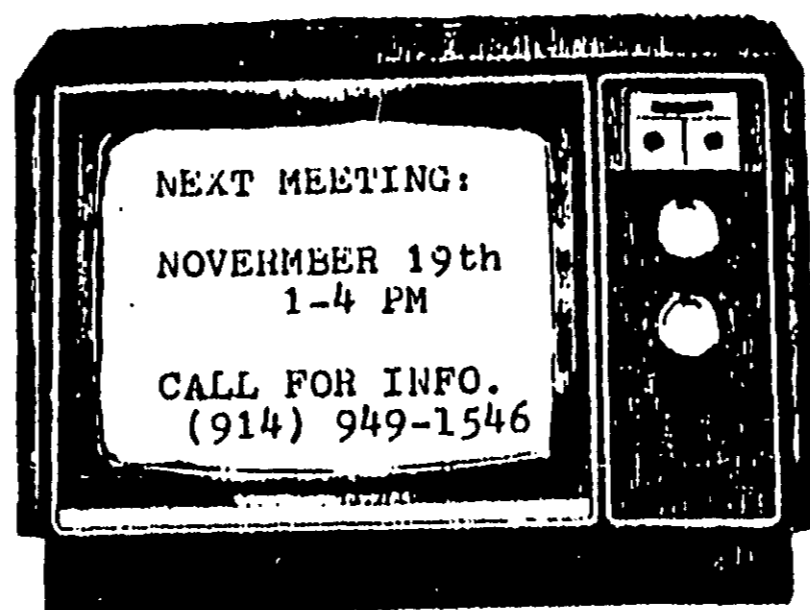


NETWORK

NEWS



A SERVICE OF
THE
BIRTHPARENT
SUPPORT
NETWORK

The Birthparent Support Network was organized in the summer of 1983 in response to the large number of birthparents in the Westchester/Putnam area who wish to meet locally to discuss the Birthparent Experience. We're still on Cloud 9 after the success of our Fall opener, A Legal Clinic for Birthparents. Annette will be organizing a paper highlighting the major issues we spoke about. All who attended will receive a complimentary copy. The Clinic will be repeated again next Fall. It was great to see people exchanging phone numbers and arranging carpools. My original buddy and I keep in close contact almost 2 years later! She lives far and has many family responsibilities that make it hard for her to spend the travel time up here but she's here in thought.

Thanks to those who offered refreshments for next time. Our treasury will cover cups, coffee, sugar, cookies. Goodies are always welcome. Speaking of our treasury, thank you to all who helped get it going. As it grows, so will our services to you. For example, a birthparent tape has been ordered so that you can hear others share their pregnancy/surrender/birthparent experience. The same themes always arise, and are part of the post traumatic experience of birthparenthood. Also, Kathy is looking into books so that we can develop our own rental/purchase library. I'm working on getting additional copies of the books we recommend to you so that you can buy or lend them through us. If you want to have input into how the meetings go, including expenditures, come to our Organizational Meeting on 11/19--the same day as our support meeting--at 12:30 pm.

We can use help in other ways too! Anyone who wishes can:

1. Donate a scrapbook so we can document our growth
2. Call the Department of Health in the area of N.Y. where your child was born. All N.Y.C. births are at 125 Worth St. Ask how a birthparent can list in the new reunion registry. Even though the registry is not what we hoped for, the more calls they receive, the more documentation that we're here and **DO NOT NEED OR WANT THE CONFIDENTIALITY THAT SEPARATES US FROM OUR CHILDREN.**
3. Call Sen. Moynihan's office (212)661-5150 or Sen. D'Amato's office (212)947-7393 and request a copy of Senate Report # 98-246 Calendar #171, "Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act Amendment of 1983. Bring it to our meeting to share.

Meeting mailing notices will temporarily follow this format. Both CUB and Origins, which we urge you to join, offer more extensive newsletters with birthparent input. Applications, as well as other written material are always available on our display table.

