

Feature Film



Authors



Performance

Welcome

SCHEDULE & INFORMATION



Renee Gelin After losing her son to a devastating unnecessary adoption, Renee discovered her purpose - to help other mothers preserve their families. Renee started speaking to other expectant mothers and realized that many of the reasons that they were considering adoption, were similar to hers - temporary. She started to explain the lifelong trauma that maternal separation causes both the mothers and their newborns and the mothers were listening. Many in the adoption community began to support her efforts of family preservation. Others online began to direct mothers considering adoption to speak with Renee and the concept of **Saving Our Sisters** became a reality. Renee married her son's father and together they parent their 2 daughters in Florida.



Kathryn Joyce is an investigative reporter at Salon covering the political right, education, women's rights and child welfare issues. She's the author of *The Child Catchers: Rescue, Trafficking and the New Gospel of Adoption* and *Quiverfull: Inside the Christian Patriarchy Movement*. Her work has also appeared The New Republic, Vanity Fair, Mother Jones, The New York Times Magazine, Highline, The Marshall Project and many others.



Christopher Emmanuel founded **Sky Is The Limit** in 2015. His daughter was involved in an unethical and predatory adoption without his consent in February 2014; however, he was able to intervene and prove himself because he registered on The South Carolina Responsible Father Registry. Despite the obstacles and structural impediments he faced as a father he was successful in bringing his daughter home. Now as a single father, through his triumph and the lessons of fatherhood, he has taken on a role of being a Father Practitioner. Educating and empowering fathers to cultivate responsibility and family values.



Leslie Pate Mackinnon has maintained a private psychotherapy practice for four decades. She resides in Asheville and presents both nationally and internationally on issues that impact families conceived through adoption and third-party reproduction. She's been on GOOD MORNING AMERICA, CNN, and Katie Couric's show with her oldest son, Pete. Leslie was featured in DAN RATHER's investigative report; ADOPTION OR ABDUCTION. Her story is included in the book, *The Girls Who Went Away*, and the documentary A GIRL LIKE HER. Drawn to the field by placing her two firstborn sons for adoption when she was a teenager, her passion today is to educate as many therapists as possible. For more information please visit www.lesliepatemackinnon.com.



Kara Rubinstein Deyerin is a non-practicing attorney with an LLM in Taxation. She is a mom, wife, writer, cook, Jew, knitter, and connoisseur of all things human. In January 2018, she wanted to see where in Africa her father's family came from. An over-the-counter DNA test revealed the man on her birth certificate wasn't her genetic father. She lost her bi-racial identity with the click of a mouse. The DNA Pandora's box she opened led to an identity crisis. She co-founded **Right to Know**, a non-profit that supports people impacted by DNA surprises and misattributed parentage experiences (MPE) which can occur due to an adoption, assisted conception, or those conceived from a non-paternal event (NPE) as well as those searching for genetic family through education, mental health, and advocacy. **Right to Know** promotes understanding of the complex intersection of genetic information, identity, and family dynamics.



Marcie Keithley is a birth mom in reunion since 2008 with her daughter Jesse. She is also the co-founder of the **National Association of Adoptees and Parents** where she serves as President and Host of *Adoption Happy Hour*, a weekly Friday night virtual event with a global attendance from the adoption constellation. Keithley is also the author of "The Shoebox Effect: Transforming Pain into Fortitude and Purpose" as well as a children's book, "Frankie and Friends Talk Adoption." She resides in Southern Indiana and is owned by one sassy doodle, Murfee.



Macy Oosthuizen (pronounced wist-hay-zen) is a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) and is the founder of Finding Spaces Therapy in Jupiter, FL. In her therapy practice, Macy specializes in working with teens and adults connected to adoption and donor conception as well as high performing executives and entrepreneurs. Macy is an adjunct professor at Florida Atlantic University teaching in the graduate school of Social Work and sits on the FAU Center for Autism and Related Disabilities Mental Health Task Force. Macy has 200-level yoga teacher certification as well as training in mindfulness and Play Therapy.

SCHEDULE

All sessions/events in the Florida Room unless otherwise noted

Thursday Oct. 13th

- 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. National CUB Board Meeting
- 7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Hospitality Suite: Greetings, Treats & Drinks

Friday Oct. 14th

- 8:30 am. - 10:00 a.m. Breakfast (Outside Patio) /
 - First Time Attendees: Look for the reserved table to start your day with our welcoming committee
- 10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Welcome & Opening Remarks
- 10:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. **Adoption Coercion Today** with Renee Gelin (Founder, Saving Our Sisters) & Kathryn Joyce (Author, "The Child Catchers") & Christopher Emanuel (Founder, Sky Is the Limit)
- 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Lunch & Free Time
- 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. **Living with the Loss of Genetic Continuity** with Leslie Mackinnon, LCSW & Kara Rubinstein Deyerin (CEO, Right To Know)
- 4:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Support Groups (Tampa Room)
- 6:00 p.m. Hosted Dinner (Outside Patio)
- 8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. **Film: Daughter of a Lost Bird** followed by Q&A with reunited mother, April Kowalski
- 9:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Hospitality Suite: Greetings, Treats & Drinks

Saturday Oct. 15th

- 8:30 am. - 10:00 a.m. Breakfast (Outside Patio)
- 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. **Author Panel - Truth Telling: Mothers Share Their Stories of Adoption Loss and Healing** with Candace Cahill ("Goodbye Again: A Memoir") & Cathryn Vogeley ("I Need to Tell You")
- 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. **Film Preview: All You Have Is Love: Demand, Deception and the Infant Adoption Industry** with filmmaker Lisa Scott
- 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Lunch & Free Time
- 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. **Healing from Trauma** with Macy Oosthuizen, LCSW & Marcie Keithley (Author, "The Shoebox Effect")
- 4:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Support Groups (Tampa Room)
- 6:00 p.m. Hosted Dinner (Outside Patio)
- 8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. **Live Performance: The Good Adoptee**, written and directed by Suzanne Bachner, performed by Kat Nardizzi. Q & A directly following with Suzanne, Kat and dramaturg Bob Brader (Tampa Room)
- 9:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Hospitality Suite: Greetings, Treats & Drinks

Sunday Oct. 16th

- 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Hosted Breakfast & Closing Remarks (Outside Patio)