New AAC President Greets Members

Hello to my fellow members, and to our future fellow members, of the AAC. Here we are with our first newsletter. We are hoping it will reach lots of people, who will then have a picture of the American Adoption Congress and will want to join us.

What is the AAC?
- The AAC is a coalition - "coalesce" means "grow together" - of individuals and groups across North America who care about making adoption more open.
- The AAC is an acknowledgement of the many people who, on their own or in groups, are working toward this goal in a great variety of ways.
- The AAC is a means of educating ourselves about this and a channel through which we can enduce the rest of the adoption community and the general public.

Adoptee Survey Being Initiated

Would you like to know how your attitudes, feelings and experiences as an adoptee compare with those of other adoptees across the country? If so, you are invited to participate in the first survey of its kind that we are aware of.

Depending on the number of responses received, the results will be studied, tabulated and published in a future edition of The Open ARMS Quarterly.

We may all be surprised at what we learn about ourselves.

If you would like to be a part of this elite test group, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Sandra Lott - RR #1 - Morton, IL 61550.

Display Advertising In ‘Open Arms’

The Open ARMS Quarterly is offering comprehensive, low cost advertising to adoptive search and support groups who may wish to let the public know who they are, where they are, and how they can serve in areas of the adoptive community.

Initial advertising rates will be $12.50 per column inch for each issue. ($50 per column inch per year). Send your ad indicating size and set-up specifications along with your payment to: Open ARMS Quarterly - P.O. Box 1522 - North Platte, NE 69101.

Dreams

Many people have dreams for the AAC: an office in Washington: a fund that supports research: an efficient referral system: a preventive effort in the area of involuntary relinquishment: a consistent increase, year by year, in the number of states and provinces which allow people to see birth and adoption records pertaining to themselves. A friend of mine in the business world told me about a Princeton study in which she said it was found that eighty-seven per cent of people (presumably adult Americans) do not "have dreams," that is, hopes for the future. Ten percent have dreams but do not write them down - we could call them "the day dreamers" - and three percent dream their "dreams" and write them down. According to the study, that three percent achieve from thirty to fifty percent more than the ten percent who "dream," but do not write down the things they would like to have happen. I am suggesting to Bob O'Dell, who has made his previously begun "OPEN ARMS QUARTERLY" available as the AAC news organ, that there be a column for which all of us can send in our dreams for the AAC. The people who have the same dreams can then perhaps proceed to work on them together. (Please see the annotated list of your Board of Directors so you can know where you can already send information and ideas about specific areas.)

Kinds of Membership

The Board of Directors’ biggest dream for this fall is the gathering of a large membership. By midsummer, we had close to one hundred individual members and well over one thousand dollars collected in annual dues. We have set $10 as the regular individual membership fee, $20 for "Sustaining Individual Members", and $150 for "Life Individual Members". We are setting $25 as the minimum membership fee for "Affiliate Organizations"; and we would like groups which feel they can and would like to give extra support to the AAC to contribute $100 and be our "Sustaining Affiliate Organizations." (The AAC is divided into nine regions: the regions receive twenty per cent of all dues coming in from their own region). Do please consider giving us both your dollars and your thoughts. The Board of Directors will do our best to deserve your trust so that at the next annual conference, June 3, in San Antonio, we can turn over a thriving AAC to the NEXT Board of Directors.

Thanks and love,
Penny Callan Partridge
The 1981 conference of the American Adoption Congress resulted in the drafting and ratification of a set of by-laws for the new organization and incorporation on a non-profit basis.

Basically, the AAC is designed to work as a centralized resource agency for individuals and for over 200 search and support groups involved in the adoptive movement.

Primary objectives of the group are public education regarding philosophies, attitudes and feelings about adoption; advocating the preservation of public records and access to those records; establishment of a genealogical library; working for favorable legislation and to inform members and the general public of issues and incidents taking place within the adoptive community. In general terms, the AAC hopes to promote the interests of all of us involved in the adoptive movement.

The scope and effectiveness of AAC will be determined only by the support which you and I can offer.

Lofty goals have been set... rigid ethical and moral standards have been established. The cause is just and the time is right. It is the intent of Open ARMS to support the American Adoption Congress in a worthy endeavor.

If you wish to learn more about the AAC, write to the REGIONAL DIRECTOR in your area.

Regions are outlined below with the names of the Regional Directors. (Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. PLEASE).

They are working for us. Let's do our part for them.
names aren't really that important...we'll just call her Lisa. Born at "The Willows" in Kansas City, MO in 1957, Lisa recalls a lifelong curiosity about her birth parents, but admits, "...I was too scared to really search". After the death of her adoptive mother in 1978, Lisa experienced a new resolve. In March of 1980, she initiated her "search".

With the assistance of a search consultant associated with the Kansas City Adult Adoptees Organization, Lisa's search resulted in identifying her birth mother. "I learned that my mother was alive, was happy that I had found her, and plans were made for our reunion on September 16, 1980. I didn't understand the delay. We found out about each other on August 13. She didn't wish to talk to me on the phone, but wanted to save everything for the reunion. We corresponded by special delivery. Why wait? I was told that she wanted me to know she was a victim of terminal cancer.

