



AUTUMN 2018

Annual Meeting and Celebration of Marilyn Regier Inspires the Barker Community



Barker board member Chris Young and his wife, Connie Young



Board Chair Howard Menditch and his wife, Cindy Menditch



Shelley Holt congratulates Marilyn Regier on receiving The Richard B. Barker Award

May 17 was truly a night to remember. As the crowd of nearly 200 entered the Rock Creek Mansion in Bethesda, they were met by the smiles of The Barker Adoption Foundation staff, freshly cut lilacs, and delicious food. Most important, they met with the gratitude of Marilyn Regier, Barker's now-retired Executive Director, the evening's honored guest.

The formal program began with a call to order by Board of Trustees Chair Howard Menditch. New officers were elected, minutes and bylaw changes were approved, Barker and Friends of Barker finances were reviewed, and Barker Executive Director Sue Hollar provided program information and a slideshow highlighting the activities of 2017. Then the tone turned more celebratory as a series of speakers delivered remarks about the impact of Marilyn's 15 years of leadership.

Maxine Baker, a former Director of the Freddie Mac Foundation,

Barker parent, and former Barker board member, spoke with eloquence and humor about Marilyn's impact, including their shared vision to serve older children living in foster care through a program that would become Project Wait No Longer. Former Board Chair Nonie Akman talked with passion about the impact that Marilyn had on Barker when, soon after joining Barker in 2002, Marilyn set out to increase programming so that many more children would have the benefit of a permanent, loving family. That expansion included her successful efforts to begin programs in China and South Korea. John Duff, a Barker parent, former Board Chair, and current Friends of Barker Chair, spoke about the successful endowment campaign Marilyn led to raise the \$3.5 million needed to fund the expansion. "This great gift to Barker could only have been accomplished through the efforts of Marilyn Regier, and we are deeply



Executive Director Sue Hollar greets Marilyn Regier

grateful to her," he said. Former Board Chair and Barker/FANA parent Kathy Bucher's sentiments included, "When I was asked to speak tonight, two words came immediately to mind that epitomize Marilyn: passion – actually, exceptional passion... and principles – or more precisely, stalwart, unfaltering principles." Maureen Golden, a former Board Chair, Barker parent, and lifelong volunteer, spoke

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Former board member Jelani Freeman offers remarks about Marilyn's leadership



John Duff, Friends of Barker Chair and Co-Chair of the Legacy II Campaign



FROM THE *Executive Director and CEO*

Each month I speak to a large group of prospective adoptive parents to talk about why The Barker Adoption Foundation is so special. I discuss our commitment to ethics, the versatility and knowledge of our staff, our commitment to serving all members of the adoption circle, and the lifelong services we offer. I also speak about the lasting relationships gained by those joining the Barker community. Those are formed and sustained during waiting family meetings, new parent groups, birth parent support groups, adult adoptee discussion groups, adoptive parent support groups, educational workshops, Barker Goes Nats, family picnics, and our annual conference. Countless other connections are maintained in homes, on playgrounds, and in coffee shops around the region.

Those relationships also are enhanced by email, social media, and other digital communication. These less-personal forms of contact have their upsides and downsides, but they let people communicate more regularly, which is why Barker has significantly increased our online presence in the last year and a half. Recently we launched a new and more user-friendly website and began sending a monthly “Next Month at Barker” email, which highlights upcoming events and shares Barker stories. We also maintain a vibrant presence on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. And our generous supporters are increasingly making their donations online.

Though technology allows us to have a broader reach and keep in touch with you, we also remain committed to maintaining the personal relationships that make Barker so special. We hope that you will continue to join us at

our events, that you will feel free to stop by and say hello, and that you will reach out when you need support or have something to celebrate. We also hope that you will follow and talk to us on our social media platforms, view our website regularly, and open our emails so that you can remain involved and engaged. If you are not receiving the monthly email, it is likely that we do not have your current email address. Please feel free to call us to update your contact information. We love to stay connected!

