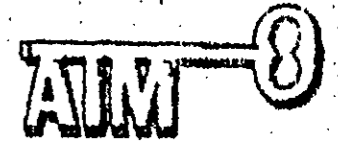


Adoption Identity Movement of Michigan



P.O. BOX 20092

DETROIT, MI 48220

(313) 546-9175

Tina Caudill, Editor

A Non-Profit Volunteer Staffed Service
Dedicated to Humanizing Adoption

FALL 1984
NEWSLETTER

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BULLETIN BOARD

Happy Fall everyone. We trust you are winding down from the hectic days of summer and enjoying the colorful days of Fall. This issue of your newsletter will show you we haven't been idle over the summer months and prepare you for things to come. As always, your comments and suggestions are welcomed.

....T. Caudill-Editor

As a reminder, AIM Meetings are always held the third Wednesday of each month at the Ferndale Community Center, 400 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale, MI (just East of Woodward Ave.) Upcoming dates are:

- October 17, 1984
- November 21, 1984
- December 19, 1984
- January 18, 1985
- February 15, 1985

Be sure to mark your calendars. In addition, we are now notifying Detroit Area cable TV companies of meeting dates and special announcements so be sure to keep watch on your local Community Bulletin Board channel.

* * * *

Next cut-off date for submissions to the AIM Newsletter will be January 15, 1985. All members and related professionals (agencies, medical, clergy, counselors, etc.) are invited to send their announcements and other submissions to the attention of T. Caudill.

* * * *

If you have video taped any TV shows dealing with adoption, please call Elma or bring to an AIM meeting. We hope to compile all of the programs on 1 or 2 tapes and show them at an upcoming meeting.

November 19-25, 1984 is NATIONAL ADOPTION WEEK. Anyone wishing to contribute their own reunion story or share in getting the word out, please call Tina Caudill on 399-1290. Cut-off date is November 2, 1984 for any input. Don't forget, we are also looking for more pictures for AIM's Reunion Scrapbook.

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WANTED: SEARCH ASSISTANTS - if you have completed your search and wish to contribute a few hours a month helping someone else, please contact Jim Krausmann at 886-0118 for further information. Training will be provided.

WANTED: STATISTICS - If you have completed your search, please let us know in order that we can update our Reunion Registry. If you stuck, call your Search Advisor. Remember, we can't help you if we don't know where your at. If your search has been on the back burner for awhile and you can't remember who was helping you, call Jim Krausmann to get restarted.

* * * *

Our Bulletin Board, CAN YOU HELP FIND, is available at meetings to place your ad or offer your talents and services. Out-of-towners can mail your 3x5 card notice and we will post for you.

* * * *

NEW BOOKS: Eternal Inspirations (\$7.95 + \$1.00 postage) and Faces of Adoption (\$5.50 + \$1.00 postage), both by E. Lynn Giddens. The first is a true story showing that closed records can physically and emotionally impair an individual and contains contemporary situations often occurring in families today - drug abuse, terminal illness and death. Emphasizes the struggles of one adoptee to overcome the compeeling desperations of life to reach a goal of peace and serenity. Faces of Adoption voices thoughts from all members of the adoption triangle. Excellent.

BULLETIN BOARD (CON'T.)

insight for professionals. Copies may be ordered from Amberly Publications, P.O. Box 4153, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-4153.

To Live and Let Go by Susan Arms deals with the concept of Open Adoption. Not reviewed by AIM staff yet but you may wish to check your local bookstore.

LEGISLATION UPDATE

On September 17, 1984 258 Adoption Awareness Surveys were sent to Michigan's Senators, Representatives and Candidates for Office with a requested return date of September 25th. To date we have received a 16.7% response and these are presented elsewhere in this newsletter. It is interesting to note that 6 out of the 43 responding had adoption experiences in their own family. Also, those not responding to Question 8 cited lack of familiarity with the Adoption law as amended in 1980.

