

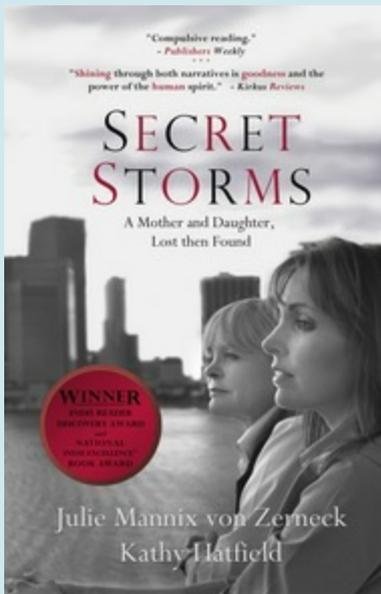


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ADOPTION:
NO SECRETS. NO FEAR.
www.AmericanAdoptionCongress.org



Fall Reading Suggestions



Secret Storms: A Mother and Daughter, Lost Then Found
by Julie Mannix von Zerneck and Kathy Hatfield

In this beautifully written memoir, mother and daughter each recount the stories of their lives apart and the process

of coming together. This story of hope, forgiveness and personal courage is a love story about a mother and daughter, two people who had been lost to each other for most of their lives and their journey back to each other.



The Harris Narratives: An Introspective Study of a Transracial Adoptee
by Susan Harris O'Connor

Through five distinct narratives, the

IN THIS ISSUE:

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- Plaque Honoring Pam Hasegawa
- In Memoriam--Marri Jo Rilera
- Blog Talk Radio
- Call for Art to Display at 2014 Convention
- Adoption Blog in the Spotlight
- Adopted as a Baby, Woman Uses Facebook to Find Family
- On Giving Up My Newborn Daughter
- Woman's Facebook Plea Finds Brother She's Missed Since Childhood.

Buy your books through the AAC!

Purchasing from Amazon using this link will benefit AAC with a portion of the proceeds.



[Click to link to Amazon!](#)

BLOG TALK RADIO



DID YOU KNOW? You can join Pam Kroskie for any of her past interviews by clicking on these links.



author explores what it means to be adopted, to have parents unknown to herself, and to be a transracial adoptee in a white community. Developed originally as performance pieces, the narratives tell the story of identity, place, and family in a non-linear yet deeply personal fashion.

Have something to Submit to the Beacon?

Send all articles/poems/pieces to AACBeacon@gmail.com

Do you know someone who wants to join the American Adoption Congress?

Make sure they know about our annual November discount on new memberships!
Save 20% on new memberships to the AAC during November.



Join the AAC and enjoy:

- * Subscription to the Decree, the AAC’s quarterly publication
- * Discounted registration to AAC’s annual international conference
- * Discounted registration to all AAC webinars
- * Access to members-only website content
- * Subscription to the Beacon, the AAC’s bi-monthly e-newsletter
- * Access to support and information about local happenings from a representative in your state or region
- * Support of legislative reform to provide adult adopted person access to the original birth certificate
- * *Support Group members* receive 2 copies of the Decree, and 2 discounted registrations to the AAC international conference and AAC webinars.
- * *Organization members* receive 5 copies of the Decree and 5 discounted registrations to the AAC International conference and AAC webinars.

[Link to AAC website](#)

Plaque in park—but no birth certificate—for Morristown champion of adoption reform

By Kevin Coughlin

Plaques in parks usually are reserved for dead people. **Peter Franklin** preferred to commemorate **Pam**



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!

Adopted as a baby, woman uses Facebook to find family



By Kyle Michael Miller

When Janice Lebrun gave birth 41 years ago as a teen mom, she placed her little girl up for adoption.

“They came in and they took her away,” Lebrun told TODAY.com, recalling the day after giving birth. “I remember looking around the room thinking, what am I going to do now? Where is my life going?”

Her daughter grew up to be Maureen Bucell, an only child raised 30 miles away by a loving and supportive family. But she always wondered about her birth mother.

“There was never a time on my birthday when I didn’t think about her and wonder if she’s thinking about me,” Bucell said.

So on April 28 of this year, Bucell set out to find out more about her family, tracking down her original birth certificate and searching through documents and databases.

“I took it in my hand and immediately started to cry,” she said.

Hasegawa while she is very much alive.

“People should be honored in their lifetime. Pam deserves that,” Peter said Saturday in Morristown’s Victor Woodhull Park, where a plaque, benches and newly planted redbud tree mark Pam’s ongoing campaign for adoption reform.



Rep. **Rodney Frelinghuysen** (R-11th Dist.) joined Peter and several other adoptees who praised Pam’s long—and so far, unsuccessful—struggle for legislation to enable adoptees in New Jersey to obtain their birth certificates.

“If we’re going to use the tree as a metaphor, let me say that I’ve known you for over 30 years, and you are absolutely unshakable,” said the Congressman, straining to be heard over the roar of Route 287 traffic in the chilly October breeze.

“I know that at some point in time, you’re going to break the logjam in New Jersey, and it will be the result of your dedication. I’m proud to know you, proud to be here,” he told Pam.

