

Parent Finders of Canada
and
Parent Finders Ottawa

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Reuniting families separated by adoption

New Year's Resolutions for 2011

Now that Christmas and New Year celebrations are over, we can all settle down to the original business of Parent Finders - search and reunion of family members separated by adoption. We need to keep our eyes tightly fixed on that ball! For some of us the search is long over and we are now living the "reunion" piece - a lifelong journey. But for many, the "search" bit is still our preoccupation and our own personal crossword puzzle!

Searching for lost family members can be all-consuming, stressful and often full of sadness and disappointment. Not every search turns out well. Not every search ends on a positive note. We can find the person, so long sought, and still be rebuffed, or worse - treated with coldness or indifference. That makes the reunion part sad and negative. That is when a support group is the only answer, probably the only place to find real help. Many people seek the assistance of professional counselling, psychiatry and therapy sessions. Sadly the help received is often not satisfying or effective.

Professionals are often not trained in the "ins and outs" specific to "adoption reunion and loss". Some are able to help by treating adoption losses with therapy for generalized loss. Some talk to their clients about "abandonment issues". In our experience, very few professionals seem to understand the huge losses of family, identity, culture, one's offspring, family support, trust, truth. Very few of the professionals have read any of the many, many books about adoption issues. It would appear that the grief issues of adoption are also not clearly understood. Neither is the secondary infertility problem in relinquishing birthmothers.

So here's our New Year's resolution: We need to get the message out to the professional therapists and counsellors that adoption has its own set of special issues and they need to learn about them in order to be better practitioners. If you are seeing a therapist, it is your responsibility to "educate" that person to your needs. Lend them some of the excellent books available on the psychology of adoption. Talk to them about attending a Parent Finders meeting to learn more about the people they are treating. Talk to your family doctor about the issues that have affected you. Tell the Children's Aid workers when you go for your social history how the secrecy and losses of adoption have affected you.

Continued on page 2.....

Why not come to our next meeting?

Our upcoming meeting will be held at **7 p.m. on Thursday, January 13, 2011** at **Southminster United Church, 7 Galt Street in Ottawa**. This is the lovely stone church on the west side of the Bank Street Bridge just south of Lansdowne Park in old Ottawa South. Turn on Alymer and right on Galt Street where parking is available. Enter the church by the rear door and go upstairs to the second floor. We'll be waiting for you!

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How to Reach Us

Parent Finders of Canada
and Parent Finders Ottawa
Box 21025
Ottawa South Postal Outlet
Ottawa, ON K1S 5N1
Canada

Phone: (613) 730-8305

Fax: (613) 730-0345

Email: pfncr@aol.com

Or visit us at:

www.parentfindersottawa.ca

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New Year's Resolutions (continued from page 1)

This is **not** a slam at your adoptive family. They were as unaware as anyone of the long-term effects of the closed adoption system, the system we all bought into. It is only now, with the long view available after more than 35 years of search and reunion, that we are seeing the bigger picture. The "Let's pretend this is our Baby" attitude of all our adoption experiences is just not realistic. And Parent Finders will bear witness to that! Those are your special commands and marching orders from Parent Finders for 2011. Educate, educate and educate again! May this be the year of positive endings for us all.

Pat McGarron, President

Monica Byrne, Registrar

New Year's Resolutions

Birth parents

- 1. I will tell two new people about the baby I gave away.*
- 2. I will stop feeling guilty for having given up my child.*
- 3. I will stop punishing myself for having been directed by the attitudes of the time over which I had no control.*
- 4. I will find other people willing to work with me on legislative change in my province.*

Adoptees

- 1. I will stop being a wimpy adoptee. I will ask my adoptive parents for my adoption papers.*
- 2. I will contact my provincial MPP about the removal of my birthfather's name from my birth registration.*
- 3. I will contact my provincial MPP about being unable to find my birth siblings.*
- 4. I will familiarize myself with the new Ontario adoption laws and lobby for improvement.*

Another Loss to the Adoption Community

It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden and unexpected passing of Robert (Bob) Wilson Hartlen, 65, of Lunenburg, Nova Scotia on October 9, 2010. All members of the adoption community mourn his loss. He was one of those adoption pioneers and heroes who shed light on the terrible effects of adoption secrecy and the harsh happenings of the past. Through his hard work unearthing the sad history of the Ideal Maternity Home in Chester, N.S., Bob helped many, many people to reunite with their loved family members. His condolence book at the funeral parlour was filled with statements of love and thanks to a man who truly made a difference.