Plans for 1985 include efforts to clarify those sections of the Michigan Adoption Law, as revised in 1980, that deal with adoption records.

MEETING NOTES

As you know, AIM holds monthly meetings all year long. Even though we missed some regulars during the erratic summer months, the meetings were well attended and fruitful. I think I have to say one of the highlights were that we had 3 reunions which had been initiated by birthparents. It was great to see them there, not only with their birthdaughters but with the adoptive moms as well. For some of the birthdaughters, the reunions came at a very pivotal time in their lives where personal circumstances had caused a need for better understanding of self and the loving support provided by extended family members. Two of the reunions were handled with local agencies acting as intermediaries. Our congratulations to these agencies for having the courage to adapt to the changing needs of triad members and providing post adoption services to those they assisted many years ago. So you see - it can be done

if people are willing to share and work together toward betterment of the system rather than retreat to outdated methods of secrecy and fear.

Annual elections were held at the September meeting. New Officers are:

President - Elma Thompson
Vice President - Laurie Smith
Secretary - Susan Wade
Treasurer - Karen Phillips
Adoptee Advisor - Jim Krausmann
Birthparent Advisor - Shirley DaSilva
Adoptive Parent Advisor - Paula Wineburg
Education Coordinator - Cecilia Shannon

Staff Support includes:

Hospitality - Geri Zarzyski
Librarian - Virginia Winkler
Membership - Susan Field
Newsletter - Tina Caudill
Reunion Registry - Carol Ford
Special Projects - Judi Grui

Please mark any correspondence addressed to AIM to the attention of the appropriate individual. Thank you.

Cecilia Shannon, who formerly held the position of Birthparent Advisor, has been appointed to a new position on the Board of Directors as Education Coordinator. Ciel will be responsible for coordinating speaking requests and education in the community. Any local community groups seeking a presentation of our purpose and services can contact Ciel at 778-6105. Some of her immediate goals are (1) firming up our Speakers Committee, (2) documenting our educational work in the community, (3) development of programs for cable television and (4) development of educational materials and techniques.

AN INVITATION - We would like to invite more Adoptive Parents to participate in our meetings. At present they represent the smallest portion of our group and we encourage their active input. We need all three sides of the Triad sharing and working together to improve the present adoption system. If you know of any adoptive parents, please tell them of our work and suggest they attend a meeting. We welcome their valuable input. Thank you.

District	(R) Republican, (D) Democrat and/or (C) Candidate for Office	Name	Answer Yes (Y) or No (N)										
6	R	SENATORS R. Robert Geake	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
18	D	Lana Pollack	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y
5	R	REPRESENTATIVES/CANDIDATES Bill Ashe	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y
16	R-C	John Scarberry	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y
20	R	Claude Trim	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y
21	R-C	James Schmitz	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y
22	R-C	Frank Beaumont	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y
23	R	Phillip Hoffman	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y
25	R-C	Warren O'Brien	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
27	D	Vincent Porreca (*)	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
28	R	William Levan	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
34	R-C	Chris Huff	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y
36	R	Gerald Law	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y
45	D-C	Dorothy Grabemeyer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y
47	R	Paul Wartner	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y
53	R-C	Paul Jensen	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y
54	D-C	Cheryl Lucas	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y
56	R	Ernest Nash (*)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y
57	D	David Hollister	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y
58	R-C	William Cade	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y
61	D-C	Betty McDowell	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y
62	R-C	Lorisul Pryor	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY REPORT

As an Associate Board Member for Area Services Association (a United Fund Agency serving SE Oakland County), I would like to bring to your attention a program they facilitate called the Young Mom's/Young Dad's Group. With 21% of the live births in this area being to unwed teens, the program is unique in that it provides support and services to young people who are trying to cope with their adolescence while being expected to shoulder all the parenting responsibilities of adults.

