

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

General Meetings
1st & 3rd Wed, 7-9PM
Central Presby Church
1475 Ferry St
Eugene OR

Aftermath Meetings
2nd Thurs, 7-9PM
Judith Byers' home
231 W 52nd St
Eugene OR

Search Workshop
Sat May 5, 1984
231 W 52nd St
Eugene OR

Booth at Fair
Aug 14-19, 1984
Lane Co Fair Grounds
Eugene OR

AFTERMATH MEETINGS

The need to talk with others regarding the powerful emotional impact resulting from a contact or reunion is an important and integral part of belonging to a support group. Previously, we've held these monthly meetings on a weekday morning, but many of our members weren't able to attend during the daytime, so, beginning May 10, evening aftermath meetings will be held the second Thursday of each month at Judith Byers' home from 7-9PM. Please contact Judith at 345-4066 for directions.

BIRTHFATHER MEMBERS

As the adoption search movement gains momentum, more birthfathers are voicing concerns regarding their children who were relinquished for adoption, but birthfather's concerns aren't the same as the birthmother's. One of our members and his wife, who are birthparents of the same child, have offered to coordinate a group especially for the birthfathers in our group. At the present time, Family Ties has several birthfather members so we hope all of you will be able to meet together to discuss your own particular needs. Please call Susan or Vits (pronounced Veetz) at 686-8094 for the details.

SEARCH WORKSHOP

Stuck? Dead-end? Need more information? Come and join us!

What : Search Workshop "How-To" Tips
Who : Family Ties members, non-members
Why : Fundraiser for Community Outreach
Where: Judith Byers' home
When : Sat May 5th 1PM-4PM
Cost : Members: \$5.00, Non-members: \$15.00

Even though search help is available at meetings or over the phone, it was suggested that we offer a "How-To" search class to help our members understand the search process better. All funds raised will be used for our Lane County Fair Booth expenses. Refreshments will be served. For reservations, call Judy 345-4066 (evenings), Helen 485-7156, Debbie 998-6418, or Dolores 484-4766.

THE SEARCH IS OVER

Jody Biegel, her adoptive parents, and her husband's family formed a caravan of moral support for Jody's reunion with her birth family. All of us will be looking forward to hearing Jody's story in a future issue.

Judy Byers had a reunion with her birthmother and siblings and now she's anxiously looking forward to June 16th when she and her two sons will be vacationing in Florida with her birthfather. We hope Judy will also give us her story for a future issue.

Debbie Schuldt's reunion story is featured in this issue.

Charlene Hensley has located her birthparents in another State and is in the initial stages of developing a relationship through written communication.

Jone Hartz has located her minor daughter but is not considering a contact because she feels that all members in her particular triad need more time to allow their emotions to level off.

Helen Gallagher combined the Triad. Libry. Conf. with birthfamily contacts; in So Cal, a satisfying reunion with one son's maternal grandparents and his sister; in bay area, an enjoyable overnight stay with oldest daughter's birthmother and family; in Cent Cal, a rewarding visit with other son's maternal grandparents. More of Helen's story in future issues.

DEBBIE'S STORY

I found Samantha in October 1982. Seventeen months later when the phone rang at 10:20 PM, my first thought was a family emergency, but it was Samantha, calling me for the first time! Now 16 years old, she wants to meet me and the kids. Four days later I would be going to California and she says she's sure now is the time. I gave her lots of alternatives to other visits because I thought we should know each other a little better. I had only sent two letters and received one in the whole last year plus.

But, I can't turn her down. I've waited so long, now only 10 more days. I want to jump and cheer - I'm very excited. I felt this was finally the beginning of a relationship with my lost little girl.

The day arrives after a restless night and lying awake from 6 AM on Saturday, March 24th.

I stood in the lobby of the Holiday Inn waiting for her. I turned around and there she was. She looked so shy. I tried to be the cheerful adult, but inside the emotions were really heavy. I couldn't let myself cry, but there she was, sixteen years after I lost her and I was holding her again.

We only had a couple of hours and the message I get now is that she wishes to back off and I must wait for her to contact me sometime, who knows when?

Letting her go again on those terms was like the day I signed her away. I could have brought her home with me, but she's not my daughter anymore - I'm a stranger to her. I get angry sometimes and I get frustrated with this greif. But I did get to see for myself that she's okay and I feel good that she can call me when she needs to - and she will.

