

The Constellation



Winter 2009 Newsletter



Honoring our Histories
Celebrating our Lives

Letter From the President Ally Burr-Harris

Dear Adoption Mosaic Constellation,

It has been an exciting year of growth for Adoption Mosaic, and I have been honored to serve as the President of the Board throughout 2009. My tenure in this role is quickly coming to an end. I will remain on the Board in 2010, as our Program Committee Chair. I am excited to announce that Lani Faith will be the President of the Board beginning in January of 2010. Lani is currently a Board member and the Chair of the Marketing committee for Adoption Mosaic. She is also the Director of Marketing and College Relations at Warner Pacific College. As an adoptee herself, Lani has worked hard to make meaning of her own adoption experience while also showing deep respect for others' adoption experiences. We are very lucky to have Lani as our next board president!

As a parent of three children and a part-time psychologist, I was a bit anxious about taking on the President role this past year. Yet, I felt called to step up to the plate. I believe in Adoption Mosaic. Not only have I seen how the organization has touched the lives of others, but I have seen how it has changed me. I have been a parent for over 14 years, but I have been stretched in the past two years more than ever before to grow in my role as an adoptive parent. I give Adoption Mosaic much of the credit for the change that has happened within me. I've learned so much and have developed professional relationships and friendships with my Adoption Mosaic community that will no doubt last a lifetime.

We have accomplished so much this year. At least **624 people participated in our workshops**, conferences, and youth groups. **42 workshops were conducted** on a variety of topics, including Adoption Readiness, Transracial Parenting, Parent-Child Attachment, and Youth Activity Groups. We pulled off four successful fundraising events, and launched our new exciting African/African-American Hair Care workshop. We are developing new programs and future events such as a Race Conference, as well as adoption-related programs for school professionals, birth parents, LGBTQ families, and single parent families. Our website continues to flourish and gain national attention, with an exciting, active blog that you must check out.

I confess that I have been one to change the radio dial from public radio during fundraising week. I have told myself that I would send a check in the near future and reassured myself that others with more money and time will keep them afloat. I now have a different view as an Adoption Mosaic insider. I see how much every check counts and how every volunteer is a needed, utilized volunteer. We are a small nonprofit, and cannot afford to wait for the "others with more money and time." **We need your involvement.** Please consider how Adoption Mosaic has touched you, and reflect on ways that you can support our work. Please visit our website to donate online. Thank you for your support this last year, as I sign off from my role as the 2009 president of the Board.

With deep thanks,

Ally Burr-Harris

Check out our blog at
www.blog.adoptionmosaic.org

And keep an eye out for our
new **dialogue on adoption**
language coming soon!!

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Thank You For All Your Support In 2008-2009!

Donations of \$500 +

Sheri Campbell & John Redder
Dabbeni Family
Nike Inc. (employee matching funds)
Normand & Chris Reynolds
Standard Insurance (employee matching funds)
State of Oregon (DHS)

Donations of \$100-\$499

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Adoption-Focused Picture Books for Children

By Ally Burr-Harris



Most of the available picture books for children about adoption are written from the perspective of an adoptive parent, and it may be that we need to look at possible biases that come with this vantage point. In our efforts to reassure children of the permanency and security of their adoptive family, have we neglected to help children make sense of their birth story and explore why their parents decided to adopt? Certainly, young children need to celebrate and feel good about their adoption story, but they also need to feel like their birth story is valued. I would argue that we need to convey both of these elements of adoption to young children. Children ages 3 to 5 are at a developmental stage that requires reassurance of being loved, and being able to trust in the security and permanence of their adoptive family. In the case of transracial adoption, they may be seeking reassurance of connection in spite of the physical differences that they now see reflected in their family.

