child

All adopted children bring unique histories with them to their forever families. Often parents celebrate the joyful aspects of these histories with their children through the use of Life Books, picture albums, correspondence with birth family, and homeland tours. Children's histories all have elements that may be more difficult to celebrate and even discuss, including the circumstances surrounding the birth family's adoption plan, country specific regulations, or abuse and neglect in the child's past. This interactive workshop aims to assist parents and adoption professionals with reviewing common difficult themes; determining age appropriate ways to discuss these with children; exploring parental/ professional levels of discomfort; and knowing when to seek professional help. **Presented by Susan B. Alvarado.**

IIIB. Building Resilient Kids in Gay and Lesbian Adoptive Families

Research to date has reached an unequivocal conclusion about gay parenting: the children of lesbian and gay parents grow up as successfully as the children of heterosexual parents. This workshop will feature a panel of gay and lesbian adoptive parents who will address some of the questions unique to gay and lesbian families. "How do I explain in age-appropriate language why not all families look like ours?" "What do I do if my child is bullied?" "How can I prepare for dialogue with teachers, extended family, and the parents of my child's friends?" "Do I have concerns about my child's sexuality?" "How do I deal with public questions about our private life?" Participants will receive updated information on which countries and U.S. states have moved to grant adoptions to gay or lesbian families, including second-parent and single parent adoptions. **Moderated by Dr. Andrea Malkin Brenner.**

IIIC. From Where We Sit: Perspectives of College Students Adopted Cross-Culturally

A panel of college students adopted from Colombia, Korea, and Paraguay will candidly discuss how their views on adoption have changed over the years, with special emphasis on identity formation in their college years. How has their perception of race and ethnicity modified when leaving home? How are they integrating their heritage into their identity? Do stigma and struggle affect them, or do they feel accepted and fulfilled? What advice would they give to someone contemplating international adoption? These young adults speak out on their place in our global society. **Moderated by Sue Hollar and Marilyn C. Regier.**

IIID. Voices and Viewpoints of Families with Fully Open Domestic Adoptions

For many people, one of the more challenging and controversial aspects of adoption is the growing trend toward openness. Some embrace it; some fear it. A panel of birth parents and adoptive parents will reflect on the rewards and challenges of integrating the "family of adoption" from the outset of placement. Among the topics examined will be boundary issues, holidays, extended family views, other siblings in the home, and most of all, effects on the child who is at the heart of the placement. **Moderated by Sandra Fulton.**