Since the publication of Bette Cahill's *Butterbox Babies* in 1992, the Ideal Maternity Home has become synonymous with illegal adoptions and suspicious baby deaths. Much attention has been given to the neglect of infants at the Home, the exorbitant fees paid by adoptive parents, and the secretive nature of the transactions. The Ideal Maternity Home, which was operated by Lila and William Young on Nova Scotia's south shore from the late 1920s through the late 1940s, quickly became a specialized money-making maternity service for unwed mothers. Delivering babies became their business and with privacy and discretion guaranteed.

Bob was the author of *Butterbox Survivors! Life After The Ideal Maternity Home*. In the book, he compiled the personal stories of 36 adult adoptees who survived the Ideal Maternity Home, including himself. He shared in their most private memories and experiences, the painful struggles to come to terms with being adopted, the epic searches to find birth families, and the heartening sense of a surrogate family many adoptees found in fellow survivors. Bob's book was an excellent addition to Canadian adoption literature. He will be missed by all in the adoption community.

The Times They Are a Changin'

by Evelyn Robinson

In 1970 when my son Stephen was born and adopted, I dreamt that one day he would sit by my side. Little did I imagine that, on the 19th of October 2010, we would stand side by side and applaud as the Premier of Western Australia apologized for the past adoption policies and practices that separated so many mothers from their children. This was the first apology of its kind in the world and I am so happy that Stephen and I were able to be there together.

It was a lovely, sunny day in Perth and almost 200 people gathered outside Parliament House to attend the apology. We entered the Parliament building and made our way to the public gallery..... We were told afterwards that the parliamentary website almost went into meltdown, as so many people around the world logged on to watch the apology live.

The Premier of Western Australia, Colin Barnett, MP, moved the motion, which afterwards was carried unanimously, to apologise sincerely and unequivocally to those who had been adversely affected by past adoption policies and practices, which had not struck a balance between caring for the well-being of the mother and the well-being of the child. He acknowledged that some of the processes involved in past adoptions, especially between the 1940s and the 1980s, had caused long-term anguish and suffering and that the government was responsible for allowing this to happen.

He mentioned that many unmarried mothers were pressured into agreeing to adoption when they were emotionally vulnerable and the events surrounding the births of their children had lasting consequences for them and their families....He apologised unreservedly on behalf of the government to the mothers, the children and their respective extended families, whose interests were not best served by such practices.

The Premier pointed out that these policies and practices occurred under past governments and that they were wrong. He applauded mothers for being 'survivors' and for having the courage to persist with their cause until this apology took place. He acknowledged that an apology cannot repair the damage, but hoped that it would assist in the healing process and offered the compassion and recognition of the Parliament.

I believe that the apology in Western Australia will not only help people with their individual healing, but will also increase community awareness of the issues that many of us have had to deal with since our children were taken from us to be adopted. I have heard from many, many mothers around the world who are heartened by news of the Western Australia apology.

Other states and territories in Australia are now also considering apologising ... There have been discussions with the federal government and they are currently considering what would need to happen before a federal apology could be given. I believe that Australia is setting an example and I hope that other countries will follow our lead.

One mother told me afterwards: *To receive this apology in such a public way enables me to feel regarded, that I matter, that what I went through has been acknowledged. So much was affirmed and validated and I feel empowered.*

This is a huge achievement and an example to the world. I believe that it is the start of a widespread acknowledgement of the loss and grief that were caused by past policies and practices. Hopefully, this will increase awareness of our issues in the community and help many to heal from the hurts of the past.

