



SPEAKER BIOS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2021

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2021

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 2021

ADVOCATES • CREATIVES • HEALERS • THOUGHT LEADERS • INFLUENCERS

SPEAKER BIOS

Nicole Chung

A Conversation with Author Nicole Chung

Saturday, 6:30 pm



Nicole was born severely premature, placed for adoption by her Korean immigrant parents, and raised by a white family in a sheltered Oregon town. From early childhood, she heard the story of her adoption as a comforting, prepackaged myth. She believed that her biological parents had made the ultimate sacrifice in the hopes of giving her a better life; that forever feeling slightly out of place was simply her fate as a transracial adoptee. But as she grew up – facing prejudice her adoptive family couldn't see, finding her identity as an Asian American and a writer, becoming even more curious about where she came from – she wondered if the story she'd been told was the whole truth.

Her bestselling memoir *All You Can Ever Know*, available on bookshop.org, is the story of her adoption and the search for her birth family, which coincided with the birth of her own first child. It was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award for Autobiography, longlisted for the PEN Open Book Award, and named a Best Book of the Year by *The Washington Post*, *The Boston Globe*, NPR, and *TIME*, among many others. Nicole has written for numerous publications, including *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, and *GQ*. She is the editor-in-chief of the National Magazine Award-winning *Catapult* magazine, and co-editor of the immigration anthology *A Map is Only One Story*.

SPEAKER BIOS

Trevor L. Jordan, PhD

What Is, Is Possible!

Thursday, 7:00 pm



Trevor is President of Jigsaw Queensland, Inc., which, for over 46 years has been providing information and emotional support to anyone impacted by adoption in Queensland, Australia. Jigsaw also provides Forced Adoption Support Services funded by the Commonwealth Government. For over twenty years, Trevor was an academic, teaching and researching ethics in public and professional life, with a special interest in ethics and adoption.

Susan Harris O'Connor, MSW, LICSW

Racism and Supporting Those You Love: Up Close and Personal

Saturday, 9:00 am



Susan is a national speaker and author of *The Harris Narratives: An Introspective Study of a Transracial Adoptee* 2012. She has performed her autobiographical narratives over 100 times as keynote addresses, lectures and featured performances such as the Harvard Medical Conference Series, Wendy's Wonderful Kids Summit, Smith College Summer Lecture Series, PACT Camps West and East, Caribbean Heritage Camp, KAAAN and Yale Law School. Susan received the 2014 Outstanding Practitioner in Adoption Award from St. John's University, the 2018 Distinguished Professional Achievement Alumni Award from Worcester State University and the 2019 Outstanding Contributions to the Field of Social Work Award from Boston University School of Social Work.

SPEAKER BIOS

Adam Pertman

For Better Results, Let's Ask Better Questions

Friday, 9:00 am



Adam is president, CEO and Founder of the National Center on Adoption and Permanency (NCAP), whose mission is to move child welfare policy from the long-standing “child placement” model to a new “family success” paradigm that always includes the education, resources, services and supports that children and families touched by the child welfare system need. He is the Pulitzer-nominated author of *Adoption Nation*.

After a career as an award-winning journalist for the *Boston Globe*, Adam became Executive Director of the Donaldson Adoption Institute, where he spent a decade shaping research and advocacy. Adam and his wife Judy are the proud parents of Zack and Mason, whom they adopted as infants.

Brian Stanton

Sneak Preview! @ghostkingdom

Friday, 7:00 pm



Brian (Writer/Actor) is the creator of the award-winning solo play BLANK, which tackles issues of identity.

The one-man play tells the true story of his adoption and search for his birthmother. He has performed BLANK off-Broadway and in major cities across the United States and Canada. Stanton won a Best Solo Actor award for the United Solo Festival in New York City and an Outstanding Solo Performance award for StageScene LA.

