

ADOPTION CIRCLES

CANADA'S POST-ADOPTION QUARTERLY

ISSUE 17 WINTER 1996 \$3.00

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ADOPTION CIRCLES
ISSUE #17 WINTER 1996

Publisher
**FORGET ME NOT FAMILY
SOCIETY**

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WHO WE ARE:
THE FORGET ME NOT FAMILY SOCIETY is a Provincially registered non-profit Society and a Registered Charitable Society with the Federal Government. Tax receipts are issued for donations to our Society.

Our Society was formed for education, consultation, peer counselling and to offer support to all those touched by adoption: adoptees, adoptive parents, birth parents and concerned professionals.

Our only source of income for the Society is through membership fees, fundraising and donations. This money goes directly towards printing, postage, telephone rental and office equipment and supplies.

WHAT WE OFFER:

Experience shows that at various times in life, the issues and concerns of adoption need to be addressed. We provide our members with opportunities to gain further understanding of adoption issues.

•Educational workshops on post adoption issues for all members of the adoption circle and concerned professionals.

•An annual "Let's Talk About Reunions" conference to address a variety of post adoption issues.

•Referrals to support groups for birth parents, adult adoptees, family members or interested friends and relatives of triad members.

OUR MANDATE:

To encourage and develop a recognition of the benefits of family preservation and openness in adoption practice.

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER:

Adoption Circles is published quarterly and is available by subscription to our Society. Membership is open to anyone who is interested in adoption and post adoption issues.

Comments and contributions are always welcome. Please mail submissions to our office or FAX to (604) 532-7625.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Forget Me Not Family Society Executive would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year. We hope your holiday season was joyous, safe and healthy. The past year has been a busy one for your Society and we're sure it will be just as busy in 1996. Our membership continues to grow and we are happy to announce a new member from Australia and a membership renewal from Hawaii! Thanks to the Internet, we are receiving enquiries about our organization from as far away as Britain.

As you all know, we will be holding our fourth annual Conference on March 1, 2 & 3, 1996 at the Landmark Hotel in downtown Vancouver. This year, the Forget Me Not Family Society will be co-hosting the conference with the Adoptive Parents Association of B.C. This is a landmark decision in the world of adoption. But the time has come for all of us to work together to change the face of adoption in this province, and it will change through joint efforts of this nature and the work we all did last year in helping to change the Adoption Act. "Working Together: The Future for Adoption" will also include a one day "Adoption Search and Reunion" workshop for professionals who offer adoption reunion support services. Another example of all those involved in adoption getting together and sharing information, at a professional level.

Both organizations have recently received enquiries as to why we are having a joint conference. I think it is important to point out that fear of each other is no longer appropriate. Yes, there are differences with some issues, but the bottom line here is the well being and love for the shared child. On the emotional side, I am learning that there are very few differences, as brought to my attention at the conference I attended in Saskatchewan. What really came home for me was the realization that adoptive mothers have suffered much the same as I have, ie, we both experienced the same feelings of loss - loss of control, genetic continuity, physical satisfactions of pregnancy and birth, emotional gratification of birth and opportunity to parent. I sat in awe as an adoptive mother explained, as someone unable to have children, how hard Mother's Day was for her and how much she disliked going to baby showers. Boy, could I relate to that!

I lived for so many years in fear that this "other mother" would be so much better than me, so much more worthy than me, and so much more together than me! Through my association with Forget Me Not and other organizations, I have come to realize these fears are not warranted. We are both mothers - and it is important to learn about and accept the common bond between us - our child.

-- Nancy Kato

EDITOR'S NOTES

Hello again!! I hope all of you enjoyed the holidays - I love getting together with friends and family - the parties, the eating, the baking, the shopping... And now before you know it - after the climax which we so busily prepared for - we've entered January and a brand new year!

