

# STAR TRACKS

Publication of Stars of David International, Inc.

Editor: Debra A.W. Berger

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International, Inc.  
Member NACAC and JCICS



## From the Editor's Desk



The days are getting longer and warmer, the trees and bushes are sprouting buds, and there is no doubt that Spring is around the corner. Spring makes me think of new beginnings and while Star Tracks is not new, with this issue, we are introducing two new columns: a single parenting column, called Solo Parenting, by Marlyn Kress and other guest writers, and a new parenting series, by Linda Yellin, MSW, ACSW, on adoption as a lifelong and an intergenerational journey. In the Your Turn column an adoptive parent writes about “real parents” and his reaction to hearing this term from his Rabbi!

On another note, my life has calmed down considerably since the events of 9/11 and the recent serious illness of my mother. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who wrote or called with concern and wishes for my mom’s speedy recovery. I am very grateful to you for your kindness and support.

I also want to take this time to thank those who’ve written and called with kudos, suggestions and constructive criticism regarding the new Star Tracks' format and content. This is your “magazine” and we strive to make it informative, easy and fun to read. Please keep your ideas and suggestions coming!! Remember that you are welcome, and encouraged, to contribute to this newsletter by writing about your views on adoption, mother- or fatherhood or anything else related to adoption—Jewish or otherwise.

B'Shalom,

*Debra Berger*

*“Real isn't how you are made. It's a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but **really** loves you, then you become real.”*  
—The Velveteen Rabbit



### IN THIS ISSUE

- NEW Solo Parenting Column
- Adoption is Intergenerational—Part One
- Adoption from Afghanistan
- Stars of David Tribute Cards
- Passover Lemon Squares



### COMING ATTRACTIONS

- Tribute Card Graphic and Ordering Process
- Adoption is Intergenerational—Part Two

### *COMING SOON!!! STARS OF DAVID INTERNATIONAL TRIBUTE CARDS*

In June 2002 you will be able to order Stars of David tribute cards. These illustrated cards can be sent to those who mean the most to you. They are perfect for anniversaries, birthdays, weddings, birth, illness, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, graduations, engagements, promotions, a thank you, memorials and any simcha. A card is available for a minimum donation of \$5.00 or six cards for a \$25.00 donation. You will have the choice of mailing the cards to the honoree yourself or we can do it for you. Your donation (which may be tax deductible) will help us in our mission to continue to provide a network of support for Jewish and interfaith Jewish adoptive families. Contributions will be acknowledged in each issue of *Star Tracks*. Specific details will be outlined in the next newsletter. We greatly appreciate your support.

MEMBERSHIP EXPIRED? IF THE DATE ON YOUR MAILING LABEL IS HIGHLIGHTED THIS IS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER. PLEASE MAIL IN YOUR RENEWAL DUES TO KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP CURRENT.



**STARS OF DAVID: THE JEWISH ADOPTION NETWORK** is a non-profit organization providing a compassionate network of adoption information, support and education to prospective parents, adoptive families, adult adoptees, birth families, and the Jewish community.

For more information/  
membership contact: Marlyn Kress, P.O. Box 66, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054-0066, 856-866-0055, [markress@comcast.net](mailto:markress@comcast.net)

**STAR TRACKS** is a publication of STARS OF DAVID INTERNATIONAL, INC.. Any requests to reprint any portion of this material should be made to Debra A.W. Berger, Star Tracks, Editor, P.O. Box 573, Woodbury, New Jersey 08096-0573, Toll-free 1-888-550-3732, [StarTrackss@aol.com](mailto:StarTrackss@aol.com)

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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 its members. Stories and editorial submissions are welcome, however, Star Tracks retains the absolute right to accept, reject or edit any submission. We cannot assume responsibility for unsolicited material or guarantee its return. If you would like it returned please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Hotline: 1-800-STAR-349  
E-mail: [StarsDavid@aol.com](mailto:StarsDavid@aol.com)  
WEBSITE: <http://www.starsofdavid.org>



## CONFERENCES MEETINGS & EVENTS

To list your conferences, meetings or events in Star Tracks please send listings, including name of event, date, time, place and contact information. Deadlines for subsequent issues are: May 1 for Summer (June), August 1 for High Holidays (Sept/Oct) and November 1 for Hanukkah (Nov/Dec). Your listing will be included as space permits.

