



Hello Adoptions With Love Families!

It's that time of year when things get back into full swing with school, activities and family life is very busy. Adoptions With Love is thriving and creating new families everyday while helping young women who are not able to parent their children, make safe and loving plans for them. Many of these women have difficult life circumstances and are grateful to AWL for all our assistance.

Adoptions With Love wants to inform you of resources of which some families may want to take advantage. We have heard from several families that need some assistance talking to their children about struggles they are experiencing regarding adoption issues.

- Children want to know more about their birth parents and their parents need help discussing this.
- Families need help navigating issues inherent with transracial adoption.
- Children have special needs for which parents need assistance finding resources.
- Parents need help and support with many of the topics above

We want to tell you about a terrific resource located in Brookline, MA. They provide in-person and virtual options for groups and counseling. They are called **Boston Post Adoption Resources** you can look them up: bpar.org "Adoption is a lifelong journey" They have some dynamic therapists and many helpful resources.

[Boston Post Adoption Resources](#)

We have also had many calls from young adults looking to connect with their birth parents and this is something that Adoptions With Love can do with our Search and Reunion Program.

We are hoping to organize a fun gathering for families to get together like we have done in the past. We did not do this in the past few years due to COVID but we are ready to plan a spectacular event. Please contact us at info@awlonline.org if are interested in volunteering to help organize this event. We can definitely use your help.

See below a lovely article written by a young adult woman who wants to share her thoughts about her adoption with you. Margot is interested in helping form support/social groups for all members of the AWL community.

Margot's Adoption Story

Adoptions with Love has been with me my whole life. I was born in April of 1987,

and at the time AWL was one of two adoption agencies with options for open adoption in Massachusetts. Like many, my adoption story ([link to story](#)) is full of ups and downs, ambiguities, serendipity, and what feels like a miracle. None of what my life has been, and what my family became would be possible without the support of AWL.

What sticks with me about my birth mother Peggy's story, is the humanity and care with which she was treated. As open adoption was still illegal in Rhode Island, and there was in fact a mandatory 4 month foster care stay for newborns prior to placement, AWL traveled to Peggy to counsel her. When the family she had chosen to adopt me had to pull out of the adoption on the eve of my birth, AWL used their network to ensure that I was placed with the type of family Peggy had envisioned for me. She was unwilling to settle, and so were they.

When I was 16, I simply could not wait any longer to meet Peggy. Amy, and the staff of Adoptions with Love skillfully counseled my family and evaluated if they thought I was emotionally prepared for such a life altering risk. I batted down my expectations, realizing that should things not work out, the disappointment would crush me, and I would rather expect nothing and be joyously surprised if our reunion was possible. For me at the time, the process seemed painstakingly slow, although in retrospect it all happened quickly. AWL got in touch with Peggy by phone, and when she told them that she was ecstatic at the news that I wanted to reunite, not because I was in trouble or needed medical information, but simply because I wanted to know her, they sent her a letter that I had written. In it I was able to tell her about who I was, and that I understood her decision to place me for adoption was incredibly loving. That I harbored no anger or resentment but had been waiting my whole life to see her again.

Her return letter came quickly, I found out years later that she had driven her letter to my mailbox so I wouldn't have to wait for her reply. After that point, AWL gave us the green light to connect by phone, and I'll never forget the feeling of hearing her voice for the first time and hearing how much she had missed me. I'll never forget the way it felt to be wrapped in her arms for the first time in 16 years, and the feeling of wholeness as we stitched together our blended family in the years to come. I got married in June, with both of my mothers by my side. Seeing the love and deep appreciation they have for each other fills me with peace.

Now, reunions aren't always the fairy tale that my reunion with Peggy was, my reunion with my birth father was incredibly disappointing and painful but having the support of the AWL community was incredibly helpful. AWL continues to offer search and reunion support on an individual basis to adoptees looking to reconnect.

I had the chance to visit with Amy on my last trip to the East Coast and catch up on life. It is so great to see AWL thriving and continuing to provide essential services in helping families come together, and all the services they provide throughout the course of the journey. We spoke about how great it feels to be connected to the organization as an adult, and how it would be exciting to connect with other AWL adoptees. Most of the contact information and data that we have is for birth parents, and we would love to engage the community of adult and teen adoptees looking to connect with the organization, and with each other. We would like to gauge interest in participating in group calls for adoptive parents, teen adoptees, adult adoptees, and birth parents.

We hope this fall season is going well and we are here if you need our assistance. The beauty is that after 38 years, Adoptions With Love is here for you as you navigate these issues. Check out our [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) to stay up to date.

With warm regards,

Amy S. Cohen, LICSW

Executive Director

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