Thus, it seems appropriate for early picture books to include both the aspect of belonging to the adoptive family and having come from their birth or foster family. In addition, parents need to practice getting comfortable telling their child the whole story, and picture books provide a great medium for this process. For this initial stage, possibilities might include *Motherbridge of Love* (reviewed in this newsletter), *Mama* (reviewed in the summer 09 edition of *The Constellation*), *Tell Me Again about the Night I was Born*, and *A Mother for Choco* (review forthcoming). I would suggest that more complicated issues such as the birth parent's possible reasons for making an adoption plan, or whether the birth parent grieves for the child are best tackled in the next developmental stage, beginning around age 5 or 6. Examples of picture books that tackle some of the birth story questions that might run through a child's mind include *Megan's Birthday Tree: A Story About Open Adoption*, *Forever Fingerprints: An Amazing Discovery for Adopted Children*, *Mulberry Bird: An Adoption Story*, and *Mommy Far, Mommy Near: An Adoption Story*. Keep an eye on our website, and future issues of *The Constellation* for reviews of these and other books.



Adoption Mosaic ~ At a Glance

Adoption Mosaic regularly adds new dates to our calendar, check adoptionmosaic.org for the most recent schedule

- Jan.**
- January 3, 17 & 31 ~ African-American Hair Care Series (3 Part Series)
 - January 12 ~ Movie Group – Adult adoptees only (Movie: *First Person Plural*)
 - January 23 & 24 ~ Adoption Readiness
 - January 23 ~ Strengthening Attachment with Your Child (Ages 6 and younger)
 - January 23 ~ Youth Activity Group – Parent Orientation
 - January 25 ~ Youth Activity Group – 6 week series begins (Grades 1 – 6)
 - January 30 ~ What & When: Talking with Your Child About Adoption
 - January 30 ~ Lifestory Books – Every Child Has a History
- Feb.**
- February 11, 18 & 25 ~ We Can Do Better Series (3 Part Series)
 - February 20 ~ Strengthening Attachment with Your Child (Ages 7 and older)
 - February 20 ~ Transracial Parenting (Part B)
 - February 27 ~ Transracial Parenting Workshop in Chicago, IL
- March**
- March 5 & 6 ~ Raising Resilient Rascals Conference – Seattle, WA
 - March 9 ~ Movie Group – Open to the community (Movie: *I Am Sam*)
 - March 13 & 14 ~ Adoption Readiness
 - March 13 ~ Transracial Parenting – (Part C)
 - March 13 ~ Transracial Adult Adoptee Panel
 - March 26 & 27 ~ Transracial Parenting Workshop in Seattle, WA
- April**
- April 3 ~ Youth Activity Group – Parent Orientation
 - April 5 ~ Youth Activity Group – 6 week series begins (Grades 1 – 6)
 - April 5 ~ Adult Adoptee Group – 6 week series begins
 - April 17 ~ Transracial Parenting – (Part A)

Adoption Mosaic Movie Review

Elf (2003) Review by Livia Montana



On Christmas Eve thirty years ago a human infant is mistakenly transported to the North Pole by Santa, and is then adopted by an elf. Buddy lives life as an elf, always feeling a little bit different, until he accidentally discovers that he is a human, and not an elf at all. Wanting to search for his human father currently living in New York City, Buddy, the human elf travels to New York in search of his roots.

“through the viewing of mainstream movies the adoption experience is shared and normalized”

Come join us for a movie and facilitated discussion at Adoption Mosaic’s community and adoptee Movie Nights. Visit www.adoptionmosaic.org for more information, and be sure to drop by our blog to continue the discussion!

www.blog.adoptionmosaic.org

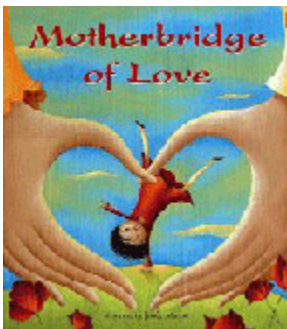
Points to consider

- How do adoption themed children’s movies affect adopted children? When they are ‘stumbled’ across unknowingly, or when they are purposely used as a tool?
- How are adoption and the topics of grief and loss portrayed in children’s movies?
- Adopted people are often raised in a different culture (ethnic, religious, socio-economic) than that of their birth families. How can this affect their being accepted by their birth families?

