



NEWSLETTER ON THE ADOPTEE MOVEMENT IN OHIO AND OTHER AREAS

PUBLISHED BY: ADOPTEE'S SEARCH RIGHTS ASSOCIATION, P.O. BOX 8723, Toledo, Ohio 43623

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers -

On March 10, 1981, the Toledo, Ohio Chapter of ALMA (Adoptees Liberty Movement Association) left the ALMA Society and officially became: Adoptees Search Rights Association.

The decision came after months of soul searching by the board members. Finally, a meeting was called gathering all board members, committee heads, search advisors and members of Long standing. The decision came after five hours of deliberation. Reasons given for leaving ALMA are many, and will be discussed at our meeting March 26th. In brief, a few of the reasons were: few, actual ALMA members were attending meetings - (the attendance at meetings grew and grew but very few joined ALMA), we could not support the work of our legislative committee under the auspices of ALMA and communication and help from ALMA "national office" was almost nil. The decision was to form a group that our many people could support and believe in, one that would in turn support and help them. The name selected was to convey the key ingredients of the group.

To clarify our position as a group, we are non-profit, open to anyone of the adoption triad, (or concerned citizens) wishing to join. Members must be over the age of eighteen. We are here to help and support those in search, to educate the public on the needs of the adoptees, and to work towards legislation to bring about open records. We will be a separate group, but associating ourselves with Orphan Voyage and other liasons.

For information on membership, see page 3. Chatter will continue as a separate function with Chatter, we hope to provide a newsletter that will be by, for and of all Ohio adoptees, birth parents and adoptive parents interested in the "triad". Subscriptions to Chatter will be available to any interested persons, regardless of membership in Adoptee's Search Rights Association (ASRA)

or any other group(s). We offer Chatter as part of the membership in ASRA, as we hope other Ohio Adoptee groups will eventually offer with their memberships. We do offer membership to Chatter subscribers at a reduced rate, should this interest any of you.

We don't pretend to have "all" the answers and are open to your suggestions and criticisms. Let us know how you feel. I thank you all for your great support in the past, and I hope it will continue for the future.

Yours within
the Movement -

Peg Brenner - editor
president - A.S.R.A.

(new board members are announced on page 3, staff positions to be elected at March 26th meeting - hope to see you there!)

REMINDER:

Address all mail to CHATTER or ADOPTEE'S SEARCH RIGHTS ASSOCIATION - letters addressed to ALMA will no longer reach us!

REUNION REGISTRY

We have finally been granted permission to make available forms for registry in the International Soundex Reunion Registry. The registry is a multi-group participation project, open to any person seeking a reunion. The forms and registry are free of charge - it is funded solely by its originator - Emma May Valardi. We urge all of you searching to participate. You may obtain the brochure and necessary forms at meetings of Adoptees Search Rights Association or by writing directly to International Soundex Reunion Registry, P.O. Box 2312, Carson City, Nevada 89701

Concerning OPEN Records & Legislation

We are seeking your support in getting legislation introduced into the Ohio House for the opening of all birth certificates and agency records. Write to:

Representative Lee Fisher
State House
Columbus, O 43215

Representative William Healy
State House
Columbus, O 43215

To draft a letter to these representatives, simply state that-

1. You support opening of adoption records in Ohio.
2. How you are involved with adoption (adoptee, birth parent or adoptive parent) or simply just a sympathetic citizen to the cause.
3. That you are aware that these men (Healy and Fisher) are contemplating introduction of such a bill and hope they will follow through!!

Two letters from each of you could make all the difference!! Just think, you can be part of a spiraling effect, because if Ohio passes such a bill, conservative as it is, maybe the other states will fall in line as well!! Let's be leaders on this issue and be at the head of the parade for **ADOPTEE'S RIGHTS!! WRITE TODAY!!!!**

Meanwhile, also in Ohio, we must inform all adoptees, birthparents, adoptive parents proposed by SUMA and being introduced by Rep. Luebbers of Cincinnati. With all due respect to SUMA and their attempt to humanize adoption, this bill has been found to be de-humanizing, limiting the adoptees's right to access to information of his heritage. The adoptee's access to identifying information is contingent on whether the birthparent chooses to release such information! This bill would also nullify the existing law in Ohio where the adoptee that was adopted prior to Jan. 1, 1964 could view his original birth certificate in Columbus PLUS, if passed the adoptee would have to pay an enormous amount of money in court costs to obtain identifying information that is his right to have by birth! Again, **DO NOT SUPPORT HB 1191!!**

REUNITE SEMINAR

"Reunite", an adult adoptee search group, is sponsoring the first regional one day seminar in Columbus, Ohio. It is arranged to help and educate all persons involved in the adoption process. This seminar will be held Saturday, April 4, 1981.

