***History of Prenatal Bonding (BA)***

Prenatal Bonding (BA) was developed and researched by the Hungarian psychoanalysts Jenoe Raffai and Gyoergy Hidas. In the late 1980s, Raffai did basic psychoanalytic research with young patients suffering from schizophrenia receiving inpatient care.

This led to the development of Prenatal Bonding (BA) as a method to nurture an intimate connection between pregnant mothers and their unborn children. This method facilitates a far deeper bond with their unborn baby, than conceivable until now. A pregnant mother can experience a deep inner connection as well as healthy boundaries between herself and her unborn baby. This is substantially important for the emotional development of the baby after birth and into childhood, as well as for the mother in her progression into motherhood.

Trained by Dr. Raffai, Dr. Gerhard Schroth introduced this method for the first time in the United States 2009 at the International Congress of the Association for Prenatal and Perinatal Psychology and Health (APPPAH) Conference in Asilomar, California. Michael Trout was in the audience at that conference. His curiosity was peaked as he envisioned an opportunity for mothers, fathers and babies to bond and process their connections and experiences prior to birth.…providing an incredible opportunity for babies and parents to begin their life together in the “outside world” with greater understanding, deeper attachment and love.

Michael brought the training method to the United States, hosting a weekend Introductory to Prenatal Bonding (BA), in Urbana, Illinois in March 2010 with psychoanalyst Dr. Gerhard Schroth and Anne Schroth. This invitation led to the First U.S. Training Cohort of Prenatal Bonding (BA) instructed by Gerhard and Anne in Central Illinois and Seattle, Washington. In November 2013, after a 2 ½ year indepth training experience, professionals from Illinois, North Carolina, Washington State, California and Vancouver, British Columbia became certified Prenatal Bonding (BA) Facilitators.

In 2015, with Michael Trout’s encouagement, a workshop was presented at the Biennual Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health (MI-AIMH) Conference *“Working Together for the Health and Well-Being of Infants, Toddlers and Their Families:  Caring for the Whole Child”* in Kalamazoo, Michigan. In this workshop were clinicians from across Michigan, who saw an opportunity to incorporate the method of PB(BA) into their work with families to facilitate a movement of deeper, earlier, healing attachments between mothers, fathers and their children, before and after birth.

As of 2019, more than 8000 pregnant mothers have participated in facilitations by more than 200 practitioners of Prenatal Bonding (BA) worldwide.