Until a few years ago, unwed teens had few options to their untimely pregnancy such as adoption, being an ADC parent or abortion. How well birthparents in the adoption movement remember the views of society and pressure from family put on them to relinquish their children to adoption. This new program provides these young people with an alternative - help and support for them to learn parenting skills, mature into responsible adults and, most important, keep their family intact. Their weekly meetings cover such areas as:

- nutrition information
- baby care (well & sick)
- stretching limited dollars
- educational & career planning
- occasional recreation outings

One of the needs of this program is short-term immediate housing for some of the young mom's to move them away from the stress of their immediate crisis situation while they sort out their options. If any of AIM's members would be interested in providing a room with home privileges, or assisting the program in other ways such as a speaker, big sister/brother, donating baby clothes/furniture or just finding out more about it, please call Therese McNeil at Area Services Association, Hazel Park, 542-5860. We who have been through an adoption related experience can truly realize the significance of a program of this nature. Congratulations to Area Service Association for pioneering a much needed program for our area.

NOTES FROM RENE VANDER EYK - Please bring newspaper and magazine articles or editorials you read concerning adoption to my attention. I like to respond to the authors or columnists and educate them about adoption facts and why AIM exists. Most authors and columnists (and legislators) do reply back to me and agree to pass the message on about AIM for search and support. In addition, these are great to share at meetings.

Recent letters have gone out to Judge Bernard Friedman who writes a column in the Oakland Press. "It's Your Court" and Corenna Aldrich "Hotline Exchange" in the same paper. In addition replies to letters in "Contact 10" of the Detroit News and "Dear Meg," a personal question column in the Macomb Daily have been completed. Both of these columns asked specific questions about adoptees searching and both authors failed to mention AIM, therefore, my attempt to educate them to our purpose. Remember, people who have lived through an adoption related experience make up one-fourth of the population. The more Triad members and others realize the significance of our numbers, the quicker our needs will be met.

Additional Food for Thought - You can assist in the reform of adoption practices by making your interest known to either your own or local agency and offering to participate on the Board of Directors, in their support groups or other specific programs, etc. Let them know you care and want to work with them to develop more humane procedures. Remember, your personal life experiences make you an "expert" on the current system and why it needs revamping. If you prefer just to respond in writing to various media presentations or track legislation, remember, one letter is considered to be the views of 100 constituents. Your voice does count! If none of the above appeals to you and you are perhaps unable to attend meetings because of conflicting schedules or distance, there are still things you can do for yourself and the adoption movement such as:

...Tina Caudill



175

EDUCATION & COMMUNITY REPORT (CON'T).

- Read one new adoption related book
- Circulate AIM brochures in your area (libraries, schools, community centers, public bulletin boards, etc) Flyers & Brochures can be picked up at the monthly meeting or out-state members can request some by mail
- Write your legislators, submit stories to publications, watch for articles
- Start a local rap and support group in your area - we'll help you get started
- Share your newsletter with a friend, doctor, clergy, other professional, etc.
- Make a support call or write another Triad member in your area - let's build this network of caring individuals.

Anyone wanting PEN PALS, send a note to our Editor and we will publish in next edition.

ANN ARBOR ART FAIR - Cecilia Shannon and Tina Caudill manned an information booth at the July Ann Arbor Art Fair for one day. Results were great. We had about 45 short to lengthy discussions with various members of the adoption triad. Some were given referrals to groups in other states while others were happy to know about us and to have someone to discuss their situation with as well as being provided information on current efforts of the adoption movement. Highlights included talking with an adoptive parent who had received her two children through the Open Adoption concept being offered through Child and Family Services of Traverse City. Plans for next year call for manning the booth for all 4 days. Special thanks to Ann Arbor representatives of Concerned United Birthparents who secured the booth space for us.

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Speaking engagements by various members of AIM over the last few months have included:

- Several prospective adoptive parent groups facilitated by CSS-Macomb Cty.
- Round table discussion with MA-PA members at St. Linus Church in Dearborn

- Interviews on WMJC Radio, Community Focus Program in August
- Contributions on Sonya Show dealing with Open Adoption by members of AIM who were in the audience.