Brian is excited to introduce @ghostkingdom exploring the truths of the adoptee's search. Stanton holds a MFA at California Institute of the Arts. He reunited with both mother and father and currently resides with his wife and two daughters in Culver City, California. www.thebrianstanton.com



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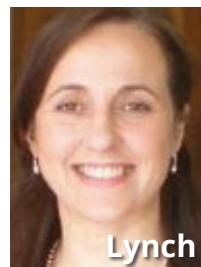
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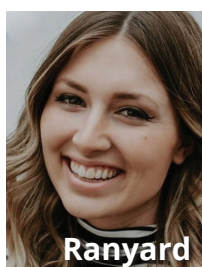
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Kathy Aderhold, RN, BSN, MSN

Facilitator, Mom Advocates: Out of the Closet – Into the Limelight

Thursday, 2:30 pm

Kathy has served on the boards of various adoption reform-focused organizations and is currently Vice President of Adoption Search Resource Connection (ASRC). She was featured in Dan Rather's Emmy-nominated documentary *Adopted or Abducted?* She lost her daughter to adoption in 1972 after being sent to a Booth maternity home. Kathy searched and found her daughter in 1998. She went on to develop a clinic for pregnant teens at Presbyterian/St. Luke's Medical Center in Denver, CO, which she directed for seven years. Kathy recently retired from a career as a Legal Nurse Consultant. She and her husband Ben, who has also connected with a son who was relinquished for adoption, live in Denver and thoroughly enjoy time with their children and grandchildren.

Schylar Baber, MPA

Thinking Outside the OBC

Friday, 3:00 pm

Schylar is the Executive Director of Voice for Adoption. He entered the Montana foster care system at the age of six as a result of abuse by family members, and aged out of the system without being adopted, until a former teacher adopted him at the age of 25. He serves on the Boards of Directors of FosterClub, the National Network for Youth in Foster Care, and the Childwise Institute. He has also worked with organizations including Montana Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA), the National Resource Center on Youth Development (NRCYD), Intermountain Children's Home President's Council, and the National Youth Leadership Network (NYLN). Today, he works in Washington, D.C., advocating with policy makers and congressional representatives to encourage sound policies in the best interest of America's waiting foster children.

Bill Barrett

Legislative Strategy and Tricks of the Trade

Friday, 1:00 pm

Bill has represented clients before the Florida legislature for over 20 years. He has worked professionally on campaigns for nearly 30 years in three states, handling races for U.S. Congressional and Senate seats, state House and Senate seats, Sheriff, County Commissioner and City Council members. He worked with adoptee and State Representative Rick Stark to educate and call upon legislators to repeal laws that prevent adult adoptees from having direct, unrestricted access to original birth certificates. In 2020, HB 89 was passed and signed into law by Governor DeSantis. The measure removes the requirement for adoptive parent consent in order to release the original birth certificate to an adult adoptee, and serves as a springboard for additional future efforts, eliminating one of three obstacles to adoptees in the Florida statute. Bill is married to an adoptee and, like many advocates, is motivated by a passion for a cause based on personal experience. Bill holds a Bachelors' degree in political science from Western Carolina University and is a guest lecturer in political science courses at various universities.



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Claudia Corrigan D'Arcy

Mom Advocates: Out of the Closet – Into the Limelight

Thursday, 2:30 pm

Claudia is the Associate Executive Director of the Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition (AFFCNY) in New York. As a birth mother who relinquished her first born son into a traditional voluntary closed infant adoption situation in 1987, she has been active in the adoption reform community for almost 20 years and helped change the original birth certificate laws in New York. Her writings can be found on her website Musings of the Lame, and have appeared in The New York Times, Adoption Today Magazine, Adoption Constellation Magazine, and many others. Now in a successful adoption reunion with her oldest son since 2007, she lives in Kingston, NY with her husband, children and four cats.

Lorraine Dusky

Mom Advocates: Out of the Closet – Into the Limelight

Thursday, 2:30 pm

Lorraine became the first to acknowledge in the media that she relinquished a child to adoption with the publication of the 1975 essay “Yearning” in The New York Times. This was soon followed by other pieces on adoption reform in several national magazines, culminating with her ground-breaking memoir, *Birthmark*, in 1979. With Florence Fisher, she was a founding member of the Adoptees Liberty Movement Association (ALMA), the first large-scale adoptee rights organization. She has testified both in court and before legislative committees, been a keynote speaker at national conferences, and an outspoken voice for birth mothers and adoptees in the media. She was reunited with her daughter, then age 15, and they had a 26-year relationship until her daughter's untimely death in 2007. She is the founder of the blog Birth/First Mother Forum. Her latest book, *hole in my heart, a memoir from the fault lines of adoption*, covers the poignant story of her heart-breaking connection with relinquishment, reunion and relationships.