"A week before the reunion was to take place. I was told that my mother had once again been hospitalized. The reunion was still on, but would have to be postponed. I wanted to be with her, but she didn't want our meeting to take place in a hospital. Fear haunted my thoughts. The adoptive mother whom I had loved so dearly had died in a hospital just two hours before I could reach her side; and now...""

"On September 20, I saw my mother for the first time. Even after her struggle to the death, she was beautiful. I talked to her though she no longer heard, nor could she return my tearful gaze."

At the funeral, Lisa met her other family. "Her sisters and her parents had always known about me. She had told her children of me just two days before her death. I was so confused. I was happy to see them, but part of me wanted to run, and then seeing all of those people who looked like me in so many ways. The unbearable grief which I felt at the loss of a mother whom I had never known was tempered by the acceptance, kindness and understanding of my newly found family. Now I am whole."

Open ARMS Quarterly
Box 1522
North Platte, NE 69101
Attention: Bob O'Dell.
Dear Mr. O'Dell.

Good news and bad news! First the bad - Please withdraw my advertisement for the subsequent issues. The good news - My son has been found!

Through the ad in your column, a beautiful chain of events occurred. In amongst the usual mail, bills and junk advertising etc. an envelope addressed to me with nothing except a business card. The card - identifying a searcher specializing in helping birth parents locate their surrendered children.

There were many feelings - was I going to be naive and allow myself to be duped into an extortion of sorts? Getting caught in a web of escalating charges that at first seem minimal and promises that all sounded to good to be true? Also, how could a woman in this small central state "hick" town help me - after all my own leads and information fell way short of even coming close. My last feeling was that at last a person who specializes in finding surrendered children. Just what I needed.

After waiting out the 18 year commitment of surrender and learning that everyone had vanished. The following two years were worse than the previous 18 if that were possible.

I decided to take a chance.

I wrote to Mary asking many questions - How. How much. Why? The response was immediate. My questions answered. The mail would be slow. I telephoned immediately and ask Mary to go ahead. With a few questions about what I knew surrounding the adoption she assured me she would let me know as soon as she knew anything. Within a week she wrote with the first lead and practically an entire history of the family. They had moved from Wisconsin to Florida to California back to the East Coast.

She was very supportive at this time and assured me she would not give up. Another week past, and she notified me again with the best news that I had had in my life. She had located Jeff. It was almost to good to be true.

I wanted to scream it to the world.

It has since been an emotional roller coaster. Unsure of what to do. Telephone, write,liaison, complications, rejection - the other children. Before I had to think about these things now I had to make decisions and act.

I have acted, to date I am still awaiting a response to the contact. Which I hope will be another story with a happy ending.

But now I want to spread the word of this wonderful, supportive birthmother who extended her hand and with her knowledge of how to proceed and follow through. Her tenacity produced an end to my nightmare. I would like to applaud her publicly. Certainly I will sing her praises loudly. I wish there was a "Mary" for everyone of you that are searching. For sure those in Wisconsin certainly should not over look the possibility of ending their search by beginning with contacting Mary.

I hope I can up-date this with a happy reunion in the following issue.

Name withheld by request
Wisconsin

A Labor of Love for Searchers

If you are somehow involved in the adoption community and are either searching or have considered beginning a search, there is a new book which you should place on your "required reading" list: The Adoption Searchbook, by Mary Jo Rillera. It is more than evident that the work was a labor of love by Mary Jo, and covers the entire spectrum from questions and emotions to sophisticated search techniques and rules for the reunion.

For details, write: Triadoption Publications
P.O. Box 5218 - Huntington Beach, CA 92646.
(Self-addressed stamped envelope, PLEASE).

Read it! You'll like it! And what's more you'll learn from it.
AAC Committee Chairman on Legislative Affairs, Joe Harrington has provided Open ARMS with several pieces of legislation which should be of deep interest to those of us involved in the adoption movement. Space does not permit the printing of each individual article, but it is suggested that interested parties write their legislators for details on how to obtain copies of this legislation.

S. 989 - A bill in the U.S. Senate which proposes the establishment of a government registry for adoptees and birth parents who wish to be re-united. (For information, write your Senator).

S. 989 - Creation of a National Computerized Adoption Identification Center.

TO: The Honorable Members of the United State Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

FROM: Suzanne C. Richardson, President Massachusetts Adoptive Family Association P.O. Box 1542 - Westfield, Massachusetts 01086 P.O. Box 3152 - Brockton, Massachusetts 02403

My name is Suzanne C. Richardson. I am an adult adoptee and an adoptive parent with biological and adopted children. Adoption has been a positive experience in my life. I am currently the president of Family, a voluntary organization existing statewide in Massachusetts, with a sister branch of Family in Illinois. Family consists of adoptive parents, adoptees and other persons from various fields who are interested in preserving the role of adoption in our society. Our organization strongly opposes the S.989 for the reasons now discussed.

