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#KAAN2018 Conference

Caring for Our Community: Mental Health, Self-Care, & Advocacy

JUNE 29-JULY 1, 2018

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Minneapolis - Park Place

1500 Park Place Blvd., Minneapolis, MN 55416

Allen, Scottie

Scottie Allen, MA, NIC, Q-MHI, EIPA 4.7 is a hearing transracial Korean adoptee who works as a WI DSPS and DPI licensed, nationally certified ASL/English interpreter. She is assisting KAAN by recruiting and coordinating qualified ASL/English interpreters for the annual KAAN conference. Scottie earned her MA degree from Gallaudet University in Deaf Studies/Culture Studies, her Qualification in Mental Health Interpreting from the State of Alabama Department of Mental Health Services and earned a 4.7 out of 5.0 on the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment. Scottie has been back to Korea several times, frequents KAtCH events and ICAA Gatherings, and is in reunion with her birth family. This is her second KAAN conference.

Andreason, Margie

Margie Andreason, MPA, has over a decade of experience working within the philanthropic sector and in grassroots organizations. She is currently the Diversity Equity Inclusion Manager at Northwest Area Foundation based in St Paul, MN. Before joining the Foundation, Margie worked on Asian Americans / Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy's (AAPIP) National Gender and Equity Campaign, which aimed to build organizational capacity for social justice in Asian-led nonprofits in Minnesota and California. Margie is very active in the Korean adoptee community and is also engaged with the broader Twin Cities community. She is commissioner for District C on the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission, is a member of the advisory board for the Coalition of Asian American Leaders, is a co-chair for Network of Politicized Adoptees, and is an active volunteer

for AAPIP's Minnesota Chapter, Pan-Asian Voices for Equity-Minnesota, and Don't Buy Miss Saigon Coalition. She also serves on the Community Innovation Grant selection committee for Headwaters Foundation for Justice. Margie has a master's in public affairs from the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs and a bachelor's degree in social work and political science from Concordia College-Moorhead.

Ashlee, Aerial A.

Aerial A. Ashlee, M.Ed., is a scholar activist passionate about racial justice. She is a doctoral candidate in Educational Leadership at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Aerial's dissertation research explores how transracial Asian American adoptees describe and make sense of their racial identity in college. Aerial is also co-founder of a social justice consulting firm with Kyle C. Ashlee, her life and business partner.

Ashlee, Kyle C.

Kyle Ashlee, M. S., is a doctoral candidate in Educational Leadership at Miami University and the spouse of an adoptee. He focuses on developing tools for white people and men to effectively engage in anti-oppression work. Kyle is the co-founder of a social justice consulting firm with his wife, Aerial Ashlee, focusing on building critically engaged communities that strive to dismantle systems of oppression. He and Aerial are also the authors of VITAL: A Torch for Your Social Justice Journey, an award-winning book outlining everyday strategies for effectively engaging in social justice work.

Assalone, Amanda

Amanda E. Assalone, PhD is the Postdoctoral Research & Policy

Analyst at the Southern Education Foundation (SEF) in Atlanta, Georgia. Prior to joining SEF, Amanda completed her doctoral studies in higher education at the University of North Texas. Her research focused on improving post-secondary access and outreach initiatives for underrepresented students. Amanda's dissertation investigated the college pathways of Asian American community college students and explored how family, culture, and model minority stereotypes influenced their college aspirations, perceptions, and experiences. She also has extensive experience working in community college outreach, academic advising, educational programming, and high school counseling. Amanda was adopted from Seoul through Dillon International at three months and grew up in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Blomberg, Kurt

Kurt Blomberg is a Korean adoptee who lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In 2015, he traveled to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea through the Korean Education Exposure Program (KEEP). Kurt is a former professional dancer and is now focused on education, specifically creating spaces and places that are radically welcoming.

Buckbinder, Bucky

Matthew "Bucky" Buckbinder has been a circus entertainer for 4 years. He has juggled his way around the world from Italy to Ireland to his current hometown of Chicago. Bucky instructs in circus camps and festivals and enjoys spreading the art of juggling to all ages! Bucky also works as a personal trainer, shaves his girlfriend's head and has seen all of the Fast and The Furious movies. This is Bucky's second year

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attending KAAAN. He is excited to be able to share his skills to the conference.