Adoption Mosaic Book Review

Motherbridge of Love (2007)

By an anonymous adoptive parent Review by Ally Burr-Harris



This is a simple poem as told by an adoptive mother to her young daughter that explains the “two different kinds of love” within the little girl’s family that have “shaped to make her one.” By contrasting the gifts of the birth mother and the adoptive mother, the child is encouraged to claim a connection to both of these parts of her family. Adoptive parents who have adopted internationally or through closed adoptions may find this book to be a nice springboard to talk about adoption with a young child. It is particularly well suited for a mother-daughter reading. The lyrical words provide a means for honoring the birth family and culture, and the illustrations are beautiful and whimsical.

I should also mention, however, that I have heard conflicting views on this book. I have heard some sing praises of Motherbridge of Love because it conveys a value for connection with both the birth parent and the adoptive parent. However, others have shared with me that the poem minimizes the contributions of the birth parent. As I read the book, I think both perspectives have merit. Lines like “one became your guiding star; the other became your sun,” suggest empathy and respect for the birth mother’s gifts and the adoptive mother’s gifts. However, one could argue that the role of the birth mother is diminished to simply birthing the child rather than loving the child with lines like “The first gave you a need for love; the second was there to give it.”

Personally, I find Motherbridge to be a beautiful, heartwarming poem and book. It allows an adoptive parent to get comfortable speaking lovingly about the child’s birth mother. It would also be my hope that this book serves as a launching point for future conversations about the other gifts and connection points with the child’s birth family and culture. I am mindful that I am weighing in on this review once again from the vantage point of an adoptive parent. My hope would be that others who have a different view on this book consider submitting a review or utilizing Adoption Mosaic’s blog to share their viewpoint so that we can learn from one another.

Visit <http://blog.adoptionmosaic.org/?p=457> for another take on *Motherbridge of Love*

**Adoption Mosaic's
Adopted Film Screening and
Discussion**

We had an incredible turnout for our November screening of *Adopted*. Thank you to everyone who helped make it such a success!

In response to an overwhelming request from participants, in February we will be holding a "We Can Do Better" 3 part **Dialogue Series** where we will watch the companion DVD to *Adopted* entitled *We Can Do Better*. This will give adoption constellation members another opportunity to learn from the DVD and from each other.

Following the success of our screening we have been asked to travel to Seattle to screen it for Cascadia Training.

If you haven't already, don't forget to visit our website to read our interview with *Adopted* co-producer Nancy Kim Parsons.



possibly feel such loss at age 5, age 15, age 25 and so on. In one of Jennifer's reflections, she remarks, "You only got her because she was abandoned, and she knows that, much earlier than you can imagine." The main character makes a profound comment that speaks to me regarding "meaningful existence"...she says...."when they acknowledge my identity, I know that they have adopted me, not an idea."

Adopted, is a beautiful piece of art, transformative, and thought provoking. It has propelled me towards a new and richly healing journey. In my adoption story, I was able to locate and meet my biological mother, who is African American, my two half-sisters, an aunt, a grandmother and great grandmother. It pained me greatly when Jennifer's adoptive mother responded, "I don't care about her," when her daughter asked whether she wanted to know more about her biological mother. Most adoptees who search and find actually become closer to their adoptive parents as a result.

Jennifer made countless comments that struck a deep cord within me. One comment that opened my eyes was this sentiment in reference to wanting to learn more about her biological family, "They adopted me so it is our journey, not my burden". I have never looked at it as a journey before and have always felt as though it has been my burden alone.

Having the opportunity to view this film and reflect upon it has been so rewarding. I thank Adoption Mosaic for their wonderful work with adoption issues and for presenting this film to a powerfully mixed constellation. It was a tearful yet poignant part of my journey.