There is no question that adoption has long held a valued place in our society. The adoption of children brings together parents who desire to share their love and home, and children who, except for the existence of adoption, would be left to be reared in foster homes or in institutions with no permanency. No one can be expected to feel strongly for or against adoption. It is a fact of life, an ancient and universal human phenomenon. It is, however, a fact that to be so deeply felt can lead to the development of legislation and policies that may lead to the deprivation of the rights of the individual. The present legislation, S.989, is just such a bill. It is proposed that the United States Senate pass this bill, which would create a registry of adoptees and birth parents. The purpose of the registry is to allow adoptees and birth parents to search for each other and to maintain contact with each other.

S.989 - PROS and CONS in this issue of Open ARMS Quarterly.

Oversight Hearing on Model State Adoption Act - Testimony presented before the Subcommittee on Select of the Committee on Education and Labor House of Representatives. (For Information, write your Representative). Secure the Bill - S.989.

Oversight on Adoption Reform Act (Public Law 95-266) - Testimony presented before the Subcommittee on Select of the Committee on Education and Labor House of Representatives. (For Information, write your Representative).

Suggested State Legislation: Adoptive Information Act - Developed by The Committee on Suggested State Legislation. This draft legislation is based on a North Dakota Statute governing information available to adoptees and birth parents. (For Information, write - The Council of State Governments - P.O. Box 11910 - Lexington, KY 40578).

Sale of Children in Interstate and Foreign Commerce - Testimony heard before the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice of the Committee on the Judiciary House of Representatives. (For Information, write your Representative). A bill in the U.S. Senate to amend the Adoption Act - Testimony presented before the Subcommittee on Select of the Committee on Education and Labor House of Representatives. (For Information, write your Representative). S. 1090 - A bill in the U.S. Senate to amend the Adoption Act - Testimony presented before the Subcommittee on Select of the Committee on Education and Labor House of Representatives. (For Information, write your Representative).

H. RES. 36 - A Resolution in the House of Representatives AGAINST approval of certain portions of the proposed Model State Adoption Legislation. (For Information, write your Representative).

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At the core of adoption are the beliefs that it is private and permanent. Adoptive parents have made a lifelong commitment to their children. I sincerely feel, in my heart, that it would not have been possible for my wonderful parents to have made the kind of commitment that they made to me if there had been a registry hanging over our heads. No one enters into the adoption process with the idea that some day the child or children that they take to be their own will be exposed to extraneous distrusting contacts which would tend to disrupt the family unit. The existing laws of the Individual states have universally recognized these principles and zealously protected them. By insuring that adoption records will remain privileged, the states have shown a commendable reluctance to make any change in practices and principles that have shown long standing social utility. We think it would be unwise for the federal government to intrude on an area that is so socially sensitive by taking the first step towards unsealing records. We think it is particularly unwise for such benign federalism to override the rights of states which have exhibited serious concerns about the negative effects of such an effort.

The proponents of the legislation may point to the fact that participation in the registration system is voluntary and that no one can be forced to reveal his or her identity unless they choose to do so. While this aspect of the bill is true, it does not alleviate the legislation's basic flaw - a start toward unsealing records which are considered privileged and a step toward federal involvement in questions which have traditionally been reserved for state consideration. People are not like automobiles to be stereo-typed and catalogued, nor should they be specially marked just because they are adopted. I never was. Those who find it necessary to petition the courts for pertinent information have that avenue open to them. We believe that our view on the legislation is shared by the overwhelming majority of adoptive parents in this country and by numerous religious, social and political groups. In recommending rejection of this bill, we are urging the preservation of the adoptive family from outside forces which seek to erode its foundation. We would hope that you stand on record with us in this goal.

Thank you

Suzanne C. Richardson

Open ARMS Quarterly

Published four times yearly by OPEN A.R.M.S., North Platte, NE 69101. Publisher-Editor, Bob O'Dell

BUSINESS ADDRESS — Open A.R.M.S. Box 1522 North Platte, Nebraska 69101

WISH TO ASSIST

BIRTH PARENTS

in search of adult adoptees born and adopted in the state of WISCONSIN. 38 out of 38 searches have been successful to date. Write to Adoptions Consultant: Route 3 - Box 313, Mauston, WI 53948.
Testimony for S989 Passage


My name is Penny Callan Partridge. I am an adoptee, an adoptive parent and a clinical social worker. I am a founder of the Adoption Forum of Philadelphia and am currently the President of the American Adoption Congress.

The AAC is an umbrella group for individuals and organizations that have, as common ground, the belief that all members of the adoption community would be better served if there were less secrecy in adoption. Our members include adoptees, adoptive parents, birthparents of adoptees and adoption professionals. Although we are still in the process of setting up formal group membership, we represent an informal network of over two hundred small and large groups across the United States and Canada.