Burlbaugh, Brenda

Brenda Burlbaugh is from Annapolis, MD, and has two sons adopted from Korea, ages six and seven. She is the owner of an online retailer of motivational and inspirational gifts (courageinstone.com). Brenda enjoys traveling, cooking (well, mostly eating), fine wine, jogging, reading, and napping. This is her fifth KAAAN conference.

Burlbaugh, Mike

Bio pending.

Cancio-Bello, Marci Calabretta

Marci Calabretta Cancio-Bello, MFA, is the author of Hour of the Ox (University of Pittsburgh, 2016), winner of the 2015 AWP Donald Hall Poetry Prize, and 2016 Florida Book Award bronze medal. She has received poetry fellowships from Kundiman, the Knight Foundation, and the American Literary Translators Association, and her work has appeared in Best New Poets, Best Small Fictions, The New York Times, among others. More info at: marcialabretta.com.

Chung-Sherman, Melanie

Melanie Chung-Sherman, LCSW-S, CTS, LCPAA, PLLC has worked in the field of child welfare since 1999. She is a Texas Board-certified clinical social worker and supervisor, and a licensed child placing administrator through the State of Texas. She has specialized in the field of child welfare ranging from foster care, adoption, mental health, trauma-informed care, and administration. She is the owner and founder of a private practice specializing adoption-focused care in North Dallas.

Compton, John

John Compton (오명석) grew up in Hawai'i and has been living in Korea since 2009. He has held several positions within Global Overseas Adoptees' Link (GOA'L). Currently, he is an Internal Advisor for GOA'L

and a member of the board of directors for Korea Adoption Services. He was part of the first group of thirteen Korean adoptees to gain dual citizenship in 2011. In his free time, he enjoys snowboarding, mountain biking, scuba diving, plane spotting, and traveling.

Condit-Shrestha, Kelly

Kelly Condit-Shrestha, PhD, is an immigration and adoption historian, and Post-Doctoral Research Associate in the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. She also serves as Lead Historian on the Vision and Strategy Group of the Adoption Museum Project's Public History Initiative. She is currently working on a book, tentatively titled Adoption and American Empire: Migration, Race-Making, and the Child, 1845-1988.

Crawford, Martha M.

Martha Crawford, LCSW, is an adoptive parent, a psychotherapist, and a member of the Executive Officers committee of Sejong Cultural Education Inc. She is the author of the blog What a Shrink Thinks and a long-time member of the KAAAN community.

Eckerle, Judith K.

Judith K. Eckerle, MD, is the Medical Director of the Adoption Medicine Clinic at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Eckerle helps families pre and post-adoption with consultation, referral and clinical services. She was trained at the Medical College of Wisconsin, Weill Cornell Medical Center, and the University of Minnesota's Center for NeuroBehavioral Development. She is active personally and professionally in adoption and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) education and advocacy worldwide.

Filla-Kim, Kyung Hoon

Kyung Hoon Filla-Kim is a Korean Adoptee from Minnesota. Previously, she worked with New Communities in the Twin Cities and currently she is involved with Network of Politicized Adoptees (NPA), as well as an informal group focusing on the adoptee experience

of mothering. Kyung Hoon spent her early life in Northwest Minnesota and has also lived in Florida, Colorado and Seoul, South Korea. She is an avid traveler with an interest in cross-cultural community building through shared stories and advocacy.

Gates, Max

Max Gates is the father of two adult adoptees from South Korea. His children live, work, and play in very different environments, providing a window into the diverse, challenging experience of being an adult transracial adoptee. Max lives outside Detroit, Michigan, and works in communications for an automobile manufacturer. Previously he was a journalist and science writer for 25 years. He has helped organize and present classes for prospective adoptive parents, and he and his wife, Ellen Kotlus, have attended KAAAN conferences regularly for several years.