Sue Hollan



Annual Meeting and Celebration of Marilyn Regier Inspires the Barker Community

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of the uniqueness of the Barker community, the intertwined lives of its members, and the privilege of working with Marilyn. “Like the woven quilts that grace the halls

of Barker, Marilyn has spent 15 years weaving together lives and creating a lasting legacy,” she said. Finally, former board member Jelani Freeman spoke of Marilyn’s “integrity, honesty, selflessness, and heart set on revolutionizing the adoption field.”

The program concluded with the presentation of The Richard B. Barker Award to Marilyn. Chris Intagliata and Howard Menditch read the tribute:

The Richard B. Barker Award presented to Dr. Marilyn C. Regier in recognition of her extraordinary leadership and her faithfulness to the mission of The Barker Adoption Foundation. Her wide-ranging talents and tireless dedication inspired



Marilyn and Darrel Regier are joined by their adult children, Marc and Natalie, and their spouses, Greg and Katie, and grandson Tyler.

excellence in others, reached for new ways to serve, provided for Barker’s future, and through it all,

honored the needs of children above all else. ■



Chris Intagliata and Howard Menditch present Marilyn Regier with The Richard B. Barker Award

Ensuring the “Legacy” of Barker

The Barker Adoption Foundation is pleased to announce that we reached the finish line for our Legacy II Campaign goal. With the help of many of you, Allan and Shelley Holt’s generous matching

gift, and another challenge match from an anonymous donor, Friends of Barker Chair John Duff was thrilled to announce at the May 17 Annual Meeting and Celebration of Marilyn Regier that we had

reached our \$7 million Legacy II Campaign goal. The Friends of Barker Endowment Fund serves an important role in funding a portion of operating expenses each year and in ensuring that Barker’s

73-year record of helping woman, children, and families lasts long in to the future. Thanks to each of you who supported Barker. ■

Barker Welcomes Five New Trustees

In May we welcomed five new members to The Barker Adoption Foundation's Board of Trustees. Each brings significant professional experience and a personal connection to adoption. **Martha Dantzie's** experience includes a 20-year



Martha Dantzie

focuses on insurance coverage for and access to birth control and on protecting and improving Medicaid. Previously Mara served as a law clerk for Senator Al Franken and an intern for the Children's Health Advocacy Project in

St. Louis, Missouri. **Alan Heymann** is President of Blue Drop, LLC, and Chief Marketing Officer of DC Water. Alan has more than two decades of experience in



Sara Magden



Daniela Wiggins

community and is a faithful volunteer at the University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. **Daniela Wiggins** is an anesthesiologist in private practice with Holy Cross Anesthesiology

communications, public policy, and advocacy. Earlier in his career, Alan was a television reporter, producer, and anchor in his native Illinois.

Sara Magden believes strongly in philanthropy and giving back to her community. She has been a rising star at the Jewish Federation of Howard County and was awarded the Young Jewish Leadership Award in 2015. She leads countless initiatives and events in her

Associates. She is also the creator of Prodigyrls LLC, a collection of African-American dolls designed to highlight the diversity and beauty of African-American girls. Daniela is an active member of the Barker community, is a regular speaker at Barker's pre-adoption trainings, and has been a panelist at Barker's Annual Adoption & Foster Care Conferences. Unanimously elected and heartily welcomed to the board, Mara, Sara, and Daniela are all adoptees, and Martha and Alan are proud parents of children who joined their families by adoption. ■

career as a social worker empowering people with disabilities to live independent, self-directed lives. She worked around the country, first as a direct service provider and ultimately as Executive Director of a nonprofit agency. About ten years ago she embarked on a new adventure, founding Quicksilver Productions, a booking agency that represents an international roster of critically acclaimed artists worldwide. **Mara Gandal-Powers** is Senior Counsel for Reproductive Rights and Health at the National Women's Law Center, where she