Most of us have come to know, through personal experiences as well as through contact with hundreds of people with similar experience, that in traditional extramural infant adoption, some major mistakes have been made:

- It was a mistake for anyone to suggest or anyone to believe that a birthparent should or could be guaranteed permanent anonymity from a daughter or son relinquished for adoption.
- It was a mistake to believe-and to institutionalize the belief-that adoptive families are so weak that they can at no time tolerate any access of their sons or daughters to their genetic relatives, who are potentially a critical resource for the physical and emotional health of the adoptee.
- It was a mistake to place adoptees in the position of going through their entire lives with altered and censored life histories, to expect them to do without certain basic and intimate information about themselves so that the presumed needs of both sets of their parents might be served instead. In fact, we have found that their experiences of being deprived of part of their life histories has often had a detrimental effect on their relationships with their adoptive families as well as on their relationships with the families they make as adults.

I offer the following comments in support of S.989:

The Adoption Identification Act of 1981 would serve as the Federal Government's recognition of the needs and desires of many biological relatives separated through adoption to locate each other.

It would grant no access to any records considered sealed by the state or county in which they are kept, but in spite of any state legislation that may exist now or in the future, it would allow for those relatives who wish to be accessible to each other to be so.

It is necessary that such a registry not exist simply state by state, because people can be born in one state, adopted in another, and live in many states during their lives. Likewise, people can relinquish children for adoption in a state in which they have never lived and never will. One rational registry with a well publicized mailing address will allow more people to know it exists and how they can become registered if they so choose.

Most individuals and groups affiliated with the AAC have had experience with the use of the International Soundex Reunion Registry run by Emma Vilardi; and we know that Ms. Vilardi's system and expertise would be available in the setting up of a federally funded registry. The ISRR has been maintained with undisputable skill and integrity.

If a federally funded registry required that a birthparent find the other birthparent of the adoptee sought, and obtain that person's permission to be part of the registry - and S.989 does not make such a requirement, but opponents of the bill have suggested that it should-it is difficult to imagine either adoptees or birthparents choosing to use the registry. One parent of a "child" should not be able to block access between that "child" and his or her other parent. And even if the other parent had no objection to such access, she or he might be extremely difficult to find.

A registry such as S.989 proposes does not serve the needs of all adoptees or birth relatives of adoptees. For instance, an adoptee could register, not knowing that a birthparent had died before such a registry was available. Should a birthparent's death prevent the possibility of an adoptee ever knowing that birthparent's name? On the other hand, this kind of nationally recognized and supported registry gives people an important option as a way of finding each other, knowing that there is mutual desire and readiness to identify themselves to each other. As this is the ideal way for an adoptee and a birth relative to meet, it would be truly sad if the opportunity for this way did not exist.

A new search tool has been acquired by Orphan Voyage of Florida/Tampa-St. Petersburg: computer run surname listings from telephone books of all 50 states including Washington, D.C.

The project will be operated as a non-profit service by the OVF group as a service to birthparents, adoptees and others seeking family members.

A large computer company based in New York with offices in other states continually updates its computer tape and serves large corporations by providing current and complete mailing lists, primarily for sales purposes.

All U.S. telephone directories are on tape and a single computer run costs several thousand dollars. To make the service reasonably available to all serious searchers by bringing the cost down to an acceptable level, agreement has been reached with the company to have each computer run search out 60 surnames. OVF will collect requests, submit a consolidated list to the company, obtain the run, print copies for all requestors and sort and mail out the final product. Cost is expected to average about $150 per surname.

Experience has shown that many adult adoptees can find either or both parents' names but there is often no community to concentrate upon for that search, or the family has long since left the area and no trace can be found.

Many birthmothers have gone to a large city, usually many miles away, to have the baby and relinquish that child to adoption. Either records are incomplete or the mother's permanent home are sealed with the adoption file.

Adoptive parents also have frequently gone many miles to adopt a child and return home. Their residence is also hidden from a searching birthparent.

In still other cases, families separated for many reasons find it nearly impossible to reestablish contact. All of these cases may benefit from this new service.

For an information sheet and form to request a surname check, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Orphan Voyage of Florida - 13906 Pepperell Drive - Tampa, FL 33624.
Guest Editorial . . .

I am hearing rumblings among “the ranks” . . .

The A.A.C. has expressed courage and well-founded foresightedness in choosing a national news organ to represent us, the members of the American Adoption Congress. It stands to reason a national organization would feel there should be a developing newsletter. We applaud this idea — though there are those who feel it may be entirely premature. We also understand their concern.

OPEN ARMS QUARTERLY
P. O. BOX 1522
NORTH PLATTE, NEBRASKA 69101

For what it is worth, we wish this endeavor all the success in the world and hope to see it achieve a long and compatible union.

The two will be financially independent of one another, and as a member of A.A.C., we must urge all present and future members to subscribe to this newsletter, published in January, April, June and September. It must have your $$$ support to survive.

We were in the booth next to Bob O’Dell (editor/publisher of Open A.R.M.S. Quarterly) and his wife at the National. I can say, after talking at length with Bob, that he is a sincere, dedicated and hard-working member of the movement. He does understand the responsibility entailed in such an undertaking as a National Newsletter.

His first written proposal (6-21-81) shows great thought and organization. What he has been asked to do will be tremendously complicated, time-consuming and (hopefully) gratifying.

