



# STAR TRACKS

Editor: David Sloves

Vol. 15, No. 3

Purim/Pesach 2000

## From the Editor's Desk

I have been editing this newsletter for over five years now, always looking and hoping for ways to improve it, expand it, make it less a little house organ and more a real adoption magazine.



You will see new sections, columns, topics in this and all following issues as the Board of Directors of STARS OF DAVID INTERNATIONAL have decided on a major editorial revision.

Topics/Columns that are likely to be included on a regular, semi-regular basis would include:

- Chapter News/Member News/Chapter & Contacts Listing
- Tips on Running a Chapter - meeting ideas, fundraising, social activities, building membership, community relations
- International Adoption News
- Domestic Adoption News
- Feature Articles - personal story, counseling issues, etc.
- Reviews- books, articles, etc.
- Adoption Materials - highlight new and interesting materials such as journals, dolls, t-shirts, gifts, etc.
- Jewish adoption column - With a Queer Twist
- Publications of interest - highlight helpful publications
- Internet Resources
- National Agencies, Organizations, Exchanges & Programs
- Health and Medical Issues and Special Needs
- Local Adoption Agencies and Programs
- Adoption Law, Lawyers, & Legislation - highlight important changes or issues in adoption law
- Adoptive Parenting
- Jewish Holidays
- Kid's Column
- Jewish Parenting or The Jewish Family
- Rabbi's Column

One important element, however, remains out of the Board's hands, out of my hands - YOU!

See the topics, see the ideas, see the columns, see in your mind's eye what YOU want to see here - and tell us, and help us put it together. We would like to see

STAR TRACKS be less the Board of Director's magazine and more the membership's. E-mail your thoughts, suggestions, outlines, reviews, finished articles, whatever to me at [DHSCOMM@aol.com](mailto:DHSCOMM@aol.com) or to STARS Director Susan Katz at [STARSDAVID@aol.com](mailto:STARSDAVID@aol.com).

B'shalom.

## In this issue...

Adoptive Families of America - Who will step in?  
A mother and daughter on the role adoption played in their lives.  
The adopted child in school (first of a series)  
Regular columns on adoption legislation, STARS Chapter Events, on-line adoption resources, and much more!

## special UPDATE

ADOPTIVE FAMILIES MAGAZINE SOLD;  
ADOPTIVE FAMILIES OF AMERICA  
DISSOLVED  
*BY SUSAN KATZ, DIRECTOR, STARS OF DAVID INTERNATIONAL*

The Board of Directors of Adoptive Families of America (AFA) announced that as of Jan. 31, 2000 Adoptive Families Magazine has been sold to Susan Caughman, president of New Hope Communications, LLC (a media company based in New York, NY). The press release states that she is a "new owner with a demonstrated commitment to adoption, as well as the resources and publishing expertise to inject new life into Adoptive Families Magazine and the Guide to Adoption."

Ms. Caughman is the founder and long-time leader of Families with Children from China, has been an



**STARS OF DAVID INTERNATIONAL, INC.** is the quintessential nonprofit information/support network for Jewish and interfaith adoptive families. Encompassing all branches of Judaism, **STARS OF DAVID** is a family support group, not an adoption agency. For more information/membership contact: **Debra Berger, P.O. Box 573, Woodbury, NJ 08096-0573, (856) 384-2764, or SnjSTARS@aol.com**

**STAR TRACKS** is a publication of **STARS OF DAVID INTERNATIONAL, INC.**. Any requests to reprint any portion of this material should be made to **David Sloves, STAR TRACKS** Editor, 326 Fifth St., Saddle Brook, NJ 07663-6330.

©2000, Stars of David International, Inc., New Jersey, All Rights Reserved.

Original graphic art ©2000, Matthew A. Schwartz  
★★★★★★★★★★★★★  
Please note: Letters to the Editor, book reviews and articles do not necessarily imply the endorsement or approval of the Board of Directors of Stars of David, International, Inc.

Unless expressly stated, all opinions are solely those of the author(s). Subscribers are reminded that this publication is open to the news and views of all our membership. **Star Tracks** retains the absolute right to accept, reject or edit any submission.

advisor to several adoption organizations including AFA, a Peace Corps volunteer, and a Program Director for the American Friends Service Committee (Quakers). In addition, she has a 17-year career as a Time Inc. Publishing executive.

She plans to establish a new non-profit organization, The Adoption Education Institute, to connect pre- and post-adoptive families to appropriate services and resources. The Adoption Education Institute, to be based in New York City, will be established later this year.

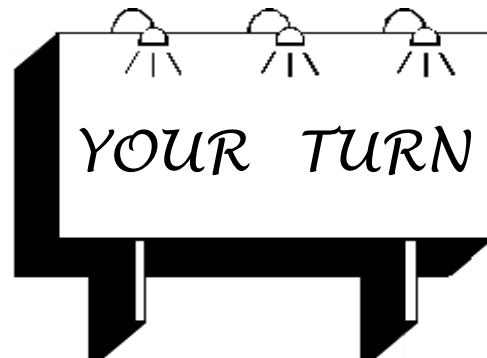
Plans for Adoptive Families magazine include a redesign and enhanced editorial content. Readers will begin to see changes in the magazine by the fall of 2000. [This has been excerpted from the press release from Deb Osgood of AFA. See our files for the entire press release, which is also available online at the AdoptionUmbrella Listserv.]

What does this mean? It means there will still be an adoption magazine, although the publisher has changed. It also means that there is no longer a national adoption umbrella organization. In December, we learned that Adoptive Families of America was closing its doors, selling the magazine and its subscriber base, and terminating its non-profit functions. Many of us in the adoption community were shocked, sad, even angry. An AdoptionUmbrella Listserv was set up with the help of Pat Johnston at Perspective Press and others. Discussion is ongoing about what entity, if

any, can take the place of AFA.

Pat Johnston writes: "When I put on either my hat as the mother of an adoption-expanded family or my hat as an educator in touch with hundreds and hundreds of information-hungry would-be parents, support-craving adoptive parents and eager-to-learn adoption professionals every year, it seems to me that the loss of an AFA-like organization (if not the vastly diminished AFA itself) creates a gaping hole...AFA had developed, really, into the only national organization aimed at all adoptive parents and likely to draw the membership of that still significantly sized group of adopters who are inclined to practice rejection of difference behavior, as David Kirk called it, in their adoptive families...At its best (though of course imperfect), AFA was the closest thing the adoption world has ever had to a truly objective voice for adoption-touched families..."

Some people, like National Council for Adoption's Bill Pierce, feel that other organizations and the internet have already taken the place of Adoptive Families of America and that there's no need to replace it. Others, like myself, feel that a national organization is sorely needed. Yes, there's a great deal of information "out there" but it's not necessary organized or trustworthy. About 150 people have participated in the AdoptionUmbrella List and we hope to come to some consensus about the direction to take. Watch STAR TRACKS for future announcements!