Gee, Angela

Angela Gee, MA, LMFT, is a marriage and family therapist in private practice in Atwater Village, California. Her work focuses on helping adoptees and their families develop a greater understanding of adoption as an integral aspect of one's identity. Angela received her undergraduate degree from the University of California at Santa Barbara and holds a Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology from Antioch University Los Angeles. Her clinical training includes working with adolescents and adults at The L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center, The Maple Counseling Center, and Teen Line. As a Chinese-American adoptee and adoptive parent in a transracial family, her personal history informs her professional practice. She facilitates a free monthly support group for teen adoptees as well as an annual adoptee identity development workshop for adolescents. Angela is an adjunct professor at her alma mater, presents at national conferences on adoption, leads transracial adoptive family trainings for agencies, and provides private consultation and pre and post-adoption education for

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families at local child welfare and adoption agencies.

Gehringer, Erica

Erica Gehringer is a Korean American adoptee, currently studying to obtain her Master of Social Work. After graduation, she plans to work within the adoptee community in some way. Her main goal in life is to support and advocate for people with marginalized identities, those who are most often left out of positive mainstream conversations and spotlights.

Gibney, Shannon

Shannon Gibney, MFA, MA, is a writer, educator, activist, and the author of *See No Color* (Carolrhoda Lab, 2015), a young adult novel that won the 2016 Minnesota Book Award in Young Peoples' Literature. Gibney is faculty in English at Minneapolis Community and Technical College, where she teaches critical and creative writing, journalism, and African Diasporic topics. A Bush Artist and McKnight Writing Fellow, her next novel, *Dream Country*, is about more than five generations of an African descended family, crisscrossing the Atlantic both voluntarily and involuntarily (Dutton, 2018).

Gonzalez, Rosita

Born in Korea, Rosita Gonzalez, MS, is a transracial adoptee. In 2014, she journeyed back to Korea for the first time and helped start the #FlipTheScript movement on Twitter with her Lost Daughters' sisters. Since then, she has not only visited Seoul again, but also took her family and 3 cats to live in Seoul in 2015. She blogs at mothermade.us.

Hagland, Mark

Mark Hagland is an adult transracial and international adoptee, born in South Korea in 1960, and adopted at the age of 8 months into a white American family. Raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, he has lived in Chicago for over three decades, and has been a professional journalist for 35 years. He has participated in 16 KAAAN Conferences, and speaks and writes

widely on transracial adoption subjects. His contributions have been included in several anthologies published by adult transracial adoptees.

Hale, Bevin

Bevin Hale, MEd was adopted from Korea at the age of four months and grew up in the St. Louis (MO) area. In 2006, she traveled to Seoul to attend her first KAAAN conference. Bevin is an elementary school teacher who currently resides in Boston with her husband and two children.

Hathaway, Carolyn

Carolyn Hathaway has supported KAAAN in a variety of ways in the past eight years including audio-visual and website support. She lives near Philadelphia with her husband and two children. Hearing the wide variety of voices and viewpoints at KAAAN has helped make her a better parent and she is pleased to support this group.

Hathaway, Eric

Bio pending.

Haubenhofner, Annie

Annie Haubenhofner's first experiences with makeup came in her later years. While she has always been creative and artistic graduating with BFA's in Art & Design, she never thought makeup would be another part of her creative outlets. Makeup has allowed Annie to reflect on herself personally and has learned that it has changed the way she feels about herself and how any woman can redefine beauty however they see fit. We don't need to follow societal norms and pressure to feel beautiful. Annie uses her skills to help educate and support clients' needs. She started out working at Sephora part time and that sparked her to continue on with educating herself in the cosmetics world and is currently a Cosmetics Consultant/Beauty Educator and Color artist for brands like First Aid Beauty, and BECCA Cosmetics. She has also appeared on Buzzfeed, Marie Claire Magazine, Features on Instagram and Youtube. Her main goal is to leave

her clients feeling like they can translate the looks at home, so she's very passionate about educating the client and empowering them to be able to do things on their own.

Heitzig, Ellen

Ellen Heitzig, MSW, LCSW, was adopted when she was five months old and grew up in central Illinois with her younger sister, also adopted from Korea. She currently serves as KAAAN's co-registrar. Ellen received her master's degree in social work from Washington University in St. Louis and is currently a district social worker. Ellen previously served as the social worker for Sejong Cultural Experience Inc. and traveled on the annual Korea trip each year. In this position, she worked with adolescents and has facilitated biological family reunions.