Due to the failure to have this printed in the last CHAPTER in time to register, if you are interested, please contact REUNITE, Box 694, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068- for further information on late registrations. ~~The registration fee is \$13.00 per person.~~ There will be five (5), 45 minute workshops with a 15 minute break in between. The workshops are titled: Being a birthparent, Emotions of searching, Social workers panel, What after the search and Legislation. We hope to see a large turn out! We plan to carry details of the seminar in the next issue.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS OF INTEREST

C.U.B. - (Concerned United Birthparents)
A support and rap group for birthparents. Membership is made up of birthparents, adoptees, adoptive parents and professional workers involved in making the laws and policies in the adoption system more humane. With membership, you would receive a monthly newsletter with articles from all members of the adoption triangle, with up-to-date news on the different states' adoption laws and legislation pending. Meetings are for birthparents only. Reader input is encouraged. For more details, contact: Mickey Carty, P.O. Box 424, Perrysburg, O 43551

Mark these dates on your calendar for upcoming CUB rap sessions! All meetings are held at the Way Public Library in Perrysburg, located on the corner of Louisiana and Indiana at 7:00 P.M. April 13 & May 18. Meetings open to birthparents only.

A.F.O. - (Adoptive Family Organization)
A new organization in this area gearing their membership toward Adoptive Parents. They have several support groups such as: prospective adoptive parents, special needs, single adoptive parents, parents of older, adoptive children, etc. Should you wish information or meeting dates, contact: Ginny Oravec at 866-8362.

