Mary Collins is a Professor of English at Central Connecticut State University since 2007 and previously worked for 20 years as a freelance writer and editor for clients including The New York Times, National Geographic Society, Smithsonian Magazine, and The Washington Post. She received her M.A. from the University of Virginia in 1986. "At the Broken Places: A Mother and Trans Son Pick Up the Pieces", is a collaborative memoir written by Mary and her son, Donald Collins, about the period of his transition and was published in 2017 by Beacon Press. Mary has been a guest speaker at various organizations and institutions to help promote change in educational and psychological attitudes regarding the parents of transgender persons and the need for therapeutic services for all family members. In 2015, she received the Campus Compact Community Engaged College Educator Award for CT.

Robin P. McHaelen, MSW, is the Executive Director of True Colors, Inc., a non-profit organization that works with social service agencies, schools, organizations and within communities to ensure that the needs of sexual and gender minority youth are both recognized and competently met. She is a 1994 graduate of the UConn School of Social Work. Robin has co-authored two books and several articles on LGBTQ youth issues and is a nationally recognized thought leader in LGBTQ youth programs and interventions. She is the recipient of numerous awards including the 2019 GLAD Award for Leadership; 2016 CCSU Women of Influence Award, the 2014 HRC Upstander Award, the 2011 UCONN Award for Excellence in Public Engagement; and the 2008 CT NASW Social Worker of the Year. In 2017, she was named one of the Advocate’s 50 State Heroes.
Optional Morning Training  
10:30am – 12:00pm  
“It’s Everybody’s Journey: Supporting Families When a Child Comes Out”  
Join us for an interactive training with Mary Collins, author of “At the Broken Places: A Mother and Trans Son Pick Up the Pieces” and Robin McHaelen, MSW, Executive Director, of True Colors of Hartford. Using an intersectional lens, the presenters will discuss the response of the child’s family and caregivers being the most important risk and protective factor when a child comes out on the LGBTQ spectrum.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:  
1. Understand the risk and protective factors associated with family response when a child or youth comes out on the LGBTQ spectrum.  
2. Explore the intersections of race, ethnicity, religion and other factors of diversity with a family’s response to their child’s identity.  
3. Identify strategies and supports for helping families overcome the barriers to acceptance of their child’s gender transition.  (*This program is pending approval for 1.5 CEC’s from CT NASW including 1 CEC for Cultural Competency.)

Afternoon Program  
12:00pm - Luncheon Registration  
12:30pm - Luncheon  
1:45pm - CCA Annual Award Presentation  
2:00pm - Keynote Talk by Mary Collins  
2:30pm - 2018-19 CCA Committee Reports

Mary & Donald Collins’ book will be available @ $15 for cash/check sale at this event.

CT Council on Adoption  
The Connecticut Council on Adoption is a voluntary not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to permanence for children and ethical, effective adoption practices in the State of CT. CCA provides information, training programs and legislative advocacy on a variety of adoption issues. Membership is open to any individual, agency or organization having a purpose consistent with the CCA mission. A member is entitled to one vote on matters before CCA and may be eligible to attend CCA sponsored training at a reduced fee. Yearly dues is $20 for an individual and $50 for an agency or organization for the period of July 1st through June 30th.

CCA holds a yearly statewide conference in recognition of National Adoption Month with a leading adoption trainer and fall/spring forums on relevant adoption issues. CCA continues to support the efforts of AccessConnecticut in its work to have CT legislation passed to restore the right of every adopted person in CT to obtain a copy of their original birth certificate.

*Additional information on CCA, the various CCA committees and upcoming trainings can be found at www.ctadopt.org.

Questions : Contact info@ctadopt.org

DIRECTIONS from I-91:  
From the North, take Exit 24 off I-91. Bear to right off the exit to Rocky Hill proceeding south onto the Silas Deane Highway (Rt.99). Go less than 100 ft. and take an immediate right into the driveway and Dakota’s is situated in the back of parking lot.

From the South, take Exit 24 off I-91. At the end of exit, go straight across Silas Deane Highway (Rt.99) into driveway for Dakota’s, situated in back of the parking lot.

SITE ACCESSIBLE TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

REGISTRATION FORM  
Please print and submit form with payment by June 7, 2019.

Name: ___________________________________________  
Phone: ____________________________________________  
Email: ____________________________________________  
Organization: ______________________________________  

Program & Luncheon Fees- Please check ALL boxes that apply:

___ AM Program / CCA Member $10  
___ AM Program/CCA Agency Member $15  
( Fee for agency staff after two allowed @ $10 )  
___ PM Program & Luncheon $20  
___ CCA Individual Membership* $20  
___ CCA Agency Membership* $50  
___ TOTAL ENCLOSED  
(*New or Renewal at $20 or $50 for one year)

Luncheon Selections – Check one:  
___ Wood-Fired Grilled Chicken  
___ Mesquite Grilled Salmon  
___ Grilled Top Sirloin  
___ Vegetarian Stir-fry  

All meals are served with Dakota salad bar, side, dessert & coffee/or tea.

SEND check payable to CT Council on Adoption with Registration Form to:  
CT Council on Adoption  
P.O. Box 270249  
West Hartford, CT 06127-0249

NOTE! If you prefer to register and pay by credit card, please visit: www.ctadopt.org

(*Note 3% transaction fee for online orders)