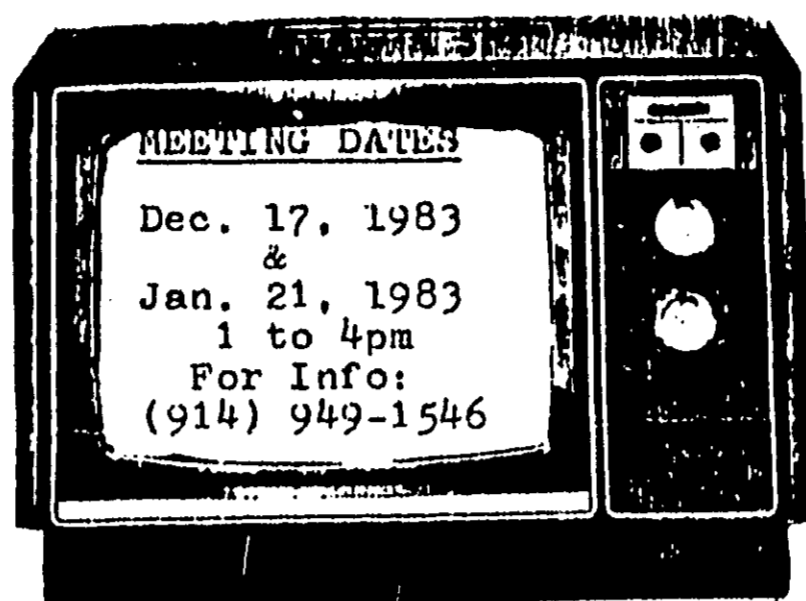
We'll try to send meeting notices to all on our mailing list. If you can't come but wish to support our work, call Gail at (914)949-1546. For "Just Support" call Kathy at (914)576-6843 or Annette at (914) 238-9262.

We look forward to seeing you on Nov. 19 from 1:00-4:00pm at Gail's house, 11 Rockledge Road, North White Plains, N.Y. Sitter service is available at a nominal fee. Please call in advance if needed. And please, let us know if you plan to come!

301 Gail, Kathy & Annette

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Dec. 1983

Need "Just Support?" Call us!
Kathy at (914)576-6843 Annette at (914)238-9262

The Birthparent Support Network is growing!! More and more inquiries are coming in each month. In November, 6 birthparents, including one birthfather made "first" contact with us. An additional mail info request was received "for a friend."

You may be wondering who we are. At our November 19th meeting we were all women between the ages of 26 and 48. Although most of our "lost" sons and daughters are teenagers, our children range in age from 9 to 27. The average age is 17. Most of us live in Westchester. Two of us reside in other states--one more than 100 miles away. Half of us have found the children we surrendered (all boys) and most of the rest are searching. We are married, not married, divorced. And, between us we have had 16 subsequent children. Even though there are identifiable differences among our members, the Birthparent Experience unites us. As we tell our stories, we draw strength and courage from each other. We hope you'll join us next time and be a part of this unique experience.

DON'T BUY CABBAGE PATCH KIDS DOLLS

Participate in a protest against a marketing technique that exploits adoption. The Cabbage Patch doll is sold complete with adoption papers and amended birth certificate. A Coleco product, one of their spokespersons has been quoted as saying that each doll "although homely" has a sense of vulnerability making it attractive. This doll depicts adoptees, then, as "Homely" and "Vulnerable." WHAT MESSAGE IS COLECO GIVING THE PUBLIC ABOUT OUR CHILDREN?

WISH LIST

This is the time of year when you receive requests for donations from a lot of organizations. We WISH we were "funded" & "granted" and didn't have to do this. But because we don't ask for yearly dues we need to request your help in other ways. Some things we need are:

1. Reams of Xerox paper
2. Ribbon for Smith Corona Elec. 110
3. White Out
4. Scotch Magic Tape
5. Legal pads
6. Stamps, post cards & mailing labels
7. telephone answering machine, telephone installation fee (\$162.75)
8. file cabinets
9. Post Office Box (\$26.00 per year)
10. Or, contributions that you earmark for any of the above

A special thanks goes to Wilma, who although not a birthparent, recently donated a scrapbook to support our efforts. Wilma also sends her love to a birthparent friend who reads the newsletter & would like a chance to prove her friendship and concern.

We have acquired some adoption "classics" which we began to offer for sale at our last meeting. Still available are: Lost & Found, Twice Born, Politics of Adoption (The Triadoption Library has this on their wish list) and others. Call Gail for info on purchase or reference use.

NN is taking a vacation. You'll hear from us after Jan. meeting. Call Gail for info at 914-949-1546. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!!