Evelyn Robinson is a reunited birthmother who lives in Australia, a country with a far more enlightened approach to adoption separation and reunion than other English-speaking countries such as Canada and the U.S. She works as a counsellor and educator in the post-adoption field. Evelyn Robinson has published four adoption-related books. This is an edited excerpt from her latest book Adoption Separation – Then and Now, which is reviewed on page 7.

Betty Jean Lifton Dies at 84 - Urged Open Adoptions

by Margalit Fox

Reprinted from nytimes.com

Betty Jean Lifton, a writer, adoptee and adoption-reform advocate whose books — searing condemnations of the secrecy that traditionally shrouded adoption — became touchstones for adoptees throughout the world, died on November 19 in Boston. She was 84 and lived in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The cause was complications of pneumonia, her husband, the psychiatrist and author Dr. Robert Jay Lifton, said.

Ms. Lifton, who lectured widely about the potential psychological effects of adoption, was best known for a nonfiction trilogy: *Twice Born: Memoirs of an Adopted Daughter* (McGraw Hill, 1975), in which she recounts her adulthood search for her birthmother; *Lost and Found: The Adoption Experience* (Dial, 1979); and *Journey of the Adopted Self: A Quest for Wholeness* (Basic Books, 1994).

An outspoken proponent of open adoption, Ms. Lifton was often interviewed on the issue in the news media. (Nine states now allow adult adoptees access to their original birth certificates.) She was a past board member of the American Adoption Congress; in recent years she also worked as a psychological counselor, with a practice centered on adoptees and their families.

When *Twice Born* was first published, there were few books about the adoptee experience. Adoption in general was a veiled topic, and adoptees — assuming they were told anything — rarely knew their given names, their birth parents' identities or the precise circumstances of their adoptions. As a result, generations of adoptees grew up with a void where their personal histories should be and, Ms. Lifton argued, with deep feelings of confusion, grief and loss.

“When I was born, society prophesied that I would bring disgrace to my mother, kill her reputation, destroy her chances for a good bourgeois life,” she wrote in *Twice Born*. She added: “I say that society, by sealing birth records, by cutting adoptees off from their biological past, by keeping secrets from them, has made them into a separate breed, unreal even to themselves.”

The book's publication, which gave momentum to the emerging adoption-reform movement, prompted an outpouring of mail from people with similar stories. These letters, and subsequent interviews with adoptees, informed the next installments in Ms. Lifton's trilogy, in which she examined the psychological toll that closed adoption can take and the psychological affinities many adoptees appear to share.

While some critics seemed discomfited by Ms. Lifton's use of mythic metaphor (“I write of perilous journeys of the spirit, of labyrinths, of ghosts, of strangers with mysterious origins, of princesses and princes asleep under spells,” she said in *Twice Born*), others praised her willingness to speak frankly about a taboo subject.

Her other books include *The King of Children* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1988), a biography of the Polish Jewish doctor, writer and children's advocate Janusz Korczak, who was killed in Treblinka. She also wrote for children, including books about adoption and many titles inspired by Japanese folk tales.

Blanche Rosenblatt, as she later learned she was originally named, was born in Staten Island on June 11, 1926. Her mother, Rae Rosenblatt, who was 17 when Blanche was born, and her father, a bootlegger and bon vivant, were unmarried, a scandalous condition then. (In the first edition of *Twice Born*, Ms. Lifton gives her birthmother the pseudonym Bea Silverstein.)

Ms. Rosenblatt eventually gave up Blanche to a foster home. At 2 ½, she was adopted by a Cincinnati couple, Oscar and Hilda Kirschner, who renamed her Betty Jean. When Betty Jean was 7, Hilda Kirschner informed her that she was adopted, adding that her birth parents were dead. Such falsehoods, Ms. Lifton later wrote, were par for the course at the time.

Betty Jean Kirschner earned a bachelor's degree in English from Barnard College in 1948; in the 1990s, she earned a Ph.D. in counseling psychology from the Union Institute. In 1952 she married Dr. Lifton, a psychiatrist who went on to write many influential books, including psychological studies of war and the Holocaust. The couple lived for several years in Hong Kong and Japan.