Mara Gandal-Powers



Alan Heymann

Tina Ji visits South Korea and China

The Barker Adoption Foundation has a rich tradition of supporting and maintaining ethical intercountry adoption programs, beginning with our first program in Colombia in 1978. In August Tina Ji, Director of International Programs, traveled to South Korea and China to meet with agency and government officials affiliated with the intercountry adoption programs. In South Korea she met with Yoon Jeom Sik, President of the Social Welfare Society (SWS), and Peak Kyunghwa, SWS's Manager of International Adoption Services. In addition to renewing formal interagency agreements and discussing adoption trends, including the needs of the children, Tina provided training on the Hague intercountry accreditation adoption standards and met



Yoon Jeom Sik, President of South Korea's Social Welfare Society and Tina Ji, Director of International Programs

with government officials at the Ministry of Health and Welfare. A highlight of the trip was meeting with each of the children currently matched to be placed with Barker families. In China Tina had opportunity to meet with the China Center for Children's welfare and adoption officials, including the Director General. ■

Sarah Saffian Offers Exploration and Healing Through Writing

On April 29, The Barker Adoption Foundation was pleased to welcome Sarah Saffian – an adoption therapist, author of *Ithaka: A Daughter's Memoir of Being Found*, memoir teacher, and journalist – to present a day-long writing workshop at Barker. This full-day workshop was offered in response to enthusiastic feedback from participants who had attended her workshop sessions at two previous Barker conferences. Workshop participants included representatives of all members of the adoption constellation: adopted adults, adoptive parents, and birth parents. The session provided a creative and engaging forum

for participants to explore their internal experiences and emotions surrounding adoption through short writing exercises, for example, writing a letter to a birth child, birth parent, or adoptive parent or imagining a reunion with a birth relative or a return to one's country of origin. Participants were offered the opportunity to share their stories with the group and to learn from each other's experiences, perspectives, and wisdom. The attendees said that one of the primary highlights of the program was the opportunity to process their experiences together with birth parents, adoptive parents, and adoptees.

Beloved Cradle Care Parents Jack and Janice Quinn Retire

When we think of the enduring love of a parent, what comes to mind are the sleepless nights during infancy, the changes brought by the teenage years, and the commitment to a child even after they have left home as an adult. It is a love that knows no bounds and a stream that keeps flowing, fed by the act of loving itself.

Here at The Barker Adoption Foundation, we are privileged to have an army of families who we endearingly refer to as the heart and soul of Barker – our Cradle Care parents. These are families who have committed their homes, their resources, and their time to supporting birth parents and adoptive parents by caring for the placed infants as if they were their own children during the period in which a birth parent solidifies the decision to move forward with an adoption plan. One such family are the Quinns.

Jack and Janice Quinn first contacted the agency on February 19, 2008, with an interest in becoming Cradle Care parents. They felt that doing so would give them the

chance to make a difference by providing a loving and nurturing home environment to babies in need. They spent ten years in that work, which ended this year after they had provided care to 30 infants. The decision that moved them to end their time with Barker indicates their willingness to love and sacrifice for children, as they devote more time to their newest granddaughter May.

Beth Kirby, Barker's now-retired Cradle Care Coordinator, said this of the Quinns:

Janice is one of the most fun-loving people I know. She always arrived at the Barker office, the hospital, or my home with a smile on her face and was ready to do whatever was asked of her. I always knew that when I talked to Janice about a baby that needed a temporary placement, she and Jack would be there to help no matter how short or long that placement might be. Their good humor, confidence, and competence made them one of Barker's most cherished Cradle Care families. I really can't say enough about Jack and Janice and their



Janice Quinn cares for one of the many children she nurtured during her ten years as a Barker Cradle Care Mom

commitment to Barker. They did it with love and compassion, not just for the children they had in care, but for birth parents and adoptive parents too. I admire them both for their selflessness.

