



# Coalition of Adoptive Families (COFAF)

## Spring Series “Creating Family through Adoption”

- 1/19/17**      **The Brady Bunch We’re Not: Blending a Family When Adopting a Traumatized Child.**  
*Deborah Miller-Gnann, Becca Gwartz, and Monika Zoretic*
- Introducing a traumatized child into an existing family unit
  - Impacts on parent/child relationships
  - “Resident children” perceive the way to gain parent attention is to act out or over achieve.
- 2/16/17**      **First/Birth Family Real or Imagined: Benefits and Challenges of Open Adoptions**  
*Kate Livingston, Paula Andree, and Amber Decker*
- First/birth parents and the long term effects of making an adoption plan
  - Best interest of the child: search and reunion
  - International adoptees searches and what if reunion is improbable
- 3/16/17**      **In the Rearview Mirror: 10 Things Adult Adoptee Wished Their Parents Knew When They Were Growing Up**  
*Angela Christensen, Shree Gordon*
- How and why you may have to have to initiate if your children don’t ask questions
  - What children are afraid to tell their parents
  - Why open dialog is critical.
- 4/24/17**      **Unique Challenges of International Adoption: Creating Transracial/ Transcultural Families.**  
*Aerial Ashlee*
- “Bananas” and “Oreos” harsh realities of raising a child of color in white a family
  - Preparing your children for racism and how others see your family
  - Addressing profound loss: first family, country, culture, and language
- 5/18/17**      **Adoptees and Trust: Why It is So Hard to Get and Easy to Loose**  
*Kristen Santel*
- Trust in the family and at school: why does my child feel isolated and different
  - Challenges around making friends
- 6/15/17**      **How Social-Emotional-Behavioral Difficulties Correlate with Learning Problems**  
*Julieann Ash*
- Reduce anxiety and frustration by learning to bridge processing difficulties.
  - Provide clarification around the causes of learning problems.
- 7/20/17**      **Open Discussion**