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Betty Jean Lifton (continued from page 4)

After returning to the United States, Ms. Lifton, long haunted by her opaque past, contacted the agency that had handled her adoption. She learned that her parents were probably still alive and began scouring public records for traces of them. Bit by bit, the information she gleaned led her to her birthmother. They met several times in the years that followed. Though their communication was often strained, for Ms. Lifton, as she made clear in her writing, it was absolutely necessary. She later searched for her birth father, only to learn he had died not long before.

Besides her husband, Ms. Lifton is survived by their two children, Kenneth and Natasha Lifton, four grandchildren, and a half-brother, Donald Billings.

She dedicated *Journey of the Adopted Self* to her two mothers, who, she wrote, “might have known and even liked each other in another life and another adoption system.”

Book Review

Twice Born: Memoirs of an Adopted Daughter

by Betty Jean Lifton

Other Press, New York, 2006

Paperback, 271 pages

Like most adoptees, I had learned at an early age to numb myself in order to live in the environment into which I had been transplanted. I learned to accept that the branch must be separated from the tree, that the roots must take hold in alien soil. As a tree sleeps in winter, so did some part of me stay sleeping even while the rest of me bloomed. But now that I was awake, I was determined to learn what I could about my origins.

Betty Jean Lifton

Twice Born: Memoirs of an Adopted Daughter

Other Press LLC, 2006

When she was 7 years old, Betty Jean Lifton was told that she was adopted and that her birth parents were dead. Her adoptive mother told her that she must keep this secret. During her lifetime, Betty Jean emerged from the numb compliance of a repressed child to become a deeply curious and empathetic woman. She not only found her birth parents, but went on to share her often painful experience with other adoptees, birth parents and adoptive parents to help them understand how adoption affected their lives.

I had the privilege of meeting Betty Jean (BJ) Lifton at the Shedding Light on Adoption conference in New York City last September. She graciously signed my copy of *Twice Born*. Sadly, Betty Jean Lifton is now gone and she will not be signing her books and sharing her wisdom anymore. She will not be forgotten however. She blazed a clear trail and many will continue to follow in her footsteps.

Betty Jean Lifton was an adoptee, a journalist, a writer and an author of many books, plays and a trilogy of groundbreaking books on adoption, of which this one is the first. When it was first published in 1975, *Twice Born* was considered to be radical. In an afterword in the 2006 reprint of the book, Betty Jean says:

There was shock that an adopted child (as one is still called, no matter one's age) not only dared to confront the mystery around her origins, but actually solved it by finding her birth parents. The idea of claiming one's birthright was seen by some reviewers and adoption agencies as a betrayal of one's adoptive parents, if not of the whole adoption system.

Betty Jean Lifton came to understand that in finding her birthmother, she found herself. When she finally met her birthmother, however, she found that they were both unprepared. *That was our tragedy. We didn't understand the trauma we had each experienced after our separation or the defences we had developed in order to survive. We didn't understand anything. By writing this book, I hoped to understand.*

Betty Jean Lifton's empathetic nature, her love of all living creatures, and her sharp intellect led her not only on her own healing journey but beyond as she reached out to others affected by the secrets and lies surrounding adoption to help them understand the source of their pain and isolation. Betty Jean went on to get a PhD in counselling psychology and set up her own practice in order to help adoptees, birth parents and adoptive parents to understand what she herself was coming to grips with. I highly recommend this book.

Jennifer Charles

Dear PF...



“DEAR PF”

answers some frequently asked questions that may come up during search and reunion. Each case is unique, but we can always learn more from each other’s experiences. Maybe our answer to your question will help someone else too.

Dear PF,

I am a newly reunited adoptee, in a happy reunion for 5 months. I am getting to know my birth family (mother’s) and look forward to finding my father’s side. I know I spend a lot of effort both physical and emotional on this topic. I read everything I can get my hands on; see every movie that has even the vaguest adoption story line; watch all the “reunion shows” on TV; and talk endlessly to my newfound friends in the adoption community. My husband calls it the “A” word. My old friends roll their eyes and get that glazed look. My adoptive family constantly changes the subject. The kids groan. Even the dog has stopped looking keen! I am totally absorbed at the moment with my adoption-reunion story. How can I get past this obsessive stage without losing everyone in the process. I know I am driving them all crazy, but what about my needs?