What do we say to a family who has given ten years of unwavering support and service to an organization? While any sentiment would seem to fall short, we thank Jack and Janice for all of the lives that you changed. Thank you for loving the children whom you cared for, and by extension, their birth families and adoptive families. Thank you

for committing to a job that truly comes with its own set of unique challenges in the form of caregiver grief and loss and embracing it with such grace and humility, mentoring other parents in the process. Through your sacrifice, Barker was able to provide a remarkable service to birth families, who continually entrust Barker with the tremendous responsibility of finding loving families for deserving children. Thank you for you have done, and we wish you countless moments of peaceful bliss with your family. You've earned it, and we love you. ■

Sixth Annual "Barker Goes Nats!" Event

The Barker Adoption Foundation's annual summer tradition just keeps getting better! It was our sixth year, and we had Board of Trustees members, supporters, families, and staff on hand to enjoy a day at the ballpark on Sunday June 10 as the Nationals took on the San Francisco Giants. Barker was awarded the National's "Spirit Award" in recognition of our commitment to outstanding adoption services throughout the Washington, D.C., area. The crowd cheered loudly as Barker's name was featured on the Jumbotron with

the smiling faces of some lucky Barker families on the field. Thanks to the generosity of more than 35 corporate and individual sponsors, Barker raised close to \$75,000 to provide support for Barker's 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 and came out for the game. ■



An Open Heart and Relentless Hope

It was April 21, 2017, when a caseworker who had often worked with our Project Wait No Longer (PWNL) program asked whether we had a family for a teenager who was waiting on her caseload for a permanent and loving family. She described this young lady as a 14-year-old who was outgoing and engaging with a great sense of humor. She enjoyed cooking, baking, crafts, reading, and journaling. She also loved to watch football.

As we learned more about this child, we also were told that she had been diagnosed with high functioning autism. Our hearts were heavy because we did not have a family waiting in our program who was prepared to parent a teenager with autism. We knew that finding a permanent family for this teenager, who sounded like a wonderful person, would be a challenge.

On June 30, 2017, we heard from the caseworker again. We still had no families to offer her.

Simultaneously, we had a single mother who was working with PWNL who hoped to adopt a sibling group. She already had experience in parenting older children and wished to adopt multiple children whom she could help to keep

together. Every caseworker who saw her home study was drawn to her. But after 6 months of searches, she had yet to be matched.

Then came the call...

The caseworker came across the home study for this mom because she had been reading it for a sibling group on her caseload. Ultimately she decided that the sibling group needed to be placed with a two-parent family because of their level of need, but she continued to be drawn to this mom's home study.

After reading the report, she picked up the phone and called The Barker Adoption Foundation. Her question was simple: Would this single mom, who was seeking to adopt a sibling group, be open to considering an older teenage girl? The answer turned out to be "yes"!

Meetings were held, files were reviewed, and visits were scheduled – the rest feels like history. In August 2018, almost 1½ years after we first started to seek a family for this special teenager, she was finally home.

On the day of her placement, staff shared that it was one of the most moving placements they had attended. Mom was tearful as she

signed her placement documents. She said she could not believe that she had found her daughter. Her daughter (like a typical teenager) after greeting her mom, headed straight to the kitchen to get herself a drink, like she had been there all her life and with the confidence that comes with knowing she belonged.

This September the duo attended the Barker picnic, and again we were all struck by how much they have claimed each other. One staff member said, "It is hard to put into words, but seeing them together and how well they fit with each other just gives you a feeling that you know it is right. You know that they were meant to be together."

This teenager, who is now 15, still loves to cook and was welcomed into her mom's community with a "teenage shower" (the teenage version of a baby shower), which included every guest bringing her a recipe that she could add to a binder. She and her mom spend time testing out recipes together and have already developed some traditions around healthy cooking and eating.

The family basement has been changed to a home work station and craft room, and although she



Eileen Wharton, Older Child Matching and Family Support Specialist and Saara McEachnie, Program Director, review case files.

lives only a mile from school, her mom loves to take her to school each day. Their latest "craft" project was for postcards for her campaign to become her class' homecoming "dutchess." Her mom excitedly e-mailed our staff to share that she won the vote!

