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AAC Beacon

February 2014

ADOPTION:
NO SECRETS. NO FEAR.
www.AmericanAdoptionCongress.org



Winter Movie Suggestion

***Philomena* Nominated for Four Academy Awards**



The movie *Philomena*, partly filmed in County Down, has been nominated for FOUR Oscars including best actress and best picture. It was also nominated for best original score and best adapted screenplay by writers Steve Coogan and Jeff Pope. The film is based on the true story of an Irish woman who was forced to give up her son.

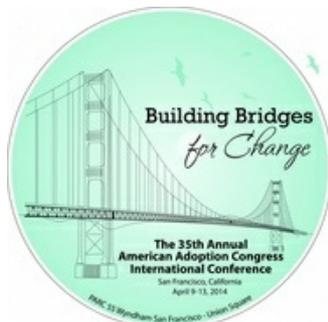
Best actress nominee Dame Judi Dench spent four days filming in Killyleagh, Bryansford and Rostrevor, where she met some long-lost relatives.

[Link to *Philomena*](#)

Have Something to Submit to the Beacon?

Send all articles/poems/pieces to

AACBeacon@gmail.com



April 9 - 13, 2014

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!!

[Click to See the Conference Brochure Here](#)

Early Registration

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BLOG TALK RADIO



DID YOU KNOW? You can Listen to any of Pam Kroskie's past interviews by clicking on these links.

November 8, 2013

[Darryl McDaniels and Zara Phillips](#)

and

October 25, 2013

[Richard Hill "Finding Family"](#)

and many more [past shows](#) at AAC Adoption News & Views!

[Click Here to Go to AAC Website Registration Page](#)

Seymour Fenichel Adoptees

by Rachel Bernstein

Seymour Fenichel was the lawyer who gave me to my adoptive parents. I created a Facebook page for other adoptees whose cases were handled by him.



Adopted at birth in Brooklyn, NY in 1983, I have had a knack for art since childhood. It wasn't until arriving on the adoptee rights scene in 2009 that I began drawing pieces expressing my feelings regarding my adoption. In September 2011, I created the Seymour Fenichel Adoptees page on Facebook in hopes to find others like me who were searching, had found success, or needed help. After the *New York Post* ran a story

about the questionable and ultimately illegal practices of the lawyer who facilitated the adoptions of me and others, a media storm erupted and my story and search were shared through many more media outlets.

I finally reunited with my long lost family in 2012. My reunion

aired on a show called *Lost and Found* in January 2013, but is still available on YouTube. My page is updated often and I am still helping people who contact me to find free resources and search angels to aid them in their own journey. There are a few of us still hoping to be found, and



our info can be located at the link below. I became a mother myself recently, having my first child in October 2013, and I hope to pick up a paint brush again soon,.....when she becomes a little bigger.

[Link to my Facebook Page](#)

NOMINATIONS FOR YOUR FAVORITE SPOKEO SEARCH ANGEL EXTENDED TO MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17!

By Carrie Craft at About.com



In its second year, the Spokeo Adoption Search Angel Award brings together leaders in the adoption, foster care and search communities to recognize, honor and support volunteers who donate their time to help adult adoptees and others, search for and reunite with their birth families.

Nominations for individuals who have been touched by the work of Search Angels are now being accepted at www.SpokeoAngels.com through Monday, February 17. Only those who donate their searching services without receiving compensation are eligible. Winners will receive a cash grant to help offset the personal costs they incur while searching, a one-year membership for Spokeo, and the opportunity for families who are matched by the angels to elect to participate in a reunion sponsorship covering their travel costs.

Facebook Leads Adopted Indiana Woman to Biological Family in 36 Hours



by Christina Ng

It all started with a simple Facebook post: "My name is Elizabeth Boys aka Betsy. I was born at St. Francis Hospital in Beech Grove, IN on May 29th, 1984. I am searching for my biological mother."

Thirty-six hours later, Boys had Facebook messages from her biological brother, a cousin and an aunt. She was stunned. Boys, 29, is the mother of a 2-year-old and lives in Indianapolis. She owns a housecleaning service called Maid in Indy.

"I've always known that I was adopted," Boys told ABCNews.com. "That was never, ever a secret."

She was adopted when she was a day old by loving parents who were high school sweethearts whose first date was a Beatles concert. They have been married for 42 years.

Boys' sister, who is two years older, was also adopted at a few days old and successfully tracked down her birth family two years ago.

"It inspired me," Boys said. "I've always wanted to find her [biological mother], but I had an awesome childhood so I was a little hesitant. I didn't want to juggle things up. There was a little part of me that was scared of the result."

[Link to remainder of article](#)

Coincidences in Devon man's Search for Birth Mother



The winners of the 2014 Spokeo Search Angel Awards will be announced in April at the American Adoption Congress International Conference in San Francisco.

[Link to remainder of article](#)

Blog in the Spotlight:

MUSINGS OF THE LAME

by Claudia Corrigan D'Arcy

The Birth Fathers Rights in Adoption Relinquishment



A Father's Rights to Custody: Thwarted, Ignored, Legally Denied, and Unjustly Steamrolled

It might seem that a father should have a natural right to parent his own child, but sadly, when adoption enters the picture, the rights of the birthfather are often nonexistent. We were able to see just how horrible the system was as the baby Veronica Rose Brown case flooded the media this past year. I kept on saying over and over again, the story of Dusten Brown's fight to be able to parent his daughter is not an isolated case nor an exception, but all too often, the rule. A father's right to the custody of his own flesh and blood is something most easily and legally forgotten when the birthmother of the child has "chosen" relinquishment for the baby. Worse, yet, the laws are stacked against him and the legal battles that go with his desire to parent often take years and thousands of dollars in legal fees.

[Click here to see remainder of this blog post](#)

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A man who decided to trace his birth mother found she was living just six miles (10km) away.

Steve Darling, from Devon, discovered his mother Pam Johnson was living in nearby Kingsteignton.

She had given Mr. Darling up for adoption when he was three months old.

Mr. Darling, a Torbay councillor and a researcher for the Lib Dem MP Adrian Sanders, described the reunion as "marvellous".

Mr. Darling was put up for adoption when he was three months old.

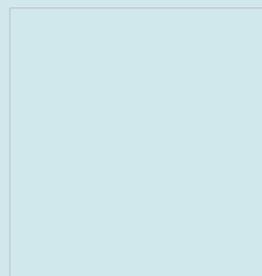
Mrs. Johnson had put Mr. Darling up for adoption in 1969 when she was 17 years old.

[Link to remainder of article](#)

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