Magnificent Obsession

Dear Magnificent,

Everyone who has ever been in a reunion knows what you are talking about. The highs, the lows, and the endless interest in ONE subject only - adoption. For you, there has been a truly fundamental shift in your sense of who you are and what your origins are. It is hard to imagine something as difficult as this adjustment, after years of living your life with another set of identity “markers”. So much of who you are is tied up in your adoptive family and the way they have taught you from babyhood to see the world and react to it. Now you meet a whole new group who have your biological roots in common, but they are different. And you - you stand in the middle and are stretched with both arms out (figuratively) between two families. So who are you?

No wonder this is taking up all your thoughts. Don’t expect your family to become a convert to your new self awareness! You may have to make a real effort NOT to talk about adoption when you are in a family gathering. The family will notice and will appreciate it. Try to find other places to go with your need. The pressure will lessen over time. Honestly!

May we suggest that you keep on reading as much as you can about what is happening. You should also find and attend a support group for adoption triad members as soon as possible. If there is none in your area, then start one. Parent Finders can tell you how to start a group and will help you all the way. In addition, there are a number of excellent online groups and chat rooms. Information is very available on the Internet. Do not despair! There are a lot of people in the same boat as you!

Dear PF,

I was born in Montreal in the province of Quebec, but adopted in New York State when I was eight months old. It was a private adoption. My adoptive parents came up to Montreal, stayed a short time and then moved back to their home town. What sort of process must I go through to find out more about my origins? I have almost no information except that my birth name was Louise.

Cross-Border Baby

Dear C-B Baby

Searching in Quebec can be difficult, as can searching in New York! The first thing you need to do is assemble every piece of paper information you have. Next, you need to get “verbal” information from anyone who was involved in the original adoption plan. What do your adoptive parents know that is not written anywhere? You then need to apply to any of the agencies involved for background information. Since this was a private adoption, chances are the lawyers or doctors involved are no longer in practice. You should contact Batshaw Child and Family Services in Montreal (English speaking) to see if they have

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Book Review
Adoption Separation – Then and Now
by Evelyn Robinson

Clova Publications, Christies Beach, South Australia
Paperback, 250 pages

In her latest book, which focuses on parents who lost their children to adoption from 1958 to 1989, Evelyn Robinson has allowed the stories she compiled “to speak eloquently and powerfully for themselves”. The stories come from Australia, Canada, England, Ireland, New Zealand, Scotland and the United States. The result is a many-coloured tapestry that clearly illustrates the pain suffered by young unmarried mothers whose children were taken from them. A common thread running through the stories is the cruel and unjust way these girls were treated and the permanent wounds they carry.

The harsh treatment is described in all the stories. Judith was told by a nun that in the days of the Bible, she would have been stoned for having sex outside of marriage. Edith elaborates: *They looked at us like animals in a cage – the fallen ones, all lined up for them to see; a lesson in sinning. No absolution here then, no kind words, just looks of utter disgust.*

Some mothers who lost their children to adoption were themselves adopted as babies and unknowingly repeated their own birthmother’s pattern. Edith was adopted as a baby in Scotland and gave her own daughter up in 1968 under similar circumstances to her mother’s. She named her baby Anne without knowing that Anne was her own birth name. In her story, Pamela, adoptee and birthmother, writes: *The process of adoption is damaging in and of itself and the task of the adopted person is to understand and hopefully reverse the psychic harm we have suffered and to become the authentic selves we have lost.*

There are wise words about the vagaries of reunion in these stories. Some of the parents are reunited, not all successfully and others have never searched or been found. Sandra writes: *Difference existed as we made our way in reunion, some from my son and some from me. Our strength was our commitment to communication. We always talked and our talking and writing to one another helped us work through many issues.....my life is enriched through him, despite the dark thread that his loss will always be in the tapestry of my life.*

Olive writes: *I wanted to write the story of my reunion for women like myself who do not have contact with their children who were lost to adoption and lost again after reunion.*

The stories of two birthfathers have been slipped into this collection. Despite their maturity and acceptance of responsibility, we all know that it was the mothers who bore the brunt of the experience and the injustice. Their lives were changed forever. The truth for many birthmothers is that they were abandoned and thrown to the wolves.

