

LACASA



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LACASA is a Search and Support Organization dedicated to assisting individuals separated by adoption.

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I would like to take this opportunity to wish each of you a Happy Holiday Season. May you be blessed with health, happiness and prosperity in the coming new year.

LACASA has been very busy this past year. We have worked with many people in search and have witnessed many joyful reunions. It is impossible to describe how much joy and satisfaction we at LACASA feel each time a search is completed, and a reunion results. Each time this happens, we feel like our "family" has expanded!

Betty Hanlon, LACASA's Co-Director/Secretary, and myself attended the American Adoption Congress National Conference held in Seattle, Washington. It proved to be very educational, and we met with many interesting people from all across the United States and Canada. It proved to be a very memorable experience, also. Betty and I managed to get stranded in Chinatown, survived a hair-raising taxi cab ride down the steep streets of Seattle, and get left on a bus--without a driver. The flight home was material for a comedy movie!

Now it's time to get down to business. LACASA is staffed entirely by volunteers who give freely of their time and expertise. These volunteers are committed to helping others--others who are in need--just as they themselves once were. Each volunteer has a personal committment to the Adoption Reform Movement.

LACASA is a non-profit organization supported solely by membership donations (one-time \$25.00 donation). These donations enable us to continue helping individuals in search. In the past, it has been LACASA's policy to never refuse help to any individual because of their inability to pay. This has become increasingly more difficult to do as our membership grows and our operating costs expand. For example, look at your own phone bill. Now, think about what LACASA's phone bill must be like! This is one of our largest expenses. Other expenses include things such as postage, printing, stationery supplies, and educational and research materials.

If in the past LACASA has been of help to you, and you have not donated, perhaps you would like to do so now. All donations, no matter the amount, are most greatly appreciated--and will be put to good use.

Most sincerely,

*Vikki Schummer*

Vikki Schummer  
Director

## WISH LIST

The following is a "Wish List" of items or assistance LACASA either desperately needs, or could greatly use. Can you HELP?

- \*Postage stamps
- \*3-ring vinyl binders
- \*Legal size envelopes
- \*File Folders, letter size
- \*Scrap books/magnetic photo albums
- \*Books, articles on adoption
- \*Typewriter table
- \*Metal file cabinets, 2 or 4 drawer
- \*Microfiche reader/copier
- \*Microfiche panels, rotary stand
- \*Photocopy machine
- \*Slide projector and screen
- \*Overhead projector
- \*Computer
- \*Discount printing/copying
- \*Legal assistance
- \*Volunteers
- \*Donations

## ANNUAL HOLIDAY GET TOGETHER

LACASA's 5th Annual Holiday Get-Together will be held on Saturday, December 1st, 1984. The Los Angeles Branch of Concerned United Birthparents (CUB) will be co-host. Our Special Guest Speaker this year will be Selma Hersh, ACSW, LCSW from Vista Del Mar Child Care Service. We have an informative and fun evening planned and are looking forward to seeing you there. We anxiously await the opportunity to replace some of the "voices over the phone" with real live people!

We encourage you to bring your spouses, family members, "found" family members, friends and "significant others" to join in the celebration.

Date: Saturday, December 1st, 1984

Time: 8:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Place: 12229 Ventura Blvd., Studio City  
(Councilman Joel Wachs Community Room)

\*Refreshments\*      \*"Adoption" Door Prizes\*      \*\$1.00 Donation at the Door\*

There will be a special CUB video tape presentation from 7:30 to 8:00 p.m. For those who wish to view it, please arrive early.

For more information, call...Vikki (818) 763-9236 or Betty (818) 992-8773.

## SEARCH CLASSES

LACASA's Search Classes will be resuming in January. Class #1 covers primary documentation and Class #2 covers secondary documentation. In the past, these classes were held once a month, in a two-part series. In the future, they will be held periodically, as demand indicates. If you are interested in taking the Search Classes, please contact LACASA as soon as possible. Please indicate if a weekday evening or Saturday afternoon class is preferable. Preregistration is necessary.

*How can we find out  
who we are when we're  
composed of so many who  
are lost to our discovering*

## ADOPTEE SUPPORT GROUP

In the past several months LACASA has received many requests for an Adult Adoptee Support Group. Interestingly, a large portion of these requests have come from members of the professional community. This has prompted us to seriously consider forming such a group. The Support Group meetings will be held on one weekday evening a month, beginning in January. We would like to hear from those of you who would be interested in participating. Please write or call and let us hear your ideas. We welcome your input and we need your help.

## NEW LEGISLATION

Senate Bill 1531 has been passed and signed by Governor Deukmejian and will become effective January 1st, 1985. In part, this Bill reads:

"The State Department of Social Service or any licensed adoption agency shall transmit all letters, photographs, or other items of personal property in their possession to any Adoptee, Birthparent, or Adoptive Parent to whom the letters, photographs or personal property were intended to be delivered, upon the written request of the Adoptee, Birthparent, or Adoptive Parent to the Department or licensed agency. All identifying information shall be deleted from the letters, photographs, or other items of personal property before delivering to the requestor. The Department and Agency may charge a reasonable fee for the services required by this section not to exceed the actual cost of the services."

"Adoptee means a person who has attained the age of 18 years old."

Get your cards, letters and photographs into your agency and at the same time request that any of the same, intended for you, be forwarded. Be aware that the agency will not seek out any individual. An individual must request in writing and if there are items intended for them, then--and only then--will the Agency forward the items.

## ISSR

If any of you have not filled out and mailed in an "International Soundex Reunion Registry" form, Please do so! Forms can be obtained by writing LACASA and including a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

## SEARCH INFORMATION

For those of you in need of research from Los Angeles County property records, LACASA maintains the "Los Angeles County Property Name Index, 1984". The research fee is \$5.00 for the first full name researched and \$2.50 for each additional name. Send a SASE with the name(s) to be researched and the required fee to LACASA.