Autism. Foster care. Teenager. These are words that when found in a child profile often end in wonderful teens aging out of the foster care system. In this case, they were a reminder that beautiful and life-changing things can happen when a parent, a teenager, and a social worker have open hearts and relentless hope. ■

Congratulations to Our New Adoptive Families

Abby & Heather welcomed Oliver
Alex & Megan welcomed Lilly
Alvin & Laryssa welcomed Laila
Andy & Natalie welcomed William
Angela welcomed Alexa
Ben & Daniela welcomed Noa
Bernie & Allison welcomed Zoey
Bibi welcomed Felix
Brandon & Danelle welcomed Nolan
Bryndon & Megan welcomed Raymond
Casey & Amber welcomed Ayrianna, Alycia,
and Joshua
Catherine welcomed James
Chris & Premal welcomed Rohan
Christopher & Sarah welcomed Andrew

Christy welcomed Sierra
Daniel & Sara welcomed Paul
David & Amanda welcomed Tobias
David and Miriam welcomed Carolyn
Drew & Allie welcomed Miriam
Edgar & Kim welcomed Maggie
Frank & Rosebelle welcomed Tatiana
Greg & Erin welcomed Nicholas
Herman & Anne welcomed Ameerah
Jeff & Amy welcomed Ramona
Jennifer welcomed Eva
John & Kelly welcomed Tishawn
Josh & Steve welcomed Jackie
Joshua & Amy welcomed Shannon
Juan & Martha welcomed Marcelo
Kevin & Christine welcomed Aaron

Kyle & Jackie welcomed River
Kyle & Lamika welcomed Allison
Leslie welcomed Carson
Matt & Corinne welcomed Andrew
Megan welcomed Wren
Nicholas & Monica welcomed Samuel
Norman & Kara welcomed Yi Tie
Satchidanand & Amrata welcomed Krupa
Timothy & Elizabeth welcomed William
Tom & Brigitte welcomed Paul
Tommy & Ashley welcomed Cameron
Travis & Lauren welcomed Henry
Tyler & Nicole welcomed Theodore
Victor & Janice welcomed Lusi
Wille & Jade welcomed Noah

2018 Phonathon – Thank You for Answering Our Call

On September 25, callers and volunteers gathered at The Barker Adoption Foundation's office to make calls as part of the Annual Barker Phonathon. Roger DeLucia led the team as we trained volunteers and provided delicious

food catered by Bradley Food & Beverage, courtesy of Barker parents Tom and Charleen Merkel. We made almost 500 phone calls and raised close to \$60,000 in donations and pledges. We had seasoned pros and new callers this

year, and each caller had stories of conversations that touched them. In a world in which we are all busy, we appreciate the time that those who could take to answer their phones and the many donations we have received from those who were

not available. Thank you to all of you who gave up your evening to come in and help make calls and all of you who answered the call to donate and provide critical support for all of Barker's work. ■



Anna Beers, Executive Assistant, and Gary Diamond, Second Vice Chair of the board



Anne Christman, Barker's Development Director, inspires the callers

– With Sympathy –

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

Patricia Anne Adams passed away peacefully at home on February 16, 2017. Pat was the beloved mother of Barker Adoption Foundation parents Robb and Barbara Mackie and grandmother to their two children, Katherine and Daniel, who were adopted through Barker.

Anne Duff passed away on October 4, 2017, at age 100. Anne is lovingly remembered by her three children, four grandchildren, and seven grandchildren. Anne's son John is the current Friends of Barker Chair and formerly served as Barker's Board of Trustees Chair.

Our hearts are with the Cannelongo family at the loss of their daughter **Gianna Lilyfaith Cannelongo**, who passed away at age six on April 22, 2018. Gianna's parents Brian and Johanna, sisters Isabella, Helaina, and Tahlia, and brothers Ethan, Ashton, and Hudson cherished the abundance of joy Gianna brought to their lives. Gianna was a true warrior and lives in the hearts of all those who knew her.

Easter Brown passed away on May 11, 2018, at age 86. Easter is lovingly remembered by her surviving family, including nine grandchildren, four siblings, and five children. Easter was the loving mother of Kevin and Karen Brown. Karen serves on the Barker board.