## OUR SPECIAL ANGEL

BY DEBRA A.W. BERGER

Like all new parents we waited anxiously for the arrival of our new daughter. We furiously scrubbed floors, polished furniture, painted walls and readied our photo albums. We collected baby clothes and baby furniture and pondered the choices for the perfect Hebrew name. We chose Abra Samela Tova, after Abraham, Samuel and Toby (her great-grandparents).

Our families were alerted to the due date and we made travel plans for the quickest route to the delivery room.

On August 4, 1992, we piled into our car for the long trek to Newark Airport to meet Continental flight 242 due at 11:30 PM. The big silver stork carried all of our hopes and dreams, and when four-month-old, Guatemalan-born Chloé was brought off that plane and placed in her father's arms, I knew that we had received a most special angel. She still runs halos around our hearts. I suppose that's how my Dad felt when I was born. Ever since I can remember, he sang a song to me called, "You Are My Special Angel" and we danced to that song at my wedding. I started singing it to Chloé, and a tradition was born.

I always wanted to be a mom. In fact, I thought that I would have biological children as well as adopt a child. So when my husband's vasectomy reversal was not successful (he had had one after having children in a previous marriage), we didn't have a hard time making the decision to build our family through adoption.

Luckily, we came across an ad for an agency in Central New Jersey that had infants available for immediate placement. We contacted the agency on February 26 and on August 4th our special bundle was delivered. Our 10-year-old daughter Jenn, and 12-year-old son Scott, (my husband's children from a previous marriage) were very excited about their new sister. One day Jenn wisely told us that adopting a child was almost the same as having biological children. "Mom, I wouldn't worry about not having a biological child. You teach me your values and you will teach Chloé your values, so there will always be a part of you with us." Out of the mouths of babes!!! Now at 18, Jenn marvels at the depth of her love for this stranger who came into our lives that summer seven years ago.

The adoption experience has been so positive that she plans to build her own family by birth and by adoption! And so the tradition continues.

Throughout the years I have thought of many things. I wondered if parenting a child who was adopted was the same as parenting a birth child. At one point my husband asked me if I thought I could love Chloé any more if I had given birth to her. I told him I couldn't imagine loving her anymore than I did. Then I asked him how he felt, as he had biological children, too. He answered, "There's no difference at all."

And yet, there is a difference. We do all of the things

that parents do. We worry when our daughter is sick. We kvell, or swell with pride, when she accomplishes the most menial task. We bask in the glory of her achievements and cry with her at her disappointments. We make her meals, buy her clothes and make play dates. We answer her questions about the sun, the sky and all the things around her. And when she asks questions about her adoption, we answer her truthfully and without hesitation. For herein lies the difference in parenting a child who was adopted versus a child by birth. These children had a life before us, a history and a heritage that is sometimes different from ours. To deny these facts would be to deny a part of the child we love so much. They also have issues surrounding their adoption: the whys, the wherefores and a curiosity about their birth family.

So, in addition to reading about the latest trends in discipline and child rearing, we also read about Guatemala, Latin America and adoption. We answer questions about the Mayan Indians, the Quetzal and the beautifully woven fabrics of Guatemala. We answer questions about the Jewish people, Moses and the Torah and, finally, we answer questions about adoption and birth families. We strive to present an honest, balanced and realistic picture of her birth heritage and the one into which she was adopted. Despite the differences, we are her parents. The Talmud teaches us that "He who brings up a child is to be called its father, not he who gave birth." (Exodus Rabbah 46:5).

The adoption of our daughter set us on the path to a most wondrous journey—one filled with learning and meeting people from other cultures, befriending other families who have adopted and learning about the new life that is now a part of our family. While I sometimes wonder about the biological child I might have had, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the gift of motherhood and by the love and wonder I feel for Chloé who is, indeed, our most special angel.

*[Debra A.W. Berger is the Membership Chair for Stars of David International, co-director of Stars of David Chaverim Chapter and Director of Latin American Families. You can reach her at [StarsChvrn@aol.com](mailto:StarsChvrn@aol.com). This article originally was published on [www.JewishFamily.com](http://www.JewishFamily.com), an on-line magazine published by the award-winning Jewish Family and Life!, publishers of JFL Books and the journal Sh'ma.]*

**HAPPY  PASSOVER**

## WHAT I'VE LEARNED FROM MY SISTER

*BY JENNIFER BERGER*

In one day, more like in one moment, IT just happened and it changed everything. IT was my sister, Chloe.

“Jenn,” called my stepmother, “Come here, we need to talk to you.”

“What is it?”

“Just come here.”

“Coming!”

“Jenn, we’re thinking of adopting a child. What do you think?”

Four months later, Chloe Lauryn America, this complete stranger to me, was carried off a plane from Guatemala, placed in my father’s arms and nestled forever in my heart. I loved her from the first time that I met her, as much as I could love anyone, just as much as I love my biological brothers. I didn’t and don’t think of her any differently than I do them. I am very proud to call her my sister, and I am very proud that my parents made the decision to adopt.

When my father married my stepmother, they were unable to have any children. My stepmother had no previous children and desperately wanted to have a baby. She didn’t give up when it seemed her hope to have a baby wouldn’t come true. She just found another means to achieve her goal. Even when my paternal grandparents were extremely opposed to the idea, my parents would let nothing stand in their way. Actions speak louder than words, and theirs have told me to pursue my dreams at all costs.

Not only have I learned from my parents, but also (though she is only six years old) I have learned from my sister. This past summer as I was lying on the beach in a blue tie-dyed bikini, comparing my pale skin to my sister’s perfect, natural Hawaiian Tropic tan, I learned from my sister’s indifference to our obvious differences that love is pure and unaffected by physical appearance.

Chloe does know she’s adopted and she is aware of the difference between the two of us. She is of average height and weight, has long legs, poker-straight black hair, tan skin, and big almond-shaped black eyes. I, in

contrast, am four foot eleven, thin with curly brown hair, brown eyes and freckles. Chloe just doesn’t let it bother her that she’s different. Seeing her accept that it is not only okay, but wonderful to be different has made me look at myself and try to have a little more self-confidence. I am different in my religious beliefs, ideas, hobbies, and, sometimes, my morals, than most of the people that I go to school with, but that doesn’t make me any less of a person. I am the shortest and probably youngest looking person in the twelfth grade, but that doesn’t mean I can’t still be attractive. To Chloe, it doesn’t matter what she is wearing or if she looks different, she is herself and that’s all that matters.