We're AAC . . . Won't You Join Us?

What is the AAC?

- A coalition of individuals and groups across North America who care about making adoption more open.
- An acknowledgement of the many people who, on their own or in groups, are working toward this goal in a variety of ways.
- A means of educating ourselves about this and a channel through which we can educate the rest of the adoption community and the general public.
- An opportunity for groups, large and small, to learn from each other, and for individuals, whether in a group or not, to connect up with the larger network.

How can you join AAC?

- Groups can become Affiliate Organizations (\$25) or Sustaining Affiliate Organizations (\$100). This does not make their own members Individual Members of the AAC.
- Individuals can become Individual Members (\$10), Sustaining Individual Members (\$20), or Life Individual Members (\$150).
- Checks should be made out to "American Adoption congress" and mailed with the form below to:

AAC
 Attn: D. Brown, Treasurer
 P.O. Box 44040, L'Enfant Plaza St
 Washington, D.C. 20026-0040

Members will receive AAC Publications and will be informed of AAC activity within their regions.

"Open Minds/Open Records"

Name of Person or Group _____

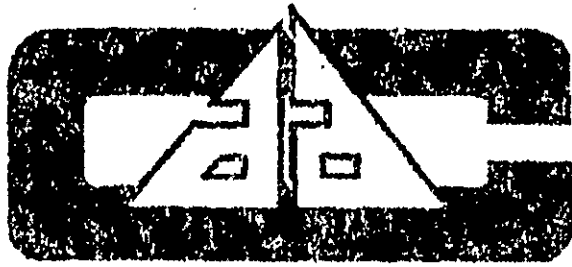
Mailing Address: _____

Type of Membership: Indiv. (\$10) _____ Sustaining Indiv. (\$20) _____ Life Indiv. (\$150) _____ Affiliate Org. (\$25) _____ Sustng. Org. (\$100) _____

Optional: If an individual, check all categories that apply.

Adoptee _____ Adoptive Prnt. _____ Birthprnt. _____

Adoption Professional _____ Other (specify) _____



AMERICAN ADOPTION CONGRESS

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS:
P.O. Box 44040, L'Enfant Plaza Station, Washington, D.C. 20026-0040

REGION 5 DIRECTOR: Elma Thompson ADDRESS: P.O. Box 20092, Detroit, MI 48220

(REGION 5 INCLUDES: IN, KY, MI, OH & W VA)

NATIONAL NEWS

Members who attended the National Conference held in Seattle have returned with glowing reports. They seem to get better each year. Minutes of the Conference have recently been received and will be disseminated to area leaders in the near future. If you have any specific questions, call Region 5 Director, Elma Thompson at (313) 546-9175. Jim Krausmann's initial comment was "It's the most emotionally draining couple of days you'll ever spend!" Start making plans to attend the 1985 conference - possible location will be sunny Florida.

Word has been received from Emma Mae Vilardi that her goal for obtaining a computer for the International Soundex Registry has been reached. YEAH! Enough contributions have been received to date to allow her to order an IBM computer which she hopes to have operational by the first of the year. A recent mention of the Soundex by Dear Abby in her column has brought another several thousand pieces of mail to Emma. She sends a big THANK YOU to all those who helped make her dream (and ours) come true.

AROUND REGION 5

INDIANA - Martha Barrows advised that a suit brought by a birthparent against a Marion County Judge stating he was being discriminated against since he could not receive non-identifying information has led to much work over the summer in formulating a State Registry. So far the legislation has passed two committees and is ready to be put into bill form. In the meantime all adoptions are at a standstill and requests for information must be put through the Attorney General's Office. The logistics of the system, forms and fees must still be decided but initial reports are that filing fees will be \$50

for each Triad member and \$5 for each update thereafter. The Indiana Vital Statistics Registrar, Annabelle Gau, will be in charge of the Registry. Decisions still have to be made over what will be identifying and non-identifying information. Those wishing further information should contact Martha on (219) 749-4392.