Marcie Keithley

Mom Advocates: Out of the Closet – Into the Limelight

Thursday, 2:30 pm

Marcie is co-founder of Indiana Adoptee Network (IAN). As Vice President of Hoosiers for Equal Access to Records (HEAR), Marcie testified before legislative committees in support of successful records access legislation. Decades after relinquishing her daughter for adoption, she re-adopted her as an adult. Marcie is the author of the inspirational memoir *The Shoebox Effect* and co-author of the children's book *Frankie and Friends Talk Adoption*. Her articles have appeared in Adoption Today magazine and other publications, and she has been interviewed on Daily Mail TV in New York. She can be found sharing her wealth of experience overcoming life's adversities on her signature platform “The Shoebox Sherpa.”



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Catherine Lynch, PhD
Thinking Outside the OBC
Friday, 3:00 pm

Catherine serves as president of Adoptee Rights Australia. She is a formerly closed records adoptee who completed her doctorate in Adoption and Literature in 2007 and began practicing as an attorney in 2014. She is the founder of the Australian Adoptee Rights Action Group; a founding member of the Coalition for Accurate Birth Records; and a member of Tangled Webs and the New South Wales Committee on Adoption and Permanent Care. Her current research focuses on Australia's history of child removal and its current expressions in child protection, adoption and surrogacy.

Shayne Madsen, JD
Thinking Outside the OBC
Friday, 3:00 pm

Shayne is the Director of the Political Law Center at the Independence Institute. She most recently led the Public Policy and Regulatory Affairs Practice Group in the Denver office of law firm Jackson Kelly PLLC. Shayne has represented clients before the Colorado Legislature and before various local governments for over twenty years. Her pro bono representation of Adoptees in Search (now Adoption Search Resource Connection) was instrumental in the passage of multiple adoption reform and records access bills in 2014-2015. Ms. Madsen is a graduate of the University of Colorado (Bachelor of Arts) and Washington University in St. Louis (Juris Doctor).

Kelsey Vander Vliet Ranyard
We're Not "the Future" - We're Doing it Now!
Thursday, 1:00 pm

Kelsey is a birth mom of four years in an open adoption, and has spent the last three years working in the adoption field. She resides in Raleigh, NC and currently works for an agency based out of the Philadelphia area. Kelsey is passionate about having high ethical standards in the adoption process, providing post-placement care for birth mothers, and educating adoptive families to parent their adoptees in an honest and supportive environment.

Colorado State Representative Lori Saine
Thinking Outside the OBC
Friday, 3:00 pm

Commissioner-elect Saine served four terms in the Colorado House of Representatives in leadership as Minority Caucus Chair. She has successfully sponsored and co-sponsored multiple pieces of life-changing legislation, including SB 14-051 (Access to Original Birth Certificates); HB 14-1042 (Birth Parent Access to Relinquishment Records); HB 14-1282 (Crimes of Lying and Deception on Birth Certificates); HB 15-1106 (Clarify Access to Original Birth Certificates); HB 15-1355 (The Heritage Act - Family History Access Birth and Personal Records), and HB 19-1023 (Foster Children Driving Licenses).



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Barbara Shaw, MA

Free film screening and discussion: *To Each His Own*

Thursday, 9:30 am

Barbara became a member of Concerned United Birthparents years after relinquishing her son for adoption in 1967. She and her son were reunited in 1989, during Barbara's career as a speech/language pathologist. She continues to be active with CUB after editing the organization newsletter, organizing retreats, and advocating for legislative change in California. An avid writer, she enjoys responding to articles, television shows and films on adoption, and is percolating on ideas for play or film script idea that would document her experiences.

