Greetings to all!

Before all the good news, condolences to EMILY HIPCHEN, our treasurer and editor of our journal *Adoption & Culture*, current executive committee member and former co-chair, on the sudden accidental death, on April 15, of her husband of 14 years, CHUCK BOWIE. Many of us remember Chuck, who came to several of our conferences and helped with instructional technology and good humor. He is much missed.

**Our Next Conference**

Villanova University is interested in hosting our next conference and is actively pursuing funding in addition to seeking partners in the Philadelphia area. If it is at Villanova, it will be the weekend of October 15, 2016, on the theme of Adoption, Ethics, and Culture. SARAH-VAUGHAN BRAKMAN, Philosophy/Villanova, and MARIANNE NOVY, English/Pittsburgh, will be co-chairs of the conference planning committee.

**Our MLA Session**

For the Modern Language Association convention, in Austin, Texas, January 7-10, 2016, JENNY WILLS, U. of Winnipeg, has arranged a panel on Comparative Approaches to Adoption for our guaranteed session. The date and time of our session will be announced by the MLA in July. The papers are as follows:

DEANNA STOVER, Texas A&M University
“Gold Slippers and Cyborg Feet: Comparing Adopted Bodies in the Grimms’ *Cinderella* and Marissa Meyer’s *Cinder*”

TRACEY-LYNN COUGH, University of Texas (Arlington)
“No Longer Silent in ‘a white man’s world’: Documenting the Legacy of the Indian Adoption Project in Lost Sparrow and Reclaiming Our Children”

PAMELA KIRKPATRICK, University of Arkansas (Fayetteville)
“Transracial Adoption in Jacqueline Woodson's *Feathers* and Jerry Spinelli's *Maniac Magee*”

JOSHUA WHITEHEAD, University of Calgary
“Transracial adoption: From Sixties Scoop to Babylift”

**Graduate Student Paper Awards**

The award for the best student paper at the 2014 ASAC conference went to JULIA BOWES, history, Rutgers, for “Fostering Ties: The politics of resettling displaced orphans in the United States after World War II.” SUSANNA SNYDER, anthropology,
Oregon State, was the runner-up for “‘Screw you guys! I’m not a bad person!’: Contesting Motherhood through Birthmothers’ Lived Experiences of Gender Subversion.” CLAUDIA NELSON chaired the panel of judges.

Adoption at Other Upcoming Conferences

CYNTHIA CALLAHAN has arranged a panel titled “Kinship and Precarity” at the National Women’s Studies Association's annual conference, in Milwaukee, November 12-15, 2015. Participants will discuss the vulnerabilities that accompany adoptive families as depicted in a variety of literary and visual texts. ASAC members LORI ASKELAND, MARINA FEDOSIK, EMILY HIPCHEN, and KIMBERLY MCKEE, along with Lucy Curzon, Associate Professor of Art History at the University of Alabama. Texts discussed will include Benjamin Wilkomirski’s *Fragments: Memories of a Childhood, 1939-1948*, a “false” Holocaust memoir and adoption memoir; *The Language of Blood* by Jane Jeong Trenka; Karen McElmurray’s *Surrendered Child*; popular films about kinship and adoption including *The Kids are All Right* and *Philomena*; and a range of images by contemporary artists, in particular those from Catherine Opie’s “Domestic” series (1995-1998).

Other Member News


version of the latter is forthcoming from the journal *Childhoods*.


The University of Michigan Press has published JANET ELLERBY’s new book *Embroidering the Scarlet A: Unwed Mothers and Illegitimate Children in American Fiction and Film*. This book traces the evolution of the "fallen woman" from the earliest novels to recent representations in fiction and film. Interweaving her own experience as a pregnant teen forced to surrender her daughter and pledge secrecy for decades, Ellerby interrogates "out-of-wedlock" motherhood, mapping the ways archetypal scarlet women and their children have been exiled as social pariahs, pardoned as blameless pawns, and transformed into empowered women.

SHANNON GIBNEY’s YA novel, *See No Color*, will be released by Carolrhoda Books in November 2015. It is a coming of age story about a mixed Black transracial adoptee, who is trying to reconcile both her adoption and her racial identity.

MARGARET HOMANS’ 2013 book, *The Imprint of Another Life: Adoption Narratives and Human Possibility*, is now out in paperback from the University of Michigan Press.