Through an adoption support group that my family and I are involved in, I have gained an understanding and tolerance that I may not otherwise have had. I am the Youth Activities Coordinator for Latin American Adoptive Families, which means I volunteer a few hours of my time to dress up like a clown and face paint, organize arts and crafts, or just play with a group of adopted children. Their parents love that they can leave their children with me and talk with other parents about adoption issues. I love spending time with these kids. I can’t even begin to describe what an impact spending time with this diverse group of children has had on me. The group is drawn from countries ranging from Chile, to Peru, to Guatemala. These kids were born in places that I will probably never visit in my lifetime, and it awes me to think of the lives that these Levi-wearing toddlers would have had if they weren’t adopted. If this one little boy, Gabe, was still in Guatemala, he probably would’ve been in an alley sniffing glue to suppress the hunger pains; that is if he lived past age three. My sister probably would have been somebody’s maid. Here, away from the poverty of her birthplace, Chloe’s biggest daily concern is whether or not she’ll have two or three cookies for dessert. It makes me appreciate what I have and I hope that someday I can affect someone’s life the way these adoptive parents have affected their children’s lives.

I hope someday to be successful enough to influence people to be more tolerant and understanding of people of other cultures. I wish that others could learn as I have not to criticize a book before they’ve read it. People will look at my sister, and before she’s said a word will judge her based on her skin color. People will look at me and decide that since I am only a teenager, that I don’t have anything of value to add to the conversation... and they would be wrong.

I see the world as this difficult novel. I am willing to admit that from my sometimes naive view, I don't understand every word. But that only means I need to read it again. Maybe I need to analyze it differently. Maybe it's time everyone dusted off the pages of the book and re-read it.

I want to perform. It's what I do best and enjoy the most. My parents made sacrifices to help me attain my dream. Now it is my turn to fulfill my desire to be a performer and I hope that I can employ their words of encouragement which have always been, "If you want something bad enough, Jenn, then you'll find a way to do it." They certainly did.

Jennifer Lea Berger is a musical theatre major at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, Penna. This essay was written as part of her college application in the Fall of 1998.

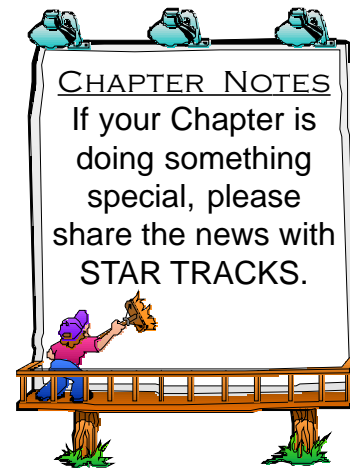
*[This article was originally published on www.JewishFamily.com., an on-line magazine published by the award-winning Jewish Family and Life!, publishers of JFL Books and the journal Sh'ma.]*



"Your Very Own Adoption Story"  
by Margie Mintz  
Conversations Press,  
December, 1999

This Photo Album/Story Book, is a personal way to introduce your child to his/her adoption story. Written and illustrated by adoptive mother and Illustrator, Margie Mintz, this book tells the story, in a warm loving tone, introducing concepts and terms in a comfortable manner, and creating an opening for questions and conversation. It is written in generalized language, so that it fits most of our situations. Within the drawings are designated spaces for parents to insert their own photos, making it truly their child's very own adoption story.

To order, send \$29.00 plus 3.20 postage to  
Conversations Press  
108 Albemarle Road  
Newton, MA 02460  
or go to <http://www.margiemintz.com/AdoptionBook.html> and order from there.



*LOS ANGELES/SAN FERNANDO VALLEY (CA)*

In November we had an adult adoptee speak about her adoption experience. She described her childhood and adolescence and told of her search and reunion with her birth family. It was one of our most popular meetings.

In December we had our annual Hanukkah Party which is especially enjoyable to our families with younger children. We recently had a potluck dinner and planning meeting. Upcoming events include ice skating, another event with an adult adoptee, a Lag B'omer celebration and a kite-flying picnic. We will be doing some outreach in the Jewish community through synagogues and JCCs in the upcoming months.

*CHAVERIM (CHERRY HILL, NJ/PHILADELPHIA, PA)*

STARS OF DAVID CHAVERIM CHAPTER hosted it's first annual full-day adoption seminar entitled "An Adoption Journey: A Day of Learning and Sharing" on November 14, 1999 in Cherry Hill, NJ. Dozens of parents attended workshops including The Halakhah of Adoption; The adoptee in middle childhood and an adult adoptee panel moderated by a birth mother. Children participated in a full-day creative arts workshop run by Andrea Green Feigenbarum, an adoptive parent and the lyricist and composer of the musical adaptation of The Mulberry Bird: An Adoption Story by Anne Braff Brodzinsky, PhD. They made their costumes, created scenery and learned the lyrics to some of the musical numbers. The day culminated in the performance of the musical for the parents and the public. It was very well received. If you would like to be placed on the mailing list for the

next conference contact Debra @856-384-2764 or email: StarsChvrn@aol.com

#### *LONG ISLAND*

Sunday, April 9th, 1:30-3:30. Passover Adventures celebrating our 1st Anniversary. Relay Races, Games, Fun, Light Refreshments. \$15/family.

Mid-Island Y Jewish Community Center, Plainview.

Dress for Playtime! RSVP 516-496-7550 x. 140.

Sunday, June 11th, Shavuot In the Sun! more details to follow.

Sunday, October 29th, Simchat Torah Celebration. more details to follow.

Contact Harriet at HJTD@aol.com

#### *NEW YORK CITY*

ADOPTIVE FAMILY MANHATTAN PURIM CELEBRATION

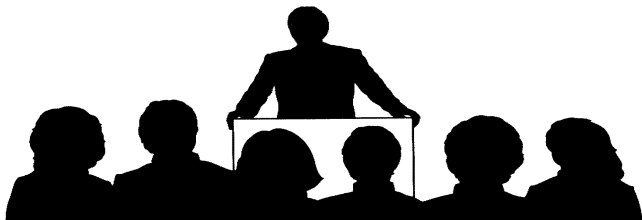
SUNDAY, MARCH 26

CO - SPONSORED BY STARS OF DAVID

10 AM - Noon at Congregation Anshe Chesed, 251 West 100th Street

Supervised play for children under four  
Purim activity for four to twelve year olds  
Bagel breakfast and hamantaschen

Please RSVP by March 20th to Desiree at 212 558-9949, \$15 per family



## **CONFERENCES**

*KOREAN AMERICAN ADOPTEE ADOPTIVE FAMILY NETWORK*

*SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE*

*JULY 21-23 2000*

*"Korean American Identity in the Third Millennium"*

Location: Hilton Hasbrouck Heights Hotel, 650 Terrace Ave., Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey, 076704.

The Conference will feature programs designed for adults, children, teens and college students. Programs include a Kids and Teens and College Students Social Hour Hosted by the Cho Dae Korean Presbyterian Church with book reading and signing by Korean American Author, Marie G. Lee on Friday night; and a

viewing of movie "True" a story about the lives of two unique Americans and their search for the truth about their identity. This will be followed by discussions with creator Jay Koh, adult adoptee actor, Jessie Wine, adult adoptee social worker, Barbara Kim, Korean American second generation attorney, Mark Keam. Book signing with Dr. Edward Taehan Chang author of "Ethnic Peace in the American City: Building Community in Los Angeles and Beyond."