January is a great month because I like to look at it like a fresh start and a clean slate with which to build upon another great year - one always better than the year before. I make my resolutions (of which may or may not stick) but I think of it as a time to make exciting plans and set goals for my future (which comes faster and faster as the years tick by!).

About two Christmases ago, my Dad gave me a poem called "The Station". I have included it in this month's newsletter, and though it does not directly relate to adoption, it does relate to how we look at our lives and I wanted to share it with you. It reminds me that we are all blessed with a life and that chasing that "destination" is never going to satisfy us, that we must enjoy the "ride".

Tis also the season for the Forget Me Not Family Society and the Adoptive Parents Association of British Columbia, who have together formed a Conference Committee to busily coordinate, plan and detail the 1996 Annual Adoption Conference to be held March 1, 2 and 3. Brochures were sent out earlier this month and space is limited so please register early.

I look forward to seeing you at the conference and wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

--Debbie Pratt

CONFERENCE UPDATE

Working Together: The Future for Adoption"

March 1, 2 & 3, 1996

The Landmark Hotel

1400 Robson Street

Vancouver, B.C.

We are pleased to announce the fourth annual post adoption conference, hosted by the Forget Me Not Family Society and the Adoptive Parents Association of B.C. Members of both organizations should have received their conference brochures at the time of this publication.

We have an extensive range of workshops to choose from. Some of our speakers include Nancy Verrier, Dr. Michael Sobol, Ted Myers, Dr. Elinor Ames, Sharon Jinkerson, Arden Henley, Carol Schaefer, Brenda Knight and a warm welcome to Lee Crawford, along with many, many others.

We recommend that you register as quickly as possible as space is limited. If you have not received your registration brochure, or require more information, please contact Cecelia Reekie at (604) 530-9982 or the Adoptive Parents Association at (604) 588-7300.

Thanks to everyone on the conference committee: Cecelia Reekie, Deirdre Marconato, Ginny Paulsen, Jennifer Hillman, Bonnie Milne, Shirley Daniel, Cheryl Tautorius, for their time and energy. Great job!

THE STATION

Tucked away in our subconscious is an idyllic vision. We see ourselves on a long trip that spans the continent. We are travelling by train. Out the windows we drink in the passing scene of cars on nearby highways. But upper-most in our minds is the final destination. On a certain day at a certain hour we will pull into the station. Bands will be playing and flags waving. Once we get there so many wonderful dreams will come true and the pieces of our lives will fit together like a complete jigsaw puzzle.

How restlessly we pace the aisles, damming the minutes for loitering...waiting, waiting, waiting for the station.

"When we reach the station, that will be it" we cry. "When I'm 18." "When I buy a new 450 SL Mercedes Benz." "When I have paid off the mortgage." "When I get a promotion." "When I reach the age of retirement, I shall live happily ever after."

Sooner or later we must realize there is no station, no one place to arrive at once and for all. The true joy of life is the trip. The station is only a dream. It constantly out distances us.

So, stop pacing the aisles and counting the miles. Instead, climb more mountains, eat more ice cream, go barefoot more often, swim more rivers, watch more sunsets, laugh more, cry less. Life must be lived as we go along. The station will come soon enough.

אבא (Hebrew for "father")

*The mirrors are draped but I can hardly tell the difference;
they've always been opaque.
How many times have I stared into the dull grey eyes
trying to catch
a glimpse of you, or at least a shadow, to no avail?
I've rent my clothes above my heart, my imperfect heart,
that I may have inherited from you.
What more shall I do?
I would sit shiva
I would say kaddish
I would light a candle once a year -
if only I knew what name to carve upon the stone.
But even if I knew the name, I'd be praying for myself
as well as for you.*