FAMILY TIES NEWSLETTER --- MAY 1984

BOOTH AT LANE COUNTY FAIR

The Lane County Fair dates are August 14-19 this year. As most of you know, this is a big event for us at Family Ties. The purpose is not only as an informational booth, but as an outreach program to register persons connected with the adoption triad who might not be in a position to commit themselves to doing a search at the present time. We are still getting calls from people who picked up our brochure at the Fair last year but didn't contact us right away because they needed some time to think about it.

Those of you who worked in the booth last year remember how interesting it was with the many varied reactions we received. All in all we feel it was a very worthwhile endeavor and if we've helped just one person, either from our free registry or from a personal contact, we were successful in achieving our goal. During the coming months we would like to hear from any Family Ties members who would like to help us in the booth this year. Contact Debbie 998-6418, Helen 485-7156, or Dolores 484-4766 if you are interested. Also if you have completed your search and have pictures of reunions, we'd like to borrow your negative to have enlargements made to add to our Reunion display. However, if you already have a large sized picture and would be willing to lend it to us for our display, we'd be delighted!

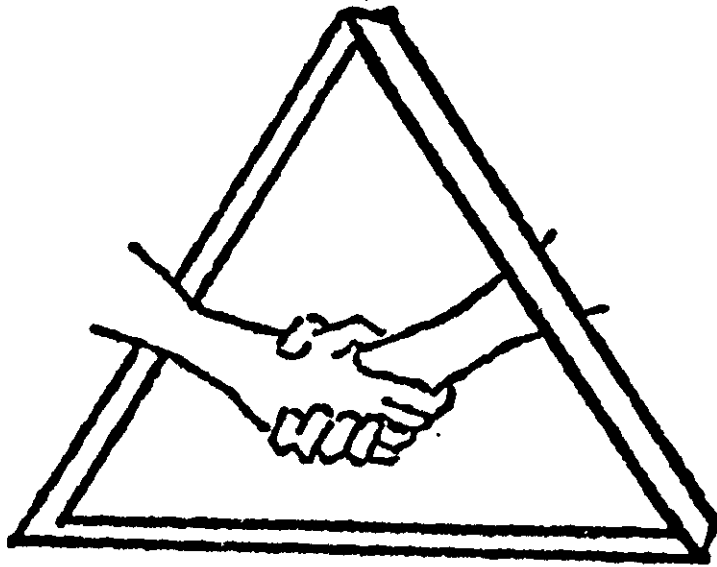
One more thing, we need a donation of some item(s) of value that can be used for a drawing. If you have any suggestions or a bright idea as to what would be an eye-catching prize for a drawing, we're open to your suggestions. Call Debbie 998-6418, Helen 485-7156 or Dolores 484-4766. Last year we had a lovely hand crocheted baby afghan and some hand crocheted throw rugs. We quickly learned that people will stop to enter a drawing, and then become interested in what else the booth has to offer.

Unfortunately our outreach program cannot be wholly subsidized by our Family Ties treasury so we are seeking donations to help cover the cost of the booth which is \$380.00. The following excerpt from the Fair Office data sheet will help explain the fee system.

Rates	Discount	Non-Discount
10 X 10 line	\$380.00	\$445.00
10 X 10 corner	\$445.00	\$520.00

Discount price is applied when FULL payment is made at the time the space is secured (May 1st is cut-off date). Non-discount price is applied when the required down payment (\$250.00 or 25% of full rate, whichever is greater) is made. Balance is due on August 1, 1984.

Family Ties is reclaiming the booth that is the least expensive by taking advantage of the discount, but when we reserve our booth on May 1, the last day to qualify for the discount, our treasury will be almost depleted. We are appealing to you on the basis of, if we have helped you, we hope you can help us help someone else.



The Lane County Fair is fast approaching, and we need to extend the hand of friendship to others who have been touched by adoption. Our best success comes through our fair booth which offers information and a connection.

However, it takes money to do this, as does most anything of value. Please lend your hand of friendship and help us connect. Any amount you can spare will be most appreciated.

Thank you!

Please send your contributions to:

Family Ties
% Helen Gallagher
4001 Potter, #73
Eugene, Oregon
97405

Name: _____ Amount: _____