County Commissioner Charles "Chaz" Tedesco

Thinking Outside the OBC

Friday, 3:00 pm

Commissioner Tedesco was elected as Adams County, CO Commissioner in 2012, serving as the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) since 2014. He also serves on a variety of other boards, including the Denver Indian Family Resource Center (DIFRC) and the Adams County Youth Initiative. Born in 1965, he and his sister passed through a number of foster homes before being adopted by a loving couple in Northglenn, CO. Chaz served in the US Navy from 1984-1989 and was honorably discharged. He served as president of the United Steel Workers Union (USW) local 8031 from 2005-2013. His foster experience has served as his inspiration for giving back, with a special interest in helping foster youth and those aging out of the system.

Rich Uhrlaub, M.Ed. (Conference Chair, Facilitator)

Thinking Outside the OBC

Friday, 3:00 pm

A Conversation with Author Nicole Chung

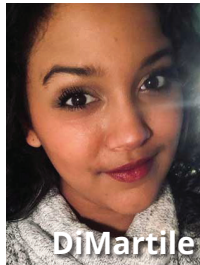
Saturday, 6:30 pm

Rich has been dedicated to support and effective advocacy for the interests of adults impacted by relinquishment and adoption for over 20 years. He serves as President of Adoption Search Resource Connection (ASRC) and the Colorado Adoption Intermediary Commission. Relinquished and adopted at three weeks old, Rich located and connected with his family of origin in 1995. Rich spearheaded legislative team efforts in Colorado, resulting in one of the most comprehensive records access laws in the nation, and consults with advocates in various states. He is the founder of the Male Adoptee/Alumni Impact Summit (MAAIS). Rich has been interviewed for local and national radio, television and newspaper stories. His articles have appeared in *The Colorado Sun* and *Adoption Today*. He is a contributing author to *Finding Our Place: 100 Memorable Adoptees, Fostered Persons and Orphanage Alumni* and *Adoption and Mothering*.

SPEAKER BIOS



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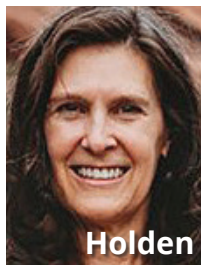
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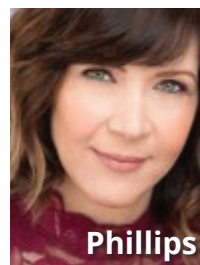
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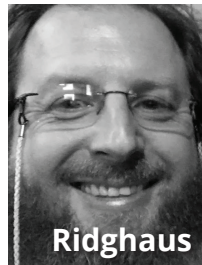
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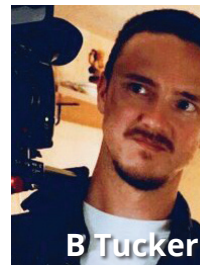
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Suzanne Bachner

Telling the Relinquishment Narrative: A Storytellers' Forum

Saturday, 1:00 pm

Suzanne is the writer and director of the award-winning play *The Good Adoptee*, which has been performed in the US and Great Britain to rave reviews and standing ovations. More than simply a compelling autobiographical personal journey, the play has been performed to raise money in support of legislative advocacy and public awareness efforts to change antiquated laws in states that have yet to provide adult adoptees with direct, unrestricted access to their birth and adoption records.

Victoria "Torie" DiMartile

We're Not "the Future" - We're Doing it Now!

Thursday, 1:00 pm

Torie is the blogger and educator behind the Instagram account "Wreckage & Wonder," where she provides resources and insight on racial identity development, transracial parenting, and antiracism. She is currently a doctoral student in Sociocultural Anthropology at Indiana University and a transracial adoptee on a lifelong journey towards a healthy racial identity. She grew up one of two biracial (black and white) children in a white Italian American home in the suburbs of northern Kentucky.

Derek Frank

Telling the Relinquishment Narrative: A Storytellers' Panel

Saturday, 1:00 pm

Derek is co-producer of *Six Word Adoption Memoirs*. He is a documentary filmmaker, professor of film production, and adoptee in reunion.

