



The Birthmother's Story ~ A Panel Discussion April 24, 2010 (9-11am)

Adoption begins with the Birth Mother's story, yet often their voices go unheard. Even in Open Adoption, the intimate experience of the Birth Mother may be unspoken. This is an opportunity to hear from five local Birth Mothers and their individual stories surrounding the relinquishment of their children. Though often difficult to hear, the Birth Mother experience is an integral part in gaining a better understanding of adoption and the impact relinquishment might have on all members of the mosaic.

In addition to sharing their personal experiences of being Birth Mothers, this panel will also discuss why it is important to know and understand these stories and how all participants in adoption might work together to create a more positive and supportive place for the Birth Mother.

Topics will include:

- ❖ Dispelling the Birth Mother myth
- ❖ Social, religious and political views influencing the choice to relinquish
- ❖ Connection of the Birth Mother's experience with the Adoptee's experience
- ❖ Past and current support and legal protection for Birth Mothers (Oregon vs. other states)
- ❖ Ways to honor the Birth Mother

Facilitated by Astrid Dabbeni. Astrid, a co-founder of Adoption Mosaic, trains across the country on the topic of transracial adoptions, leads youth activity groups and an adult adoptee movie group. She has worked and volunteered for adoption related organizations for over 18 years. Astrid's life-long interest in adoption is rooted in her own transracial adoption at the age of four with her older sister.

Cost- \$30 per person. Pre-Registration is required. Visit our website www.adoptionmosaic.org to register via PayPal or to print, complete and mail a registration form with payment to P.O. Box 18102, Portland, OR 97218. Email info@adoptionmosaic.org with questions.

Adoption Mosaic is a non-profit 501c3 organization founded by those touched by adoption to offer support, education and resources for the adoption community. Adoption Mosaic is not associated with any adoption agency, nor does it make recommendations about agencies or specific types of adoption. We value diversity, openness and honesty in adoption. **Cancellation Policy** - 14 days prior to the event: full refund; 13-7 days: transfer funds to another workshop; 72 hours or less: no refund. For details visit our website www.adoptionmosaic.org.

Why Mosaic? Like adoption, a mosaic is a picture created of bits and pieces. The spaces between remind us that each piece has a history of its own.