Ted

BECAUSE

I have been haunted by a lifetime of "why's"
Are you haunted by the echo of your baby's cries?
I have wondered what was in that heart of yours.
You have left me locked behind closed doors.
And what would I find within your soul -
Will two halves finally make a whole?
Are the answers hidden in your core -
or do I not matter to you anymore?
Were you filled with confusion, with rage
to let go of a life at such a young age?
How can I understand the plan
if I don't know where I began?
I look in the mirror hoping to see
a similar reflection stare back at me.
You can be anything inside my mind,
but can I accept the realities that I may find?
Do you want to remember me, or do the memories fade
Will you tell me I'm the most beautiful thing you ever made
or would you look at me and only fret
because mine is an existence you'd rather forget?
And through it all something holds me back -
afraid to forgo fiction for fact
Is it something for you that's too hard to face
even though my heart was yours in the first place?
And through all of these wondering years
have we grown strong enough to face our fears?
Am I similar to any creature you've known?
Would you want to know about how I've grown?
I never got a chance to say goodbye
and so I live a lifetime of "why?"
There are so many things I need to know
for that is the only way that I can let you go.

Polly Kaplan
1994

INSPIRATIONS

CHALLENGES: Anyone can hold the helm when the sea is calm.

CHERISH TODAY: Yesterday is but a dream. Tomorrow, a vision of hope. Look to this day for it is life.

ENTHUSIASM: The sky's the limit when your heart is in it.

"THE CHANGING FACE OF ADOPTION"

by Nancy Kato

Cecelia Reekie and I recently attended the above conference hosted by the **Saskatchewan Adoptive Parents Association, Inc.** The guest speakers included Patricia Irwin Johnston, author of numerous books on adoption and infertility; Dr. Michael Sobol, Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Guelph; Marilyn Shinyei, founder of the Adoptive Parents Association of Alberta; and many others, including from British Columbia, Helen Mark, Adoptive Parents Association of B.C. and June Preston, Adoption Support Program at the Queen Alexandra Centre. This was a conference mainly for adoptive parents but both Cecelia, as an adoptee and I, as a birth parent, were made to feel more than welcome.

Day one began with Dr. Sobol's keynote speech on "Current Trends in Adoption." This was a very informative session. He points out that although there is a steady decline in public adoptions, private adoptions have stayed steady over the last ten years. He also suggests that because more people are keeping their babies today in North America, there is a growing tendency to go for international adoptions. He briefly discussed government involvement in adoptions, professional standards, rights of aboriginal birth mothers, openness and the language of adoption. I look forward to seeing Dr. Sobol again at our Conference in March.

The rest of the day was devoted to Patricia Irwin Johnston and what a day it was! I was amazed by her presentation. What a fount of information and delivered with such sensitivity. Her subject material included "Growing Your Family," Growing Up Adopted - A Kid's Eye View," and "The Adoptee in Adolescence."

The Adoptive Parents Association of B.C. showed us their newest video entitled "International Adoption: What You Need to Know." Afterward, Cecelia and I spent the rest of the evening networking with a number of other participants and speakers, finding out what is going on in other provinces and sharing opinions. Of course, we also had the opportunity to talk about our own Conference and look forward to seeing many of the same people again.

Day two included a presentation from Marilyn Shinyei on "Open Adoption - Long Term Issues" and then we had the choice of three break away sessions to attend. I opted for "Waiting for Adoption: Coping with Uncertainty" by Sharon Frank, M.S.W. and founder of the Saskatchewan Adoptive Parents Association. What a moving experience this was for me. My heart really went out to those waiting parents.

The Conference ended with a panel presentation on "Establishing, Supporting and Maintaining an Adoption Support Group." We came home that night totally exhausted but with a feeling of accomplishment. Accomplishment because we both learned so much and were also able to share our experiences with others. □

Q&A COLUMN

Dear Q&A,

I am an adoptee who is searching for my birth family. My friend said something about a registry. What can you tell me about it?

Signed,
J.L.

Dear J.L.,

Your friend is speaking of the Adoption Reunion Registry. They provide services to adoptees (19+) and birth relatives of the adoptee, where an adoption has taken place in B.C.