Patti Hawn

Telling the Relinquishment Narrative: A Storyteller's Forum

Saturday, 1:00 pm

Patti is an entertainment publicist and has worked on over thirty major motion pictures. She is the author of *Good Girls Don't*, her relinquishment story. Her younger sister is the legendary film actress Goldie Hawn. They grew up in suburban Takoma Park, Maryland. Today Patti lives in Manhattan Beach, California with her husband.

Lori Holden

The Post-Open Adoption Era: Helping Families Navigate Openness With or Without Contact

Friday, 10:45 am

Lori is the author of *The Open Hearted Way to Open Adoption*, longtime blogger at *Lavenderluz.com*, and podcaster at *Adoption: The Long View*. She was honored as an Angel in Adoption by CCAI in 2018, and is a supporter of Family to Family Support Network.



SPEAKER BIOS

Holly Janson (Facilitator)

We're Not "the Future" – We're Doing it Now!

Thursday, 1:00 pm

Holly is the newest member of the ASRC Board, joining in 2020. She worked as a DJ while in college and has been in the media industry ever since, working with companies like High Noon Entertainment, Comedy Works Entertainment and NBC Universal. In 2019 she founded her own production company, Casper Black Media. Holly recently found and reunited with both of her biological parents and many other family members, including half-sisters from both sides. She loves to support others, share her experiences, and pay it forward by helping fellow adult adoptees in their discoveries, searches, and reunions.

Zara Phillips

Featured Artist: Lunch with Creatives

Saturday, Noon

Zara is a vocalist, writer, speaker, and documentary producer and director. Born and adopted in the UK, Zara began her musical career as a backing vocalist for 80s pop bands, including Bob Geldof, Nick Kamen, David Essex, and Matt Bianco. Motherhood opened the door for her to write about her search, reunion and addiction recovery. She co-wrote "I'm Legit" with Darryl McDaniels of Run DMC, a late discovery adoptee. Other projects include the books *Mother Me and Somebody's Daughter*; the award-winning documentary *Roots Unknown*; the one-woman show *Beneath My Father's Sky*; and her latest CD, *Meditation and Kit Kats* produced by Richard Thompson. Zara is the featured artist at the Creatives Lunch on Saturday.

David Quint (Facilitator)

Telling the Relinquishment Narrative: A Storyteller's Forum

Saturday, 1:00 pm

David is the producer of the documentary *Father Unknown*, an award-winning chronicle of a trip with his father to a castle in Switzerland which was formerly the orphanage where his father spent his early years. David has worked as a director, cinematographer and aerial cameraman filming feature films, documentaries, commercials, projects for Netflix, MTV, NBC, ABC, CBS and numerous other networks. He is passionate about spreading the message about the impacts of relinquishment and adoption to the broader public through authentically told stories that have the power to transform. David recently completed his term as an ASRC board member.

Ridghaus

Telling the Relinquishment Narrative: A Storytellers' Forum

Saturday, 1:00 pm

Ridghaus relinquished a son at age 19, then later learned that he himself had been relinquished and adopted at age 35. He is the co-creator of the documentary film *Six Word Adoption Memoirs*, which has been shown to rave reviews and many tears at various adoption conferences nationwide. Ridghaus holds a law degree (JD) and teaches cinema at Hutchinson Community College in Kansas.



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Angela Tucker

Project Search and Reunion: A Model for Agencies to Address Adoptees' Need to Know Their History

Thursday, 1:00 pm

Telling the Relinquishment Narrative: A Storyteller's Forum

Saturday, 1:00 pm

Angela is the Director of Amara's Post-Adoption Program and host of the podcast, *The Adoptee Next Door*. Her determination and insatiable curiosity is an inspiration to many and is on display through her search for her biological parents in the documentary, *CLOSURE*. She is a mentor and advisor to adoptees nationwide, has contributed to renowned fictional work, including Broadway's *Jagged Little Pill* and NBC's hit show, *This Is Us*. Her vision is to amplify adoptee voices.

