

AUTUMN 2016

## Barker's 70th Anniversary – An Evening to Remember, A Legacy to Celebrate

On March 5, The Barker Adoption Foundation celebrated its 70th Anniversary at a Benefit Gala at the beautiful National Museum of Women in the Arts. Over 340 friends and family members, Barker trustees and

staff, gala committee members and a host of volunteers, birth parents and parents who have adopted, those who were adopted and those who have supported their adoptions, sponsors and donors, and many others spanning several generations gathered to celebrate Barker's

70-year legacy of providing lifelong adoption services to all members of the adoption community.

The Gala team, co-chaired by Rachel Firschein, Maureen Golden, and Mary Jaffe, who previously headed up Barker's 65th Anniversary event, worked tirelessly for months to create a memorable evening held amidst the

artwork of the museum's galleries and the grandeur of its Great Hall. Guests were first welcomed to enjoy cocktails and live music by a youthful and talented string ensemble coached by a Barker dad, James Hutchens. Surrounded by stunning artwork, the guests were then invited to bid on 112 unique silent auction items and to try their luck on winning 60 bottles of wine in the Mystery Wine Pull, a new and popular addition to the auction. Special thanks go to veteran auction volunteers Barb Dellinger, Susan Goldberg, and Maureen Golden for co-chairing the event's successful silent auction. Proceeds from the auction, along with generous donations from gala sponsors under the leadership of Rob DeLucia, plus an outpouring of contributions from guests during the end of the evening appeal, all combined to generate critical revenues to help ensure that Barker flourishes for generations to come.

Guests then settled in at tables artfully decorated by Jean Diamond's talented team of

volunteers for a delicious, multi-course dinner catered by Federal City Caterers. The program began with a warm welcome from Steve Inskeep, host of NPR's Morning Edition – and father of three, one of whom joined the family by adoption through Barker – who graciously served as the evening's Master of Ceremonies. Barker Board of Trustees Chair John Freeman joined Steve in welcoming everyone. Next up was featured guest speaker Jelani Freeman, Barker Trustee since 2005 and powerful advocate for children and youth, whose poignant story of being placed in the foster care system at age 9, experiencing multiple foster homes, shelters, and facilities before aging out of the system at age 18, was a powerful testimony to the critical work of serving children of all ages in need of loving homes through programs like Barker's own Project Wait No Longer.

Barker Executive Director and CEO Marilyn Regier shared her special insights into Barker's rich *continued on page 2*



Gala Tri-Chairs, left to right:  
Mary Jaffe, Rachel Firschein,  
Maureen Golden

Celebrating at the end of a  
fabulous evening, left to right:  
Allan Holt, Amy Harris,  
Shelley Holt, Marilyn Regier,  
John Harris.





## FROM THE *Executive Director and CEO*

During the aftermath of the flood in Barker's suite, I kept close at hand a most relevant

book, psychiatrist Norman Rosenthal's provocative *The Gift of Adversity: The Unexpected Benefits of Life's Difficulties, Setbacks, and Imperfections*. He believes that many of life's most important lessons come not during times of smooth sailing but when we must navigate the rivers of adversity. (I find myself using water imagery a lot lately, having just emerged from almost a year of surviving the flood at Barker.)

On the cusp of our Annual Fund drive and our 70th Anniversary gala, we gathered one Sunday morning, breathing in the fetid air from the water-soaked office, determined to handle this emergency. We were able to initiate a complex restoration plan that included moving for the next eight months to much smaller quarters on the seventh floor

Many of you have called or written over the past months, asking what else you can do to help. In the next few weeks, I will be sending a letter to the Barker community about this subject, but for now, I simply want to express deepest

gratitude to the Board of Trustees, the staff, various community organizations who came to our aid, and to so many of you in the "Barker family." After many long months, we are finally "back home." And as I wrote in our Annual Report, "Resilience to overcome the unexpected is nothing new to an agency founded in 1945." Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

