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# AAC Beacon

June 2013

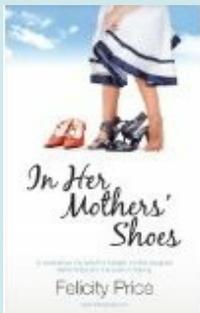
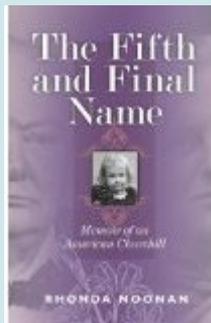
**ADOPTION:**  
**NO SECRETS. NO FEAR.**  
[www.AmericanAdoptionCongress.org](http://www.AmericanAdoptionCongress.org)



## NEW BOOKS

### ***The Fifth and Final Name: Memoir of an American Churchill* by Rhonda Noonan**

Like many adoptees, Rhonda Noonan needed to know her background. Unlike others, she discovers, over the course of a 30 year search, that she is the granddaughter of Winston Churchill. Part memoir, part detective story, this is a new book by AAC member, Rhonda Noonan.

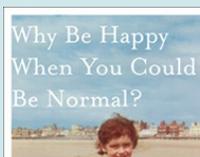
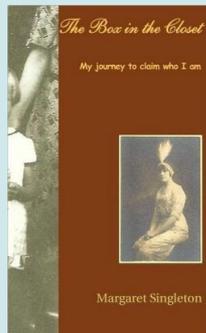


### ***In Her Mothers' Shoes* by Felicity Price**

Based on true stories, this novel explores adoption reunion and reconnection through the eyes of three women: an adoptee and her two mothers, one by birth and the other by adoption.

### ***The Box in the Closet: My Journey to Claim who I Am* by Margaret Singleton**

In this compelling memoir, Margaret Singleton tells of her birth to a wealthy unmarried couple, the limousine that secretly delivered her to a new life, her experience growing up on rural farm, and her drive to unearth the secrets found in a box deep in her mother's closet.



### ***Why Be Happy When You Could Be Normal?* By Jeanette Winterson**

Struggling to find her identity, acclaimed

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- Four new books!
- Meet the New AAC Board Officers!
- In Memoriam--Ellen Roseman
- Soldier Reunites with Mom
- Adopted Teen Finds Sister at Track Meet
- Woman Finds Mother after 44 years

## Buy your Books through the AAC!

Purchasing from Amazon using this link, will benefit AAC with a portion of the proceeds. If you shop through Amazon, it will take a few minutes of your time, and benefit AAC.



[Click to link to Amazon!](#)

## BLOG TALK RADIO

Join Pam Kroskie for her next interview on Friday, June 14, 2013, at 1:00 p.m. EST when Pam interviews Leslie Pate-McKinnon.



**Leslie Pate Mackinnon** has maintained a private psychotherapy practice for



lagging behind her identity, acclaimed novelist, Jeannette Winterson sets out to discover her original family and the reasons she was surrendered for adoption. Through the search, she comes to terms with her unhappy childhood and the person she has become today.

## Meet the New AAC Board Officers!

### PRESIDENT



Wendy Rowney, the new AAC President, has previously served as Education Chair, Nominations Chair, PR Chair, and Canadian Liaison on the AAC board. She is an adoptee and reconnected with her family almost 20 years ago. As a founding

member of the Coalition for Open Adoption Records, she won access to information for adopted adults and their original parents in her home province of Ontario. Wendy is the president of Adoption Support Kinship, a Toronto-based support group, and has led peer support meetings for more than a decade. She is a former board member of the Adoption Councils of Ontario and Canada and the Infertility Network. In the world outside adoption, Wendy manages family and adult programming at a history museum and has churned butter, baked on an open hearth, and knows how to sit in a crinoline – skills that make her wonder about transferability!

Wendy is looking forward to working with her fellow board members, state reps, and the AAC membership to maintain the AAC's leadership in legislative reform of adoption disclosure laws, education about the realities of adoption, and support for all members of the adoption constellation. To become more involved with the AAC or to share your ideas, please contact her at [wrowney@rogers.com](mailto:wrowney@rogers.com).

### VICE PRESIDENT



Pam Kroskie is the mother of

over 38 years. She resides in Atlanta and presents both nationally and internationally on issues that impact families conceived through adoption and third-party reproduction.

[Link to Blog Talk Radio](#)

## **Soldier Reunited with Mom after 30 Years**



*By Lylah M. Alphonse*

After 30 years of combing through databases and Internet search results, a mother and the son she gave up for adoption have been reunited, thanks to a random message posted on the family history record-keeping site [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com).

Janice Lobaugh, a 48-year-old married mom of two who owns her own real estate company in Wasilla, Alaska, was just 17 when she was forced to give her 5-month-old baby boy, Therman Randall Blair, up for adoption.

"I had a very stressful childhood," Lobaugh told Yahoo! Shine in an interview on Friday. She and her younger sister discovered they were both pregnant on the same day, and their mother — a single mom already struggling to raise three kids — was not supportive. One Friday when Therman was just a few months old, Lobaugh left him with her mother so she could pick up her paycheck. When she called from a pay phone to check on him an hour or so later, her mom said that Therman wasn't there.



three grown boys. She has been in reunion with her biological family since 1990. Pam received the 2012

Congressional Angel in Adoption Award.