Bryan Tucker

Telling the Relinquishment Narrative: A Storyteller's Forum

Saturday, 1:00 pm

Bryan is a two-time Emmy-award winning producer and filmmaker based in Seattle, WA. His first feature-length documentary film, *CLOSURE*, secured national cable broadcast distribution, and was digitally distributed on Netflix (2015-2017), Hulu (2014), iTunes and Amazon Prime Video. He works with a variety of commercial and non-profit clients throughout the Pacific Northwest and beyond. Past clients include VICE, PBS (KCTS 9), the Seattle Seahawks, and *The Guardian*.



SPEAKER BIOS





SPEAKER BIOS

Sally Ankerfelt

Why Are We Still Sad? Ambiguous Loss for Those in the Adoption Constellation Friday, 3:00 pm

Sally is passionate about creating healing space and experiences for those in the adoption constellation. She is an adoptive parent of three children adopted transracially, and sees a strong intersection of trauma between first parents, adoptees and adoptive parents. Sally holds a BA in Psychology from Concordia College and a MDiv from Luther Seminary. She holds a Certificate of Trauma Studies from the University of Minnesota, is a Certified Prepare/Enrich Marital Inventory administrator, and is a certified adoption coach.

Astrid Castro

We're Not "the Future" – We're Doing it Now! Thursday, 1:00 pm

Astrid is the former Executive Director of Adoption Mosaic, and now has her own adoption consulting practice. She hosts the podcast *We the Experts: Adoptees Speak*, featuring guest panelists in discussion about topics of interest to adoptees. Her work focuses on building bridges between communities as personal pathways to understanding. Adopted with her sister from Colombia at age four, Astrid has been in reunion with her family of origin since 2012. She holds a degree in social work and is the co-author of *Adoption in the Movies*. She also developed an evidence-based DVD titled, "Adoptive Parent Training: Developing Communication Skills." Learn more about Astrid's work at www.astridcastroconsulting.com.

Joan Distefano

Why Are We Still Sad? Ambiguous Loss for Those in the Adoption Constellation Friday, 3:00 pm

Joan started her life work as a family law attorney specializing in paternity, child abuse and neglect cases. She also worked as a Guardian ad Litem investigating solutions in the best interests of children. She went on to become a coach and received a Master Certification in Neuro-Linguistic Programming. She has done archetypal work with Caroline Myss, along with further Internal Family Systems training. Through presence, curiosity, acceptance and compassion, she helps families and individuals find balance, harmonious relationships, positive growth, and understanding of their internal family systems.

Rena Konomis

Project Search and Reunion: A Model for Agencies to Address Adoptees' Need to Know Their History Thursday, 1:00 pm

Rena is a confidential intermediary providing search services to those within the adoption constellation. As an adoptive parent, she believes that it is a treasure for her son to know his birth family narrative. Rena's hope is to influence change for adoptees to gain access to their information. Rena's goal is to update laws to make Washington state the 11th to provide unconditional access for adoptees to their files.



SPEAKER BIOS

Mandy Krahenbuhl, MA

Mom Advocates: Out of the Closet – Into the Limelight

Thursday, 2:30 pm

Mandy is the recent past President, of Concerned United Birthparents (CUB). She previously served as the CUB Vice President of membership and a member of the Retreat and Scholarship Committees. Her relinquished son is now ten years old, and, though she has not seen him since he was a year old, he is the love of her life. Mandy holds a Master's degree in Community Counseling with a Certificate in Trauma Counseling. She has worked in vocational rehabilitation and in-home counseling for those with severe and persistent mental illness, as well as those struggling with substance abuse disorders. Mandy had never met another birthmother until she attended her first CUB retreat in 2016, and had been completely miserable for years. She is dedicated to reaching and supporting more individuals and families touched by adoption who might benefit from the life-changing help provided by CUB.

Dianne Maroney, MSN

Powerful Tools to Help Kids, Teens and Adults Cope with Stress and Trauma

Thursday, 1:00 pm

Dianne is a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing. She is an international speaker, author and founder of The Imagine Project, Inc., a nonprofit organization that helps kids, teens and adults overcome challenging circumstances through expressive writing. Dianne is a thought leader in the area of stress and trauma in children. Her simple, yet profound 7-step writing tool, now used in schools across the US and internationally, gives kids and teens the opportunity to rewrite a challenging personal story and imagine new possibilities in its place.