*Marilyn Regier*

### Barker's 70th Anniversary – An Evening to Remember, A Legacy to Celebrate

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history of 70 years of carrying out its core belief that all children deserve safe, loving, and permanent homes and its ongoing support for all those in the adoption community whose lives have been touched by adoption – a legacy which remains strong and vital today. Marilyn then introduced special guest speakers

Ebony Russ, Caleb Brenner, Suzi Bass, and Marc Regier, all Barker adoptees of varying ages who shared their unique and compelling stories about how Barker helped create their families. The Great Hall fell silent with rapt attention as each related his or her poignant story. Their testimonies about Barker's

impact on their lives over the years was the perfect lead in to the much-loved and highly-anticipated Barker family video slideshow "A Lasting Legacy," beautifully created and produced by Barker parents Larry Asbell and Chris Intagliata.

The evening's festivities came to a close with words of appreciation

from Steve Inskeep, John Freeman, and the Gala co-chairs as guests collected their auction items and bid heartfelt farewells to friends and families alike. Warmest thanks to everyone who participated in making Barker's 70th Anniversary Benefit Gala an evening to remember and a legacy to cherish. ■



Above: Master of Ceremonies Steve Inskeep and his wife Carolee enjoyed the silent auction before the program began.



At Right: Barker Board Trustee, Jelani Freeman, was the featured speaker at our Gala and gave a riveting and moving speech.



Rob DeLucia of the Gala Planning Committee enjoys the evening with wife Barbara and daughter Courtney.

# Fourth Annual “Barker Goes Nats!” Event

The Barker Adoption Foundation’s annual summer tradition just keeps getting better and better! Ten party suites were filled with 320 people from the Barker community on a beautiful day at National’s stadium, June 5,

2016, to watch the Nats battle the Philadelphia Phillies. It came down to the last pitch in the 9th inning for Jason Werth and the Nationals to pull out a momentous one-run win over the Phillies. The crowd went wild, and Barker fans remained and

celebrated in the suites long after the game ended.

Once again, The Barker Adoption Foundation was awarded the National’s “Spirit Award” in recognition of our commitment to outstanding adoption services throughout the Washington, DC area. The crowd cheered loudly as Barker’s name was featured in bright letters on the Jumbotron, and the bright smiles and cheerful waves of Barker’s honored guests appeared on the field. The honored guests included Celeste and Davide Bertuzzi and their dad, Stefano; Hope Dennis and her grandfather, Patrick McKeever; Tenley Abernathy and her mother, Lorna; and Marilyn Regier with daughter, Jackie Costa and grandchildren, Michael and Maddie.

Following the game, Board of Trustees member, Gary Rappaport escorted Barker’s youngest community members down to the field

to run the bases. They ran with tremendous energy and enthusiasm despite the warm temperature. Judging from the looks of it, we might have a few future Nats within the Barker community!

Thanks to the generosity of 34 corporate and individual sponsors, this fourth annual event raised over \$70,000 to provide vital support for Barker’s operational costs and programs, including pregnancy counseling, older child foster youth adoption, domestic and international adoption and post-adoption services. This annual tradition is Barker’s largest fundraising event of the year and we are grateful for the exceptional leadership of the sponsors and families who supported it.

We look forward to seeing many of you at next year’s Barker Goes Nats event. Stay tuned for dates and information about sponsorship and ticket purchases. ■



# Barker’s Annual Meeting

Barker’s Annual Meeting was held May 17, 2016, and because Barker’s office was still undergoing renovations post-flood, we met in the hall of the beautiful Edgemoor Club. New Officers were elected, new Trustees Benjamin Murray and Amy Sturdevant introduced themselves to the crowd, and the seldom-heard male perspective in adoption received center stage via a lively and sometimes poignant

panel. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of The Richard B. Barker Award to Kathy Bucher. Gary Diamond, Board Secretary, read the tribute: *“The Richard B. Barker Award presented to Kathryn Bucher in deep appreciation of her keen legal mind and greatness of heart; her sustained, inclusive, and perceptive leadership for over a decade; and her unshakable integrity.”* ■



Above: John Freeman, Chair of the Board of Trustees, congratulates Kathy Bucher, recipient of The Richard B. Barker Award.