A Short Reflection of *Adopted*

By Lilly Glass Akoto LCSW



There are profound moments in life that are simple and unforgettable - experiences that change the course of your life by unlocking places in your brain and heart that you were not aware of and stretching your mind and soul to realizations you had never contemplated before.

On November 12, 2009, I viewed a film entitled *Adopted*, a documentary of a Korean adoptee raised by a Caucasian family in the United States, and a couple undergoing the process of adoption. As a biracial (Caucasian-African-American) adoptee, raised by Caucasian parents, this film struck a delicate cord with me. Trying to understand my own identity as a female, as a bi-racial person and then as an adoptee was confusing and complex.

Adopted is a raw film that highlights the inimitable issues associated with abandonment, acceptance and meaningful existence. It touched my heart deeply. Jennifer, the main character, comments, "We [adoptees] are always trying to be perfect so we don't get abandoned again." The issue of abandonment is seen in subtle and obvious ways as an adoptee grows up. Many adoptive parents are blind to this as they see adoption as being something *for* them. Jennifer puts it this way, "Families adopt and adoptees adapt."

Jennifer also speaks about how adoptive parents are in celebration when they adopt while the adoptee is in the midst of grieving. The adoptee learns to not express this loss and pain for fear of being abandoned one more time. Since grief is not a linear process but an on-going, random roller coaster process, many are baffled as to how a well-loved adopted child could

"Adopted, is a beautiful piece of art, transformative, and thought provoking. It has propelled me towards a new and richly healing journey"



In The Spotlight

Adoptee and Community Movie Night

Our first movie night began 5 years ago in the living room of executive director Astrid Dabbeni. Movie Night was born from the idea that gathering adoptees together to view mainstream adoption-themed movies would be a perfect way to open up conversation among adoptees. Watching movies together served as a springboard to begin a rich dialogue.

Since then our Adoptee Movie Nights have become an Adoption Mosaic mainstay. Occasionally we would open up the group and encouraged participants to “bring a guest.” Adoptees brought their birthparents, adoptive parents and friends. On these nights, the conversations took on a new and different dynamic. We soon realized how important it is to experience each group, and split our movie nights into adoptee only nights and community nights. In this way we are able to maintain a private space for adoptees to gather alone, while also being able to experience the unique conversation that occurs when all adoption community members are included.

Adoption Movie Nights have spawned several other projects. We have taken a huge interest in adoption-themed films and documentaries and now maintain a large and varied private library. We have created an “Adoption in the Movies” booklet that includes reviews and information about 27 adoption-themed movies and documentaries. And we are currently working on a kid’s movie booklet that will be an adoptive parent’s must-have guide to adoption-themed movies for children. Check www.adoptionmosaic.org often for updates on our progress!



Adoption in the Movies Booklet



Our **Adoption in the Movies** booklet takes the reader on a guided tour of 27 important adoption themed movies and documentaries. Besides a plot description, we’ve also included insightful points that pertain to the movie subject and questions to get your discussion going

Similar to Adoption Mosaic Movie Nights, this booklet creates a great jumping off point for you, your family, and your friends to dialogue about important adoption issues. It also gives you all the tools necessary to start your own movie night.

This booklet may be purchased for \$10.00 on our website. This would make a fabulous gift for friends and family!

“I am able to discuss my authentic feelings with the people I've met in the Adult Adoptee Movie Group because I know they really get it and truly understand how I feel... there are some things that you can only talk to another adoptee about and know that they genuinely understand what you are going through. Through the open discussions I have gleaned some perspective from birth parents that I never had thought of before. Movie Group has been a very eye-opening, emotional and thought-provoking experience for me.”

-Tracy Stout, Adult Adoptee



Ask Astrid

Quarterly, we feature your questions answered by Astrid Dabbeni. Please submit your questions to tara@adoptionmosaic.org with “ask astrid” in the subject line

Hi Astrid,

My daughter sometimes asks, “Why did I have to go to all those foster homes? Why did I get separated from my mom? Why do other kids get to grow up with their parents? Why me?” Any tips on how I might respond?