In June 2015, a special issue of *Social & Cultural Geography* 16 (5), which JESSACA LEINAWEAVER co-edited with SONJA VAN WICHELEN, will be published. It is called “The Geography of Transnational Adoption: Kin and Place in Globalization.” It includes articles by SONJA and JESSACA as well as KATRIEN DE GRAEVE, Silvia Posocco, and BARBARA YNGVESSON.

DEANN BORSHAY LIEM’s film *The Geographies of Kinship—The Korean Adoption Story* is in post-production and should appear in 2016. She is currently filming *Crossings*, about the event on May 24 in which 30 international women leaders, including Gloria Steinem, Mairead Maguire (Northern Ireland), Christine Ahn, and Leymah Gbowee (Liberia) cross the DMZ from North to South Korea, calling for an end to the Korean War and for peace and reconciliation on the Korean peninsula.

JOHN MCLEOD’s book *Life Lines: Writing Transcultural Adoption* (Bloomsbury Academic) will appear in September.

MARIANNE NOVY gave a talk, “Do Some Adoption Practices Violate [Birth]Parents’ Reproductive Rights?” at a conference on Reproductive Rights, sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies Program, March 20. She also arranged and coordinated a mini-elective on adoption and foster care for University of Pittsburgh medical students, together with pediatrician Sarah Springer.

ROSEMARY STARACE’s poetry collection, *Requitements* (Revised Edition, Elephant Tree House, 2015), has been reissued in an expanded edition that includes several additional poems and the essay “A Poetics of Adoption: Love and Grief.”
the essay engage issues of identity, kinship, and what is discovered through what is lost. Starace writes from an adoptee’s perspective. For more information, or to order the book, please visit the publisher’s website. http://www.elephanttreehouse.com/?s=requitements.

KAY TRIMBERGER writes a blog on Psychology Today called Adoption Diaries: Adult Relationships in Adoptive Families. Here is the link http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/adoption-diaries Two blog posts (among others) are "Adoptive Parents and Adoption Reunions," and "Adoption in the Life of Steve Jobs." She writes, “I'm interested in posting guest blogs. Please contact me at trimberg@sonoma.edu if you have a topic on which you would like to write.” She also has a few blog posts on The Huffington Post including "Adoption and Genetics: Implications for Adoptive Parents." http://www.huffingtonpost.com/e-kay-trimberger/adoption-and-genetics-imp_b_4682667.html


LIES WESSELING was inaugurated as holder of the special “Opzif” chair “Cultural Memory, Gender, and Diversity,” on September 12 at Maastricht University (Netherlands), and an international symposium in her honor was held on the topic “The Personal Is Geopolitical: Story-telling and Familial Belonging in a Globalizing World.” Speakers included CLAUDIA NELSON, on “When Adoption Became ‘Adoption’: The Justification of Child Migration in Victorian England,” BARBARA YNGVESSON on “Origin Myths, Narratives of Return, and the Making and Unmaking of (Adoptive) Identities in Sweden,” (response by JULIA VICH), JOHANN GONDOIN, “Sensible Indian Women and Sensitive Gay Men: On the Politics of Surrogacy in Swedish Media,” LENE MYONG, “Questioning the Biopolitics of Transnational Adoption: Remigration, Adoption Critique, and the Danish Adoption Debate,” and others. LIES’ inaugural speech was on “The Weaving of Family Narrative Practices and Cultural Remembrance in Transnational Adoption.”

the Korean Canadian Children’s Association, and Stanford University. Also, she published two poems in *Ricepaper*, April 2015, “Elegy for a Grandfather Twice Met,” and “1:30.”

**Help Wanted**

If you can help us return to a newsletter-formatted newsletter, or if you would like to edit our newsletter, please contact me!

Also, if you think you can get (a unit of) your university to become a co-sponsor of our 2016 conference, especially if it is in driving distance of Philadelphia, please contact me or Sarah-Vaughan Brakman (sarah.vaughan.brakman@villanova.edu).

**Membership, Journal, and Email**

Past issues of Adoption & Culture are now available electronically through EBSCOHost.

Membership Renewal
If you have not renewed your membership in 2015 through PayPal, it's time to!

Our PayPal address is adoptionandculture@gmail.com. Membership, which includes a copy of our newsletter and our biennially-produced journal, *Adoption & Culture*, is just $20 if you're in the US. All current members will be listed on our listserv; if you wish not to receive messages from members of ASAC through the listserv, indicate you'd like to opt out by sending a private message to emily@hipbo.org as soon as you see a message from the listserv.

Best wishes to all,

Marianne Novy
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