Jennings, Taneka Hye Wol

Over the past 30+ years, Taneka Hye Wol Jennings, MSW, has sought to develop a deep, rooted understanding of her identity as a Korean adoptee, Asian American, and immigrant. Throughout this journey, she has found healing and fulfillment by investing in organizations that create safe spaces, expand access, and advance equity for these and other historically marginalized groups. Taneka currently serves as Deputy Director for HANA Center, a Chicago-based non-profit that integrates social services and advocacy to advance immigrant justice. She is President of Korean Adoptees of Chicago (KAtCH), a member of the Adoptee Rights Campaign and International Korean Adoptee Associations (IKAA), and a mentor for young transracial adoptees and their families through Connect-A-Kid.

Johnson, Stephen David 정은기

Stephen Johnson is a reunited Korean adoptee, activist, entrepreneur, and long-time contributor and beneficiary of KAAAN. He studied social work at Baylor University and international development at Eastern University's School of Leadership and

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Development. Stephen is also a member of the KAAAN Advisory Council. He and his partner currently live in Austin, Texas.

Kim, Adam

An adopted Korean, Adam Kim, MA, is a graduate student in the psychology department at University of Minnesota. A personality psychologist by training, Adam studies intergroup relations, identity, and transnational adoption all through a cultural lens. Current projects include understanding the predictors of inter-minority solidarity, developing a new way to understand the experience of displacement and migration, and investigating how transnationally adopted individuals think about their birth family and culture.

Kim, Hye-Kyong

Hye-Kyong Kim, Psy.D., L.P., was adopted from Seoul, South Korea in 1975. By day she works as a clinical psychologist at Indian Health Board and by night she writes poetry and prose. Her work can be found in numerous journals (under Hei Kyong Kim or Beth Kyong Lo), anthologies, and media, including: *Outsiders Within*, *Seeds from a Silent Tree*, *Paj Ntaub Voice*, *Journal of Asian American Renaissance*, *How Dare We! Write: A Multicultural Creative Writing Discourse*, *New Truths: Writing in the 21st Century* by Korean Adoptees, *Proceedings of the First International Korean Adoption Studies Research Symposium*, *MoonRoot*, *Adoption Today*, *Parenting as Adoptees*, *Asian American Press*, and *Gazillion Voices*.

Kim, JaeRan

JaeRan Kim, LISW, PhD, is an assistant professor at University of Washington Tacoma. Her research focuses on adoption, race, disability, and the intersections of these three identities. JaeRan has over fifteen years of experience working with foster and adopted children and families and has developed numerous training curricula for child welfare professionals.

Kim, Mee Joo

Mee Joo Kim has worked in non-profit settings and with hundreds of adult Korean adoptees for over a decade in the U.S. and South Korea. She manages the Alumni Connection and discussions for First Trip Home, a program that brings adoptees back to Korea for the first time specifically for the purposes of conducting in-person birth family searches, and currently serves as the Mental Health Services Program Coordinator at Global Overseas Adoptees' Link (GOA'L). Mee Joo and her husband (also an adoptee) reside in Seoul, where they are raising their son.

Koch, Julie Jong

Julie Jong Koch, MSW, LICSW, is a licensed independent clinical social worker and psychotherapist at Watercourse Counseling Center in Minneapolis. She specializes in working with transracial international adoptees, POCI (People of color/Indigenous), those on the LGBTQ spectrum, as well as others who have experienced trauma or marginalization. She integrates her lived experience with professional training and therapeutic skills. Julie received her MSW from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities where she was a Child Welfare Scholar, and has also completed the Permanency and Adoption Competency Certificate through the University of Minnesota's Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare.

Kramer, Mele

Mele Kramer, the founder of 100,000 Kranes for my Mother™, is currently a Doctoral Student studying Industrial and Organizational Psychology at Walden University.

Laybourne, Wendy

At four months of age, Wendy Marie Laybourne was adopted from Korea by a white working-class couple and was raised in Memphis, Tennessee. Growing up in a city haunted by the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., she was acutely aware of the centrality of race in America. Experiences of racial division, racial inequality, and bridge building have

informed her perspective and career. Wendy holds a B.A. in sociology from the University of Memphis, M.A. in sociology from the University of Maryland, and this spring completed her Ph.D. in sociology also at the University of Maryland. Her research focuses on racial and ethnic identity development and the effect of structured cross-racial interaction.