We must throw our support behind him and show our appreciation and interest in what he is going to endeavor to provide for ALL of us.

Too, you must take the time to support our local organization wherever you live.

Let’s not overlook the value and impact of the current system of newsletters as they exist and continually endeavor to improve. There are now 250 local organizations nationwide and that number is growing daily . . . so fast at present that the Tri-Adoption Library in California is revising, almost daily, its complete list, and has given up the practice of compiling a yearly list for mailing. We are growing too fast for any list to remain current for long.

Of all those groups, only about 10 now try to mail a local newsletter. They are scattered throughout the U.S. Where these newsletters exist it is due to a few dedicated people who are the real spine and backbone of our current movement. Never discount the strength of those who are “married to the movement”. They are valuable — and all too often told too infrequently how much their volunteer time is really appreciated “in service to others”. Without these folks our movement is without a spine and would never walk again.

BOTH newsletters (local and national) have their place, and can contribute a part to the whole picture.

One will never replace the other — but will contribute each to the other for the future of the Adoption Liberation Movement and American Adoption Congress.

by ELIZABETH A. WARD
SMAAA Newsletter - October/November
Artificially inseminated female seeking sperm donor birth father. Father thought to have made sperm donation in Spring of 1948 and later returned to donate to new sperm bank in 1949. Thought to have been a married father and college student from Texas. Donation occurred at Dr. A.B. Abraham's Clinic, Los Angeles, CA. Anyone with info, please reply: #1048000048.

Wish to contact Sherri Venners. Known to have been in the New Orleans, LA area in spring and early summer of 1943. Please check local telephone directories and notify if sur-name of Venners appears in your directory. Please reply: #1029050345.


Birth mother, Hazel Barber, wishes to contact Dennis Ross Barber, born Jan. 15, 1941, and Vivian Nadine Barber, born June 17, 1942. Anyone with info, please reply:ವ ipad

Wish to contact Stephen Franklin Barber, born Jan. 15, 1941, and Vervina Ferrigno / Ferrlngo. Known to be in New York City in early 1930's. Please reply: #1045022046.

Wish to contact anyone having info. about Marie Ferrigno/Ferrigno. Known to be in New York City in early 1930's. Possibly acquainted in the Bronx. Reply: #1045022731.

Wish to contact William Adam Fulton. Reportedly born in Richmond, IN. Age approx. 50. Last known to be with USS N. C. - Jacksonville, FL. Reply: #1021121750.


Wish to contact relatives, friends or anyone having info. regarding Mary Griffen-Ward, born about 1912 and left at the New York Foundling Hospital at birth. Now deceased. Reply: #1040000032.

Wish to contact Aline Hall. Last known address - Kansas City, MO in 1938. Approx. 60-years-of-age now. Reply: #1023022538.

Wish to contact Barbara LaVerne Howell. Married name thought to be Green. Reply: #1024010868.

Wish to contact David Cordell Keenum. Born July 22, 1924 in Wichita, KS. Reply: #2010051966.

Wish to contact Jesse Arvel Waldrop who is originally from Mississippi. Last known to be living in New York. Reply: #1041102344.

Wish to contact three Whittaker children: David, 12; Dennis, 10; and Vivian, 8. Last known to have lived in Aztec, NM. Last known address was 82935. Wish to locate for medical reasons: Richard Eggleston, White male born Feb. 20, 1946 to Glenn Sr. and Margaret Eggleston of Washington, MN. Anyone with info, please reply: #2040202046.

Wish to contact Maurice Eiler. Last known address was Casper, WY about 1961. Reply: #1002011161.

Wish to contact Geraldine Feazell. Last known to be in Shreveport, LA area in middle 1950's. Reply: #1040032154.

Wish to contact anyone having info. about Marie Ferrigno/Ferrigno. Known to be in New York City in early 1930's. Possibly acquainted in the Bronx. Reply: #1045022731.


Wish to contact Jessie Kittrell. Born in Missouri. Known to have been in the Galesburg, IL area in spring of 1929. Last known living in New York. Reply: #1002011161.

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Wish to contact anyone having info about the birth mother. Adoption or the birth mother wishes contact with adoptive parents of white male born Jan. 9, 1968 at General Hospital - Oakland, CA. Birth name: Samuel Louis Walters. Seeking contact with brother or sisters. Reply: #1001011417.


Wish to locate for medical reasons: Richard Alan Eggleston. White male born Feb. 20, 1946 to Glenn Sr. and Margaret Eggleston of Washington, MN. Anyone with info, please reply: #2040202046.

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Wish to locate for medical reasons: Richard Alan Eggleston. White male born Feb. 20, 1946 to Glenn Sr. and Margaret Eggleston of Washington, MN. Anyone with info, please reply: #2040202046.
**FEBRUARY**

(02/01) White female born Feb. 1, 1932 - Fairmont Home - Kansas City, MO. Birth name: Martha Wright, seeking birth parent(s), relatives or anyone having info. please reply: Pat Pavlovsky - 1205 Hampshire Court - Rockford, IL 61108.