With a longer vision, Gary writes: *I had acted selfishly, intent on self-preservation. The woman I loved deserved to be treated as the most precious person in my life. In this essential demonstration of devotion and trust, I failed.* And Jim says: *Although I used birth control, the pregnancy was my fault, since I grew up in a culture where it was masculine to be sexually active before marriage.*

Not surprisingly, the stories include less-than-glowing views on adoption. Carlyne writes: *This multi-billion dollar industry is still working its magic and making people believe that taking babies away from their mothers is a good and noble thing. It was coercive then and it's coercive now.*

Before ending this book review, I feel compelled to say that my story is included in this collection. I feel that I'm in good company indeed.

Jennifer Charles

We will be ordering copies of this book and will make them available for sale at our May meeting.

I Never Knew

I never knew what happened to me as a young 18-year-old who lived in a small town and knew nothing.
I never knew that so many women lost their babies to adoption because they were not married.
I never knew I was set up, controlled and brainwashed in 1969.
I never knew I was in an unsafe place in Halifax where I went to be safe.
I never knew that I may never see my son again – they told me he would call when he was 19 years old.
I never knew the effect adoption would have on my life.
I never knew till my search that they never gave me the 3 months waiting period to sign those papers, which is against the law.
I never knew that adoptees had no right to their original birth certificate and some to ever know their roots.
I never knew what a controlled, sick society we live in that has kept our babies away from us.
I never knew that many of my feelings of depression, of wanting to run away, stemmed from my loss of Scott.
I never knew that I would never feel whole again, no matter who was in my life.
I never knew the devastating effect adoption has on everyone involved.
Mother and baby should never be separated for it is against the laws of nature.
I never knew that the Internet would educate me and bring me together with people all over the world who think of me and support me and my reunion with Scott.
I never knew that the adoption world is not simple, but takes work and support groups to understand it all.
I never knew anything in 1969 and my light for life went out and the struggle to live without my baby began.
I never knew I did not make the decision to give up Scott until I started searching.
I never knew how brainwashed and unsupported I was in 1969 until now.
I never knew the depth of my pain.
I never knew that after phoning Halifax to search, they would not find him.
I never knew that my search would open the world of adoption and find Scott via the social worker and a dad.
I never knew that two words “not interested” in meeting me would be so powerful and painful to me as his mother.
I never knew that my support group and friends from all over the world would keep me holding onto hope.
I never knew that I am not alone, that so many are hurting from the pain of adoption.

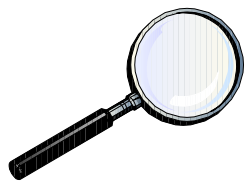
I never knew!

Rhettty Friesen

Member, Canadian Council of Natural Mothers (CCNM), Reprinted with permission

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PF News January 2011



Search Alerts

Birth information is published in our newsletter when a new member joins and when their membership is renewed. Please let Parent Finders know if you have changes or new information so we can amend our records. Items marked "X" are repeats or renewals. All others are published for the first time.

The Searchers

Repeat	Searcher	Birth Name	Birth Date	Birth Place
	Adoptee	Dwight Austin MCKELVIE	Sept. 6, 1933	Toronto, Ontario
	Adoptee	Gisele JULIEN	Dec. 31, 1970	Riverside Hospital, Ottawa
	Adoptee	Tracey Arden MCDOUGALL	July 5, 1965	East York Hospital, Toronto
	Birthfather	Christina OURSIN	Nov. 23, 1989	London, Ontario
X	Birthmother	Michael JOHNS	Feb. 6, 1977	Riverside Hospital, Ottawa
	Birth relative	Marie Jeanne THIBODEAU	March 15, 1933	Montreal, Quebec
	Adoptee	Frances WINTERS	Aug. 29, 1957	Mount Sinai, Montreal, QC
X	Birthmother	Daniel Paul WIEBE	Nov 21, 1968 (possibly 1969)	Queen Elizabeth Hospital Montreal, Quebec
	Adoptee	John BROWN	Jan. 15, 1969	Grace Hospital, Ottawa
	Adoptee	Peter Wade LYNCH	April 11, 1963	Toronto, Ontario
	Adoptee	Female baby	June 11, 1946	Jewish General, Montreal
	Birthmother	Stephen James McPOLIN	May 22, 1958	Grace Hospital, Toronto