At left: Marilyn Regier facilitates a panel on “The Male Perspective in Adoption.” Left to right, Edison Greenberg, Adrian Washington, Greg Woodford, Darryl Green, Marvin Lynch.

# Barker Hosts Beth Hall of Pact

On Thursday, October 13, The Barker Adoption Foundation was pleased to host Beth Hall, a nationally recognized expert and author on transracial adoption,

and the co-founder of Pact, An Adoption Alliance, at a presentation for adoptive parents. Pact is a California-based organization dedicated to serving the needs

of adopted children of color and their families on issues of adoption and race. Beth, a past speaker at Barker's Annual Conference, gave her presentation to a "full-house" of adoptive parents focused on promoting a race-conscious, child-centered, and honesty-based approach to adoption, and on promoting healthy identity in adopted children of color.

For the past fifteen years Pact has operated a highly successful family camp every year in California where adopted children (infants up to 18 year olds) and their families, have the opportunity to share experiences and build community, while learning from experts and each other. The camp includes specific

workshops and programs for adopted children and teens, adoptive parents, siblings (who were not adopted) and birth parents. Camp participants have described the camp experience as "transformative" and very meaningful to their families, and many families return year after year.

Next summer Pact will hold its first ever East Coast camp, which will take place at the Pearlstone Conference Center, outside of Baltimore, from July 31–August 4, 2017. This is a wonderful opportunity for local families to be able to access this beneficial program. To learn more about the camp please visit the Pact website at [www.Pactadoption.org](http://www.Pactadoption.org). ■



# Barker's Annual Adoption and Foster Care Conference Announced

Barker's 23rd Annual Adoption and Foster Care Conference will be held on Saturday, March 25, at The Universities at Shady Grove Conference Center. The conference is entitled: "My Family is My Family: From Ambivalence to Acceptance." Ashley Rhodes-Courter will be the Keynote Speaker, inspiring us on the themes of the day.

Ashley was born in 1985 to a single teen mother. By the age of three, Ashley was in Florida's foster care system, where she spent almost ten years being shuttled between 14 homes before being adopted at the age of 12. Her academic achievements are numerous, including a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Southern California.

In 2003 the *New York Times Magazine* published a prize-winning essay she wrote about her adoption day. Ashley expanded the essay into a memoir, *Three Little Words*, which was published by Simon & Schuster in 2008



Ashley Rhodes-Courter

and quickly became a *New York Times* bestseller, then an international bestseller. Her memoir is currently being made into a major motion picture.

How did she arrive at the title? "On my adoption day, I was sullen and wary, so when the judge asked if I wanted to be adopted, I mumbled, 'I guess so,'" capturing the ambivalence that is part of our provocative conference theme.



Tara Linh Leaman

In 2016 she wrote a sequel, *Three More Words*. Ashley is now married. She has fostered children, adopted children, and birthed children. Her awards are numerous.

Another distinguished speaker will be **Tara Linh Leaman, JD**. She currently serves as Program Director of Westchester County Department of Social Services "Westchester Building Futures," a multi-year initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau that assists children, youth, and young adults in foster care and/or alumni of care. As an alumna of international foster care and an experienced transethnic adoptee, Tara knows well the joys of transforming adversity to resilience. She is a graduate of Cornell University and Georgetown Law School. Please mark the date – March 25 – and come to be deeply challenged and inspired. ■

Like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ethicaladoption](http://www.facebook.com/ethicaladoption)

Barker's Facebook page is a great way to learn about upcoming events, read stories about adoption and see pictures of members of the Barker community.

# The 2016 Colombia Homeland Tour: A Most Memorable Travel Experience

By Kathleen Neville, Ph.D., R.N.

In June, the Barker Adoption Foundation's Colombia Homeland Tour group returned home from our fabulous trip to Bogota, Colombia. The Tour was composed of 29 individuals made up of 7 families from Connecticut, New York, Maryland and New Jersey with children ranging from school aged to young adults. While we have settled back into our daily lives, I am certain that each of us continues to embrace a special fondness and appreciation of our experiences while visiting our children's homeland.