The following is a list of their services available:

(1) **PASSIVE REGISTRY** - For people wishing contact. If both parties register, a reunion is initiated. A fee is required. (Contact the Registry for more information).

(2) **ACTIVE REGISTRY** - An adult adoptee may search for birth parents or adult siblings also placed for adoption. When the search is successful, consent is obtained and a reunion can take place. As well, birth parents can search for the adopted adult. A fee is required. (Contact the Registry for more information).

Lastly, there are counselling services available to anyone affected by a reunion either by telephone or in person (at no charge). The telephone number of the Registry is (604) 736-7917 or toll free at 1-800-665-1899.

This past year a decision was made by the Information and Privacy Commissioner that you can now apply directly to Freedom of Information, Ministry of Social Services, for written NON-IDENTIFYING INFORMATION. This information can be obtained by contacting:

**Freedom of Information
Ministry of Social Services
110 - 333 Quebec Street
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
PH:(604) 387-0820**

Good luck with your decision and remember that what is most important is to search first within yourself to learn what it really is that you are looking for, and to take the steps necessary to prepare yourself for the possible outcomes of your decision.

Q&A

EDITOR'S NOTE:

We realize the Christmas season is a very busy time of year for everyone - but the Editor received only one letter for our new column! So come on all of you and send in those questions! They can be addressed to:

**Q&A
c/o The Forget Me Not Family Society
#306 - 838 Agnes Street
New Westminster, BC
V3M 6R3**

The Miracle Of Finding Yvonne

by Linda Smith

As we move along into the Christmas season, my thoughts have been drifting back over this past year and all that has happened to enrich my life. I was a birth mother searching for an adult child, for over six years. My daughter was born and surrendered in Manitoba and that province is still closed to parents searching. When I attended last year's Forget Me Not Family Society Conference, I was put in touch with an organization that was able to help me locate my daughter. The following story is about her, our reunion, the support of family and where we are today.

My daughter was born in December and adopted two weeks later, just before Christmas, and renamed Yvonne Michele. So many of us know the pain and heartache associated with surrendering a child. I won't dwell on that. It is enough to say that I thought of her and missed her and wished that circumstances were such that I could have kept her with me. Twenty three years and three months later, I found

out the information needed to contact her. I was excited, nervous, scared. What should I do - contact her parents or call her directly? After talking to a lot of people, I decided to bite the bullet and call her myself. Our first phone call was a shock for my daughter. She was responsive but cautious. I asked if I could call back and we set up a time and date. She wanted time to talk all this over with her mom and dad. When I next spoke to Yvonne she was much brighter and willing to talk to me. Her mom and dad had been supportive of the contact but were concerned for Yvonne. During the second phone call, we decided to take things slowly and start writing to each other and exchange pictures. As things progressed, Yvonne wanted information about her birth father. I knew that he was only 30 minutes from her and, as we had always remained in friendly contact, I gave her all the information she wanted. I then spoke to him myself and he was delighted to know that she might contact him. Yvonne met her birth father in June and has continued to spend time with him off and on.

We decided that I would fly out in September for a

visit. What a long wait! When the time came, I was nervous and scared all over again. What if she hated me? What if her parents gave her a difficult time because of me? All my emotions came to the surface and it was a nerve racking time before I finally got on the plane. As a surprise, Yvonne met me at the airport with Tony, her birth father. I was in shock - seeing her in person for the first time was like looking in the mirror. Tony took us out for dinner and Yvonne and I arranged to meet the next day when her classes finished.

Her parents had invited me over for a visit so off we went. I was quite anxious about meeting them but also

wanted to get to know them and have them know me. Her mom and dad are wonderful! They are kind and caring and love Yvonne so much. Yvonne had told her mom that I wanted a Winnipeg pizza because they don't know how to make them in Vancouver - no offense pizza lovers of B.C. Her mom made us a pizza for

dinner and I think it was the best pizza I've ever eaten. Her mom and dad also wanted to meet Tony, his girlfriend and their daughter - Yvonne's half sister. They arranged a BBQ for all of us to attend. I also met Yvonne's brother and new sister-in-law.