Other programs on tap include: Kids Interactive Program (brush painting with professional artist, Soyoo Park, samulnori (traditional Korean percussion) with Harry Lee, and creative writing with Korean American children's author, Marie Lee; Adult Adoptee & Adoptive Parent Panel Discussion: adoptive parent and Executive Director of NACAC, Joe Kroll and daughter Mei Lin along with adoptive mother Patricia Palmer and son John discuss a full array of challenges, issues and joys of transracial adoption; "Justice for All" a panel discussion on racism directed against Korean Americans with Korean American history presented by Dr. Edward Taehan Chang of the University of California. Dr. Luke Kim and Grace Kim, pioneers in the struggle, will share their experiences involving the landmark discrimination case of Chul So Lee. Senator Paull Shin will give an overview on the legislative perspective and the options open to all to join in this ongoing struggle; and "Race & Cultural Identity" Dr. Amanda Baden, St. Johns University, Dennis Bisgaard, The Collegiate School, present identity issues around transracial Adoption with an additional special focus on biracial identity needs.

The Keynote Luncheon address will be Phoebe Eng, author of Warrior Lessons "an Asian American women's passage into a meaningful sense of power."

For more detailed information call (916) 933-1447, email KAAANet@aol.com or visit KAAANet's website at <http://www.KAAANet.com>. The deadline for registration is May 30, 2000.

*THE CHANGING FACE OF ADOPTION CONFERENCE*

*INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY AUDITORIUM  
MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
(MUSC)*

*CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA  
FRIDAY, APRIL 7 AND SATURDAY, APRIL 8*

Featuring Dr. Patrick Mason of Emory University and Dr. Ron Brown of MUSC as well as other professionals in Social Work and the adoption field, including

adoptive parents. This conference invites consumers and practitioners to participate.

Continuing education credits have been applied for through the University of South Carolina.

Contact Jania Sommers, MSW, LMSW, at 843-766-1120 or Louisa Storen, LPC, LMFT, ACSW at 843-856-3600 for registration and fee information. Seating is limited so please register early (before April 1st) and get a price break too.



*SPENCE CHAPIN ADOPTION RESOURCE CENTER WORKSHOP*

*"VISITING YOUR CHILD'S BIRTH COUNTRY"*

March 22, 2000 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Christ Church, 581 Springfield Ave., Summit, NJ  
\$5 per person

Thinking of traveling for an overseas adoption?  
Visiting a birth country with an older child? Share the experience through slides and discussion with two families who traveled to Korea last spring. Discussion will include issues of cultural identify and meeting foster families.

Call Barbara Partenope, (908) 233-2493 to register



The House of Delegates of the Maryland General Assembly has introduced a Bill for vote in the 2000 Legislative Session, which opened January 12, 2000.

House Bill 61, if voted into law, will reduce the amount of time given to a birth mother to revoke her consent. Currently, a birth mother signs a consent to place the baby for adoption not less than 24 hours after the baby's birth. The birth father can sign the consent at any time after the baby's birth. Each birth parent then has 30 days in which they can revoke their consent (i.e., change their minds). The Bill, as drafted, will reduce this time to 15 days.

There are 34 states that have no revocation periods, and Maryland has the longest. The Bill was introduced to the House of Delegates on January 12th for the first reading, and it will be assigned to a House Standing Committee for Review. (update from Resolve of Maryland)

*ADOPTED ORPHANS CITIZENSHIP ACT*

*(Update from Sue Badeau sbadeau@adopt.org Here is a copy of a floor speech and a memo I wrote about the Adopted Orphans bill while I was in Washington last year)*

Excerpt from Senator Rockefeller's floor statement in support of the bill:

The "Adopted Orphans Citizenship Act" is designed to simplify the process by which internationally adopted children become U.S. citizens. Under current law, U.S. adoptive parents of a child born outside of the United States may apply for naturalization of their child. This process is lengthy, costly and at times frustrating for adoptive parents. And, the final result is that their child is forever a "naturalized" citizen, thereby not able to benefit from the same rights and privileges that a "natural-born" child would receive. It also exposes legally adopted children to the risk of deportation at a later date.

The "Adopted Orphans Citizenship Act" allows foreign-born children who are legally adopted by United States citizens to receive automatic U.S. citizenship, in much the same manner as children born to U.S. citizens residing outside of the country are also conferred automatic citizenship with appropriate documentation. The citizenship would be retroactive to the date of the child's birth.

This bill provides for equal treatment of natural-born and adopted children whose parents are U.S. citizens. In all other respects, under the laws of this Nation, an adopted child is conferred the same rights, duties and other legal privileges and responsibilities as a child born to his parents. By both tradition and law, our country has long treated adopted children the same as children related by blood. This law creates a "level playing field" for natural-born and adopted children as it relates to citizenship.

Imagine a family that adopts two children, one from another country and one from the United States. In all respects, this is one family, and these children are siblings. The parents are expected to love, nurture, provide for and support both children equally. The

children are expected to love, honor, bond with and even fight with one another as siblings do. Yet, one is forever a U.S. citizen, while the other is not. This makes no sense.

In West Virginia, our families have a long tradition of opening their homes to children born both in the United States and abroad through adoption. Of 11 licensed private agencies in our state, 9 provide international services. These families make a great investment financially and emotionally to adopt these children. They go through many “hoops” to become certified and approved to adopt. Some of these families have shared with me their frustration at the added burden they face, upon returning home with their new child and struggling to complete the complex naturalization process. In some ways, this extra step causes them to feel like “second-class citizens”. This legislation eases the burden on these families face and validates them as “first-class Americans”.

This legislation is particularly important for internationally adopted children with special needs. Under current law, until the naturalization process is completed, the child is not entitled to benefits in the United States such as medical coverage or SSI.

This proposed legislation is long over-due. It is good policy and it does not cost anything to implement. I urge my colleagues join us in co-sponsoring and passing this bill.

#### *OREGON LAW UPHELD*

The Nation’s first voter-passed law giving adopted persons access to their birth records was upheld by the Oregon Court of Appeals. The State immediately began processing said records. The three-judge panel said mothers who put their children up for adoption have no constitutional guarantee of privacy, despite promises they received that their identities would be protected.

#### *INFERTILITY INSURANCE* *[This report courtesy of RESOLVE]*

Senator Robert G. Torricelli (D-NJ) is planning to introduce legislation into the U.S. Senate this week that would require insurance to cover the diagnosis and treatment of infertility. His bill will be similar to H.R. 2706, a bill that was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives in August by Rep. Anthony Weiner (D-NY).

Senator Torricelli is looking for Republican Senators to cosponsor this legislation with him. It is very important that you contact your Senators and ask them to cosponsor Senator Torricelli’s infertility insurance legislation. Ask them to contact Senator Torricelli’s office to find out more about the legislation and to become cosponsors. This is particularly important if you have a Republican Senator.

