

"Together we will teach them not to be afraid.."

Emilia Vilardi

We have loads to share in our first newsletter. Please feel free to offer any suggestions, contribute printable material or volunteer help with preparing and addressing. Contact Diane Carolin, 327-3536.

LAST MONTH: Thanks to each of you who attended the November meeting. We discussed chapter plans and elected officers for 1977. Your officers are: President, Carolyn Ausborn; Vice President, Verlaine Gianas; Secretary/Treasurer, Diane Carolin; Researcher/Librarian, Joann Burke. Let's give them our support in the coming year as they work to make our chapter a contributing and supportive part of your search.

We received unanimous approval on the collection of \$6 per year local dues from each member. We are dependent on these dues for getting the newsletter to you and also donating a small amount to the church which has allowed us to have our workshops/meetings in their Sunday school rooms—no questions asked. We are using these rooms at a total donation of 29¢ per member, per meeting. Until now, only those who attended the meetings were asked to leave something in the "kitty." It hardly seems fair that those people with the incentive and willingness to support our chapter efforts must carry the burden. The facilities are available to every member. Whether or not you make use of them is your decision. But we must all share the responsibility of maintaining these rooms and providing basic materials necessary to keep our chapter operative. If you have not already paid, please send your check for \$6 (payable to Barbara Gatewood) to Diane Carolin, 5303 E. Glenn, #D, 85712. Thank you!!!!

Continuing our attempts to fill the needs of all our members, we hope the decision to expand to 2 monthly meetings will prove helpful. Effective January 1977, our evening meetings will be held the third Monday of each month at the Lutheran Church of the King, 2450 S. Kolb. The workshop will begin at 6:30 p.m. and end at 7:30 p.m.. Our meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. and hopefully close around 9 so that those with sitters or reluctant husbands/wives at home will get home at an acceptable hour. Absolutely no details on searches or individual search help can be given during or after the meeting. This business belongs in the workshop structure and is available to members only. Since our meetings are open to the public and there will be non-members attending, we must keep 7:30-9:00 for discussion, reunion stories, general problems, guest speakers, and the small bits of business involved in running the chapter. We need your cooperation with this, please.

Our new morning meetings will be held the first Wednesday following the Monday of the evening meeting. We will begin at 9:00 a.m. and close between 11:30 and 12 noon. Barbara Gatewood will have these meetings at her house: 3311 Camino Suente. We hope this will give those who work nights or cannot get to the evening meetings for other reasons a chance to be with the group. Whether or not we can continue to expend time and effort to the A.M. meetings depends

upon your support. We think it would be to your benefit to put some energy into getting to one of the monthly meetings. **WE HAVE THEM FOR YOU!!!**

HELP!!! We are always in need of volunteers to bring refreshments to the meetings. This is another area where the same people are taking the responsibility month after month. Two people for eats and two for drinks seems to be the most successful set up. Anyone who likes to bake or brew and would like to help us out, call Michel Kelly, 296-7351. She can put you on the calendar for whichever meeting/month you wish. Our dues cover cups, napkins, etc. but not the food.

SUCCESS: "We can make it happen..." November Reunions.

- A-530- Kathie Andree has spoken to her paternal grandmother who is putting her in touch with her father. Kathie's grandmother was thrilled. Now we are hot on the trail of Kathie's mother.
- B-620- Joann Burke has found an entire family. She met relatives in Idaho before traveling to California to meet her mother. After 3 days with them, Joann reports, "I not only have a mother but a stepfather." Their acceptance was 100%.
- D-423 Lee Delgado located a maternal aunt and received a phone call from her mother the next night. As we go to the copy machines, Lee has not yet returned from what promised to be a very joyful trip "home" to meet her mother.

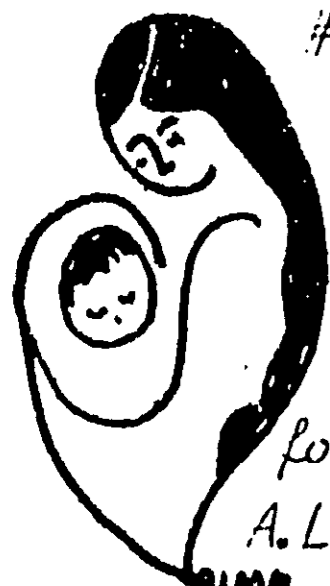
P.S.:

excerpts from "Welcome to My World" by Susan Nevine A.L.M.A. Mass.

I look forward to the simple things,
To silent walks and long, long talks.
Children's faces and baby's laughs,
But most of all just being in your world.

So welcome to my world
And I hope it makes you smile
To share it with me
For a long, long while.

NEXT MONTH: Meeting December 6. Workshop begins 6:45p.m. Meeting begins 7:30. Remember, new times and dates effective January, 1977.