~ Anonymous

Hello,

It is great that your daughter feels comfortable asking you these questions. These are very natural and healthy questions. Often, such questions can catch parents off-guard. It's important to think about these questions ahead of time, in order to feel comfortable talking about them. A parent's tone, body language, or eye contact speaks louder than words and their child may pick up on these things to gauge the appropriateness or impact of their questions.

Your response should be open and inviting so your daughter feels comfortable asking these kinds of questions again in the future. Some key points to keep in mind:

- Let your daughter know that these are healthy and normal questions.
- Help her to normalize her experience by explaining some of the many reasons why children go into care. Be general. For example, “Children in go into care because the adults are having adult problems.”
- Responding with age-appropriate information is critical. For example, while you might tell your 15-year-old how women sometimes become pregnant without intending to, this is not appropriate language for a 5-year-old.
- Be compassionate about her birth/foster parents' actions and decisions. At the same time, don't shy away from age-appropriate reasons for why adults make the decisions they do (not enough support/resources, mental illness, they made poor choices, but they're not bad people, etc.). Remember, disapproving of her birth family doesn't support a positive sense of self.
- Always be truthful. Children deserve that and it establishes trust.

It's important that your child sense that these types of questions don't scare or shock you, or make you sad. If she sees that her questions and emotions about adoption affect you negatively or hurt you, she may not ask again. It is your job to be strong for her. It's better to keep any deep personal sadness you might feel out of this conversation – because it's about her, not you.

A few ideas to keep the dialogue going and to support your child:

- Head to the library for adoption-focused books, even if they are below her reading level. Books for younger ages can be used to begin or continue a conversation.
- Watch movies about adoption. Movies are a great way to help “normalize” a person's experience. Focusing on the characters in the film may help make the emotions easier to handle. Adoption Mosaic offers Community Movie Groups – where adoption community members (must be 18yrs or older) watch adoption-focused movies together and share their thoughts afterward. We also have a thorough guide ‘Adoption in the Movies’ for purchase on our website, which gives ideas for what to rent, as well as themes and discussion ideas.
- Adoption Mosaic hosts a Youth Activity Group where adoptees (kids and adults alike) can share personal experiences with each other.
- Lastly, check back with her a few days later. Let her know that you've been thinking about her questions and share some of your thoughts. See if this engages her. This will give her a chance to talk more if she wants, and perhaps more importantly, reinforces for her that you're OK with these questions and care about her feelings.



Food for Thought

Thoughts from the Adoption Constellation



Black Enough

By Catherine Maryse Anderson

<http://mamacandtheboys.blogspot.com>

Previously published in Hip Mama Magazine

I can't wait to tell you Sam,
that when you were just two
one of my very black students asked me
why I went
all the way to North Carolina
to *have* you.

I can't wait to describe to you the look
on that student's face
when I told him
that I didn't *have* you
like his mom *had* him,
but that your birthmother
placed you in my arms
in the hospital in North Carolina
on Christmas Eve
as she smiled bravely and
kissed you.

Oh. What? He asked. And then,
*It's not that I thought you were **black black***
he proclaimed.
But I thought you were black enough to have
him.

Black Enough.
Black enough?
True I wondered if I was black enough
to walk through the door of Cordell's barber
shop
that first time six months ago
to get your black and curly hair
cut properly, what would they think of me?

And I can tell you that I am just
black enough to keep walking in that door,
where all the men
in that barber shop,
who have never asked me *my* name
Call you by yours-
Hey Sammy my man-
and *What's up boss?*
They ask you
as you strut
right
up
to Cordell's chair to demand
a lol-i-pop
for a line-it-up
and black enough to notice
as they stare at me
and stare at me
as if by looking
just a little longer
I might become
black enough to them too.

Black enough to notice that
now I own
many more brown and black sweaters and
shirts
and brown corduroys
too
because I must want you to think I
am a little more black
and a little more like you

Black enough Sam
to know
that I'll never be black enough
and because of that
I must never forget
that you
are.