Meanwhile, Yvonne and I were meeting after her classes and getting to know each other a little better. She is a terrific young woman. I think that she was a little shy around me but was quite willing to spend time together. Yvonne has a good sense of humour and she admits to having a temper too - perhaps she's more like me than I realized! She loves to shop and is very athletic. Yvonne is a hard worker, holding down a part-time job and going to school. As I type this, so many thoughts and memories of our visit come to mind that I can't put everything in. We just had a really nice time together and both of us want to stay in touch.

The support of Yvonne's mom and dad will allow us to stay in contact without her feeling guilty or disloyal to them. Her family really is incredible. I had written to her parents after Yvonne and I spoke for the second time. I

"There are great risks involved when reuniting and maintaining contact, but if everyone works together, the rewards are invaluable and will last throughout all of our lives."

wanted them to know that although I hoped for a reunion and continuing contact, I was not a threat to them or their family unit. I told them some things about myself and where I am today. Her mom wrote back a beautiful letter telling me that I would be welcome in their home and to thank me for the precious gift that is their daughter. Her dad has always been supportive of contact with me if that was what Yvonne wanted. My husband is so happy that I have finally found Yvonne. We have been together for 11 years and he has always known about her and my desire to find her. He is truly as happy as I am that she is alive and well and is cherished by her family. Yvonne's birth father and his girlfriend have been amazing also. I visited their home several times during my visit and was always made to feel welcome and a part of the family. I have come to believe more than ever that in the adoption circle, every person in all the families needs to understand and support each other. There are great risks involved when reuniting and maintaining contact, but if everyone works together, the rewards are invaluable and will last throughout all of our lives.

Next week is Yvonne's 24th birthday and for the

first time I was able to send her a gift. It is impossible to tell you the joy I feel in doing this. The Christmas parcel for her and her family is almost ready to be mailed. I am so thankful that even though I am so far away, I can say "Merry Christmas" to all of them and know that they wish the same for me.

Yvonne and I continue to write to each other and I love hearing from her. An added bonus is that her mom also writes to me. I am thoroughly enjoying getting to know the woman and man who so many years ago said "we want her" when the call came to say a baby needed a home. Next year, Yvonne and her boyfriend may come out for a visit, and possibly her parents. I would really like them to meet my family and by then it should have stopped raining!

In the adoption circle, there are so many emotions and issues to deal with. If family support is not available, there is always someone from our society willing to talk or listen. It is important to remember that we are not alone, whatever area of the circle we fit into.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all of you. May 1996 be the year that brings you whatever you might be wishing for. Miracles do happen! □

FYI

ADOPTION RESOURCE CENTRE

The Adoption Resource Centre is located in Seattle, Washington and is dedicated to promoting the health and well-being of those touched by adoption.

The Centre's focus is to provide information, support, therapy, education and search services to members of the adoption triad. Services are available to the larger community as well. Caring and supportive services are designed to increase understanding of the complex process and lifelong issues raised by adoption.

Some of what can be found at the Resource Centre includes:

Adoption Resource Room and Bookstore: Stocks hard to find titles available for purchase and maintains a library of books and articles on adoption as well as a collection of information from organizations across the nation.

Consultation and Training Services: Personalized consultation and training services are available on a variety of topics, including: searching for biological relatives; decision-making on placing or adopting a child; attachment disorders; children and trauma; along with many, many others.

Program Offerings: Each season, a number of various programs are offered to members of the public. Names of a few recently offered programs include; Adopting After 40; Deciding to Search; Adoption for Gay and Lesbian People; Legal Aspects of Adoption; along with many, many others.