We've come a long way since June 1976. I remember nervous stomachs and dripping hands before a speech, total exhaustion when getting home at 1 a.m. after a workshop, and the everpresent closed doors encountered by our searchers. But the stronger memories are of seeing smiles of understanding and relief from you who have come for help, tears of joy when a search has been successful, and good friends gained thru A.L.M.A. All have contributed to an increased determination and my personal commitment—stronger now for having shared time with you. For some the search is over—for others, just beginning. For all of us there is a new year ahead. Let's use it to unify and strengthen our cause; to open the unjustly locked doors that hide the truth; to search, discover and complete ourselves. My warmest wishes for a happy holiday season to you and your family AND Cheers to Success in 1977!!!!!! Barbara

JAN 13 1977

..a time to keep silence, and a time to speak..."

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

***Our December meeting was the best yet! Not much has happened in the way of searches, but the discussion group found everyone joining in and sharing some "gut feelings." Lee Delgado told of her visit home and gave good insight to the emotions you go through upon completing a search. We talked about the benefits of keeping a diary while searching; taking the time to record accurately mechanical details and noting feelings as best we can. This definitely helps by giving you the opportunity to sort out and understand your emotions. It could also aid others who are still searching. Any parts of a searcher's diary that he would be willing to write up, anonymously if desired, choosing what he felt would forewarn others of what's ahead, offer encouragement for dark days, or help to show that we all go through many of the same feelings would be useful. This could then be placed in our local files for other members to read. We agreed it is worth looking into. So many questions Dec. 3rd began "Do any of you ever feel..?" or "Am I the only one who sometimes thinks..?" and "What do you do when it seems as though..?". Let's decide something definite on this in the January meeting. It has great possibilities!

From Verlaine's Vantage Point

We have inquired about bulk postal rates and found that we are not mailing enough pieces each time to qualify for a permit. Sorry-we will have to continue using a portion of our local dues for stamps as planned.

*Tune into KTUC am radio for a bulletin on our January meeting. Also, watch the newsletters for more information on our guest speaker for the February evening meeting.

*We talked, via phone, to the producer at KUAT-TV regarding a program on adoption, adoptees, adoptive parents, etc.. While the subject doesn't fit the format for "Topics of Tucson," the producer expressed an interest for a special local program and will get back to us. Keep your fingers crossed. We can reach and educate many people through an opportunity like this.

*Ideas for publicity are always welcome. We are already thinking about and planning for our next new membership meeting to be held late February/early March. We are also interested in recording how YOU heard about ALMA so we can plan future publicity. So if you have any suggestions, please call Verlaine Gianas, 299-1261.

*Also, if you're feeling down and discouraged with your search, why not pick up the phone and call a fellow ALMA member? It's a great boost to the morale to have someone who knows how you're feeling without having to describe in detail all your innermost thoughts. You'll find that you are not alone!

***Barbara Gatewood has Soundex forms that have been returned from Emma with some individual search hints for the following people: Jim Hanks, Kathie Andree, Jim Wursthorn, Sue Cassarino, Jesus Lespron, and Carolyn Wray. If you would like these forms before the next meeting call and arrange a time to pick them up. (885-7445) Otherwise they will be available at either of the January meetings.

Diane's Data

On October 25, 1976, Barbara Gatewood spoke to Arizona Families for Children, an organized group of adoptive parents. Carolyn Ausborn, Verlaine Gianas, Jane Tench, and myself attended as member representatives of ALMA. I think I am safe in saying we all viewed this event with trepidation and apprehension. Of course we were excited at the prospect of getting adoptive parents' first hand reactions, but we also knew that quite possibly, we would be facing some adversaries.

1 a natural parent or natural parents who desire to meet or
2 exchange information with their offspring who have
3 been adopted. The state department shall also maintain
4 a file of requests of adopted persons who have expressed
5 their desire not to meet their natural parents or parent,
6 and natural parents who have expressed their desire not
7 to meet their offspring who have been adopted. The
8 requests shall be made on forms whose contents are
9 prescribed by the state department. Such forms shall be
10 furnished by the state department upon request and the
11 state department may make the forms available through
12 county clerks and licensed adoption agencies.

13 240.4. The state department may only accept for filing
14 requests from adopted persons 18 years of age or older
15 and from natural parents. The state department or the
16 licensed adoption agency which reported to the court on
17 the adoption petition, or which was a party to or joined
18 in the petition, may assist each person filing a request in
19 carefully considering the implications of the request to
20 himself or herself and to the other persons affected,
21 including the adopting parents.

22 All requests accepted for filing by the state department
23 shall be kept on file for 40 years. All the information in the
24 filed requests shall be kept strictly confidential by the
25 state department. Any person filing a request may update
26 information on the request or may withdraw the request
27 and have it removed from the files at any time.

28 240.6. If the state department determines that requests
29 have been received from both the adoptee and the
30 natural parents or parent of the adoptee, then it shall
31 make contact with the adoptee and the natural parent or
32 parents by the means approved in the request, to verify
33 whether both or all parties desire a meeting, and shall
34 arrange a meeting if they do. If a request to meet has
35 been filed by a parent or offspring and the other party has
36 filed a request not to meet, the party filing the request to
37 meet shall be informed that the other party does not
38 desire to meet. In making inquiries and arranging
39 meetings, the state department shall exercise great care
40 to maintain the confidentiality and privacy of both the