To reach your Senators, call the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121 and ask to be connected to your Senator’s office. If you do not know the names of your Senators, you can send an e-mail to [dwachenheim@resolve.org](mailto:dwachenheim@resolve.org), mention the state where you live to find out who your Senators are. Or you can go to <http://www.senate.gov>.



COMPUTER RESOURCES

<http://www.starsofdavid.org> - STARS OF DAVID INTERNATIONAL

\*\*\*\*\*

ADOPTION FEATURED ON [jewishfamily.com](http://www.jewishfamily.com)

This month’s online issue of “Jewish Family and Life” features the topic of Adoption. There are many excellent articles and information about helpful resources, including Stars of David. Go to: <http://www.jewishfamily.com> and click on “Adoption.”

See links to the following stories or reviews:

- “Adoption as a Spiritual Journey” by Rabbi Susan Silverman
- “Single, Jewish Female—Mom!” by Myra Alperon
- “Resources for the Jewish Family Touched by Adoption”
- “Old and New Approaches to Emerging Developments in the Jewish Family” by Richard Shevitz, a review of “Adoption and the Jewish Family: Contemporary Perspectives” by Shelley K. Rosenberg, Ed.D.
- “Tips on Appropriate Language to use when Referring to Adoptions” by Shelley K. Rosenberg, Ed. D., adapted from Pat Johnston
- “Adopting Across Racial Lines” by Miriam Weinstein
- “And Hannah Wept: Infertility, Adoption, and the

Jewish Couple” by Rabbi Michael Gold  
 “A Ceremony to Welcome our Daughter” by Simcha  
 and Geela-Rayzel Raphael  
 “A Jewish Rainbow” transcultural and transracial  
 adoption by Shelley K. Rosenberg, Ed.D.  
 “The Cloud in the Desert” by Anne Ludden  
 “But is He Jewish?” by Anne Ludden  
 “On Adopting Children from a Different Religion and  
 Culture” (my experiences with Eric and Christopher)  
 by Cheryl H. Lieberman, Ph.D.  
 “Three Times Different” about adoption, disabilities,  
 and Judaism by Shelley K. Rosenberg, Ed.D.  
 “Gay Adoption” by Jane Calem Rosen  
 “Parenthood as the Ultimate Identity” by Amand  
 Krotki a review of “The Velveteen Father” by Jesse  
 Green  
 “Finding a Person to Parent My Child in  
 the Event of My Death” by Anne  
 Ludden  
 “Couples Who Need Kids” by Ilene  
 Springer on infertility and marriage  
 “Embracing Mystery, Meeting Life” by  
 Rabbi Susan Silverman on the  
 adoption of her son  
 “The Anguish of Infertility” a review of  
 “Wanting a Child” edited by Jill  
 Bialosky and Helen Schulman and  
 reviewed by Judith Bolton-Fasman  
 “Infertility” by Dr. Michael R. Mantel  
 “Adopted Jews” a review by Rabbi Michael Gold of  
 “Swimming Across the Hudson” by Josh Henkin

The site also includes adoption questions for open discussion:

“Why doesn’t every family adopt one child so that all  
 children will have a home?”  
 “What is your definition of a family?”  
 “In what ways would you say adoption is good for the  
 Jewish people?”

\*\*\*\*\*

Articles for and about children can be located at:

<http://adoption.about.com/home/adoption/msubkids.htm>

KidSource Online, an email newsletter providing information on children’s health and education: <http://www.kidsource.com/subscribe.html>

*[These sites were provided by Pat Johnston of Perspectives Press]*

<http://www.r2press.com>, a series of useful booklets (open adoption pocket guides) including:

<http://adoptshop.com/birrolfinour.html> Being a Birthparent; <http://adoptshop.com/birrolfinour.html>: Finding Our Place and <http://adoptshop.com/birgrief.html> Birthparent Grief, which will prove to be invaluable resources to both birthfamilies and adopting families

Adoptive mom Cynthia Peck’s beautifully revamped website for her magazine <http://www.rootsandwingsmagazine.com> features a new article each and every week. This week’s article is Joann Brouck’s essay on adoption and the media “The Missing Part”

Adoptive parent publisher Brian Boyd, at <http://www.yeongandyeong.com> Yeong and Yeong Book Company, focuses his work on adoption from Asia. His most recent offering is <http://www.yeongandyeong.com/voices.htm> Voices from Another Place, a collection of works from a generation born in Korea and adopted to other countries edited by Susan Soon-Keum Cox in conjunction with The Gathering, a first-ever “reunion” of adults adopted from Korea held in 1999. Fiction, memoir, poetry and art from the first generation of Korean adoptees who are now grown to adulthood, but never completely removed from their roots in Korea. The writings and artwork contained in Voices from Another Place reflect the experiences and emotions of those who began life in Korea, but were raised by adoptive families in America, Europe and Australia. From childhood they grew into their adopted cultures, but the reflection in the mirror, the whispers of strangers, and the quiet beating of their hearts perhaps told them of another land, the land of their birth.

<http://www.pactadopt.org> Pact: An Adoption Alliance, which centers its work on the adoption of children of color, has an article on creating The Life Story Book <http://www.pactadopt.org/press/articles/lifestory.html> by Perspectives Press author Vera I. Fahlberg

Perspectives Press: The Infertility and Adoption Publisher, where you’ll find articles and excerpts for sharing, and much, much more. <http://www.perspectivespress.com/ourfactsheets.html>



THE  
YOUNG  
ADOPTEE  
IN  
SCHOOL



BY NANCY  
GOLDEN

*This is the first in a series of articles focusing on the adopted child in school. This issue's column will discuss ways to help your child get off to a good start. Future articles will focus on whether or not to let your child's teacher know about his adoptive status, ways to become an effective advocate in the school, and assignments which may prove difficult because the focus is on genetics, heredity or ethnic origins.*

The first day of school can raise significant separation issues for the child and his parents. The parents must manage their feelings about letting go. The child must begin a life outside of the safety and familiarity of his home. For some adoptive families, this first real separation can be especially difficult. Adoptive parents often have a tougher time letting go. Perhaps it's harder because you have waited so long and worked so hard to become parents that the first day of school feels like something is being lost or that the special connection will just never be the same. One adoptive mom described attending her daughter's preschool assembly. With giant tears running down her face, this warm and loving mom told me how the speaker had predicted that it might be hard for some parents to let go when their child entered public school. Just telling me about the assembly created another emotionally difficult moment for this mother.

In his article, SCHOOL DAYS; A LETTER TO ADOPTIVE PARENTS, Randy Severson, Ph.D., encourages parents to prepare themselves to let go. According to Randy, "every child must make his own way in the world, and along the way are countless bumps and bruises, some of which, no doubt, will be related to adoption. But children are resilient and usually bounce back none the worse." This author reminds us that the best adoptive parent is confident, concerned and capable of letting go.

