

# Oregon Adoptive Rights Association

OARA "The Right to Search"

P.O. Box 1332 · Beaverton, Oregon 97075 · 297-6506

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VOL. II NO. 1 APRIL, 1983

NEWSLETTER

Editor: Debra Gerber

Typist: Phyllis Naish

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OARA is proud to announce it's 1983 Officers and Board of directors:

Emmalee Allen, President  
Debra Gerber, Vice President and Editor  
Carol Lowrie, Treasurer  
Kathy Cox, Secretary  
Paula Clark, Corresponding Secretary  
Kathie McKillip, Birth Parent Support Group Coordinator  
Ruth Ann Moore, Librarian

All were introduced to the general membership at the February 16, 1983 General Meeting by 1982 President Nancy Fix. Emmalee then presented Nancy with a framed etching of pegasus.

We would like to thank everyone who helped make 1982 a great success. We couldn't have done it without you! First, Nancy Fix who has been with OARA since the beginning. It was Nancy who arranged the very first meeting at the YWCA in 1978. She provided space in her home for the OARA office and was the Office Manager until February, 1983. She and her husband Bob have done so much to help OARA grow and mature that it is impossible to catalog it all here. We can only thank them both for their dedication and devotion. Secondly, we would like to thank the following individuals and committees for their hard work during 1982:

Telephone Substitutes.....	Emmalee Allen Lynn Bennett Paula Clark Debra Gerber Rita Nussbaumer
Book Sales.....	Bobbi Adams Bobi Howell Tere Mason Kathie McKillip Kerry Wilson
Publicity.....	Mary Jane Pfeiffer
Past Pres. Gift.....	Kathy Cox Bobi Howell
Adoptees' Post Search Grp...	Bobbi Adams Tere Mason
Birth Parent Support Grp....	Kathie McKillip
Newsletter Staff.....	Kathy Cox, Editor Bob Fix Nancy Fix Debra Gerber Phyllis Naish
Exec. Search Advisor.....	Emmalee Allen
Librarian.....	Ruth Ann More
Correspondance.....	Kathie McKillip

And, last but not least, thank you to all of our members who donated time and postage as Search Advisors.

I am a ghost-written book  
My authors' names  
Are nowhere on my spine  
But inside, look --  
The pair  
Haunt every line

Elizabeth Morgan  
London, England

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### REUNIONS

Since our October Newsletter, more OARA members and friends have completed searches. Ruth and Bobi, who have been working on searches in Nebraska, had completed searches to report on at the February General Meeting. Both have talked long distance with birth family members. Carol and Linda, both long time searchers, talked about recent positive events in their searches. Carol's search has spanned a 20+ year period. Patience pays off!! Search success has by no means, been limited to long time searchers. Tamala and Kathlyn have both completed searches recently. Tamala has contacted her birth mother, birth father, and a half-sister. Kathlyn has met her birth mother's family. Tamala brought her sister and Kathlyn brought her birth mother to recent meetings. Ann has located her birth mother and two sisters. Lynn has also located. Kerry has found his twin sister Darlene. Open Adoption, Helen Gallager's group in Eugene, reports several completed searches. Two were Helen's for two of her "adopted adult" children. Congratulations to all!! Reunions happen every day. A new TV show called Fantasy on KGW Channel 8 from 2:00 to 3:00 PM weekdays has one per show.

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### SEARCH FOR YESTERDAY

You have denied me  
My birthright  
The traditions  
History and lore

The family tree  
Is surely planted  
Someplace and anchored

But I am unearthed  
With this unknown lineage  
I have no roots

Though my bark  
Is aged and tough  
My insides still scatter  
In a balmy wind's breath

Didi S. Dubelyew  
Long Beach, N.Y.

WHERE TO FIND COUNTY RECORDS  
SOUTHWESTERN OREGON

COOS  
County Clerk.....Courthouse.....(503) 396-3121  
2nd & Baxter  
Coquille, OR 97423

CURRY  
County Clerk.....Courthouse.....(503) 247-7011  
450 N. Ellensburg  
Gold Beach, OR 97444

DOUGLAS  
County Clerk.....Courthouse.....(503) 672-3311  
1036 S.E. Douglas  
Roseburg, OR 97470

JACKSON  
Assessment &.....Courthouse.....(503) 776-7061  
Taxation  
105 Oakdale  
Medford, OR 97501  
Elections.....SAME.....(503) 776-7181  
Marriage Licenses...SAME.....(503) 776-7333  
Probate.....SAME.....(503) 776-7255

JOSEPHINE  
Assessor.....Courthouse.....(503) 474-5260  
N.W. 6th & C  
Grants Pass, OR 97526  
Elections.....SAME.....(503) 474-5243  
Marriage Licenses...SAME.....(503) 474-5248

KLAMATH  
County Clerk.....Courthouse.....(503) 882-2501  
316 Main St.  
Klamath Falls, OR 97601

LANE  
Elections.....175 W. 8th.....(503) 687-4234  
Eugene, OR 97401  
Marriage License..Courthouse.....(503) 687-4031  
125 E. 8th  
Eugene, OR 97401  
Property Info.....SAME.....(503) 687-4314

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## House Bill 2598

Sponsored by Representative ZAJONC (at the request of Albertina Kerr Centers for Children, The Boys and Girls Aid Society of Oregon, Catholic Services for Children, Holt Adoption Program, Inc., Plan Adoption Agency)

### SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure as introduced.

Establishes voluntary adoption registry and provides for the transmission of nonidentifying information on the health history and the genetic and social history of adoptees.

