



2025 PACT WEBINARS

Continue your lifelong journey of adoption with Pact's honest, anti-racist, child-centered education programs. Deepen your knowledge about adoption and its intersection with race and family, learning from leaders in the field. Each 90-minute webinar covers material specifically designed for members of the adoption constellation, and includes additional programming for pre-adopters and professionals.

Pact Offers Three Types of Webinars:

Digging Deeper: Listen to Learn

First view a pre-recorded webinar, then attend a live conversation and Q&A session. Live sessions led by Pact staff allow you to further explore the material shared in the webinar, ask your own questions, and get direct answers.

Live Webinars

Attend a live real-time presentation, followed by a brief Q&A chat. You receive a recording of the webinar after the live event, whether or not you are able to attend.

Author's Forum

Read an important book by an adoptee author or research expert, then attend a live interactive discussion with the author to learn more about their insights into the adoption experience and system.

Register at: pactadopt.org/events-calendar | fee for each webinar: \$38.50

Pact members receive a 20% discount. Become a member today: pactadopt.org/membership

January 15, 2025

Author's Forum: *Relinquished: The Politics of Adoption and the Privilege of American Motherhood*
Author: Gretchen Sisson

Sisson is a myth-buster who has spent over a decade researching the experience of women in the United States who relinquished their children for domestic infant adoption. To learn how that choice gets made, and what its impact is over time, she conducted in-depth interviews with over 70 first/birth mothers. Through careful analysis, Sisson will discuss the many myths about adoption that persist across the political spectrum.

February 19, 2025

Digging Deeper: *The Adolescent Brain – Understanding Adopted Tweens & Teens*
Conversation Leader: Beth Hall

Adolescence is hard and complicated for everyone, and

more so for adopted teens of color. Learn about the many changes taking place in the brains, bodies, and emotions of your beloved, frustrating tweens and teens. Get better prepared to help your adopted child navigate these changes, and the intersections with their experiences of race, adoption, foster care, and/or trauma.

March 19, 2025

Live Webinar: *Living Open Adoption*
Lead Speaker: Susan Dusza Guerra Leksander

Openness in adoption benefits all members of the adoption constellation, but its primary purpose is to center the adopted person. To do this, all adults involved need to develop specific skills and mindsets including being honest, appreciating the importance of each participant's role, being vulnerable, and managing

expectations and feelings. Explore how to navigate the high-stakes complexities of openness and the inherent power differentials in adoption.

April 16, 2025

Author's Forum: *I Would Meet You Anywhere*
Author: Susan Ito

Finding and meeting her birth mother in her twenties was only the beginning of adoptee Susan Ito's search for answers. In her memoir, she grapples with her own reproductive choices, the legacy of Japanese American incarceration during World War II, her mixed-race identity, and the true meaning of family. *I Would Meet You Anywhere* is the stirring culmination of Ito's determination to know and tell her own story. We will discuss the complex experience of adoption throughout an adoptee's lifespan.

April 30, 2025

Live Webinar: What to Expect 2 to 5: Adopted Preschoolers

Lead Speaker: Beth Hall

What is your little one feeling and thinking about adoption? Preschoolers are very concrete thinkers. They are just beginning to learn about things like "same and different" and to apply their new understanding to everything, including friends and family. Each stage of their development will challenge you to grow along with them.

May 14, 2025

Digging Deeper: Adoptees of Color in Same-Race Adoptions

Conversation Leader: Raquel Vivanco

Hear from BIPOC adoptees in same-race placements as they explore the complexities around "invisible" adoptions for people of color, the nuances around perceived and shared culture, traditions and histories, and their connections to birth family. Panel will include adoptees placed through foster care, private adoption, and international adoption.

June 11, 2025

Digging Deeper: Dear White People: Antiracist Adoptive Parenting

Conversation Leader: Beth Hall

This webinar is for white adoptive parents ready to interrogate their own racism, talk about race with their children, and do something about racism now. No matter what your child's race, learn how to talk with them about all "-isms," including our country's history of white supremacy. Remember, silence speaks volumes and white people in particular have to

push beyond self-examination into action. Get tools and models for embracing an antiracist approach to parenting across racial lines.

August 20, 2025

Live Webinar: Supporting Neurotypical & Neurodivergent Youth

Lead Speaker: Cristina Easton

Neurodiversity is a framework for understanding how brains function and the diversity of human cognition. Moving away from a deficit framework, a neurodiverse lens allows us to recognize and support different ways of thinking, learning and behaving. All adoptive parents can benefit from learning about supporting neurotypical and neurodiverse youth at home and school.

September 17, 2025

Digging Deeper: Adoption and Schools

Conversation Leader: Beth Hall

To realize the full potential of adopted/fostered children of color, educators must not only confront their racial biases, they must become adoption-literate and trauma-informed. Academic ability and learning differences are often misinterpreted. This session foregrounds the voices of adoptees of color, ages 10-17, who share their experiences in schools. We'll discuss how schools can be pushed to best serve adopted children of color.

October 15, 2025

Live Webinar: Living in the Now, Looking toward the Future: Cultivating Your Long Term Relationship with Your Child

Lead Speaker: Raquel Vivanco

Do you worry about when to talk with your children about their

adoption? Do you imagine a "one and done" conversation? Learn how to value rather than avoid difficult conversations--to help you and your child fortify your long-term relationship. Learn how to support your children exploring their roots, their identity, and what adoption means for them. Learn strategies to respond to challenging stages with confidence and bravery.

November 12, 2025

Author's Forum: In Praise of Late Wonder

Author: Lee Herrick

In his new collection In Praise of Late Wonder, California Poet Laureate Lee Herrick writes about his adoption from Korea in memoir-like prose poems. An exploration of self, origins, and family, this book is a knockout. Lee is the first Asian American to be CA Poet Laureate and is not only adopted but is also an adoptive parent. Lee will offer some readings as well as perspectives on the ways writing has helped him come to terms within his own adoption journey.

December 10, 2025

Live Webinar: What to Expect 6 to 9: Adopted School Age Kids

Lead Speaker: Beth Hall

Learn how children at this age use their developing conceptual skills to figure out how and why adoption happened to them. Having differences in family structure and/or racial identification pointed out can make school kids feel uncomfortable. Practical advice about how to navigate new peer relationships and school challenges will be addressed.