My son Michael was born in Bogota 25 years ago. I always wanted to return and show him his country of origin, and this became the right year for our trip. Bogota was now very safe, my summer teaching schedule was lighter than usual, and Michael was ready and eager to explore Colombia.

Travel arrangements for the Colombian Homeland Tour could not have gone smoother. And on June 20th, we arrived at the modern Bogota International airport, and immediately I saw a transformed city from what I remembered from 1991. Delightfully, the first faces we saw after immigration were the Barker Team, Sue Hollar, Carolina Kenrick, and Barbara Donesky. What I was unaware of at that time was not only were they excellent travel guides, each with distinctly delightful personalities, but that I would glean so much knowledge from each of them about adoption.

After meeting everyone from the group the next morning at breakfast, we set out for FANA (Fundacion para la Asistencia de la Ninez Abandonada) led by Maria Teresa de Perez, the 4th member of Barker's team. Throughout the trip she graciously shared her knowledge about all aspects of Colombia. Upon our arrival, we toured the expansive building and grounds, where the children appeared playful, happy and so very well cared for. FANA was immaculate,



Participants of the Colombia Homeland Tour prepared lovely baskets of gifts for the women living at the Hogar Margarita at FANA.

and innovative programs for both orphans and daycare preschoolers were evident. Visiting FANA was emotional, and I truly felt that I was experiencing *déjà vu*. I'm a nurse; accustomed to being strong, stoic, and in control of my emotions, but I was moved, especially when I saw the original gold tree of life where Michael was presented to us by FANA's Founder, Mercedes Rosario de Martinez.

As I passed a beautiful portrait of Mercedes, I reflected on how truly amazing she was, changing life courses for thousands of children and families. During our visits 25 years ago, I was consumed with the process of adopting Michael and bringing him home. Now this visit, I marveled in complete admiration that one woman could initiate this tremendous humanitarian action, advancing and expanding FANA year after year; such that at present, approximately 13,000 children have been adopted into families across the globe.

While at FANA we were greeted and well cared for by Elena Martinez, Director, and Maria Lucia Martinez, Director of the Hogar Margarita (FANA's home for birth

mothers), who are daughters of Mercedes and who are continuing their mother's legacy and life work. Additionally, Maria Teresa Maldonado, FANA Administrative Director, sensitively shared available information, contingent on the child's age, with each of the families on the tour

From day one of the trip, there was a highly visible connection among all those our group. A bond was formed and the adopted youth shared a commonality that perhaps they had not experienced previously. I marveled at how Michael blossomed on this trip; normally quiet and introverted, he was outgoing, social, and fully engaged in all aspects of FANA and Colombian life. I quite frankly had never seen him so happy!

On day two, our group prepared beautiful baskets with cosmetics, toiletries, scarves, journals, and other items for women living at the Hogar Margarita. This experience as well as the opportunity to meet with Maria Lucia provided us with a realistic understanding of the challenging life circumstances faced by pregnant women considering adoption. Finally, our afternoon at FANA

was spent playing outside with the children and included parachute play, face painting, bubble blowing, and lively soccer games. Both the children at FANA and our children had a marvelous time together, displaying an overt connection with each other.

The trip was a blend of experiences. While visiting FANA was intense and highly emotional, many aspects of the trip were educational, insightful, fun, exciting, and still very relaxing. For instance, we ate empanadas while watching an intense Chilean vs. Colombian soccer game. We also visited historical and cultural landmarks, toured the Presidential Palace, *Casa Narino*, and enjoyed a walking tour of La Candelaria. Visits to the Nemocon Salt Mine, the Gold Museum, the Botero Museum, and the Colon Theater kept us busy and facilitated a comprehensive tour of the best of Bogota. Some of my personal favorites were the times spent at Monserrat, where tremendous heights provided a panoramic view of the entire city; shopping at a flea market in Usaquen with every imaginable artifact, and the

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## The 2016 Colombia Homeland Tour

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unforgettable visit to the coffee distributor, where we learned about quality coffee in a fun – filled environment.