“DEAR PF” (continued from page 6)

anything on file about this adoption or the Centres Jeunesses de Montreal (French speaking). Many U.S. residents were advised by their local priest to try to adopt in Quebec. At the time of the placement, social workers may have prepared some background information about the birth family to facilitate the New York adoption. Since there is no longer a “fee for search” in Quebec, it is also worthwhile requesting a search from the Social Services of the town where you were born and where the Courts are that were involved. Most agencies are willing to try their luck assisting in a search about a private adoption that was done in their area, as they have access to the local Court records. The Court records in a private adoption may only show the mother’s signature on a consent form. But it’s a start.

Since the adoption was made final in the U.S., you were taken across the border still carrying your birth name and would have had a Canadian passport in your birth name. You also would have been issued special U.S. papers with your full birth name on them and your birthmother’s name. Your adoptive parents may have these documents. If they are lost, you will have to apply to the Department of Immigration and Naturalization closest to your point of entry into the U.S. Your local Senator or Congressman’s office can help apply for this information from the U.S government using the Access to Information law. As you can see, this is quite complex (although not impossible) and will probably require time and the assistance of a professional adoption searcher with specialized experience dealing with cross-border adoptions. Bonne chance!





NEWS & NOTES

New location for Meetings Southminster United Church

7 Galt Street, Ottawa

Stone church on the west side of the Bank Street Bridge as it crosses the Rideau Canal just past Lansdowne Park in old Ottawa South.

January 13, 2011

May 12, 2011

October 13, 2011

January 12, 2012

Meetings are open to members and the public. All are welcome!

The Canadian Council of Natural Mothers (CCNM)

There are many mothers and adoptees who could use support and information. To assist in this, the Canadian Council of Natural Mothers now has a Facebook page. If you are a Facebook participant, you can check us out by using our name in the Facebook search function. We invite you to visit us there and click "like" if you'd like to receive our news and other items of interest. Please feel free to refer people to it.

For more information about the CCNM, visit our website at www.ccnm.ca

B & M BOOKS

Books on Adoption Loss, Search, and Reunion

We carry a large assortment of adoption-related books specializing in search and reunion. For more information call:

Joan at 613-825-1640 or

Monica at 613-730-8305

Please renew your membership!

Parent Finders is run entirely by unpaid volunteers and receives no outside funding. Membership fees are our only source of funding and are used strictly for operating costs. We ask that you please remember to renew your membership every year so that we can continue to work on your behalf.

In Memoriam

Please consider leaving a bequest to Parent Finders in your will or making a donation in memory of a loved one. Your gift will help us to support others who are searching for their lost family members.

American Adoption Congress (AAC)

32nd Annual National Conference

Many Faces of Adoption

April 14 to 17, 2011

Florida Hotel and Conference Center, Orlando, Florida

For conference details, check the AAC website at

www.americanadoptioncongress.org.

Our Wish List

Donations of stamps, business envelopes and copy paper would be much appreciated and used wisely.

Parent Finders of Canada and Parent Finders Ottawa

Reuniting families separated by adoption

A non-profit support group for all members of the adoption community over 18 years of age. We promote the reunion of family members separated by adoption by providing information and support to those who are searching and seeking reunion. Public meetings are held in January, May, and October. Our **membership fee is \$45 for 12 months** and includes a subscription to our newsletter. A subscription for the newsletter alone is \$12 a year or \$20 for 2 years. International memberships are \$75 for 12 months. For more information, call **613-730-8305** (long distance calls are returned collect), write to the address on the front page, email us at **pfncr@aol.com** or visit our website at **www.parentfindersottawa.ca**