



Adoption Expert Q&A Webcast

# Inside Transracial Adoption

*Beth Hall*

**Type your questions in the box to the right. >>**

Adoptive Families Expert Webinars - [www.adoptivefamilies.com/webinars](http://www.adoptivefamilies.com/webinars)



# Inside Transracial Adoption

*Breaking the Racial Sound Barrier*

**Beth Hall**  
**Pact, An Adoption Alliance**  
**[beth@pactadopt.org](mailto:beth@pactadopt.org)**



pact's

**point of view**

serving adopted children of color

**Placement  
Education  
Support  
Community**

**Pact, An Adoption Alliance**

**[www.pactadopt.org](http://www.pactadopt.org)**

# 6-Word Narratives



The Race Card Project begun by journalist Michele Norris as a means of asking folks to distill their thoughts about race into compact “conversation starters” that wound up instead giving her and the world insight into a plethora of experiences, questions, hopes, dreams, laments and observations about race and identity. Jae Ran Kim, author of the blog Harlow’s Monkey, knew of Norris’s project and first suggested that it would be interesting to have an adoption version.

# **6-Word Narrative**

## **Breaking the Racial Sound Barrier**



- 1. Listen**
- 2. Get-over-it**
- 3. Zero-tolerance**
- 4. Change-agent**
- 5. Connection**
- 6. Ally**

# Listen to Your Children & Other People of Color



• For white parents and professionals, it is often more comfortable to speak for and about people of color than to speak for and about white privilege and problems within the white community – it is **OUR JOB** to change that pattern

# Get Over It

Indulge in guilt  
or self pity  
when needed  
but never for  
very long



# Why Transracial Parents Are Ineffective



- ▶ Personality type
- ▶ Shame of cultural incompetence
- ▶ Fear that acknowledging racism promotes victimization instead of providing protection
- ▶ Unacknowledged racism



# Develop Zero Tolerance for Racism

For children/people of color daily encounters with racism have a cumulative impact and these experiences restrict social, economic & political mobility.



# Transracial/Transcultural International/Domestic Biracial /Monoracial



# Become a Change Agent

Developmental  
Disconnect:  
Adoptive Parent  
vs. Adoptee



# **Two Step Learning Process**

*for parents to*

**#1**

**Understand  
the  
Issues**



**#2**

**Learn  
the  
Tools**

# Connection

Being Born To

- a Family
- a Heritage
- a Community
- a Country

Is Important



# Racial Isolation

**Geographical  
Isolation**

**Residential  
Isolation  
(*self-  
segregation*)**



# Act Like an Ally



- Make race and racial justice part of your daily diet
- Start at the beginning - skin color comes from melanin
- Teach your children racialized values
- Explain the hard stuff – discussions of history & racism

# 6-Word Narrative



**Love is easy.  
Courage is not.**

*Transracial Adoptive Parent*



# **Pact, *an Adoption Alliance***

**5515 Doyle Street #1, Emeryville, CA 94608**

**510.243.9460**

**[www.pactadopt.org](http://www.pactadopt.org)**

# Questions?

Please enter your questions for Beth Hall  
in the box to your right.



Please note: Attendance and all questions are confidential.  
Only the moderator of the webinar will see the questions and  
the names of the attendees.

*Adoptive Families* does not provide medical or mental health advice.  
The material in this webinar is provided for educational purposes only.

# Thank You!

**A recording of this session will be available at:**  
**[www.adoptivefamilies.com/webinars](http://www.adoptivefamilies.com/webinars)**

As we schedule future webinars, details and registration links will also be posted to that page.

To continue the conversation, we invite you to join us at  
**[AdoptiveFamiliesCircle.com](http://AdoptiveFamiliesCircle.com)**  
*Adoptive Families'* online community for meeting families like yours, sharing photos, and participating in ongoing discussion groups.