

FAMILY TIES

December 1983

1st Issue

OUTSIDE HELP

This is the first attempt at a newsletter for our group. We encourage you to submit any ideas and suggestions you may have and would like to share.

FAMILY TIES is a Eugene based group dedicated to humanizing adoption, eliminating myths, opening records and re-establishing family heritage. If you know of anyone who might benefit from our group meetings, please encourage them to attend a meeting soon.

Our schedule of events is:

- Dec. 14th ... Aftermath discussion
10:00 a.m. at Judy Byrs
home - 231 W. 52nd, Eugene
- Dec. 21st ... Regular meeting has been
cancelled
- Jan. 4th ... Regular meeting 7:00 -
9:00 p.m. at Central Presb.
Church, 1475 Ferry, Eugene
- Jan. 11th ... Aftermath discussion -
10:00 a.m. at Judy Byrs home
231 W. 52nd, Eugene
- Jan 18th ... Regular meeting 7:00 -
9:00 p.m. at Central Presb.
Church, 1475 Ferry, Eugene
- Feb. 1st ... Regular meeting 7:00 -
9:00 p.m. at Central Presb.
Church, 1475 Ferry, Eugene
- Feb. 8th ... Aftermath discussion -
10:00 a.m. at Judy Byrs home
231 W. 52nd, Eugene
- Feb. 15th ... Regular meeting 7:00 -
9:00 p.m. at Central Presb.
Church, 1475 Ferry, Eugene

Almost all of us have needed help in some phase of our searches. We seek help in the form of information and ideas from each other, but sometimes that is not enough. Fortunately, some of our members are available in a professional capacity.

One of the founders of our group is Maryl Walling-Millard. She has been counseling members of the adoption triangle for six years and is currently working on her doctorate in psychology. Maryl is available to individuals having problems with their feelings regarding adoption and search. She is a birthmother and has found her two children, so she really understands. Her fee is \$10.00 per hour. Phone evenings: 485-4156.

We want to encourage everyone who is searching to go as far as they can by themselves. We have plenty of books, addresses and advice for you if you need it. But sometimes we get stuck and need professional help searching.

Helen Gallager is a certified search consultant with Independent Search Consultants in California. If she can't help you, she can refer you to a national network of reputable search helpers. Call: 485-7156

You have to believe
the buds will grow

Believe in the grass
in the days of snow;

Ah, that's the reason
a bird can sing

On his darkest day
he believes in spring

THE SEARCH IS OVER FOR:

FUND RAISING:

We need more ideas, here's your time to help. How do you feel about:

- 1) Raffling a wallhanging or rug?
- 2) Selling donated items at the Piccadilly?
- 3) Promoting workshops?
- 4) Having bake sales?

OK - let's hear your thoughts and opinions.

COMMENTS

It does take time for searches, but you need that period to understand your feelings and those of the person (s) you seek. You need the time to understand and know other people just like you. We honestly believe there is no one who can't be found - so try not to be discouraged. One day the final piece of the puzzle will come and you will be ready.

Also, wanting to know and wanting to search are two different things. Search involves the active pursuit of information and to find the unknown. Wanting to know may be passive curiosity. Everyone involved in adoption has moments when they want to know - wanting to know is natural. A birthparent may have times when they wonder if their surrendered child is alive, well and normal. An adoptee may wonder who they look like or why they were given up. An adoptive parent may need additional medical, emotional or developmental data on the genetic background of their child. We all have feelings of wanting to know more about ourselves and each other.

KENDRA H.: November 22nd was the day she met her daughter again after 18 years! Peggy flew into Eugene to spend Thanksgiving with her "first" family. CONGRATULATIONS KENDRA!!

SUSAN S.: Found her birthfather and his family last August. December 6th she flew to Kentucky to meet them all for the first time. She will return December 13th and we look forward to hearing all about it.

LEE ANN B.: Has found her birthmother who lives in Roseburg! After overcoming the temptation to drive down there, Lee Ann wrote a letter, and as of this writing, is waiting for the phone to ring.

AUDREY H: Completed her search rather quickly - in three or four weeks!! She not only found her birthmother, but her birthfather too. We hope she will keep us updated.

JUDY B.: Her search, last summer, led her to the east coast where she had a reunion with her birthmother.

HELEN G.: Met her adopted daughter's (Kathy) birthmother, Jean, while she was visiting Kathy last summer.

MANY MORE TO COME !!!!!!!

For more information on FAMILY TIES call:

Helen Gallagher: 485-7156
Debbie Schudt: 998-6418