Lee, Heewon

Heewon Lee, B.A., is a genetic counseling graduate student. Since 2014, she has worked in the University of Minnesota's division of gynecologic oncology as a study coordinator and research assistant. Heewon is also the program coordinator for the GOLD study, which surveys a cohort of gynecological cancer survivors to determine risk factors for poor quality of life outcomes.

Lee, Julayne

Julayne Lee, MAEd, is an adopted Korean. She is also a Community Literature Initiative Scholar and a Las Dos Brujas Writers' Workshop alum. She has been published by the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, *Cultural Weekly*, and *Korean Quarterly*. Julayne has read her poetry in California, Minnesota, Boston, and Seoul, South Korea. Her first collection of poetry *Not My White Savior* will be published Spring 2018 by Rare Bird Books. More info at: julaynelee.com.

Lee, Shawyn

Shawyn Lee, PhD, MSW, LGSW, has a background in macro-practice social work that considers the oppressive nature of larger systemic and historical structures and their effects on marginalized communities. As a historical research methodologist, Shawyn's research uses a maternalist ideological framework to examine the origins of Korean adoption. Currently, Shawyn is an assistant professor in the Department of Social Work at the University of Minnesota-Duluth.

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Lieberthal Rho, Joy

Joy Lieberthal Rho, LCSW, is a social worker in private practice from New York. She is a Korean adoptee specializing in working with adolescents and young adults as well as international and domestic adopted people.

Majors, Allen

Allen Majors is a “first wave” adoptee who was adopted in 1961 to a farm in rural Illinois. He has been active in the adoptee community since 2008 and has served on the boards of Korean Adoptees of Chicago (KAtCH) and the Korean Cultural Center (Champaign-Urbana, IL). He believes it is important to use photographs to document the adoptee community around the world and to share his view of Korea through images. Allen is employed as a labor advocate for public education employees.

Margolis, Eva Song

Eva Song Margolis is a Korean American adoptee from Minneapolis, Minnesota. She is a writer, organizer, and advocate for racial and economic justice. Eva has over 17 years of experience in the nonprofit industry working in the fields of community economic development, asset building, workforce development, housing, and youth development. She takes pleasure in connecting people, organizations, resources, and philosophies. As a poet, she sees how the arts can challenge and inspire us to dissect our understanding of the world, to redefine it, and to take charge in transforming it.

McKee, Kimberly

Kimberly McKee, PhD, is the director of the Kutsche Office of Local History and an assistant professor in liberal studies at Grand Valley State University. Her manuscript exploring the transnational adoption industrial complex and international adoptions of South Korean children to the United States is under contract with the University of Illinois Press.

Meyer, Joe

Joe Meyer was born Jeong Minwoo in 1979. At the age of three, he was turned over to the City of Bucheon, Korea after the death of his father. Soon afterwards he and his older brother were adopted in the United States. He was raised in suburban Minnesota with his brother and sister, also a Korean adoptee. In 2012, Joe returned to Korea for the first time and began exploring his own identity and adoption story. Joe’s volunteer work with the adoption community began as a mentor with Connect-A-Kid. Later he became active with Korean Adoptees of Chicago: KAtCH and joined the board in 2016. Joe participated in the Me & Korea Mosaic Tour in 2015 and currently assists Me & Korea with their tour application process.

Morey, Glenn

Glenn Morey is half of a husband/ wife filmmaking team, along with Julie Morey. Glenn was born in Seoul, Korea, in 1960. He was abandoned at less than two weeks old, taken to Seoul City Hall, then to a Holt orphanage. Adopted at the age of six months to the US, he now lives in Denver. He has a 35-year career as a brand leader, entrepreneur, and filmmaker.

Naftzger, Katie Jae

Katie Naftzger, LICSW, has been involved with KAAN for several years. As a Korean adoptee, she maintains a private psychotherapy practice in Newton, Massachusetts, where she works with adoptees through the life cycle and with adoptive parents. Katie is the author of Parenting in the Eye of the Storm: The Adoptive Parent’s Guide to Navigating the Teen Years. In addition, Katie offers school consultation as well as online groups and consultation for adoptive parents.