Ron Nydam, PhD

Faith, Adoption and Reality

Friday, 10:45 am

Ron is the founder of Pastoral Counseling of Denver and has specialized in counseling individuals and families affected by relinquishment and adoption. He is the author of *Adoptees Come of Age* and *Wise Adoptive Parenting: When Kids Struggle to Adopt Their Parents*. Ron has long been a sought-after speaker at conferences and workshops, inspiring audiences with his insight and compassion.



SPEAKER BIOS

Mark Pamer, DO

What COVID Taught Me About Stepping Up: Service and Sacrifice for Something that Matters

Saturday, 10:45 am

Mark is a pulmonologist in Port St. Lucie, FL, specializing in Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Pulmonary Vascular Medicine, sleep-disordered breathing, and Interstitial Lung Disease. With the corona virus outbreak, Dr. Pamer felt called to provide treatment to severe COVID-19 patients, along with relief and shared expertise to hospital staff in Queens, NY, the early epicenter of the disease in the United States. Mark located and connected his birth family in 2017. He is passionate about supporting legislative change efforts, emphasizing the medical importance of knowing family history.

Jean Provance, MSW

Self Care: Healing for Healers

Friday, 1:00 pm

Jean is a same-race adopted person who has been in reunion with her natural family since 2003 and reclaimed her name in 2010. She works primarily with youth in the foster system, seeking to prevent escalation to higher levels of care such as intensive residential treatment and out-of-home placement. Ms. Provance has been providing clinical services with focus on adoption and trauma since 2008, after receiving her Master's in Social Work from New York University.

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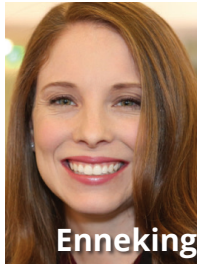
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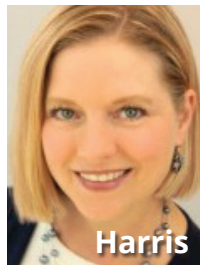
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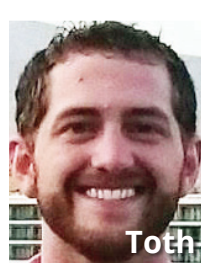
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SPEAKER BIOS

Juliana Braunagel, MA

Building Influence Means Embracing Your Leadership

Saturday, 3:15 pm

Juliana is an adoptee, grew up with foster siblings, and is a former ASRC board member. She has served in a variety of leadership roles, from local community, professional groups and as a first line leader in Human Resources. She has experience developing talent, mentoring and coaching as well as experience leading high performing teams and transformation of team work toward the digital future of work. Juliana has served on community boards, church councils and ministries, and Girl and Boy Scout organizations.

Holly Enneking

Building Influence Means Embracing Your Leadership

Saturday, 3:15 pm

Holly has spent the past seven years learning and growing as a leader. She is currently the Vice President of Marketing and Alliances at Lev, a marketing-focused consultancy, and a member of the company's executive team. Holly is energized by supporting her team's creativity, providing space to grow their skills, and finding opportunities to challenge them in new ways. She is lucky to be supported by her husband and two children, and their lovable Westie named Tugboat.

Renee Gelin

What Does Ethical Adoption Look Like?

Saturday, 10:45 am

Renee is the Founder and President of Saving Our Sisters, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting all members of expectant families considering adoption. After losing her son to a devastating and unnecessary adoption, Renee began speaking to other mothers about family preservation as an alternative to the trauma and loss of relinquishment, realizing that relinquishment is often a permanent decision made in an attempt to solve a temporary problem. SOS now has "sisters on the ground" in every state who stand ready to assist expectant mothers with family preservation options. Renee is married to her son's father and together they parent their two daughters in Florida.