Our days at FANA were very emotional, and throughout the trip, there was much to process. Fortunately, at night, we had group sessions (parents and children separately) to explore our feelings and responses to what I term our adoption immersion. As our trip was ending, I saw that many of our children did not want to leave. They bonded with each other and experienced a life event that was unique to them, and perhaps facilitated an understanding about themselves that could not be grasped outside of Colombia. Although I believed myself to be educated about adoption, I realized on this trip that I had much to learn, much to ponder, and that I would continue to process

the information I gained on this trip over time. I also know that this trip brought my son and I much closer together. I am more empathic and open to the issues of adoption, considerate of all views, more cognizant of the importance of culture and genetics, and hopefully more supportive of his life desires, whatever they may be. Perhaps it is really true that you can't determine your future until you know your past. Returning to Colombia was an enchanting experience and I believe essential for further growth and development, not just for the children of FANA, but for the parents as well.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank the Barker Adoption Foundation for their compassion, expertise and guided support on this most memorable journey. It was a trip of a lifetime! ■

## CONNECT, Project Wait No Longer's Mentorship Program Launches

On July 14, 2016, Project Wait No Longer conducted its first official Mentor Training for the new Mentorship Program, CONNECT. The CONNECT Mentor Program is designed to pair adult mentors who have an adoption or foster care history with youth who have been recently placed for adoption through the PWNL program. Spending time with a mentor allows adopted youth to share and process with someone who shares their experience and helps to foster meaningful relationships within the community.

Mentorship is a contributing factor to the success of countless youth. Youth with mentors have been shown to be 55% more likely to enroll in college, 78% more likely to volunteer regularly, and 130% more likely to hold leadership positions. Mentors through the CONNECT Program provide an

opportunity for adopted youth to learn, grow, and share in a positive and nurturing relationship.

Currently, the CONNECT Program has two mentors who are trained and ready to meet the needs of adoptees in PWNL and are



excited to mentor youth with whom they have a close experiential connection. Several others are almost trained and ready to join the team. Mentors are set to begin working with their mentees by year's end.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a mentor with CONNECT, contact Alex Williams, Outreach and Program Support Specialist, Project Wait No Longer at [awilliams@barkerfoundation.org](mailto:awilliams@barkerfoundation.org). ■

## - With Sympathy -

*We express our heartfelt sympathy to families who mourn the loss of their loved ones.*

**Flor Angela Rojas Ferro**, beloved Social Worker at FANA in Colombia, on March 13, 2016, at the age of 76. Many Barker families have fond memories of time spent with Flor, especially on the Homeland Tours.

**Patricia Ann McKeever**, of Grosse Pointe, Michigan, on March 16 at the age of 76. Beloved wife of Patrick McKeever, mother of Barker Board member Megan (Vincent) Dennis, and grandmother to their children John Patrick ("Jack") and Hope, she is also survived by three other adult children as well as eight other grandchildren.

**Theresa Porter**, of Potomac, Maryland, beloved mother of Barker receptionist and office manager, Kathleen Porter, on July 6 at the age of 78. Predeceased by her husband, William, Theresa frequently volunteered at Barker and always had a smile for everyone. In addition to Kathleen, survivors include three other adult children, eight grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

**Eleanor Pocius Merrill** of Arnold, Maryland, on July 15 at the age of 82. Predeceased by her husband, Philip, Eleanor ("Ellie") is survived by her children Douglas, Cathy, Nancy, and their families, including four grandsons. She touched so many spheres of her world, including theater, journalism, philanthropy. The October 2016 *Washingtonian* included a moving tribute to Ellie written by her son, Doug, who pledged with his sisters to continue "producing the best city magazine in the country."

**Lawrence B. Smith** of Silver Spring, Maryland, on August 11 at the age of 65. Larry, a social worker who was beloved by many Barker parents and children, was a recognized leader in the field of attachment disorder, had a private practice, and had spoken at Barker conferences and workshops.

