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Adoptee and Bestselling Author to Speak in Ojai, CA

Thomas Brooks to Be Joined at Pre-Mother's Day Event by His Biological Mother and Ojai Resident Dorothy Wallstein

OJAI, CALIFORNIA (April 16, 2007) — Can you imagine needing to buy **two** bouquets for Mother's Day? When adoptee Thomas Brooks, a Pittsburgh native, set out to find his biological parents, he had no idea his search would take him to London, England and to Nairobi, Kenya. He also never expected to one day have family living in Ojai, California. His international search and the resulting reunions have led to a heartwarming and inspirational book that shows the power of love.

Brooks will be joined by his biological mother, Ojai resident Dorothy Wallstein, at a meet and speak event at Table of Contents Books & Gifts on **Thursday, May 3, 2007 from 4 PM to 6 PM**. The bookstore is located at 208 East Ojai Avenue, Ojai, CA 93023. Brooks will be signing copies of his bestselling book, *A Wealth of Family: An Adopted Son's International Quest for Heritage, Reunion, and Enrichment* (ISBN 978-0977462933).

A Wealth of Family was just named a *ForeWord* Magazine Book of the Year Award Finalist, and the book has reached #1 Bestseller status on Amazon.com for adoption titles. The book chronicles how Brooks grew up as the only child of a struggling single mother in inner-city Pittsburgh. He was battling racial stereotypes at school and searching for a place among his peers. Then he was told at age eleven that he had been adopted as an infant. He did not know it at the time, but Brooks had actually been born to Wallstein, a white biological mother who had descended from Lithuanian Jews, and Mboga Mageka Omwenga, a black Kenyan foreign student father.

Years after the stunning revelation of his adoption, Brooks escaped the ghetto and traveled to search for his heritage. He found Wallstein in London with his previously unknown British siblings. He then located his biological father and extended family in Nairobi.

Meanwhile, Wallstein had led a storied life, including time as a "flower-child" in the legendary Haight-Ashbury area of San Francisco in the late 1960s. Wallstein later moved to England, married and raised four English kids who are now Brooks' half-siblings. Along the way she has had successful careers as the founder of a British college of homeopathic medicine, and also as a global management consultant. Wallstein has lived in Ojai since 2001, where she is an active advocate for educational and environmental issues.

Thomas Brooks has published several articles and spoken frequently on the radio and on TV. In 1998, Brooks won a Career Communications Group national award in the *Technical Sales and Marketing* category. Brooks was formerly a Director of Marketing at Lucent Technologies. Since 2002 the entrepreneur has served as the Managing Director of Alpha Multimedia, Inc., a marketing, public relations and publishing firm that focuses on high technology, emerging business, and publishing industry clients. His bestselling book, *A Wealth of Family*, was named a "Best Books" Award Winner by *USA Book News*. Brooks lives with his family near Houston, Texas. Go to www.AlphaMultimedia.com, or call 281-217-1960 for interview requests or other queries.

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