But how can the adoptive mom described above become the confident mom? One way is to acknowledge the feelings of discomfort and to talk about them. Often sharing our feelings, with a spouse, family member or close friend significantly relieves the anxiety. Hearing our fears, we may recognize that they

are, in fact, pretty normal. When others validate our feelings as real we are comforted. On the other hand, if feelings seem overwhelming and do not diminish significantly over time, you may want to consider seeking help from a professional. Sometimes the struggle of letting go can be greatly intensified by old pains that have not been sufficiently worked through. When under stress, the pain of unresolved infertility or entitlement issues can exacerbate the pain at hand. Do not pretend the emotional pain is not there. Take care of yourself so that you can take care of your child.

A child's first day of school is never easy. Spending the whole day in school, with new friends, teachers, and a myriad of rules presents an enormous challenge for the child. Author Holly van Gulden, in an article addressing issues of school separation notes, "it's not unusual for adopted children, particularly those who joined their families at an older age, to begin acting out after about the first three hours of the school day." She goes on to explain the reason for this behavior is that three hours is "about all their sense of object constancy can carry them." Object constancy is the child's ability to hold on to the image of his parents as loving and caring for him, even when they are not present. When the child loses this sense of being cared for by his loving parents, he becomes anxious. His anxiety seeps out into behaviors that do not promote an attention towards learning.

The child's sense of object constancy develops over time and he is therefore able to manage longer periods of time away from his parents. The adopted child placed after infancy often needs time to catch up, as he has, in fact, had these loving parents available to him for a shorter period of time.

One seven year old, recently adopted from Russia, was having trouble managing himself all day in school. Working with the family, I explained that Michael (not his real name) had had less time to be "his new Mommie's son" than the other boys had with their mommies. In fact, I suggested, we develop a plan to help him feel as though he "had his Mommy in school" with him. While Joey was delighted with that possibility, obviously, Mommy couldn't really be in school with Joey.

How could we "get" a part of Mommy in school with Joey? One way was to promote a sense of Mommy thinking about Joey during the day. During a family trip to Mom's office, Mom took great pains to describe to her son how she sat at her desk at certain intervals during the day, and thought about him and about

things they would do together later that night. Following my suggestions, this Mom encouraged her son to think about what he was doing, (eating lunch, on the play ground, having an afternoon snack), when she was also thinking about him. In therapy, and later at home, Joey and his Mom pinpointed the times during the day when they would be thinking of each other. Role-playing helped Joey to act out what he would be doing in school and see Mom act out what she would be doing at work, when they “held each other in their minds”. Making that connection helped Joey to be able to “picture” his Mom and “see” them doing things together.

Having a surprise from Mommy in his lunchbox also helped Joey feel that she was “there” with him. A laminated photo of Mom also began going to school in Joey’s pocket. We decided to staple a piece of velvet on one corner of the picture for him to rub on an “as needed” basis. The picture of Mom became an important transitional object for Joey. Interestingly enough, Joey told me that when the other kids asked about the picture, he replied, “Well, I just need this for a little while — you see, I haven’t had my Mom as long as you have had yours”.



## ADOPTION IN THE JEWISH WORLD

BY STEVE & VICKI KRAUSZ

Almost ten years ago, the Jewish Children’s Adoption Network was founded because we discovered that Jewish children often get placed in non-Jewish homes even though many Jewish homes are eager to adopt. In that space of time, we have found homes for over 1,000 Jewish children (85% of them with special needs) and have talked to thousands of Jewish families about adoption. Some thoughts come to mind:

Some families are desperate to adopt. They will take risks they wouldn’t otherwise consider, go to places they wouldn’t otherwise visit, because of that sense of desperation. The Jewish value placed on family, and the stigma of childlessness, are undoubtedly factors in this attitude. We encourage families interested in adoption to look less at what they want from a child, and more at what they can offer a child.

We encourage families to discard the fantasy of the Gerber baby, and accept the reality of children that need homes. We remind people that if they want to

wait for a perfect baby, they may wait forever. We encourage families adopting non-Jewish children and converting them to Judaism to be aware that when their child becomes 18, he/she might decide that Christianity or Buddhism, or whatever, the religion of their birth family, is what they were meant to be. Are you willing to be happy that you have raised a child to adulthood and to be a productive member of society, even if they prefer not to accept your Judaism? (This could, of course, happen with kids born to you, too!).

But, more importantly, over the past years we have personally adopted three Jewish kids with special needs, in open adoptions where we have significant contact with their birth families. These have been absolutely great experiences. We hope to share some of our experiences with you in future editions of the newsletter.

## Jewish Adoption With a Queer Twist

By Arlene (Ari) Istar Lev CSW-R, CASAC

I was just asked to speak in a university class by two different students in the same class, each unaware that the other had asked. One wanted me to speak on being a “lesbian adoptive mom”; the other wanted me to speak on being a “a trans-racially adoptive mom.” How do I split up these identities as if they do not all belong to me?

I can understand someone wanting me to speak on, say, lesbian parenting, or adoptive parenting — and certainly there are unique issues for each of these — but I do not know how to split up the “parenting” parts of me into these discreet pieces for examination. How can I separate out being a lesbian mom, from being simply a mom? How can I talk about being an adoptive mom, with out talking about my mixed race family? How can I talk about any of these issues without talking about being Jewish and how that informs all the other categories of identity my son and I experience?

It is time for the Jewish community to begin to look holistically at the issues impacting Jewish adoptive families who are also lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender. Let this column be a start.

*Arlene (Ari) Istar Lev is an individual and family therapist specializing in working with the lesbian, gay,*

bisexual and transgender community. She is on the adjunct faculties of SUNY Albany School of Social Welfare, and Vermont College of Norwich University. Arlene can be reached at Choices Counseling and Consulting , 321 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12206. 518-463-9152, <mailto:Istarlev@aol.com>. <http://www.choicesconsulting.com>

You can read my article on Lesbian and Gay Parenting through Alternative Family Magazine (<http://altfammag.com> <back issues>). I am open to hearing from your suggestions for topics that you might be interested in reading about.

[A different version of this article originally appeared on AOL's "Parents On Q" column. It was reprinted with the author's permission]

#### A MESSAGE TO OUR MEMBERS

Those of you who subscribe to the Jewish Adoption Listserv are probably aware of some controversy that arose after the last issue of Star Tracks was distributed. From time to time we had been reprinting some posts to that listserv within Star Tracks, feeling that the ideas expressed would be of interest and of use to our members. We made the unfortunate error of not requesting prior permission of the authors to reprint their words, and even though the comments were anonymized, some individuals who had been quoted had strong objections to their words being used without their consent. The following was posted to the listserv, on behalf of the Board. It is reprinted here with apologies to our members and those offended, and serves as a statement of future policy:

On behalf of Stars of David, I offer abject apologies to anyone quoted in the last issue of Star Tracks whose anonymized words were used without their permission and who has been offended by that action. I hasten to remind all that the "organization" of Stars of David is a loosely-joined group of parent volunteers hoping to provide a useful service for the Jewish adoption community. Sometimes we soar, sometimes we stumble, sometimes we blunder, but never is any action we take with any other goal than to be of service, a source of information and support. Any postings from this list, or elsewhere on the Internet, which have been used in Star Tracks were there because they were felt to be of benefit to the broader community our membership represents. After years of trying to help build this organization, with sensitivity to the feelings and needs of its membership always being foremost, it

is personally devastating to me to think that any action of Stars, made in good faith, would cause anyone to feel alienated from Stars, from the Jewish adoption community, and/or this list. We will make every effort henceforth to obtain permission before publishing quotations, either anonymous or attributed.

