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AAC BEACON

October 6, 2013

ADOPTION: NO SECRETS. NO FEAR.

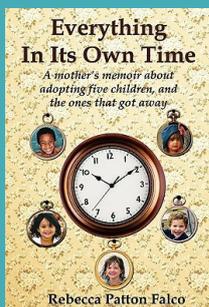
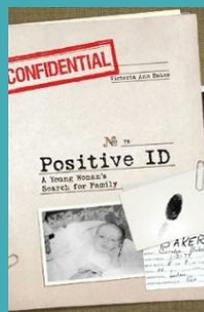
www.AmericanAdoptionCongress.org



RECOMMENDED FALL READING

Positive ID by Victoria Baker-Willford

In this honest memoir, AAC member Victoria Baker-Willford recounts her search to discover her identity. Exploring both the emotional impact of her search and the practical ramifications, she examines her life as a person with both disabilities and a deep need to know the truth about her origins.



Everything In Its Own Time by Rebecca Patton Falco

In this memoir, Rebecca Falco, AAC member, explores how she and her husband built their transracial family through the open adoptions of five children and how the children's original families became integrated with their own.

Three Little Words: A Memoir by Ashley Rhodes-Courter

Before being adopted, Ashley Rhodes-Courter spent nine years in foster care. *Three Little Words* tells the story of those years – of the lies, the abuse, and the confusing array of homes – and the challenges she faced in learning to trust her adoptive family.



IN THIS ISSUE:

- Books for Fall
- Sacramento woman's Facebook story goes viral
- A Mother and Child Reunion- 71 years in the making.
- Plans for National Adoption Awareness Month
- New movie about adoption

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Sacramento woman's Facebook Story about Search for parents goes viral



By Kurt Chirbas

CONFERENCE NEWS

Building Bridges for Change, the theme of the 2014 American Adoption Congress International Conference, depicts the many bridges flowing into the City By The Bay and the monumental change in adoption perceptions that represent the confluence of the AAC efforts.

This stellar Conference opens **Wednesday** evening with Zara Phillips' one woman show *Beneath My Father's Sky*. The play is about both her

relationship with her adoptive father and her search for her birth father.

Thursday keynotes include Lisa Marie Rollins, writer, performer, lecturer and creator of the award winning solo show, *Ungrateful Daughter: One Black Girls Story of Being Adopted Into a White Family ... that aren't Celebrities*, and Dr. John Raible who will discuss recent developments among politicized transracial adoptees. Dr. Raible will provide a social justice framework for understanding the oppression of transracial adoptees.

Leslie Pate Mackinnon heads up the outstanding list of professionals **Friday** with her keynote: *Bridge Over Troubled Waters: Ordinary People Changing the World*.

Saturday, Rickie Solinger, historian and author of *Wake Up Little Susie: Single Pregnancy and Race Before Roe v. Wade*, speaking about race, class and motherhood and the politics and policies governing reproduction, welfare and incarceration.

Building Bridges for Change will include over 45 professional workshops and panels; adoptee experiences, best practices in adoption and professional education, parent experiences, documentary films, ethics in adoption, healing from grief and loss, donor conception rights, legislative reform, search and reunion, and many more topics on adoption. The 2014 San Francisco conference promises to be the meeting of the best minds in the adoption legislation and reform arena. All are welcome **April 9 – 13, 2014**, PARC 55 Wyndham San Francisco – Union Square.

Donnie Davis, 2014 AAC Conference Chair, pdj27@aol.com

SEE YOU ALL IN SAN FRANCISCO!!



NEW MOVIE ABOUT ADOPTION

In *Philomena*, Steve Coogan's Martin trades political journalism for human-interest storytelling to help Judi Dench's title character find the son she surrendered for adoption decades prior. The quest leads the unlikely duo to America, where it seems they find her long-lost son.

The film, directed by Stephen Frears (*The Queen*, *High Fidelity*), was a People's Choice Award runner-up at this month's Toronto International Film Festival. Get a sneak peek in the just-released trailer below:

Social media helped a Sacramento area resident find her birth family, and now, it has turned Courtney Hardy, 27, into something of a minor cybercelebrity.

Hardy, an account executive at Fox40 (KTXL), recently published an online post about tracking down her birth parents. Carried by The Huffington Post and Facebook Stories, the written narrative has prompted massive reader response.

[Read more here](#)

NEXT BLOG TALK RADIO!!

October 25 at
4 P.M. EDT
Richard Hill



November 8 at
4 P.M. EDT
Zara Phillips and Darrel
McDaniels

[Link to website](#)



Get ready for the 2014 Conference! T-shirts, mugs, bumper stickers, water bottles, and hats galore! Visit the AAC store at Cafe Press.

[Link to website](#)

HAVE SOMETHING TO
SUBMIT FOR THE
BEACON?



Philomena hits theaters in limited release on Christmas Day.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR NATIONAL ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH?

In 1976, the governor of Massachusetts, Michael Dukakis, announced an Adoption Week for his state. Later that same year President Gerald Ford proclaimed that Adoption Week would be celebrated nationally. President Reagan proclaimed the first National Adoption Week in 1984. As more and more states started to participate in Adoption Week it became clear that more time was needed for holding events and in 1995, President Clinton, proclaimed November as National Adoption Month.

Some ideas for your participation:

- Show an adoption related movie
- Offer to give a talk at a class
- Make an information table at a bookstore
- Write an op ed piece for your newspaper



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AACBeacon@gmail.com

A Mother and Child Reunion 71 Years in the Making



By Tonya Strickland
Brooke Mayo, 89, sat at a small kitchen table in her Paso Robles home on a recent afternoon as she carefully adjusted her eyeglasses and began telling a story of the daughter she gave up for adoption in the summer of 1942.

She reunited with that daughter for the first time this summer — a remarkable 71 years later.

“In 1941, near Christmas, a young girl got pregnant,” she began in a somber tone. “She was raped, and she got pregnant.”

That young girl was Mayo, back when she was just 17 years old and walking to her car after a dinner party in the Hollywood Hills. She never knew her attacker.

Nine months later, she gave birth to a little girl she named Delphine, a character in a film she liked, the 1940 motion picture, “Kitty Foyle.”

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