



Virtual 2-Day Conference Schedule

Day One **Friday, November 10th**

[TO REGISTER CLICK HERE](#)

8am-8:45am PST

Yoga with Cathy!

9am-9:45am PST

WELCOME DAY ONE

Ukulele with Abe Lagrimas, Jr.

Morning Keynote: Be Part of the Movement, Not the Resistance

By: Founder of Celia Center, Jeanette Yoffe M.F.T., Adoptee, Former Foster Youth

9:50am-10:00am PST

Sponsor Hello: National Center on Adoption and Permanency

By: President Adam Pertman, Adoptive Parent

10am-11:30am PST

Morning Breakouts:

- **Twists & Turns & Lessons Learned: Foster-Adoptive Parent Story**

Eli Haarlander, Foster Adoptive Parent

- **First Birth Parents Panel - Trials & Triumphs**

Denise Palmer, First-Birth Mother

- **Separation Trauma & Addiction**

David B. Bohl, MA, CSAC, MAC, Adoptee, Independent Addiction & Recovery Consultant, and Relinquishment & Adoption Consultant at Beacon Confidential LLC

11:40am-11:50am PST

First Mother Poetic Writing

Amber Jimerson, First-Birth Mother

12pm-1pm PST

Lunch Break

12:30pm-12:45pm PST

Restore Wellness Nutrition

Suanne Sikkema, Adoptee

1pm-2:30pm PST

Afternoon Breakouts:

- **Parenting in Open Adoptions**

Phil Weglarz, Adoptive Parent

- **Rethinking Adoption in the 21st Century**

Adam Pertman, Adoptive Parent, Writer, Editor, & Communications Expert

- **Adoption Challenges, Contributing Factors & Prevention Techniques**

Miya D. Erickson, M.S.W., M.A., Psy.D, Adoptee, and Adoptive Parent

2:30pm-3pm PST

Artist Interview: Where Hallmark Cards Won't Go

Patrick McMahon, Adoptee, Artist

3pm-4:30pm PST

Afternoon Breakouts:

- **Dear White People: Becoming an Antiracist Adoptive Parent**

Beth Hall, Pact, An Adoption Alliance Co-Founder & Executive Director, Adoptive Mother

- **Former Foster Youth Panel - Trials & Triumphs**

Georgette Todd, Foster Youth Alumni

- **Restoring Adult Adoptee Access to Birth Certificates in California**

Rich Uhrlaub, Adoptee, President of the Coalition for Truth and Transparency in Adoption (CTTA) and Adoption Search Resource Connection (ASRC)

5pm-5:45pm PST

Adoption & Foster Care Constellation Voices in Film Panel

*Arzo Yusuf, Foster Youth Advocate,
Director of Breaking the Cycle
Jenni Alpert "Cami", Foster-Adoptee,
Subject of Homeless the Soundtrack
Rock Wilk, Adoptee, Director of The Center of Distance*

5:45pm-6pm PST	First Day WRAP UP with Jeanette Yoffe
7pm-7:30pm PST	<i>Breaking the Cycle</i> Documentary Film
7:30pm-8pm PST	<i>Homeless the Soundtrack</i> Documentary Film
8:30pm-9:30pm PST	Open Mic Night <i>Hosted by Brian Stanton, Adoptee, Filmmaker</i> <i>All Members invited to participate and/or watch</i>

Day Two **Saturday, November 11th**

8am-8:45am PST	Yoga with Cathy!
9am-9:45am PST	WELCOME DAY TWO HeeSun Hip Hop Recording Artist Interview <i>By: Founder of Celia Center, Jeanette Yoffe M.F.T.</i> <i>HeeSun, Adoptee, Hip-Hop Artist</i>
9:45am-10am PST	Sponsor Hello: Unraveling Adoption Podcast <i>Beth Syverson, Adoptive Parent</i>
10am-11:30am PST	Morning Breakouts: • Searching for Birth Parents in the Age of DNA <i>Lynn Grubb is a closed-era Illinois adoptee, Peruvian-American, and parent by marriage, birth & adoption</i> • Adoptees All Grown Up Panel – Trials & Triumphs <i>Anne Bonura, Adoptee</i> • Introducing Your Self: A Primer on Internal Family Systems <i>Ridghaus, Adoptee, Certified Grief Educator, Life coach, CMHC graduate student, and Level 2 Internal Family Systems practitioner</i>
11:40am-12pm PST	Artist Interview: When Will You Get Your Shit Together? <i>Robert Bilensky, Adoptee, Artist</i>
12pm-1pm PST	Lunch Break
12:30pm-12:45pm PST	Stand-up Comedy <i>Joe Klocek, Adoptee, Stand-up Comedian</i>

1pm-2:30pm PST

Afternoon Breakouts:

- **Dialectical Behavior Therapy For the Soul**

Brian Shiers, M.A., C.M.F., L.M.F.T.

- **Adoptive Foster Parents Panel - Trials & Triumphs**

Ledette Gambini, L.M.F.T., Adoptive-Foster Parent, Parent Coach

- **Memoir Reading: Adoptee, First Birth Parent & Adoptive Parent**

Laureen Pittman Author, Adoptee, "The Lie's That Bind"

Alicia Kay Lanier Author, First Mother, "My Unspeakable Loss"

Linda Sexton, Author, Adoptive Parent, "The Branches We Cherish: An Open Adoption Memoir"

2:40pm-2:50pm PST

Sponsor Hello: National Association of Adoptees and Parents

3pm-3:30pm PST

Artist Interview: Innocent People Project

Jeff Forney, Adoptee, Photographer

4pm-5pm PST

Afternoon Breakouts:

- **Adoptee, Foster Alumni & First Birth Parent Only Support Group**

Cathy Koley, Trauma-Sensitive Yoga (TSY) Instructor, Adoptee Speaker, Writer, Educator

- **Adoptive Foster Parents Only Support Group**

Phil Weglarz, adoptive parent in an open same-race domestic adoption

- **Adoption Constellation Support Group for All Attendees**

Founder of Celia Center, Jeanette Yoffe M.F.T.

5:30pm-6:15pm PST

CLOSING Remarks & Native American Healing Ceremony

By: Founder of Celia Center, Jeanette Yoffe M.F.T.

Martin Espino, A Native American Healer

7:00pm-9:15pm PST

The Center of Distance Documentary Film by Rock Wilk

We hope to see you there!

[TO REGISTER CLICK HERE](#)

Every person deserves a loving family.

Join us!



 **CELIA CENTER**
Adoption | Foster Care | Support

National Adoption Conference