For more information, contact the Adoption Resource Centre at:

**3300 NE 65th Street
Seattle, WA 98115
(206) 527-6068**

MEDIAFILE

ARTICLES, MOVIES, DOCUMENTARIES ABOUT ADOPTION OR ADOPTION-RELATED MATTERS

***Tab Gets Mom and Son Together After 17 Years** headed the story which, this past December, had been followed by the Province as birth mom, Deana Robinson, made a public plea to find the son she reluctantly gave up for adoption 17 years ago.

Robinson lay near death in hospital 17 years ago unable to care for her year old son, Steven. As well, Steven suffered apparent neglect at the hands of relatives. When Robinson was better and had returned home, she was persuaded to give her son up for adoption. Less than a week later, Deana realized she made a mistake, but social workers told her it was too late.

Only this year on Steven's 19th birthday, was Deana able to legally look for her son. That's exactly what she did, by having her heartbreaking story printed in the Province newspaper. When a friend of Steven's saw the story, Steven got his birth mom's phone number and called her.

The two were reunited on Christmas Eve.

***Abandoned as a child, woman seeks her mom** was the headline to a recent Province article written by Staff Reporter, John Bermingham, which would continue the story first written about in the paper in 1930!

June Pattison's birth mother left her on the steps of Grace Hospital on July 10, 1930, when she was just three weeks old. There was a note pinned to her clothes from her mother stating she would return when she found work. It's been 66 years, her mother never returned and now June wants to find her. June always knew of her adoption, but did not decide to search until the death of her adoptive mother a few years ago.

June's remarkable adoption story was told to her by her adoptive parents. They were out driving on the night of July 10, 1930 and spotted a young woman in distress near the hospital. The woman, no more than a teen, had a suitcase in one arm and a baby in the other. The couple gave the woman a ride, but Pattison doesn't know where they took her. All she does know is that when the couple read a story in The Daily Province the next day, they made the connection that it was the same child and decided to adopt her.

Pattison has since got her adoption file from the B.C. Adoption Reunion Registry, though chances of finding her birth parents are very slim. Pattison figures she has East Indian, native or Spanish blood.

Pattison says one question still rankles her: "Why didn't she come back for me? She said in the note she would be back."

NEWSBITS

* * * * *

BANNER OF LOST IDENTITIES If you haven't done so yet, please send Monica Bunton your square of plain fabric with the name and birth date of the "lost identity" as mentioned in our last newsletter. For more information, contact Monica at #4 - 1343 Scenic Drive South, Lethbridge, Alberta, T1K 1M3, or by phone at (403) 327-9201. She will be showing this banner at our Conference in March.

* * * * *

DENIED CONTACT WORKSHOP We regret to inform you that we have had to cancel this workshop scheduled for January 14 due to unforeseen circumstances. We hope to have more workshops scheduled for later in the year and will keep you informed.

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BIRTH MOTHER HEALING JOURNEY

This is a two day, overnight workshop (May 4-5, 1996) and retreat for mothers who surrendered children for adoption, to promote healing through exploring the impact of the birth parents' experience over the years. Birth mothers were promised that they would "forget" - did you? This workshop is strongly recommended before search and reunion and certainly helpful after. For additional information, call the Adoption Search and Counselling Consultants, 6201 - 15th Avenue NW, Seattle, Washington 98107, Phone (206) 782-4491, Fax (206) 706-1319.

* * * * *

YOUR PRIVACY We recognize that phoning to talk to someone about adoption issues is sometimes a very personal matter. As you know, this Society uses an answering service which then necessitates one of our volunteers calling you back. Please note that we will only leave our name and number, if we leave a message. We will not leave the name of our Society or tell the person who answers the phone what we are calling about. This is to protect your privacy.

* * * * *

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL February is our biggest month for membership renewals. Starting with this issue, you will find your expiry date on the address label. Please check this date and submit your renewal as soon as possible.

* * * * *

SOMETHING TO LOOK FOR Our own Cecelia Reekie was recently interviewed by Canadian Living Magazine so keep your eyes open for a future issue's article relating to adoption and a chance to read about her story.