**Arturo Martinez Gomez**, in Bogota, Colombia, on October 15 at the age of 79. Together with his wife Mercedes, they devoted their life to FANA, through which so many Barker children found permanent families. Arturo was predeceased by Mercedes (May 2012) and is survived by daughters Maria Lucia and Elena (Cesar) and four granddaughters.

**June E. Henry**, of Lake Wylie, South Carolina, on October 15 at the age of 85. June was the cherished mother of Barker's Director of Finance & Administration, Susan Baker. June is survived by her loving husband of 63 years, Charles; her son David; daughter Susan Baker (Garry), and their three children, Matthew, Alison (Tommy) and Brian.

# 2016 Barker Phonathon a Success

Our 2016 Phonathon on September 28th, 29th and October 6th was a tremendous success, reports Lori Hoffmaster, Director of Development: "I am happy to report that we raised over \$122,000 in gifts and pledges!" These outstanding results were made possible by the following Barker parents who gave of their time and talent to serve as callers:

Nicole Adams, Rick Brenner, Jeff Chenoweth, Dennis Corbett, Rob DeLucia, Roger DeLucia, Gary Diamond, Joseph Firschein, John Freeman, Lynette Grenier, Dan Himelfarb, Shelley Holt, Les Jacobs, Paul Liquorie, Howard Menditch, Benjamin Murray, David O'Bryon, Priscilla Peterson, Darrel Regier, Veda Russ, Judy Sagall, Betsy Biben-Seligman, Amy Sturtevant, Roberta

Ujakovich, Adrian Washington, George Wolohojian, Chris Young.

Our sincerest thanks to all of our volunteer callers for their remarkable success! A very special thank you to George Wolohojian who volunteered all three nights to help Barker raise critical operating funds. We also thank parent coordinators Roger DeLucia and Chris Young, as well as Tom and Charlene Merkel

of Bradley Food and Beverage. Please visit our Facebook page to view photos of the evenings, and to learn more ways of supporting Barker throughout the year. We are grateful to all of you for your dedicated support that enables us to continue providing ethical adoption services throughout Washington, DC, Maryland and Virginia. ■

## Making the Best of a Bad Hand

I was the student that didn't get to go to second, third or fourth grade. I was the 5th grader placed into my little sister's second grade ESOL reading class because I didn't learn the basic skills as a child. I was the student forced to repeat 5th grade three times because I was led to believe I was stupid.

Even throughout high school I dreaded the thought of going to class and feeling like a failure compared to other students. While

other students mainly focused on academics, due to my health challenges, my main focus was on getting through a number of surgeries and getting better. I never had the opportunity to focus on my education and be "smart." Needless to say, I was dealt a very 'crappy hand' in the game of life. But it wasn't until I started to play the crappy hand I was dealt that I started to succeed. I started using the resources around me to better

myself, such as seeing a psychiatrist and getting accommodations set up through the school to help even out the playing field.

Ultimately, I was able to get through high school and apply to college. Even though I didn't get accepted into my first or second choice, I did get in! I am currently an uprising sophomore at my University and serve as the Co-President of the Honors Academy with a 3.84 GPA. Still

today, every time I walk into class I feel a tightness in my chest and the sudden urge to just walk out. I still feel like I am not as intelligent as the other students, but I push through it and play my cards day by day and hope and pray for the rest.

At the end of the day, playing your crappy hand is better than not playing at all and losing without even getting the chance to try. ■

– T. Rhodes, *College Sophomore, Adopted through PWNL*

## Congratulations to Our New Arrivals

Carl and Laurie welcomed Nevaeh  
Carrie and Roberta welcomed Triston  
Gary and Shannon welcomed Chiara, Zuri,  
Kingston and Stephen  
Greg welcomed Brannon  
Akisha and Stephen welcomed Princess  
Thorsten & Martina welcomed Mica  
Stacey welcomed Whit  
Heather welcomed Audrey  
Kevin & Christine welcomed Matthew  
Sara & Nicole welcomed Mason  
Philip & Devin welcomed Frank  
B.J. & Rachel welcomed Jacob  
Isaac & Andrea welcomed Eliana  
Brian & Margaret welcomed Baylor  
Matt & Heidi welcomed Ailee  
Chris & Jon welcomed Beau