Takes effect January 1, 1984.

### A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to adoptions; creating new provisions; amending ORS 7.211 and 432.420; and prescribing an effective  
3 date.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** It is the policy of this state that adoption is based upon the legal termination of parental rights  
6 and responsibilities of birth parents and the creation of the legal relationship of parents and child between an  
7 adoptee and the adoptive parents. These legal and social premises underlying adoption must be maintained.  
8 The state recognizes that some adults who were adopted as children have a strong desire to obtain identifying  
9 information about their birth parents while other such adult adoptees have no such desire. The state further  
10 recognizes that some birth parents have a strong desire to obtain identifying information about their biological  
11 children who were adopted, while other birth parents have no such desire. The state fully recognizes the right  
12 to privacy and confidentiality of birth parents whose children were adopted, the adoptees and the adoptive  
13 parents. The purpose of this Act is to:

14 (1) Set up a voluntary adoption registry where birth parents and adult adoptees may register their  
15 willingness to the release of identifying information to each other;

16 (2) Provide for the disclosure of identifying information to birth parents and their genetic offspring through  
17 a social worker employed by a licensed adoption agency, if a birth parent or parents and the adult adoptee are  
18 registered; and

19 (3) Provide for the transmission of nonidentifying health and social and genetic history of the adult  
20 adoptees, birth parents and other specified persons.

21 **SECTION 2.** As used in sections 2 to 16 of this Act:

22 (1) "Adoptee" means a person who has been adopted in the State of Oregon.

23 (2) "Adoption" means the judicial act of creating the relationship of parent and child where it did not exist  
24 previously.

25 (3) "Adoptive parent" means an adult who has become a parent of a child through adoption.

26 (4) "Adult" means a person 25 years of age or older.

NOTE: Matter in bold face in an amended section is new; matter *(italic and bracketed)* is existing law to be omitted.



1 (5) "Agency" means any public or private organization licensed or authorized under the laws of this state  
2 to place children for adoption.

3 (6) "Birth parent" is:

4 (a) The man or woman who is legally presumed under the laws of this state to be the father or mother of  
5 genetic origin of a child; and

6 (b) A putative father of the child if the birth mother alleges he is the father and the putative father, by  
7 written affidavit or surrender and release executed within one year of the relinquishment of the child by the  
8 birth mother or the termination of parental rights of the birth mother, acknowledges being the child's biological  
9 father.

10 (7) "Children's Services Division" is the Children's Services Division of the Department of Human  
11 Resources of the State of Oregon.

12 (8) "Genetic and social history" is a comprehensive report, when obtainable, on the birth parents, siblings  
13 to the birth parents, if any, other children of either birth parent, if any, and parents of the birth parents, and  
14 contains so much of the following as is available:

15 (a) Medical history;

16 (b) Health status;

17 (c) Cause of and age at death;

18 (d) Height, weight, eye and hair color;

19 (e) Ethnic origins;

20 (f) Levels of educational and professional achievement; and

21 (g) Religion, if any.

22 (9) "Health history" is a comprehensive report, when obtainable, of the child's health status and medical  
23 history at the time of placement for adoption, including neonatal, psychological, physiological and medical care  
24 history.

25 (10) "Putative father" is a man who, under the laws of this state, is not legally presumed to be the father of  
26 genetic origin of a child, but who claims or is alleged to be the father of genetic origin of the child.

27 (11) "Registry" is a voluntary adoption registry as established under section 6 of this Act.

28 (12) "Successor agency" is an agency which has the adoption records of another agency because of the  
29 merger of the agency and the successor agency or because a former agency has ceased doing business and has  
30 given its adoption records to the successor agency as provided in subsection (2) of section 3 of this Act.

31 **SECTION 3.** (1) All records of any adoption finalized in this state shall be permanently maintained by  
32 Children's Services Division or by the agency arranging the adoption.

33 (2) If an agency which handles adoptions ceases to do business, the agency shall transfer the adoption  
34 records to the Children's Services Division or to a successor agency, if the agency gives notice of the transfer  
35 to the Children's Services Division.

36 **SECTION 4.** A person or agency shall not disclose any confidential information relating to an adoption  
37 except as provided in sections 2 to 16 of this Act or pursuant to a court order.

38 **SECTION 5.** (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the information acquired by any voluntary  
39 adoption registry shall not be disclosed under any freedom of information legislation, rules or practice.





