B'shalom  
Ilene [Schwartz]

#### STAR TRACKS ADVERTISING RATE SCHEDULE

All rates are per issue:

FULL PAGE	\$100.00
HALF PAGE	55.00
1/4 PAGE	30.00
1/8 PAGE	16.50
BUSINESS CARD	15.00

Advertising deadline for next issue (Summer/Shavuot): May 8, 2000

Contact: David Sloves, Editor  
STAR TRACKS  
326 Fifth Street  
Saddle Brook, NJ 07663-6330

STAR TRACKS retains the absolute and unqualified right to reject advertising from any group or individual, or to reject the copy, language, or format of any advertising submitted for publication. STAR TRACKS does not endorse, and does not accept responsibility for, any advertiser or any product or service advertised in the newsletter.

#### JEWISH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

(all holidays begin at sundown the previous night)

March 20	13 Adar	Fast of Esther
March 21	14 Adar	Purim
April 19	14 Nisan	First Seder
April 20	15 Nisan	Pesach first day/Second Seder
April 21	16 Nisan	Pesach second day
April 26	21 Nisan	Pesach seventh day
April 27	22 Nisan	Pesach eighth day
May 2	27 Nisan	Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day)
May 9	4 Iyyar	Yom Hazikaron (Israeli Memorial Day)
May 10	5 Iyyar	Yom Ha'Atzmaut (Israeli Independence Day)
May 23	18 Iyyar	Lag B'Omer
June 2	28 Iyyar	Yom Yerushalayim (Celebration of the reunification of Jerusalem)
June 9-10	6-7 Sivan	Shavuot

STARS OF DAVID CHAPTERS AND CONTACTS - THE FOLLOWING IS A LISTING OF CURRENT STARS OF DAVID CHAPTERS AND CONTACTS AS OF 9/99. SHOULD YOU WISH TO START A CHAPTER OR BE AN AREA CONTACT, PLEASE CALL NATIONAL CHAPTER COORDINATOR SUE KATZ AT 1-800-STAR-349. SHOULD YOU WISH TO CONTACT SOMEONE LOCALLY, PLEASE CALL THE CLOSEST CHAPTER OR CONTACT LISTED.

