

Adoptee Liberty Movement Association
Wisconsin Chapter Newsletter

ALMANAC

ALMA
P.O. Box 20964
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53220

Vol. I No. 1

September 1977

Meeting Notices

Sept. 13, 1977
Tuesday
7:30-9:30p.m.

7030 W. Forest Home Ave.
Greenfield
Apt. 5

Business Meeting
and
Search Workshop

The Business Meeting is open to everyone - the Search Workshop is open to members of ALMA only.

Octo 11, 1977
Tuesday
7:30-9:30p.m.

7030 W. Forest Home Ave.
Greenfield
Apt. 5

Rap Session
and
Search Workshop

A special "rap session" to air our anger, share our sorrows... If you are having a problem telling adoptive parents, dealing with natural parents - whatever, this is for you!

ALMA Welcomes ASK

ALMA Wisconsin is honored this year to be joined by the Milwaukee adult adoptee group, Adoptee's Seeking Knowledge (ASK). Their decision to make the change from a local group to part of the national ALMA organization reflects the growing awareness among adult adoptees that it is through unification that we find strength.

National News

At 9:00 a.m., May 23rd, 1977, ALMA president Florence Fisher and ALMA attorney Professor Cyril C. Means Jr. filed a class action suit in New York Federal Court, challenging as unconstitutional sealed records laws in regard to adult adoptees. This case has been several years in the making and will be an exciting case to follow in the months to come. Remember, this is a federal court and what happens in New York affects us all!

Our best wishes go to each of the 19 individual plaintiffs in the case - Joyce Aaren, Eleanor Barron, Raymond Barron, Marilyn Beck, Susan Brody, Eileen Clarke, Ronnie Putrell, Pamela Hasegawa, Michael Matton, Ricki Kaplan, Katrina Maxtone-Graham, Anita McCarthy, George Nester, John Franklin Simmons, Joan Sommers, Clothilde Starke, Roberta Van Laven, Hope Wurmfeld and Carl Zimmer.

They are standing up not only for themselves but for each and every one of us who believe that "the truth of his origin is the birthright of every man".

California ALMA Member Visits Wisconsin

Margot Brown, member of the Southern California Chapter of ALMA, visited ALMA Wisconsin this summer. Adopted in Wisconsin, Margot's search began with only a last name printed in a pair of baby shoes she wore from the orphanage to her adoptive home. These little shoes of long ago have now led Margot to the completion of her search. Although her natural mother died several years ago, a wonderful cousin has supplied her with pictures and memories. This trip to the Midwest gave Margot the opportunity to visit her mother's grave and to meet many new relatives and friends.

ALMA Membership

Your yearly membership dues of \$20.00 entitle you to:

ALMA HANDBOOK FOR THE SEARCH:

Authored by Emma May Villardi

A guideline on how to search in any part of the United States.

ALMA NATIONAL REGISTRY:

It puts your case on file: (1) sex of child (2) date of birth (3) place of birth, etc. This multi-level cross indexing enables match-ups with the smallest amount of information.

ALMA INTERNATIONAL SOUNDEX REUNION REGISTRY:

Located in Carson City, Nevada, this additional registry is a multi-group participation project innovated by Emma M. Villardi for the benefit of all searchers.

THE ALMA SEARCH COMMITTEE:

Members that volunteer their aid and moral assistance to you in your respective searches.

SEARCHWORKSHOPS:

Members bring all their documents and are advised how to proceed with their searches.... This sharing of knowledge is very important. Workshops are held monthly.

ALMA BUDDY SYSTEM:

If you wish, you may take part in this. You are put in touch with a "buddy" who either lives in the area of your search or who like yourself lives in Wisconsin and just wants someone to talk to about everything in the search.

NATIONAL AND LOCAL NEWSLETTERS

ALMA MONTHLY MEETINGS:

A chance to meet and share your experiences with other adult adoptees, natural and adoptive parents.

Dues may be paid at our monthly meetings or through the mail.

Wish You Were Here

Many of our Wisconsin ALMA members live too far away from the Metropolitan Milwaukee area to attend monthly meetings and search workshops. To each of these members we are glad to offer search assistance through the mail. When writing please let us know what information you have and what you are presently doing so that we do not waste time suggesting things you have already done. Please include an SASE (self-addressed stamped envelope) to speed our reply.

ALMA Phone Service

If you need help between meetings, two ALMA staff members have volunteered their time for your phone calls:

Jeanine Grundy --- (414) 764-5223 10:00a.m. to 2:00p.m.
Mary Mattick ----- (414) 546-0314 7:00p.m. to 9:00p.m.

Remember

Our next two meetings are scheduled for September 13th and October 11th. See you then!

Sharon Valentine
Coordinator
ALMA Wisconsin