More Than A Blanket

By an anonymous adoptive mother

Adoptive Mom: “But I don’t care about your birthmother. I want you all to myself.”

Adoptee: “But mom, If you show me that you care about my birthmother, you’ll actually get more of me.”

~quotes taken from a conversation between an adult adoptee and her adoptive mother in the documentary *Adopted*

Let’s be honest, isn’t that part of what holds us adoptive parents back from openness in adoption? Aren’t we a bit afraid of our child slipping away from us and back into the arms of their birth mother? Yet, the question is whether we hold onto our children any tighter by denying them such openness. I had always sent pictures and letters twice a year to my children’s birth parents. I even sent pictures to sit in a file drawer in the adoption agency in the case of my son because we did not know how to find his birth parents. I created an email account for the birth parents to contact us if they wanted this. Then, it gradually morphed into more. This story is about our recent plunge into openness with our daughter’s birth family.

Admittedly, I was scared. Did I really want to put my daughter through this rollercoaster of emotion? By not opening it up, was I in any way sparing her from a different type of rollercoaster of emotion? What if my daughter was confused by these new relationships and it rocked her sense of security within our family? Would I be able to see the signs if openness was causing distress rather than relief for her? Would I be able to stay in control over what our relationships looked like? What if my African American daughter Sadie* discovered that her birth mom Tasha is younger than me, prettier than me, and a much better dancer? Still, I felt the pull.

I had regular email contact with Sadie’s birthmother, Tasha and there was no denying that she loved her daughter. She felt pain because she lost the chance of watching Sadie grow up before her eyes. She feared that her child would not forgive her. Tasha felt shame and guilt over the fact that she could not raise her child herself. How could I deny this woman the chance to have a relationship with my child - her child? As the adoptive parent, it’s my job to be the bridge. I need to help my children and their birth parents know what to expect in the way of a relationship. I had to find the courage to navigate this on behalf of my daughter, rather than leaving her to sort this out on her own when she is older.

Recently, I went to visit Sadie’s birth family for the first time while traveling alone on a business trip. The address I had was Tasha’s mother’s house, and I had no idea what to expect. When I first arrived, I have to say that my initial shock was that the grandmother’s home was nicer than my own. I confess that I was picturing a poor, run-down neighborhood. It was Sadie’s grandmother who opened the door. I looked into the

eyes of a woman who appeared my age, and I smiled awkwardly. She burst into tears, held me tight for a very long time, and sobbed on my shoulder until it was soaked. Her only words were “I don’t want to let you go” as her emotions spilled over. Mine were just arriving.

She told me to call her Nala. My immediate impressions of her home were - white, pristine furniture; immaculate cleanliness; and tons of children. Nala was a mother, grandmother, and foster mother, as well as a successful business woman. Nala was also a devoutly religious woman who periodically confused me because she side-barred with God at points in our conversation. There were stunning African relics adorning her walls and shelves. Nala was a proud woman.

“I had not prepared myself for the possibility of a healthy, stable, and capable birth family.”

Tasha swooped in and held me tight. She glanced nervously from Nala to me. We sat down and began combing over pictures of Sadie. Nala told me that she had known about Sadie before the adoption was finalized and that she had been very upset that Tasha would not allow her to raise Sadie. Her words pierced me. It was so hard to hear that she had not wanted us to adopt Sadie. I realized how much comfort I had taken in assuming that all of “us” felt like adoption was the best plan for little Sadie.

The hardest part for me to digest was the fact that this woman could have raised my little girl. Nala could have raised her well. My daughter would have grown up within a family of faces that were brown like hers. My head was spinning. I had prepared myself for the possibility of finding “red flags” or patterns of instability within Sadie’s birth family. I had not prepared myself for the possibility of a healthy, stable, and capable birth family. I had known that Tasha was too young and overwhelmed to parent Sadie, and felt assured that Tasha was at peace with her decision to have Sadie be adopted. I had not considered the fact that Nala, this lovely, strong, weeping woman in front of me had wanted the chance to raise her granddaughter.