For those of you who need California marriages and deaths researched, LACASA maintains the "California Statewide Marriage Indexes", Bride and Groom, for the years 1960 - 1981, and "California Statewide Death Indexes" for the years 1940 - 1981. The research fee is \$5.00 per name for each ten years researched. Send a SASE with the name(s) to be researched, date of birth of individual (or approx.) and the required fee.

Note: As of November 1st, 1984 the state of California has increased the cost of Marriage and Death Certificates from \$4.00 to \$7.00. Birth Certificates are still \$8.00.

## SEARCH BUSTERS

PATTI B. found her birthmother within three days after contacting LACASA. Because her search was completed so rapidly, Patti was not quite prepared. Her first contact went very well and a reunion was in the planning. Patti had the help and support of her boyfriend (a "significant other") with her search, contact, and reunion.

JOY C. found her birthmother, brother, sister, and uncle--all in New York City. Even though Joy's search was long distance, it was completed in about a month after contacting LACASA. Joy was warmly received by her birthfamily and not much time elapsed before she was on a plane to New York.

JANIE D. was reunited with both of her birth daughters. Her younger daughter was found by the birthfather (who was a LACASA member). Janie was delighted to have been found by her "found" daughter and subsequently went in search of her older daughter. All were reunited in Los Angeles this past summer.

JOY G. found her birthfather, brother (living very near to her) and two sisters. Sadly, Joy's birthmother passed away just three months before she found. Joy is now part of a very receptive and warm birthfamily. This past summer she met with her oldest sister who traveled from Florida.

JERRY M. found his birthmother, two brothers, and an uncle...just a few miles from his home. His first contact was made with his paternal uncle who was overjoyed to hear from him. Sadly, his birthfather is deceased, but he has learned much about him through his uncle. Jerry completed his search within two weeks after contacting LACASA.

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JEANINE O. Found her birthmother--in one day! Jeanine contacted LACASA and it was quickly determined that her birthmother had been in contact with us in the recent past. She and her birthmother enjoy a warm and very close relationship. They both are now in the process of searching for her birthfather.

HELEN P. found one of her twin sons. Tragically, her other son had passed away several years previously--after trying to locate her for vital medical information. Her remaining son was absolutely overjoyed to have been found. He, his twin brother, and an adopted sister spent most of their lives in foster care after the death of their adoptive mother.

TERRY R. found her birthmother living just a few miles from her. Terry had spent many years searching for her birthfamily. After contacting LACASA, her search was completed in less than a month. At the time of this writing, Terry and her birthmother are scheduled to be featured on "KNBC NEWS 4LA" as a follow-up to last February's series on Adoption Search by Tricia Toyota.

MR. & MRS. A. were reunited with their birth daughter. After an extremely long distance search they located her back East: however, Mr. & Mrs. A lived in Europe. It was a wonderful reunion for all. Their daughter's adoptive parents were exceptionally warm and receptive.

JEFF K. found his birthmother, maternal grandmother and aunts. He then went on to locate his birthfather and paternal grandmother. He has a particularly rewarding relationship with his birthfather. Jeff's search was completed in about three months after contacting LACASA.

JOHN A. found his two full blooded brothers. John was one of four brothers who were all placed for adoption: however, he and one of his brothers were placed in the same adoptive home. John contacted LACASA on his older brother's 40th birthday...and completed his search in just under a month. It turned out that his older brothers's adoptive parents are related to his younger brother's adoptive parents! A reunion has not been planned...since contact was made just today!

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## HELPING HANDS

Vikki Schummer.....Founder/Director  
Betty Hanlon.....Co-Director/Secretary  
Suzanne Rubin.....Treasurer  
J.G. Schummer.....Director At Large

Joy Goldowitz....Newsletter/Graphics  
Sue Brereton.....Apprentice

LACASA mailing address: 11514 Ventura Boulevard, A-179, Studio City, CA 91604

Phone number: (818) 763-9236

# LACASA

LOS ANGELES COUNTY ADOPTION SEARCH ASSOCIATION  
11514 VENTURA BLVD. A-179. STUDIO CITY, CA. 91604 : TEL: (818) 763.9236

## Membership Application

Fill out as much of this as you are able. Return with your one-time membership fee: \$25.00.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Present Age \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### SEARCH INFORMATION

Adoptee  Birthparent  Adoptive Parent  Other

If Other, please explain \_\_\_\_\_

Length of time in active search, up to the present:

Less than one month  Less than 1 year  Forever (more than 1 year)

If you are an adoptee, city and state where born \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

If you are a birthparent or adoptive parent, city and state where your child was

born \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

If adoption was through a Los Angeles agency, which one?

Vista Del Mar  Holy Family Services  Children's Home Society (CHS)

CDA (Los Angeles County Department of Adoptions)  Independent adoption

Adoptees and adoptive parents--do you have your non-identifying information?

Yes  No  Waiting for it

Birthparents--do you have copies of your relinquishment/consent and your non-

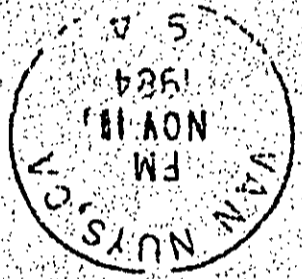
identifying information? Yes  No  Waiting for it

### FOR OUR INFORMATION

Are you affiliated with: ALMA  CUB  Other group \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear of LACASA? \_\_\_\_\_

Inceptor Library  
P.O. Box 638  
Westminster, CA 92683



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STUDIO CITY, CA 91604

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