* * * * *

SURFING THE NET Jim Kelly, a Society member, has volunteered to produce a home page for us on the Internet. This will allow world-wide access to the Forget Me Not Family Society. You can find this Home Page at:

<http://www2.portal.ca/~adoption>

We will be working on our Home Page on a continuous basis so keep checking back with us out there in cyberspace!

* * * * *

ADOPTION RESEARCH SURVEY

My name is Richard Lubbers and I am a reunited adoptee and have met not only my birth parents, but two siblings as well. I am conducting a research survey and would like to hear your story of how your life has been affected by being adopted. I am interested in receiving as much detailed information as possible. You may remain anonymous if you so desire.

I am interested in this survey as a means of finding out more about the mental anguish and disruption caused in the life of adoptees. In the future, the results on my research may be used in a book I would like to publish. Please be assured you may remain completely anonymous.

PLEASE FORWARD YOUR STORY IN CONFIDENCE TO:

**Richard Lubbers
#403 - 5975 Glen Erin Drive
Mississauga, ON
L5M 5P9**

LEAN ON ME TELEPHONE SUPPORT LIST

Adoptive Parent of Reunited Adoptee:

Sue McBeath (604) 538-8301

Adoptive Parent:

Elsa Weinstein (604) 876-4543

Denied Reunion Adoptee:

Liz Goadby (604) 574-7223

Reunited Adoptees:

Cecelia Reekie (604) 530-9982

E-Mail: cansoft@haven.uniserve.com

Ginny Paulsen (604) 875-8720

Lena Rose-Squamish (604) 892-8411

Sharon Stevens-Quesnel (604) 992-9087

E-Mail: sstevens@family.island.net

Sue Travis (604) 534-2477

Reunited with Siblings:

Janis Wegrich (604) 856-2215

(birthparents deceased)

Reunited Birthparents:

Monica Bunton (403) 327-9201

Betty Coutts (604) 395-4969

- 100 Mile House

Ethel Drake - Kamloops (604) 374-8042

Christine Gurin (604) 985-2096

Nicole Quittenton (604) 731-0605

Connie Short (604) 534-9456

Linda Smith (604) 467-4123

Reunited Birthparent & Adoptive Parent:

Sally Arnold (604) 468-5579

- Nanaimo/Parksville area

Searching Birthparents:

Mary Reynolds (604) 534-2851

Lois Tworkowski (306) 522-2756

- Regina, Sask.

Interested Professionals:

Judy Archer (604) 988-5281

North Shore Family Services

Lee Crawford (604) 266-4123

Michael-Sue Goldblatt (604) 921-6425

John Thomas (604) 327-9201

This is a peer support service. Please send your name and telephone number if you wish to be included on the LEAN ON ME Telephone Support List.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Forget Me Not Family Society Support Groups - for birth parents, adoptees and adoptive parents

New Westminster

The second Tuesday of each month, a support group meets at New Westminster Public Library, 716 - 6th Avenue, from 7 to 9 p.m. For more information contact Nancy Kato at 525-8383.

North Vancouver

The third Tuesday of each month, a support group meets in North Vancouver. For more information, contact Catherine Moore at 929-0546.

Vancouver

The fourth Tuesday of each month, a support group meets in Vancouver. For more information contact Ginny Paulsen at 875-8720.

Quesnel

The first Tuesday of each month, a support group meets at the Community Services Building. Contact Sharon Stevens at 992-9087 in Quesnel.

Other Support Groups

Adoption Reunion Registry

Post Reunion & Refusal Support Groups 202-1600 West 6th Ave, Vancouver

Two groups, post reunion and adoptees who experience refusal at the end of a search will meet monthly. For dates and information please call 736-7917, or toll free at 1-800-665-1899.

REUNION REGISTRY UPDATE

By Marg Harrington, Registrar
Adoption Reunion Registry

Reunion Registry Statistics From Oct 2/91 to Dec 31/95.