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SPEAKER BIOS

Russ Hamilton

Connection Lab Introduction: Becoming a Better, More Authentic Communicator

Thursday, 3:45 pm

Friday, 3:00 pm

Connection Lab Workshops (Limited registration, additional cost, not recorded)

Friday, 9:00 am – noon

Saturday, 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Russ is the founder of Connection Lab, a training and development company specializing in communication, presentation and leadership development programs delivered worldwide. On the way, he has enjoyed serial careers as a radio host, a marketing director, a film/TV producer, a consultant and an author. Russ volunteers at the All Stars Project in New York. He has a couple of old motorcycles. He's a golfer and a gamer and live in Vancouver, B.C. with his wife Carolyn and their two cats, Leo and Bubbles.

Heidi Harris, MA (Facilitator)

Connection Lab Introduction: Becoming a Better, More Authentic Communicator

Friday, 3:00 pm

Building Influence Means Embracing Your Leadership

Saturday, 3:15 pm

Heidi is an ASRC board member and an adoptee. In 2015, she found and connected with her birth mother, two half-sisters, two aunts and a cousin. Heidi has a Master's degree in organizational development, and has spent the last 10+ years helping others develop their leadership abilities. She lives in Las Vegas, NV, with her photographer husband, Joel, and dachshund, Winston.

Wendy and Ryan Kramer

We're not "the Future" – We're Doing it Now!

Thursday, 1:00 pm

Co-founders of the Donor Sibling Registry (DSR), with more than 70,000 members in 150 countries, Wendy and Ryan have appeared on *60 Minutes*, *Oprah*, *GMA*, *The Today Show*, CNN, NPR, and *CBS Sunday Morning*, along with hundreds of global news outlets.

Wendy is an Associate Producer on the 2011 Emmy-nominated documentary *Sperm Donor* and the 2013 MTV News & Docs 6-part docu-series *Generation Cryo*. Wendy has reviewed abstracts for the American Society of Reproductive Medicine and has co-authored 26 papers on donor conception in journals including *Social Science and Medicine*, *Human Reproduction*, *Reproductive BioMedicine Online* and the *Journal of Law and the BioSciences*. Wendy is the author of *Finding Our Families: A first-of-its kind Book for Donor-Conceived People*, the children's book *Your Family: A Donor Kid's Story*, and a new memoir in 2020, *Donor Family Matters*. The DSR has helped connect almost 20,000 donor-conceived people with their half-siblings.



SPEAKER BIOS

Wendy and Ryan Kramer continued

Ryan is the DSR Co-Founder and Vice-Chair / Program Manager. Ryan is a donor-conceived person who continues to co-manage the DSR with his mother Wendy. Ryan graduated from high school at age 14, received an undergraduate degree in Aerospace Engineering at age 18, and a Master's degree in Engineering Management at 19. He has worked at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Apple, and currently works at Google's Life Sciences company, Verily. Ryan has 19 known half-siblings – so far.

Oleg Lougheed We're not "the Future" – We're Doing it Now! Friday, 3:00 pm

Oleg was adopted at age twelve from an orphanage in Cherbarkul', Russia and raised in Ann Arbor, Michigan, not realizing that he would never see his mother again. He never knew who his father was, and learned early in life what it was to face the effects of alcoholism and severe hunger. Oleg is a national speaker, the founder of Overcoming Odds, whose mission is to restore a sense of community and belonging, and develop one's individual voice through Resilience, Discovery, Network, and Authenticity. He recently joined the podcast "Just a Squirrel Looking for a Nut" as co-host.

Bonnie Malone Building Influence Means Embracing Your Leadership Saturday, 3:15 pm

Bonnie has led growing service organizations in the technology industry for over eight years. She currently works with Modernizing Medicine as Vice President of Customer Success. She is passionate about developing highly effective teams through advocacy and celebrating diverse strengths. Bonnie is also a mother, active community volunteer, and ardent chocolate chip cookie baker.

Hyrum Toth Building Influence Means Embracing Your Leadership Saturday, 3:15 pm

Hyrum has spent the last six years rapidly developing his skills in leadership roles. Starting from a team lead of five engineers, he is now a director over a department of engineers. Hyrum serves as a catalyst for his teams, ensuring that they have what they need to be successful with their projects and professional growth.