**CHAPTERS**

- CA EAST BAY CHAPTER, Ellen Geisler, Walnut Creek, (925) 932-3078; MikeREllen@aol.com.
- CA LOS ANGELES/SAN FERNANDO VALLEY CHAPTER, Curtis & Myrna Miller, Northridge, (818) 368-0737; MyrnaM3@aol.com
- CA ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER, Marcia Marsinko, JFS, Orange, (714) 445-4950
- CA SAN DIEGO, Bonnie Baron, 619-291-0473; Fax 619-291-2419, jfs-sd@msn.com
- CA SOUTH BAY/SUNNYVALE CHAPTER, Marcia Stein, Cupertino, (408) 996-9752; RecruitsCa@aol.com
- CT S. CONNECTICUT CHAPTER, Joel & Debbie Sachs, Hamden, (203) 389-5400 (H)/(203) 288-7771 (O); debkasa@aol.com
- DC METRO DC CHAPTER, Mark Eckman, 703-242-8800, FAX 703-242-8804; datz@patriot.net
- FL SOUTH FLORIDA CHAPTER, Mark Cherny, JFS, Boca Raton, 561-852-3333
- FL TAMPA CHAPTER, Patricia Leib Lerner, Tampa, (813) 276-1776 W)
- GA ATLANTA CHAPTER, Judith Golden, JFS, (770) 955-8550, Jalleh Treadwell (770) 971-1119
- HI SHALOHA CHAPTER, Jana Wolff, Honolulu, 808-988-6789; FAX 808-988-1989; wolffwrite@aol.com
- IL CHICAGO AREA CHAPTER, Susan M. Katz, Northbrook, (847) 509-9929, starsdavid@aol.com
- KA KANSAS CITY CHAPTER, Lisa Gibson, Kansas City, 816-361-2787, KCMOGIB@aol.com
- MD CENTRAL MARYLAND REGION CHAPTER, Gail Lipsitz, JFS Baltimore, (410) 466-9200 ext. 234
- MI METRO DETROIT CHAPTER, Rosa Schindler, (248) 661-3978 and Judi Shapiro (248) 626-2716, West Bloomfield, JFS, Diane St. Peter, (248) 559-1500
- MO ST. LOUIS CHAPTER, Terry Abrams, Chesterfield, (314) 207-6682.
- NE OMAHA CHAPTER, Jenny Meyerson, JFS, (402) 330-2024
- NJ BRUNSWICK AREA CHAPTER, Joy Willinger, Dayton (732-329-8043; willinge@rci.rutgers.edu
- NJ CENTRAL JERSEY CHAPTER, Bill Schwartz, (732) 450-1576
- NJ DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER, Pam & Tom Austin, (609) 779-2672 or Sandy & Mark Miller, (609) 753-1753
- NJ NORTH JERSEY CHAPTER, Cindy Ratner, Wayne, (973) 694-1691
- NJ CHAVERIM CHAPTER, Debra Berger, (856) 384-2764, StarsChvrn@aol.com; Marlyn Kress, Mt. Laurel, NJ 856-866-0055, email: marlkress@aol.com
- NY BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY, Elizabeth Lance, JFS Buffalo & Erie County, (716) 883-1914
- NY NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER, Stars of David Coordinator, Jewish Child Care Association, New York, (212) 303-4722; JCCANAP@aol.com
- NY ROCHESTER CHAPTER, Miriam Rudnick, Rochester, (716) 473-2035
- NY ROCKLAND COUNTY CHAPTER, Devorah Kroll, JFS New City, (914) 354-2121; abramson@cjf.noli.com
- NY SYRACUSE CHAPTER, JFCS, Judy Friedman, 315-445-0820
- NC TRIANGLE CHAPTER, Melissa Segal, Durham, 919-489-5335; FAX 919-489-5788, jfeddch@mindspring.com; Ann Hess, JFS Raleigh, (916) 676-2200, Ann\_Hess@wcjf.org
- OH COLUMBUS CHAPTER, Beth Gerber, JFS, Columbus, (614) 421-7709
- OH TOLEDO CHAPTER, Kathryn B. Linver, JFS, Sylvania, (419) 885-2561
- OR PORTLAND CHAPTER, Terry Vinocur, JFS, Portland (503)-226-7079
- RI RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER, Roberta Schneider, (401) 431-0728; LJS3@aol.com
- TX HOUSTON CHAPTER, Deborah Cohen, Houston, (713) 667-8552
- VA NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER, Stanton Phillips, Arlington, (703) 522-8800, adoptlawr@aol.com
- WI MILWAUKEE CHAPTER, Judy Berkowitz, (414) 390-3800
- AL Birmingham, Esther Schuster, JFS, (205) 879-3438
- CA Irvine, Ellen Simpson, (714) 857-1986; elsimpo@uci.edu
- CA Sacramento, Tim Prince, JFS, (916) 921-1921
- CA San Francisco, Lynn Fingerman, JFCS, (415) 202-7494
- CA Santa Barbara, Laurel Rose, JFS, (805) 962-0770
- CO Denver, Milly Nadler, Denver, (303) 922-3037; mnadler@ecentral.com
- CT Bridgeport, Barbara Paris, JFS, (203) 366-5438
- CT New London, Laurie Denenberg, JFS, (203) 444-6333
- CT Norwalk, Nancy Salk & Robert Jellinek, (203) 866-1276
- FL Ft. Lauderdale, Rosemary Marsten, JFS, (305) 749-1505
- FL Ft. Lauderdale, Bennett & Mindy-Jo Lorman, Ft. Lauderdale, (305) 749-1526 (H)/(305) 763-8973 (W)
- FL Lauderhill, Rabbi Michael Gold, (305) 721-7660
- FL Miami, Naomi Sternberg, JFS, (305) 672-8080
- IA Des Moines, Susan H. Sandler, JFS, (515) 255-7163
- KY Louisville, Judy Freundlich Tiell, JFS, (502) 452-6341
- LA New Orleans, Roberta Hirsu, JFS, (504) 831-8475
- MA Holliston, Joan Clark, Open Door Society of Mass, (800) 93-ADOPT
- MA N. Andover, Marla S. Lichtman, JFS, (508) 683-6711
- MA Salem, David H. Colten, JFS, (978) 741-7878 X21, Fax: (978)-741-8383
- MA Springfield, Lisa Burch, JFS, (413) 737-2601
- MA Westboro, Donna Davis, Westboro, (508) 898-1515 or Linda & Steve Lewis, Brighton, (617) 787-8521 or Peter Gibbs, JFCS, Boston, 617-227-5587.
- ME Bangor, Rabbi Joseph Schonberger, (207) 947-5558
- MI Ann Arbor, Lauren Mermelstein, (313) 663-7352
- MN Afton, Amy Silberberg, (612) 436-2015
- NC Charlotte, JFS, (704) 364-6594
- NJ Asbury Park, Roberta Taffer, JFS, (732) 774-6886
- NJ Cherry Hill, Meira Itzkowitz, JFCS, (609) 424-1333
- NJ Highland Park, Reva Kaufman, (908) 545-7174
- NJ Ventnor, Matt Greenberg, JFS, (609) 822-1108
- NV Las Vegas, Jani Novotny, JFS, (702) 732-0340
- NY Albany, Esther Greenberg, JFS, (518) 482-8856
- NY Brooklyn, Rabbi Linda & Henry Goodman, (718) 638-7600
- NY Brooklyn, Lonnie & Dianne Jacobson, (718) 435-8387
- NY Duaneburg, Alan Krieger, (518) 895-8001
- NY Endwell, Babs Putzel-Bischoff, (607) 785-6787
- NY Manlius, Howard & Sara Alexander, (315) 682-7389
- NY New City, JFS Rockland County, (914) 638-2121
- NY Poughkeepsie, Susan Goodman Goldstein, JFS, (914) 471-9817
- OH Akron, Mimi Surloff, JFS, (216) 867-3388
- OH Beachwood, Paula Reshotko, (216) 831-0700
- OH Dayton, Marilyn Lustig, JFS, (513) 854-2944; jfs@jfgd.net
- PA Allentown, Adoption Coordinator, JFS, (610) 821-8722
- PA Harrisburg, Ellen Rabin, JFS, (717) 233-1681
- PA Philadelphia, Shelley Sanders, JFS, (215) 698-9950; adoption@voicenet.com
- PA Philadelphia, also see CHAVERIM CHAPTER, Debra Berger, (609) 384-2764, snjstars@aol.com
- PA Scranton, Sheila Nudelman, JFS, (717) 344-1186
- PA Wilkes-Barre, Ann Smith, JFS, (717) 823-5137
- SC Greenwood, Michael Ritter & Sara Paulin, 864-388-0784, phoenix2@greenwood.net
- TN Memphis, Penny Glatstein, JFS, (901) 767-8511
- TN Nashville, Teri Sogol, JFS, (615) 356-4234
- TX Austin, Leah Cohen, JFS, (512) 795-8092 or Melinda Steffey, MMSteffey@aol.com
- TX Dallas, Sherrie Portwood, JFS, (214) 437-9950
- TX Fort Worth Michelle Adler, JFS,
- VA Norfolk, Debra F. Mayer, JFS, (804) 489-3111
- VA Richmond, Stefanie Master, JFS, (804) 282-5644
- VT Burlington, Anita Cohn, (802) 864-9136; ALC VT@aol.com
- WI Madison, Barbara Spierer, JFS, (608) 278-1808
- WI Middleton, Joanna Berke-Lynch, (608) 831-1596 (H)/(608) 231-3426 (W)

CONTACTS - in order by city names

- CANADA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, Vancouver, Elsa Weinstein, (604) 876-4543
- CANADA, ONTARIO, Ottawa, JFS Ottawa/Carleton, (613) 789-1800
- CANADA, ONTARIO, Susan Brandes, JFCS Toronto, (416) 638-7800
- CANADA, QUEBEC, JFS, Willowdale, Montreal, (514) 342-0000

## 2000-2001 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

•If you belong to or are joining a chapter, please remit your national dues to your local treasurer. If you would like to join or renew as an at-large member, return this form with your check for \$18/family, \$25/professional or agency payable to Stars of David International, Inc., to:

Debra A.W. Berger, P.O. Box 573, Woodbury, NJ 08096-0573.

NAME(S): PHONE: (     )

ADDRESS: FAX: (     )

CITY/STATE/ZIP: E-MAIL:

ALL CHILDREN (name, birthdate, country):

CHAPTER JOINED \_\_\_\_\_ AT-LARGE MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_

NEW MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ FAMILY \_\_\_\_\_ PROF./AGENCY \_\_\_\_\_

Please \_\_\_ publish \_\_\_ do not publish our names on the national membership list.

### **Stars of David International, Inc.**

17 Wytchwood Court #202

Baltimore, MD 21209

## **Address Correction Requested**