The truth was that this was a lovely, stable family

(Continued on page 10)

(More Than A Blanket Continued from page 9)

who was ready to have a relationship with my entire family. They wanted to love all of my children, not just my daughter. I understood that this was a blessing, but I confess that it was downright gut wrenching for me to examine the possibility that maybe we adopted a child who didn't need to be adopted.

Nala shared during our visit that she had always prayed that Sadie would feel her presence. I then told her my confession. Sadie has called her security blanket "Nala" since she could talk, and she still drags it around everywhere. Nala began weeping again and praying spontaneously. "Thank you Jesus," she said. "I didn't understand why you wanted these two families to come together like this. I don't understand your ways. But I trust you, Jesus. Thank you for bringing our little girl's mama into our home tonight."

I don't know what this will look like in the future? Sadie is only four years old. People ask me if it's weird or upsetting to her to talk to Tasha or Nala when they call now. At this point, Sadie does not grasp the weight of it all. She simply views Tasha as another aunt in her life. She knows that she "grew in Tasha's tummy" and that Tasha is her "birth mother". However, she also still confuses the terms godmother and birthmother and grandmother. She does not yet grasp that she lost getting to be raised by this mommy. She has not yet had to wade her way through the waves of feelings related to Tasha's decision to place her for adoption.

What I do know is that this is a family that loves our little girl. They are a part of our family, and we are now a part of theirs. They understand that Sadie is going to grow up in our family, and that she will view us as mom and dad. This is undoubtedly laced with grief, particularly for Tasha. However, she accepts it. She loves Sadie and she is always mindful of what is best for her. As I sort through my own feelings related to Sadie's birth family, I am readying myself for the centered, open place that I will assume when Sadie leans on me down the road. I want to be the steady, secure vessel that she will need me to be as she sifts through her own feelings. Trusting that love and security come from not holding too tightly is a powerful kind of trust. I'm getting there.

*All names have been changed to ensure the privacy of the family.

Contributors

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Lilly Glass Akoto, LCSW - Lilly is an African-Caucasian-American who was adopted at 8 months from foster care. She has been reunited with her birth mother since 1991. She is on the Board of ASHA International, volunteers at the Dougy Center, and is active with Adoption Mosaic, often a speaker on the adoptee panels. She has a private practice in the community that specializes in multicultural issues, trauma, and grief and loss. Her contact information: www.LiLoCounseling.com; 503-442-0636

Catherine Maryse Anderson - Catherine is a single parent, free lance writer, poet, and public school humanities teacher in Portland, Maine. Her transracial family came together through domestic adoption and donor assisted conception. Her poetry and essays have appeared in Hip Mama, Adoptive Families Magazine, and many online venues. She blogs at <http://mamacandtheboys.blogspot.com>.

Ally Burr-Harris, Ph.D. - Ally Burr-Harris is the board president of Adoption Mosaic and a clinical psychologist at Children's Program, and she specializes in issues related to attachment, adoption, and trauma. She is the mother of three children, two of whom were adopted transracially.

Astrid Dabbeni - Astrid has worked in adoption for over 18 years. She travels the country leading youth groups, presenting workshops on talking with children about adoption, trans-racial parenting, and other related topics. Her life-long interest in adoption is rooted in her own adoption at the age of four with her older sister from Colombia. Astrid is the Executive Director and co-founder of Adoption Mosaic.

Tara Kim- Editor - Tara has been active in the adoption community for over eight years. She has founded and led adoptee community groups, led adoptee youth groups, and served on the board of Adoption Mosaic for two and a half years. She currently serves as Adoption Mosaic's webmaster, blogger and newsletter editor. Tara was adopted from Korea at the age of two.

Livia Montana - Livia is a writer currently working on a novel and collection of poetry. Her study of literature and philosophy intensified her interest in how the adoptive experience affects triad members. She was adopted from Portugal when she was four and a half years old.