Rob & Jennifer welcomed Nathan  
Alfred & Daniel welcomed Grace  
Chris & Gina welcomed Ruby and Violet  
Willie & Jade welcomed Mariella  
Jim & Amanda welcomed Addison  
David & Sara welcomed Veronica  
Brian & Michelle welcomed Jackson  
Jurrien & Amanda welcomed Victoria  
Bill & Angie welcomed Aaron  
Dean & Elizabeth welcomed Samuel  
Erik and Lynn welcomed Li  
Charles and Bicky welcomed Evan  
Norm and Kara welcomed Ethan  
Evan and Jennifer welcomed Simon  
Steve and Patti welcomed Mary  
Steve and Eileen welcomed May  
Janet welcomed Sylvie  
Rob and Kim welcomed Jacob

Maria welcomed Samuel  
Gabriel and Patricia welcomed Juan and Sara  
Tayo and Tracy welcomed Evelin and Davith  
Rajiv and Komal welcomed Samrudhi  
Ryan and Aparna welcomed Kailash  
Sergio and Allison welcomed William  
Anuragh and Sapna welcomed Prabhu  
Steve and Isharat welcomed Dulari  
Nathan and Theresa welcomed Jayu  
Steven and Nora welcomed Audrey  
Mike and Jennifer welcomed Jack  
Mike and Julia welcomed Roman  
Thomas and EunHwa welcomed Jina  
Dave and Rachel welcomed Zachary  
Mike and Jenny welcomed Jae  
Kyle and Rachele welcomed Ansel  
Brian and Monica welcomed Madeline

# Save the Date

**Parent Workshop: Navigating Contact with Birth Families** – February 15th, 7:00 PM, Maryland office

**Book Discussion: “Three More Words” by Ashley Rhodes-Courter** – March 15th, 7:00 PM, Maryland office

**Annual Adoption & Foster Care Conference** – March 25, 8:15 AM to 4:30 PM, The Universities at Shady Grove Conference Center, Rockville

**Parent Workshop: Advocating For Your Child’s Special Educational Needs** – April 5th, 7:00 PM, Maryland office

**Spring Kids’ Groups for 1st–5th Graders** – April 29th and May 6th, Virginia office, Interested families should contact Varda Makovsky at vmakovsky@barkerfoundation.org

**Annual Meeting** – May 16, 2017, 7:00 PM, Maryland office

**Parent Workshop: Telling the Adoption Story in the Early Years** – May 23rd, 7:00 PM, Maryland office

**2017 Colombia Homeland Tour** – July 3–11, Interested families should contact Sue Hollar at shollar@barkerfoundation.org

## Ongoing Events

**Parents of Adopted Adolescents and High School Aged Teens** – 1st Tuesday of month, 7:00 PM, Maryland office

**Adoptive Parents in Domestic Adoption** – 1st Thursday of month, 7:00 PM, Maryland office

**Parents of Adopted Young Adults Support Group** – 2nd Tuesday of month, 7:00 PM, Maryland office

**Parents Who Adopted Older Children** – 2nd Wednesday of month, 6:30 PM, Maryland office

**Birth Parent Discussion Group** – 2nd Thursday of month, 7:00 PM, Maryland office

**Adopted Persons’ Discussion Group** – 3rd Thursday of month, 7:00 PM, Maryland office

Barker accepts donations made through CFC (38308) and United Way of Central Maryland (2542). Please send a copy of your completed pledge form to Barker’s MD office, so that we can recognize your gift. Thank you!

THE  
**BARKER**  
ADOPTION  
FOUNDATION SINCE 1945

7979 Old Georgetown Road  
First Floor  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
301-664-9664  
www.barkeradoptionfoundation.org

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