(02/02) White female born Feb. 2, 1950 in Omaha, NE placed through an Omaha children's home. Wish to contact birth mother. Anyone having info. please reply: #1050002050.


(02/25) White male, born Feb. 25, 1938 - Fairmont Home - Kansas City, MO. Birth name: Donald Hall. Seeking birth parent(s), relatives or anyone having info. Reply: #1020332533.

(02/26) White female born Feb. 26, 1957 searching for birth father. First name “Jack.” Thought to have been a salesman who lived in Cedar Rapids, IA in 1956-57. Birth mother was then from Minnesota. Anyone with info. please reply: Elizabeth Bogadgier - 702 N. Jefferson - Plainville, KS 67653.


**MARCH**

(03/01) White female born Mar. 1, 1951 at Greenpoint Hospital - Brooklyn, NY seeks contact with birth father and half-sister. Half-sister also thought to have been born in Brooklyn area in 1940’s. Birth mother’s name: Emily C. Jordan. Anyone having info. please reply: #2030300040.

(03/02) Birth mother of white female born Mar. 2, 1966 in Philadelphia, PA wants to let it be known that she is available to daughter and adoptive parents. Daughter’s birth name: Lisa Linke. Place of birth, Booth Salvation Army Home for Unwed girls. Adoption through Lutheran Family Services. Actual birth date may have been Mar. 2, 3 or 4. Reply Robin Linke Wilson - 11 Sweetbar Lane - Chapel Hill, NC 27514 or #2030003056.


(03/12) Birth mother seeks white male born Mar. 15, 1964 - Denver, CO. Immediate reply requested as mother is in poor health. Anyone having info. please reply: Mrs. D. L Garcia - 686 S. Patton Court - Denver, CO 80219.


**APRIL**

(04/05) White female born Apr. 5, 1943 - Charity Hospital - New Orleans, LA. Birth name Linda Lee Allen. Wishes to contact birth parents. Birth mother wishes to contact birth parents that she gave up in infancy. Anyone having info. please reply: Linda Suyres - P.O. Box 10385 - Houston, TX 77206.

(04/07) Birth mother wishes contact with daughter born Apr. 7, 1941 - Omaha, NE. Released for adoption through Christain Home of Council Bluffs, IA a few days after birth. Last name on birth Cert. Fredricks. Real father’s name was used later when signed for adoption possibly July, 1941. Anyone with info. please reply: #2040704741.

(04/08) White male born Apr. 8, 1937 - Sioux City, IA. Adopted through St. Mary’s Orphanage. Birth mother’s name: Margaret Miller. Adopted fact birth parent(s) or anyone having info. Please reply: #1050040837.


(04/11) White female born Apr. 11, 1919 - Veil Maternity Hosp. - Kansas City, MO. Birth mother’s name: Lelia Voss. It is known that there are at least three siblings. I would like to contact anyone having info. about Lela Voss, born - Lawrence County, KS in approx. 1887. Please reply: Maxine Hammond - 1003 N. Urban - Tulsa, OK 74115.

(04/12) Grandparents seek white female born Apr. 12, 1959 - Sacramento, CA. Birth Defect has been found. Reply: #2040014091.


(04/24) Birth mother wishes contact with white male born Apr. 24, 1959 - St. Joseph Hosp. - Flint, MI. Anyone having info. please reply: B. A. Murphy - 4-G166 Richfield Road - Flint, MI 48506.

(04/25) Birth mother seeks white female born Apr. 25, 1965 - Southfield, MI - Providence Hosp. Adopted through Catholic Charities in Chicago, IL. First name is known to be Cindy. Info. which I have, indicates that she has left the home of her adoptive parents. Please reply: Joan Arnette - Route 1 - Cameron, MI 48022 telephone 715/456-4883.

**MAY**

(05/01) White female born approx. May 1, 1946 - Mt. Clemens, MI. Seeks birth parent, relatives or anyone having info. Reply: Elaine Vinton - P.O. Box 885 - Troy, MI 48009.

(05/03) White female born May 3, 1945 in Fresno, CA wishes contact with birth father age approx. 60. Thought to be living in either Washington or California. Anyone with info. please reply: Marilyn Mitchell - 2247 W. Daniel #129 - Fresno, CA 93705.

(05/05) Birth mother seeking white female born May 5, 1945 in small hospital in Cambridge or Somerville, MA. Reply: #2030405054.

(05/06) Birth mother seeking white female born May 5, 1968, (8:55 a.m.) - Gottlieb Memorial Hosp. - Melrose Park, IL. Anyone with info. please reply: Judy Key-Dominguez - 16 Ryan Ave. - Mill Valley, CA 94941.

(05/08) Birth parents wish to contact male born May 8, 1961 - Summit, WI. Birth name: Jeffrey G. Denk. Reply: 337 W. Lincoln - Port Washington, WI 53074.


(05/16) White male born May 16, 1958 - Omaha, NE. Seminarian of Saint Joseph’s Orphanage in Lincoln, NE. Seeks birth parents, relatives or anyone having info. Reply: Steve Bailey - 2105 W. Madison #2 - Sioux Falls, SD 57104.