Newton, Grace

Grace Newton, BA, is a recent graduate from Macalester College and a Chinese adoptee. She has interned for the Minnesota based company Land of Gazillion Adoptees (LGA) and served as

editor for the college section of Gazillion Voices, the first adoptee-led adoption magazine. Grace is a member of The Lost Daughters and is one of the founding members of her alma matter's Transracial/Transnational Adoptee Identity Collective. Grace has spoken on panels at three KAAN Conferences as well as at the University of St. Thomas, Macalester College, the Midwest Asian American Student Union Conference, the Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, and for the Families with Children from Asia - Midwest. When Grace isn't discussing issues of race and adoption in person, she is writing about it online at her blog: redthreadbroken.wordpress.com.

Opperwall, Barb

Barb Opperwall is a Nurse Practitioner with Trillium Palliative Services in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She and her husband are the parents of four adults; two who were adopted as infants from South Korea, one born to them, and one who joined their family through marriage. She is painfully aware of how little she knew about raising trans-racially adopted children well and hopes that what she has learned so far can help other parents. KAAN has been an instrumental resource, and continues to help her realize how much she still has to learn.

Oser, Benjamin Kim

Benjamin Kim Oser, MA, was adopted at three months from Seoul. He has been involved with athletics since the age of five and he has been playing competitive ice hockey since he was eight, which includes collegiate club hockey for NYU. He is currently an educator and leadership administrator for the University of Delaware Athletic Department, as well as the camp director for a Korean culture camp in New Jersey. He is passionate about supporting the adoptee community, specifically relating to confidence building around male adoptee identity.

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Park, Robyn Joy

As a transracial Korean adoptee, Robyn Joy Park 's personal participation in post-adoption services has included teen groups, mentor & mentee programs, living abroad in Korea, navigating birth family search & reunion experiences, and DNA testing. These experiences have deeply influenced and informed much of her professional perspectives. Both locally and globally, Robyn's experience includes working within various in-home, educational, agency, residential and therapeutic settings, providing trainings and workshops, and presenting at conferences. Robyn, MA, MFTI, received her undergraduate degree in Justice and Peace Studies at the University of Saint Thomas and is a graduate of Antioch University where she received her Masters of Arts in Clinical Psychology specializing in both Child Studies and Applied Community Psychology. Her clinical training at agency and school-based settings has served children, adolescents and families, as well as individual and group counseling services that specialized in the core issues surrounding foster care and adoption. Robyn is experienced in the treatment of adoption-related issues, anxiety, depression, grief and loss, trauma, and maternal mental health.

Park Nelson, Kim

Kim Park Nelson, PhD, is an educator, researcher, and associate professor in the American Multicultural Studies program at Minnesota State University, Moorhead. She is the author of *Invisible Asians: Korean American Adoptees, Asian American Experiences and Racial Exceptionalism*, published in 2016 by Rutgers University Press. She received her Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of Minnesota, where she also developed and taught the first college-level course exclusively focused on Korean transnational adoption. In 2007, Park Nelson was the lead organizer of the First International Symposium on Korean Adoption Studies, held in

conjunction with the International Korean Adoptee Associations (IKAA) Gathering of Korean Adoptees in Seoul. She is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Alliance for the Study of Adoption and Culture (ASAC). Her work has appeared in multiple anthologies and scholarly journals. She has been interviewed on the topic of international adoption by Public Radio International and public radio affiliates in Minnesota, Wisconsin and California, and by a variety of local and national publications including the New York Times and the Los Angeles Times. Park Nelson has given many academic and public lectures, including keynotes at the IKAA Gathering and at KAAN in 2017. She currently lives in Minneapolis.

Partain, Amy

Amy Partain is mom to a 12-year-old son adopted from Korea. Listening to and learning from adult adoptees since beginning their family's adoption journey in 2006 has changed Amy's worldview and life in ways she never imagined. She presented at KAAN in both 2016 and 2017 and blogs about her experiences with Korean language, culture and cuisine at thekoreanway.wordpress.com. Thankful for those who have shared their experiences, Amy is excited to support them as she begins serving on KAAN's Advisory Council.