Gov. **Chris Christie conditionally vetoed** an adoption reform measure in 2011; state Sen. **Joseph Vitale** (D-Middlesex) reintroduced it in June.

Pam, 71, was adopted and does not know her family medical history or cultural background. She thought her sleuthing finally had located her birth family, but a DNA test last year dashed such hopes.

“It’s like walking into a movie 15 minutes after the film started, and wondering how it started,” said Pam, **who is a photographer**.

[Link to website for remainder of article](#)

IN MEMORIAM



Marri Jo Rillera

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Marri Jo Rillera. Marri was one of the founders and a major force behind the International Soundex Reunion Registry until 2012.

Marri also formed the Tri-Adoption Library in 1978 in Westminster, California which gathered and dispensed data about adoption. The Library collected books, magazine articles, videos and stories into a large archive for people to use for research, writing, and learning. She began the

said.

[Link to Remainder of Article](#)

On giving up my newborn daughter



By Jeanne Nott

On Sept. 19, 1970, I saw my baby daughter for the first time through a small window in the door of the hospital nursery. That would be the last time I saw her for 24 years.

At that time, there was no counseling for unwed mothers. You were told it was the best and only thing to do for your baby if you couldn't keep her. When I told my mother I was pregnant, her first thought was to get me out of town so no one would find out. I was sent from my home in New Jersey to a place for unwed mothers in Omaha, Neb.

I soon found out about a rarely used practice of sending girls out to work and live in private homes, and jumped at the chance. I was placed in the home of a wealthy family. After working hard all day long, I had my own room to retreat to. I remember talking to my baby and trying to explain why I had to give her up.

Come Together Conference at the Disneyland Hotel yearly which was one of the most well-attended and enjoyed conferences for all member of the adoption community.

Marri is the author of *The Adoption Searchbook: Techniques for Tracing People*, which has been a valuable source of information and help to many thousands of adoptees and searching parents and siblings. Here is a pamphlet that Marri made titled ["What Now?"](#)

Marri's husband, Butch Rillera wrote a song for Marri and for the ISRR movement entitled "We're Together Now". Try asking radio stations in your area to play it daily during Adoption Awareness Month.

Go here to Listen:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=yDy7PAzQhcs

Marri was a major force and will be sorely missed in the adoption community.

Call for Entries!

Out of the Fog: A Bridge for Change Art Exhibition

The American Adoption Congress invites visual artists to submit work for exhibition during the 35th annual international conference:



Building Bridges for Change.

Submission guidelines and more information at <https://aacart.submittable.com/submit>

Free to enter. Deadline is January 31, 2014

Blog in the Spotlight:

Shortly after I gave birth, I remember having a clipboard put in front of me. Final papers. I walked down the hall to the nursery and saw the sweetest little baby through the window. She looked exactly like my baby pictures.

[Link to remainder of article](#)

Woman's Facebook Plea Finds Brother She's Missed Since Childhood



Julia Mauer posted a Facebook plea on Tuesday for help in finding the brother she hasn't seen since they were kids more than a dozen years ago. By Wednesday night, she had found him. "I've never felt this happy, this sort of fulfillment, and closure of the past in my entire life," a tearful Mauer told ABC News today. "It's tears of joy. It's also a new beginning. I have part of my family back, I have part of myself back."

Mauer, 24, lives in Lochbuie, Colo. She found her brother, Isaiah Luke, 19, just 30 miles away in Aurora, Colo.

They haven't met in person yet, but for now are friends on Facebook.

"He accepted my friend request on Facebook and I've been stalking him," Mauer said. "He's so handsome and he's so tall."

LOST DAUGHTERS

How Long Are Adoptees Going to Have to Keep Paying for Our Adoptions?



I'm 47 years old.

I was adopted as an infant, in a closed domestic adoption.

This year I have paid more adoption-related expenses than ever in my history.

I have never lived with a sense of entitlement. I am the type of person who has worked extremely hard all my life, having no problem paying for anything I decide to do.

My frustration with all that I've paid for adoption is that I never decided to be adopted.

This is not where I want to spend my hard-earned money.

And yet I am required to keep paying.

I pay with my history, with my finances, and so much more.

[Link to Lost Daughters Blog](#)

All views expressed in this blog are those of the blog authors and do not necessarily reflect the views, opinions, or positions of the American Adoption Congress.

She remembers his bright blue eyes and said, "I miss seeing those eyes." Mauer, who is now a manager at a medical center and owns Julia's Wraps and Rhinestones, remembers growing up with parents who suffered from substance abuse and were physically and verbally abusive. Child Protection Services had to intervene. Mauer, her twin sister, Isaiah and their youngest sister Sarah were removed from their home. Because the children shared one mother but different fathers, Mauer's paternal grandmother was granted custody of the twins, while Isaiah and Sarah were temporarily placed with their paternal grandmother. Mauer was 12 and her brother was 7.

[Link to article](#)

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Editor: Kathy Aderhold

Email: AACBeacon@gmail.com

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