(05/21) Birth-sister wishes contact with white male, born May 21, 1942 in Blytheville, AR. Birth name: Jerry Lee Fulmer. Reply: #2011052142.

(05/21) Birth mother (age 17) wishes contact with adoptive parents of white baby girl born May 21, 1979 - Swedish Hospital - Seattle, WA. Reply: L. P. - 8639 30th SW - Seattle, WA 98126.


**JUNE**

(06/08) Birth mother wishes contact with white male born June 8, 1951 - Los Angeles, CA. Birth name: Norman Lee Greenbaum. First name now thought to be "Peter". Anyone with info. please reply: #2030000851.

(06/11) White female born June 11, 1940 at 2463 N Albaby - Chicago, IL. Birth name: Dennis Henry Cochrane. Seeking birth parents, Maurice and Isabelle Cochrane-Sullivan and brothers and sisters. Please reply: P.O. Box 4134 - Madison, WI 53711.


(06/16) Indian male, born June 16, 1940 in Marshfield, WI. Seeking birth parents or anyone with info. Reply: John Christner - 800 Sime Ave. - Tomah, WI 54660.

(06/17) Black female, born June 17, 1921 - Crichton Home - Kansas City, MO. Seeks relatives or anyone having info. Reply: #2050606626.

(06/21) Birth mother seeking white female born June 21, 1965 at Holy Name Hospital, Teaneck, NJ. Reply: Gall Conley - 822 8th St. - Union Beach, NJ 07735.

(06/22) Black female, born June 22, 1934 - Indianapolis, IN. Birth name: Marilyn Sue Hutchison. Seeking any info about birth mother, first name: Virginia. Reply: Janet Davis - 53242 Crestview Drive - South Bend IN 46335.

(06/23) Black female, born June 23, 1946 - St. Mary's Hospital - Passaic, NJ. Raise in Immaculate Conception Home - Lodii, NJ. Wishes contact with birth parents or anyone having info. Please reply: #1057606234.


(06/1959) Black female seeking white male born June 17th, 1959 - Dr. H. A. Marston - Passaic, NJ. Raise in Immaculate Conception Home - Lodii, NJ. Wishes contact with birth parents or anyone having info. Please reply: #1057606234.

(08/02) White female born Aug. 10, 1942 in Manhattan, KS. Birth name: JoAnn Maria. Seeking birth parents or anyone having info. Reply: L. Mariana - P.O. Box 416 - Mendocino, CA 95460.


TO OUR READERS —

Our apologies for being late with this issue. We have tried some new things — increased the size and had some problems communicating with several people who were key figures in coordinating the efforts of the AAC and Open ARMS. In the future, we plan to publish On or BEFORE the first date of the following months: MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER, and DECEMBER. Thanks for your patience.

ADOPTEES AND BIRTH MOTHERS

in search: We can help you find the answers. We are a birthmother and an adoptee who have FOUND. Write:

Search Seekers
P. O. Box 205
Whitestone, NY 11357

READ THE ADS
IN THIS ISSUE!

SEND YOUR AD
FOR THE NEXT
ISSUE!!

Anonymous Mailing Service Available

If you would like to respond to an ad in Open A.R.M.S., but haven’t done so because you don’t wish to reveal your identity or address, Open A.R.M.S. can help. Place your correspondence in a sealed envelope. On the face of that envelope, write the name and address of the person to whom you wish the letter mailed. (Where only an identification number is given in an ad, write that number on the BACK of the envelope.) Place the required postage stamp on the envelope. Enclose the sealed letter in a second envelope along with $1 for handling and address the outer envelope to: Open A.R.M.S. Dept. “C”, P. O. Box 1522 - North Platte, NE 69101. Open A.R.M.S. will re-mail the enclosed letter to the address or I.D. number specified and the envelope will not bear your local postmark.

Open A.R.M.S. also makes it possible for two parties to correspond without either revealing their identity or address. This anonymous contact may continue for as long as desired. Details are available by writing to: Open A.R.M.S. at the above address.

National Church Group Supports Open Adoption Records

Overture 39 - ON SUPPORTING LEGISLATION REGARDING THE RIGHTS OF ADULT ADOPTEES AND THEIR NATURAL PARENTS:

Whereas God our Creator saw fit to use an adult adoptee who was well aware of the truth of his origins to deliver the Israelites from bondage to the Egyptians; and

Whereas the Psalmist acknowledged the Presence of God in the creation of every individual when he said, “You created every part of me; you put me together in my mother’s womb . . . when I was growing there in secret. you know that I was there - you saw me before I was born”: and

Whereas Isaiah affirmed the unlielihood of a mother’s ability to erase the memory of a child she birthed when he said, “So the Lord answers, ‘Can a woman forget her own baby and not love the child she bore?’ Even if a mother should forget her child. I will never forget you”: and

Whereas Jesus said, “You will know the truth and the truth will set you free”: and