Pate, SooJin

SooJin Pate, PhD, is a writer and educator who is dedicated to praxis that centers the lives and experiences of historically marginalized peoples. Since receiving her Ph.D. in American Studies, she has taught courses on self-care, critical race theory, women of color feminism, and U.S. history and literature at various colleges and universities in the Twin Cities. She is the author of *From Orphan to Adoptee: U.S. Empire and Genealogies of Korean Adoption* (University of Minnesota Press, 2014) and *Motherloss: A Memoir* (forthcoming). Her writings on self-care, self-love, African American literature, and Korean adoptee film

and literature have appeared in various journals and edited volumes.

Pine, Shaaren

Shaaren Pine is an Indian transracial adoptee, activist, mother, crafter, educator, author, and writer. You can find some of her work in *The Washington Post*, *Upworthy*, and *Masala Mommas*. She is involved with various adoptee organizations (Lost Sarees, Adoptions Links, DC, and the Adoptee Rights Campaign). She has lived in Washington, DC, since 1997.

Raleigh, Elizabeth

Liz Raleigh, PhD, is an assistant professor of sociology at Carleton College who teaches courses on race, the family, and adoption. Her work examines the ways in which adoption practitioners market the idea of transracial adoption to prospective parents and the implications for adoptive families. She is the author of *Selling Transracial Adoption: Families, Markets, and the Color Line* (Temple University Press 2017).

Rinearson, James

James Rinearson recently received his B.A. in sculpture from Guilford College. Adopted at three months, he was raised in Montclair, NJ, with two other Korean adoptees, James being the middle child. He currently works as a museum exhibit expert at a local business in Springfield, NJ. He has been involved with a Korean culture camp since he was six years old and enjoys being a counselor to the next generation.

Rupright, Rachel Hye Youn

Rachel Hye Youn Rupright is a Korean adoptee raised near Binghamton, New York. She currently serves as one of KAAN's registrars and is a member of KAAN's Advisory Council. She lives and works in Albany, New York.

Sadlovsky, Merrily Young-Hye

As a Korean adoptee and mental health professional, Merrily Young-Hye Sadlovsky, MSW, LICSW, is focused on solutions to address the unique needs of transracial/

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transnational adoptees. She completed her Master of Social Work degree at the University of Michigan. She's licensed as a clinical social worker in California and Minnesota, and her more than 10 years of experience includes private practice, large public organizations, and community child welfare/mental health agencies. She started Adoptee Connections in Minneapolis, which offers services for adoptees and post-adoption professionals.

Schroeder, Stacy

Stacy Schroeder is the president and executive director of KAAN. Most of her career has been in leadership and event planning for nonprofits. She also co-authored a book and looks forward to a time that allows for more writing and creative pursuits. For now, she is proud to use her skills to support KAAN.

Sharp, Eric

Eric Sharp is a Korean adoptee actor, playwright, producer, and teaching artist based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Recent performance credits include Mu Performing Arts (Two Mile Hollow, Charles Francis Chan, Immigrant Journey Project, Twelfth Night), Ten Thousand Things (Fiddler on the Roof), and Children's Theatre Co. (The Jungle Book). Other credits include Atlanta's Alliance Theatre, Theatre de la Jeune Lune, Walking Shadow, Frank Theatre, Playwrights' Center, and the Edinburgh and Toronto Fringe Festivals. In addition to his stage work, Eric appears regularly in commercials, voiceovers, and small films you have never seen. More info at: WorkSharp.org.

Sheppard, Nicole K.

Nicole K. Sheppard, M.A., is a mindfulness-based mental health therapist based in the Twin Cities. She works at Mental Health Systems (MHS), specializing in Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT). Since 2016, she has also worked with the Korean Adoptees Ministry (KAM) Center as project manager of a Minnesota Department of Health-funded mental health and suicide assessment of the adult Korean

adoptee community. Nicole grew up in Minneapolis and lived in Seoul, Korea (2002-2010), where she was a leader in global Korean adoptee community development and advocacy at Global Overseas Adoptees' Link (GOA'L) as the vice secretary general and annual summer conference director. Currently, she is completing the Permanency and Adoption Competency Certificate (PACC) Training at the University of Minnesota.