Pam is the new AAC Vice President, Midwest Regional Director and Indiana Representative. She also hosts our Blog Talk Radio show called AAC Adoption News And Views.

## SECRETARY

Denise Carroll is the proud mother of an eleven year old daughter adopted as a toddler from China. She is also an adoptee who has been reunited with her birth family for the past several years. She is the Adoptive



Parent Liaison and Georgia State Representative for the American Adoption Congress, and recently became the new Board Secretary. Denise is a founding member of the grassroots organization, Georgians for Equal Access to Records (GEAR), which is dedicated to restoring the right for Georgia born adoptees to obtain a copy of their original birth certificate. As a former teacher, and current home school mom, her passion for adoption reform and education also includes facilitating a monthly education and support group for adoptive families called Hand In Hand where adoptive parents can learn how to help their child with the life-long journey of adoption.

## **SHOPPING ANYONE?**



T-shirts, mugs, bumper stickers, water bottles, and hats galore! Visit the AAC store at Cafe Press and

(continued)

[Link to Remainder of Article](#)

## **Adopted Teen Finds Long-Lost Sister at Track Meet**

By *Emma Koch*



"Everyone was saying, 'It's your twin, look at your twin over there!'" Dickerson's mother, Patrice Dickerson, told ABC News of the chance encounter. "They were freaked out by how much they resembled each other."

"We were just scoping each other out," Jordan Dickerson told ABC News. "I was trying to look for her [at the track meet] to see how much she looked like me."

By the end of the event, Jordan finally worked up the courage to ask someone who that other girl was.

"They told me her name was Robin Jeter. I had previously known my birth name was Jeter. The reality instantly hit me that she was my sister," Dickerson said.

"She knew," her mother said, "and she immediately started crying."

"I was crying in the middle of the bleachers for no reason. It was embarrassing," Jordan said.

Patrice Dickerson adopted Jordan when she was only 3 months old. She said she had been open with her daughter about her adoption as well as the possibility that she might have siblings.

Mrs. Dickerson said the two girls eventually approached

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[Link to website](#)

## IN MEMORIAM



**Ellen Aurelia Roseman**

*from Legacy.com*

Ellen Roseman of San Anselmo, passed away in her home on April 20th, 2013 at 6:00 am after a two and a half year battle with metastatic liver cancer. She is survived by her three daughters, Victoria Curtis, Tara Curtis-Garcia (husband Armando Garcia), and Camilla Curtis and one grandson Adam Armando Garcia. Ellen was born on March 29, 1943 in Reno, Nevada but grew up in Sparks. Ellen lied about her age and became a showgirl in Reno at the age of 14 and was given the name Reno Rose. During that time she met many great entertainers, including Frank Sinatra, Liberace, and Barbara Streisand. Just for kicks she and a friend auditioned and became a member of an ice show even though she couldn't skate. She was fearless and loved fun and adventure. Ellen matriculated to the University of Nevada and became a member of the Tri Delta sorority and later Tri Delta president. In 1964 she entered and won the Miss Nevada pageant and at the Miss America pageant she won best interview. In the late 1960's she moved to the Bay Area and became a Flight Attendant for World Airways traveling all over the world and became well known for her entertaining safety briefings. During the Vietnam War, the airline flew troops in and out of Vietnam (risking their own lives). Ellen married in the late 70's and after adopting two of her three daughters, Ellen became very interested in adoption, specifically the importance of open adoptions. She became an open adoption facilitator and pioneer in the adoption world, creating families through open adoption. She has placed about 2300 children for adoption in the last 32 years, an amazing legacy. She was also a strong advocate for open adoption records in California. Ellen is loved and celebrated by many and will be greatly missed as an amazing mother, grandmother, fairy godmother, great friend and adoption phenom.

Ellen was a longtime AAC member, and former board member, whose sense of humor and dedication to open adoption will be missed.

[Link to Legacy.com](#)

**DON'T FORGET!**

girls eventually approached each other at the meet and exchanged phone numbers. But Jordan did not broach the subject that the two could be related until Jeter called that same night.

"I didn't want to say, 'Oh you know you're my sister' right then at the track meet,'" Jordan said. (continued)

[Link to article](#)

## Woman Finds Mother, Siblings after 44 Years



By **AMANDA NICHOLS**  
RICHMOND, VA

Almost two years ago, a woman from Alabama called 12, asking for help in finding her birth mother.

Rita Bradford was born in Virginia but adopted by a military family and raised in Alabama.

Adoption records are sealed in this state, so, we were hitting a brick wall - that is, until we turned to the [NBC12 Facebook page](#).

Rita Bradford has amassed a mountain of paperwork in her 15-year search for her birth parents - but in all that time, it really didn't reveal very much. Rita was born at Riverside Shore Hospital in Northhampton County, Virginia in January of 1975. Her adopted father was stationed in the military, not far from there. At just a few weeks old, Rita moved with her adoptive parents to Alabama, where she's been ever since.



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over 5000

"It was a very long journey, but no - I was determined, I would never give up," said Rita. (continued)

[Link to article](#)

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