Whereas the “sealed records laws” instituted in the last five decades have prevented adopted persons, over whom a contract is made in their infancy when they are helpless to participate in it, from ordinarily knowing the truth of their origins by permanently sealing original birth certificates and agency and court records pertaining to their adoption; and

Whereas although any nonadopted person in the United States has the absolute right to obtain personal vital statistics for a minimal fee, an adoptee must go to court, however expensive and unsuccessful the process, to request a judge to issue a “good cause” order to know the simple truth of who gave birth to him or her; and

Whereas because of permanently sealed records, adoptees have no medical, cultural or religious history and often experience emotional anguish; and

Whereas permanently sealed records have created a mythology about adoption, which is that adopted persons have only one set of parents: the surrender paper in effect becomes a certificate attesting to the death of any relationship at any time between the original parent and child, thus creating for the child a pair of ghost parents who are not in their graves but who may live in the next town, or have hereditary illnesses that do not surface until they are in their middle years (long after any medical history taken at the time of the child’s birth), and whose children, born later, may unknowingly risk incest when they attend college or work in the same work places with their half-sisters or brothers; and

Whereas our Lord spoke often of acceptance, forgiveness and reconciliation as qualities desirable for believers to experience daily in their human and spiritual growth; and

Whereas the Federal Department of Health and Human Services now has before it the Model State Adoption Act, which includes “Title V. Records”, which would grant adult adoptees the right of access to their original records to learn their identity at birth and that of their natural parents and which would grant original parents of adult adoptees the right to ask the agency that handled the adoption to contact the adult adoptee to notify her or him that the original parent desires contact - a section supported in testimony by the National Association of Social Workers. “Not all adoptees will wish to know the birth parent, nor to meet her or him. But surely the option should be there as opposed to a rigid secrecy which can leave adoptees feeling that there is some monstrous secret in their past.” and by Dr. Marion Wilson, Assistant Director of the Bureau of Laboratories, New York City Department of Health, “Nothing could be more fundamental to human continuity than an understanding of biologic heritage.”

Therefore, the Presbytery of Newton, meeting at Madison, NJ on March 10, 1981, respectfully overtures the 193rd General Assembly (1981), as follows:

To go on record as supporting the rights of adult adoptees to receive, upon request, copies of their original birth certificates and court and agency records pertaining to their adoption:

To support Title V of the Model State Adoption Act and Procedures, prepared under Section 202 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978, which would grant adult adoptees the aforementioned information and which would grant natural parents a more limited right as explained above:

To act through the General Assembly Mission Council in encouraging and stimulating synods, presbyteries, and local churches to take the following types of action in supporting adoptees who have reached adulthood, in their desire to know the truth of thier origins:

(1) send letters of support of Title V of the Model State Adoption Act to congressmen and to the President of the United States.

(2) write letters to the editors of local newspapers and national magazines expressing support of open records.

(3) work to help all persons involved in the adoption triangle-natural and adoptive parents and adoptees, who comprise 10 percent of our population-face the reality of their situations with honesty, openness and compassion for one another.
WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN OUR SEARCH AND HELP US GROW

PLEASE CHECK YOUR CHOICE BELOW:

☐ Please send me a one year subscription to The Open Arms Quarterly (4 issues) $6.00

☐ Please send me a one year subscription to The Open Arms Quarterly and publish my "Search Ad" in four consecutive issues $10.00

(Ads for publication in the winter issue must be received by November 15, 1981)

I wish to publish the following “Search Ad” in four consecutive issues of The Open Arms Quarterly:

(Please type or print clearly. Limit your ad to 40 words or less if possible)

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

If you wish to have Open Arms assist you with the wording of your ad, leave the above space blank. Send us all available information and we will compose the ad to your satisfaction.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR CHOICE BELOW:

☐ All replies to my ad are to be sent directly to me at the address I have listed.

☐ All replies to my ad are to be sent to Open Arms under an identification number which Open Arms will assign and then forwarded to me unopened.

May Open Arms contact you by telephone collect if we have questions concerning your “Search Ad”?

☐ YES Your Telephone Number ( ) ______________________________________________________________________

☐ NO

I am enclosing: ☐ $6.00 for a one year subscription.

☐ $10.00 for a one year subscription and my "Search Ad". (cash, check or money order. No stamps please).

Name ____________________________ Street ____________________________ City ____________________________

State ____________________________ Zip ____________

Detach this page and mail to . . .

OPEN A.R.M.S.
P. O. BOX 1522
NORTH PLATTE, NEBRASKA 69101
List of Search/Support Groups Available

Many of us don’t realize the problems involved in keeping an up-to-date listing of the various support groups throughout the country and the world.

Almost without exception, a newly-compiled mailing list is obsolete before it is completed. The list of Search/Support groups published in the first issue of The Open Arms Quarterly contained errors, but not by intention.

The TriAdoption Library is presently compiling an up-dated list which is available to readers by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

TRIADOPTION LIBRARY
7571 Westminster Ave.
Westminster, Calif. 92683

Open A.R.M.S. Quarterly
P. O. BOX 1522
NORTH PLATTE, NE 69101