



For Immediate Release:
(to be included in your newsletters and calendars)

When: November 7-9, 2008

What:

***1st Annual Gathering for Adoptees and Foster Care Alums of African Descent:
Healing Ourselves, Making Connections***

Announcing the 1st annual gathering of adoptees (transracial/international and same race) and foster care alums of African descent in Oakland, California, November 7-9, 2008.

AFAAD (Adopted and Fostered Adults of the African Diaspora) was formed specifically to support adopted and fostered people, to share our common and divergent experiences around race, adoption, joy, loss, family, search and reunion, and self identity and to celebrate our unique creativity, stories and community. AFAAD's First Annual Gathering, *Healing Ourselves, Making Connections* is designed with you mind.

The purpose of this historic gathering will be to make connections, network, provide healing space, and to celebrate the diversity of our amazing diaspora of transracial, international, domestic adoptees and foster care alums. AFAAD uses "Black" in the widest diasporic sense, which includes African, African American, Afroasian and Afrolatino, bi-racial and multi heritage peoples. ***Healing Ourselves, Making Connections*** is the *first of its kind* for Black adoptees and foster adults and we know it will make a huge contribution to the conversations about adoption, race, social welfare and African diasporic identity - not to mention just bringing all of us together in one space is going to be amazing! It is time to share our stories with one another, rather than always teaching other people. We will also take some time for the strategic planning for the long-term goals of AFAAD as a social justice and community support organization.

Where:

AFAAD's 2008 Gathering is being hosted by the lovely Washington Inn, at 495 10th Street, Oakland CA a luxury boutique hotel ideally situated at the center of downtown Oakland, CA, close to all forms of public transportation. See <http://www.thewashingtoninn.com/> for more information, or call 510.452.1776. *Individuals visiting the Bay Area must make their own hotel reservations separately from AFAAD Gathering registration.*

Please see the website for more details about the Gathering schedule, call for sessions, hotel and registration information and more information about our mission, community and legislative advocacy work.

Contact Info:

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