Solomon Fett, Kalkidan

Kalkidan Solomon Fett is an Ethiopian adoptee, currently living in Madison, Wisconsin. She is pursuing her undergraduate degree in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with the aim to advocate for the mental health and well-being of adoptees. She served as a roundtable member on Ezibota, an online platform for members of the African diaspora, bringing her unique perspective as an adoptee. She was also a recent adoptee panelist at the Ethiopian Adoptee Kids Camp (EAKC). Kalkidan also served as a roundtable facilitator at a conference on Language Education Policy and Identities and Inclusion hosted at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Stanley, Michael

Michael is a professional financial advisor and KAAN's treasurer. He splits his time between New York City and Philadelphia.

Switzer, Suzanne

Suzanne Switzer, MS, has been involved with the adoption community since her pre-teens and part of the KAAN family since 2008. She grew up in Denver, Colorado, and made her first trip back to South Korea at age seven. Multiple trips back have followed. Suzanne has been in reunion with her biological family for 19 years. Suzanne is an avid speaker and participant at a variety of national adoption and adoptee conferences, culture camps, and transracial parenting groups. Suzanne recently returned from living in South Korea for four years. Currently, Suzanne is the Program

Director for Parker Personal Care Homes, a company that assists families and children with developmental disabilities. She also has an extensive background working in child welfare and the foster care system.

Townsend, Midnite

Midnite Townsend is a Korean adoptee, professional dancer, aerialist, and fitness instructor. She was awarded Queen of Burlesque in 2014 by the Burlesque Hall of Fame in Las Vegas and performs and teaches self-worth and wellness through movement all over the world. Currently she lives in Chicago where she teaches dance, barre, pole, pilates & HIIT classes and performs weekly. Connect with Midnite at facebook.com/midnitemartiniburlesque or facebook.com/movewithmidnite.

Tulimieri, Kat

Katherine "Kat" Tulimieri, is a Korean-American adoptee born in 1986 and adopted at the age of three. She grew up on Staten Island, N.Y. with her parents and two older biological brothers to her parents. In 2010, Kat had the opportunity to visit Korea through her adoption agency, Spence Chapin. From that experience, Kat has leveraged those lifelong friendships and desire to reconnect with Korean culture and heritage. Later on, through her adoptee network, she was asked to join the Sejong Camp family, based in northern New Jersey. In her responsibilities with camp, she leads and executes all of the programming initiatives for camp participants. In addition, her leadership and attitude bring an invaluable energy to camp and ability to mentor - both campers and staff. She is currently in a graduate program at Towson University, studying criminology and forensics. This will be her first time attending KAAN and she is excited to expand her network and learn more about the work being forged within the adoptee community.

***Subject to change without notice. Final details will be distributed onsite at the conference.

Walker, Tynishia

Tynishia Walker is a queer, multiracial-black, transracially adopted social justice educator working for King County's Office of Equity and Social Justice. She uses her background in social work and experience in advocating for LGBTQ+ rights and inclusion to support King County's work of leading with racial justice. She hopes to one day work at the intersection of adoption and identity development focused on racial, sexuality, and gender identities.

Williams, Mariette

Mariette Williams (@mariettewrites), MS, is a transracial adoptee born in Jeremie, Haiti. She was adopted at the age of three and grew up near

Vancouver, B.C., Canada. In July of 2015, she reunited with her birth mother and several members of her birth family. She lives in South Florida with her husband and two children. In addition to being a Journalism and literature teacher, she is a published author and supporter of international adoption reform.

Yost, Alyson

Alyson Yost was adopted at four months old from Busan, South Korea. She returned to Korea with GOA'L's First Trip Home in 2010. This is Alyson's 8th KAAN Conference. She is a Registered Nurse at Penn State Hershey where she has worked for the past 11 years.

Alyson resides in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, with her family.

Zielaskowski, Becca

Becca Zielaskowski lives in the Bronx and is married to a Korean adoptee. This is her third KAAN conference.

Zielaskowski, Kate

Kate Zielaskowski is an adult adoptee who was adopted from Seoul as an infant. She earned master's degrees in social psychology and experimental psychology and is currently a Data Analyst at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York. She lives in the Bronx with her wife and two dogs.