OTHER OHIO ADOPTEE ORGANIZATIONS

Birthbound
Box 482
Streetsboro, OH 44240

Chosen Children
c/o Marilyn Stolz
Box 24004
Dayton, Ohio 45424

Jewel
c/o, Deboral Gill
16827 Smith Rd.
Fredericktown, OH 43019

Reunite
Box 694
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

Sunshine
Box 7263
S. Arlington Station
Akron, OH 44306

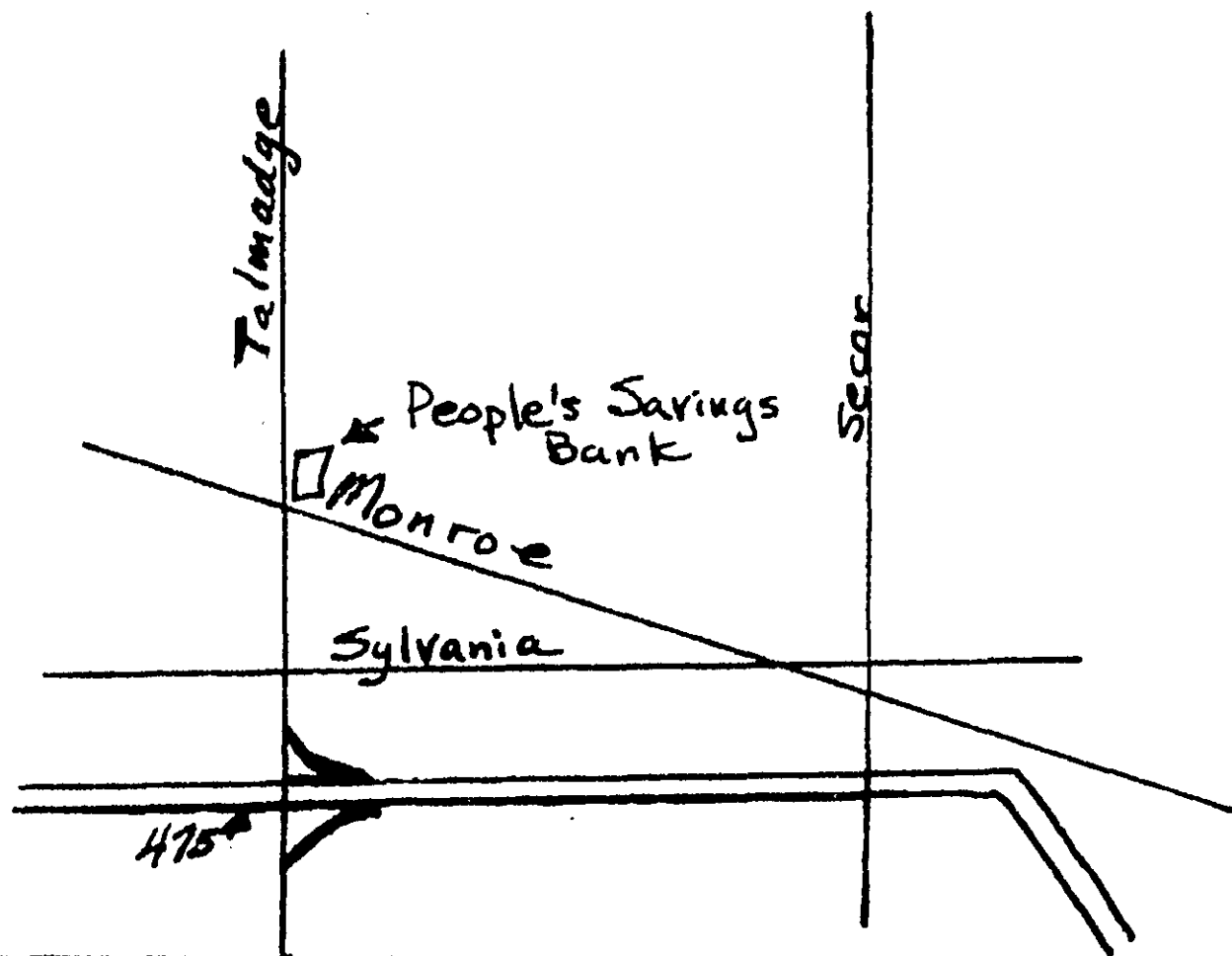
ADOPTEE SEARCH RIGHTS ASSOCIATION

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

March 26 - 7:30 p.m.
Topic: Unwed Mother's Homes
Speaker: Bea Pulver, from Toledo Crittendon Services

April 30- 7:30 p.m.
Topic: Genetics and Heredity
Speaker: Judy Armour - Medical College of Ohio

MEETINGS ARE HELD IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM OF PEOPLE'S SAVINGS BANK, CORNER OF TALMADGE AND MONROE.



** PLEASE REMEMBER TO SEND ANY ADDRESS CHANGE TO US!!

MEMBERSHIP IN A.S.R.A.

Membership is open to any adult member of the adoption triad. Membership will help us to further the work. In return for your support, we will offer:

1. Chatter (the newsletter) for 1 year - 6 issues.
2. A search pal - when requested.
3. A number of search workshops - for support and help in search.
4. Referrals to individuals, groups, and registries as these resources are needed and requested

FEES-

- * first year: \$10.00 (can be paid in 2 \$5.00 amounts)
- * each year thereafter: \$5.00
- * for present Chatter subscribers, membership is offered at \$6.00 (for forms and brochure on A.S.R.A., Adoptees Search Rights Association) write: A.S.R.A. P.O. Box 8723, Toledo, O 43623

NEW BOARD

Since seceding from ALMA, March 11, 1981 and becoming Adoptees Search Rights Association, a new board has been elected - a staff will supplement this board. The staff will be elected by general membership at the next meeting (March 26th)

OUR BOARD

President - Peg Brenner - Peg is an adoptee, has had a reunion with her birth-mother. She was the previous Ohio ALMA Co-ordinator.

Vice President - LoRee Hinds - Loree is an adoptive parent of three grown children. She supports open records and is helping her daughter search.

Secretary - Judy Hanneman - Judy is an adoptee who has completed her search. She worked hard as secretary previously under ALMA.

Treasurer - Dee Johnson - Dee is an adoptee with a completed search. She's also helped loads of other people in their search.

NEW BOARD (Cont'd.)

The staff positions up for election are as follows: Newsletter Chairperson, Phone committee, Mail Committee Chairperson, Membership Chairperson and four(4) workshop advisor positions. How about you-want to help?

"To be ignorant of what occurred before you is to remain always a child. For what is the worth of human life, unless it is woven into the life of our ancestors by the records of history."

Cicero

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I have contacted my birth mother by phone and mail. She is very receptive and wants me to visit her. I'd rather not- aren't phone calls and letters enough?

No Name

Dear No Name:-

By the way you signed your letter, and your statement -I'd rather not, I think you've answered your own question. Perhaps there is something about your "reunion" or relationship you are establishing that bothers you. Most adoptees feel a face to face "reunion" is a must - and that mail and phone relationships are "hindered". I tend to agree. For you, maybe contemplation is in order! Leave the "door open"- tell her you just aren't ready quite yet - but who knows about the future?! Good Luck!!

Editor

Dear Editor -

I'm a subscriber to your newsletter- I think it is fairly worth what I paid for it; however, I'd really like to see more reunions featured - that would be a big plus to someone still in their search as I! Thanks.

Sharon K.

Dear Sharon-

Thanks for the suggestion - we've wanted to carry more reunions all along but we can't do so if "they" don't submit their story! We know there are plenty of reunions going on

out there - come on! Let's "share the excitement"! Submit your reunion to the Chatter today! Initials may be used to protect anonymity.

Editor

Dear Editor-

I recently attended my first meeting of ALMA and learned some things of which I was very surprised and disappointed.

I was surprised to hear that a lot of adoptees do not feel the birthmother has the right to search. As a birthmother, of a teenage son, I would like to say that while it is true that we signed the surrender papers giving up our children for adoption and that these children had no choice in the matter, how many of us actually had that choice? Many of us were minors and others made the decision for us. But the main choice, I believe, was made by society itself. Living in a society where innocent children were branded illegitimate, what other choice was there?

I am not saying that we have the right to intrude in the lives of these children or their parents. Only that we should have the right to know the wellbeing of these children and make ourselves available to them if they wish to seek us out. I feel society owes us that much.

I will attend more ALMA meetings because it makes me happy to see more people trying to change things that should have been changed years ago.

Thank you for letting me voice my opinion and Good Luck to all of you.

Name withheld

Dear Name Withheld-

Thank you for your comments. Your concern is certainly warranted.