Total Database*	10167
Searches Completed	3884
Reunions Completed	
- Active	2576
- Passive	498
Subject of search deceased	322
Subject of search refused contact	448

* Database consists of Active and Passive Registries.

MAIL ORDER

The following books and products are available from the Society. Please make cheques payable to **Forget Me Not Family Society** and mail to Forget Me Not Family Society, #209 - 1575 Best Street, White Rock, B.C., CANADA V4B 5K1. All prices include GST.

A Coloring Book for Grown-Up Adopted Children. \$8 plus \$1.50 S/H.

Nobody's Baby by Susan Moses. A book of poetry. \$6 plus \$1 S/H.

Dear Mom, I Found My Birthmother by Susan Moses. \$5 plus \$1 S/H.

Reader's Guide to Books on Post-Adoption by Heather Carlini. \$4.95 plus \$1 S/H.

Birth Mother Trauma by Heather Carlini. \$15 plus \$2.50 S/H.

Adoption Reunions by Michelle McColm. A sensitive and compassionate book about the reunion process for adoptees, birth parents and adoptive families under Canadian laws and practices. \$18.50 plus \$2.50 S/H.

The Other Mother by Carol Schaefer. Written with poignancy, tenderness, depth and honesty. A portrayal of what it is really like to relinquish a child for adoption. \$18.50 plus \$2.50 S/H.

Finding Family by Rick Ouston. A great search & reunion book which Rick has dedicated to All The Secret Mothers. \$16 plus \$2.50 S/H.

The Primal Wound by Nancy Verrier. Clarifies the effect of separation for birth mothers & adoptees. \$24 + \$2.50 S/H.

Shipping charges are \$2.50 for the first book and \$.75 for each additional book, unless otherwise noted.

Society T-Shirts with the Forget Me Not Family Society Logo screened on the front are available in top quality 100% cotton. Please state size M/L/XL. Colour: white only (logo is black). \$14.95 ea. + \$1.50 Shipping.

WORKSHOP AUDIO CASSETTES

*Professionally recorded at the
Forget Me Not Family Society
"A Time To Heal"
3rd Post-Adoption Conference*

The following audio cassettes of conference workshops are available from the Society. To order, please contact our office. Tapes are \$6 each (includes GST & Shipping).

Opening Ceremonies

Healing Through Grief and Loss In Adoption - Lee Crawford

Healing Adoptive Parents - Nancy Verrier

Victims No More: A Guide to Adoptee Healing - Nancy Verrier

The Maternity Home Experience - Carol Schaefer

Empathy and Respect: Healing Through Communications - Lisa Dunlop-Beldam

Self Esteem in the Adoption Triad - Alisia Dunlop

My Story: A Time for Sharing, Healing and Moving On - Ted Myers

Birthmother Trauma and Counselling - Kathy Lewis

Healing, Learning and Moving Toward a Different Kind of Adoption - Michaela-Sue Goldblatt

Secret Lives: The Unspoken Truths About Adoption - Lorna Millard

Personal Wellness for Birthparents: Coming Out and Looking Ahead - Julie Briesse

Circles Within Circles - Lorne and Anne Welwood

A Successful Reunion Story - Catherine Moore, Alisia Dunlop and David Summers

Closing Ceremonies

Workshop audio cassettes from the 1994 conference are still available. Contact our office for a list.

A REMINDER...

To all Forget Me Not Family Society Members, please don't forget to inform our office of any change in *your* mailing address so that we can keep our mailing list current.

Please send letters to the editor, reunion stories, news and information on community events to: Adoption Circles, c/o Forget Me Not Family Society, #209 - 1575 Best Street, White Rock B.C., CANADA V4B 5K1 or fax (604) 532-7625. The Forget Me Not Family Society reserves the right to edit all material submitted on the basis of space, relevance and suitability. Please note that material published in this newsletter does not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the Forget Me Not Family Society or its Editors.