In addition, Martha has been working over the past 2 years with the Montgomery County Welfare Department speaking to prospective adoptive parents. Mickey Carty of Richmond and Martha so maintain their own Reunion Registry which, at present, has over 3,000 entries and is the largest one in Indiana.

KENTUCKY - Vicki Bauman and Susan Secchi advised that the mutual consent bill was defeated in the legislature. No word about future efforts to be made at this point.

They are happy to report that Linda Cecil, Founder of A-Link, is once again able to take an active part in the movement and they extend to her a special WELCOME BACK!

Monthly meetings continue to be held on the second Friday of the month at the Central Kentucky Blood Center in Lexington at 7:30p.m. In addition, a new chapter is being formed in the Louisville area. Contact Susan Secchi at (606) 254-7089 for more information.

A-Link members are also continuing their open discussions with prospective adoptive parents in the Special Needs Program.

MICHIGAN - Joanne Swanson, of Roots and Reunions not only had good news about her reunion with her birth daughter over the

AAC REGION 5 NEWS CONTINUED.....

summer months but also advised she is working with others in the Upper Peninsula to establish a new support group in the Iron Mountain area. Ground work is being done in September and October and we should have a report on the initial response in our next newsletter. Don't forget that Joanne still has copies available of her original recording, "Song of the Search" available for \$5 + \$1 postage each. You can write her at Roots & Reunions, P.O. Box 121, L'Anse, MI 49946. We hope to have more information on what other Michigan groups are doing in our next issue.

OHIO - The big news, of course, is that Chosen Children is hosting the AAC Region 5 Conference at the Imperial House in Dayton on October 20, 1984. The workshops promise to be interesting and the chance to share with other Triad members is what makes these events so special. All Region 5 AAC members have been previously notified of the Conference details and any questions can be directed to Joanne Gall at (513) 274-8017. Our next newsletter will cover the highlights of the Conference and bring you up-to-date on what's new in Region 5.

In addition, Carrie Baum reported that Toledo area CUB members are still actively meeting on the third Tuesday of the month at the Library in Perrysburg at 7:30 p.m. She further advised that ASRA (Adoptees Search Rights Association) is presently in limbo as far as meetings go but they are still handling correspondence for the Ohio area. For further information, call Carrie on (419) 537-9325.

WEST VIRGINIA - Elaine Cornell was busy over the summer working with the Social Services on revising the West Virginia Adoption Code whereby adult adoptees and birth parents now have an opportunity to put information into their files at the respective County Court House. Adoptees can now sign a Release Form to be given to the birthparents and Birthparents can put information into the file for the adoptee to obtain should they wish to do so. In addition, birth-

parents are now provided both legal and medical counseling during and after their pregnancy providing them with all the alternatives.

In mid-September, the Charleston Daily Mail did an article on Elaine based more on her feelings as an adoptee rather than on her search (which had been done earlier). At present there are no groups meeting in West Virginia, however, Elaine would be happy to assist anyone who would like to get one started. You can reach her at (304) 722-2539 but do so soon as she may be moving by the end of the year. She continues to provide search support on an individual basis.

GOOD NEWS - ALL VOLUNTEERS

Many will be shocked to find,
When the day of judgment nears,
That there is a special place in heaven
Set aside for volunteers.

Furnished with big recliners,
Satin couches and footstools;
Where there's no committee chairman,
No group leaders or carpools.

No eager team that needs a coach,
No bazaar and no bake sale;
There will be nothing to staple
Not one thing to fold or mail.

Telephone lists will be outlawed,
But a finger snap will bring
Cool drinks and gourmet dinners
And rare feasts fit for a king.

You ask, "Who will serve these privileged few
And work for all they're worth?"
Why all those who reaped the benefits
and NOT ONCE volunteered on earth.

*Borrowed - Norma Johnson, Junior Dir
Women's Club Newsletter*