Jean Anne Dunkelberger passed away peacefully on June 10, 2018. Jean is survived by a large family who remembers her dearly,

including 17 grandchildren, her husband, and five children, including daughter Amy Sturtevant, who serves on the Barker board.

Mikey Magden passed away on August 31, 2018, at age 66. Mikey was a well-known and beloved businessman and personality in Cleveland, Ohio, and will be remembered by his surviving wife, sons, stepdaughter, and seven grandchildren. Mikey was the father-in-law of Barker board member Sara Magden.

Doris Farmer Littman passed away on September 3, 2018, at age 88. Doris provided care for nearly 30 infants as a loving Cradle Care parent during her retirement. The family designated Barker as a memorial gift recipient.

John (Jay) Allen Rousseau passed away on September 6, 2018, at age 37. Jay will be forever remembered by his wife Kelly and daughter Lorelei, adopted through Barker. The family designated Barker as the memorial gift recipient.

Jill Camp passed away on October 6, 2018, at age 63. Jill bravely fought a battle with cancer for 22 years. She is lovingly remembered by her husband John and her two children, Joseph and Jessica, both adopted through Barker.

Barker's 2018 Family Picnic: A New Venue and New Memories

If you had asked one of the dozens of kids running around on September 9 about their experience at The Barker Adoption Foundation's Annual Family Picnic, they would likely say that the highlight was a tie between the interactive children's music performance by Groovy Nate and the cake walk, during which nine lucky kids got to pick out their very own treat to take home. The adults enjoyed potluck-style picnic fare, catching up with old friends and meeting new ones and maybe enjoying a reprieve from being cooped up at home on a rainy day.

New this year was face painting thanks to Barker adoptee Sophia, who participated in Barker's Teen Connections program and wanted to volunteer her time to give back to younger adoptees. Her artwork was a big hit! As the fun wrapped up,

families were sent home with newly painted sun catchers and souvenir family photos.

A huge thank you to all who made the afternoon special, including our volunteers and the families who brought picnic food

and/or cake walk desserts. We are so grateful to have an afternoon to see parents' familiar faces and the growing (and grown!) kids enjoying the afternoon together. We cannot wait to do it all again next year. See you there! ■



Landon and Cecily Pennington select perfect temporary tattoos



Nedra and Lechelle Wingate-Dix enjoying Barker's Annual Family Picnic



David Wham and Dave Malone have fun at the photo booth with their son George

Save the Date

Parent Workshop: "Hair Care for African-American/Black Children" – December 3, 7 PM, Maryland office, registration required

PRIDE (Parent Resources for Information, Development, and Education) Training – Saturdays, January 5 & 12 and February 2 & 9, 10 AM, Maryland office, registration required

Sunday Playtime at Barker – December 2, 9:30 AM, Maryland office, registration required

Barker Annual Adoption & Foster Care Conference – April 6, 2019, Universities at Shady Grove

Colombia and South Korea Homeland Tours – Summer 2019

Ongoing Events

Parents of Adopted Teens – 1st Tuesday of month, 7 PM, Maryland office (please note, that the January 2019 meeting will be held on January 15.)

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

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

Adult Adoptee Discussion Group – 3rd Thursday of month, 7:30 PM, Maryland office

PWNL Waiting Parent Group – 4th Thursday of every other month (November, January, March, May), 6:30 PM, Maryland office. Contact Eileen Wharton at ewharton@barkerfoundation.org to register.

In addition to accepting donations through our website, Barker accepts donations made through CFC (38208), Donor Advised Funds, gifts of stock, and additional giving coalitions. If you have questions or need assistance making a gift, please contact us at 301.664.9664. Thank you for your generous support of Barker!

Save The Date

APRIL 6, 2019

BARKER'S ANNUAL ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE CONFERENCE

More information to follow.

Barker's 2019

International Homeland Tours



Colombia
July 1-9, 2019 ✈️



South Korea
July 15-26, 2019 ✈️

Visit our website for more information and to sign up by January 1.

TO RSVP PLEASE VISIT THE BARKER WEBSITE

Give a Gift of Love

SUPPORT BARKER



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