### CALIFORNIA

*PACT, AN ADOPTION ALLIANCE'S MYTHS vs REALITY IN ADOPTION*, March 9, 2002, The Scottish Rite Center, 1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland. Contact 510-243-9460

### ILLINOIS

NACAC's 28<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE will be held in Chicago this year, August 1-4, 2002 at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare in Chicago. Stars of David/Chicago Chapter, Adoptive Families Today and Chicago Area Families for Adoption have opted to help NACAC with their conference. More information to follow.

### MARYLAND

*LATINO FEST*, Lively Weekend of Hispanic arts, music and culture, June 29 & 30, Patterson Park, Baltimore., \$3.00/adult, children under 12 are free. 410-783-5404, [www.eblo.org](http://www.eblo.org)

*CAMP MABUHAY* for families of adopted children of Filipino heritage. July 12-14, in Columbia. Email: [djh@eqsystems.com](mailto:djh@eqsystems.com).

### MASSACHUSETTS

*ODS ADOPTION COMMUNITY OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.* will hold its 29<sup>th</sup> annual New England Adoption Conference at Milford High School in Milford on April 6, 2002. Contact 508-429-4260 or 800-93-ADOPT.

### NEW JERSEY

29<sup>th</sup> SEMIANNUAL AMERICAN INDIAN ARTS FESTIVAL, Representatives and crafts of many Latin American Indian tribes (Aztec, Maya, etc) May 18 & 19, Rankokus Indian Reservation, Westhampton. Adults \$10.00, Seniors and Children \$4.00, Children 5 and under: FREE! Contact 609-261-4747 or [www.powhatan.org](http://www.powhatan.org).

### NEW YORK

*JEWISH CHILD CARE ASSOCIATION'S AMETZ PROGRAMS* - for info 212-558-9949

*ANNUAL INFERTILITY, ADOPTION AND THE FAMILY SYMPOSIUM*, UJA-Federation in Manhattan, April 7, 2002. Keynote: Adam Pertman, author *Adoption Nation: How the Adoption Revolution is Transforming the Nation*. Over two dozen workshops available.

*HOW TO ADOPT FOR NY AND NJ RESIDENTS*, 130 E. 59<sup>th</sup> Street, Manhattan.

April 9 & 14 for Domestic and China adoption, June 11 for Domestic, Colombia and Guatemala

**ADOPTIVE PARENTING 101**, 130 E. 59<sup>th</sup> Street, Manhattan. April 11—Lullaby and Goodnight: Sleeping through the Night, May 9—So Your Kid Won't Eat Spinach: Taking the Battle out of Mealtime and June 13—Now That We're a Family: Facing Future Challenges.

**MANHATTAN ADOPTIVE FAMILY PROGRAM** at the JCC of Manhattan, 76<sup>th</sup> Street and Amsterdam Avenue. April 21—Parenting Style and Expectations, May 19—What We're Born with...What We Learn: Nature vs Nurture, June 23, End-of-Year Celebration.

**BROOKLYN ADOPTIVE FAMILY PROGRAM**, Congregation Beth Elohim, 274 Garfield Place, Brooklyn. April 7—Parenting Style and Expectations, May 5—Is Adoptive Parenting Different?, June 2—End of Year Celebration.

**LONG ISLAND ADOPTIVE FAMILY PROGRAM**, F.E.G.S. Offices, 6900 Jericho Turnpike, Syosset. April 18—Medical Prep: What You Need to Know Before You Travel, May 23—Working with a Pediatrician, May TBA—End of Year Celebration and June 20—Multicultural Families. For info: 516-496-7550 X 140

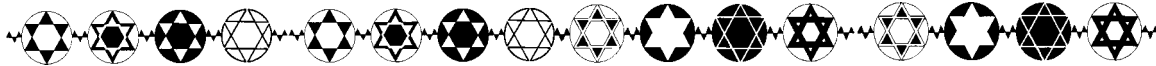
#### PENNSYLVANIA

**INTERNATIONAL PARENT-to-PARENT CONFERENCE: IN THE SPIRIT OF SHARING, MAKING THE CONNECTIONS**, April 5-7, 2002 at the Philadelphia Marriott, Philadelphia, PA. Contact 717-540-4722 or 1-800-459-1838. For conference updates or info to join a list serve: [www.parenttoparent.org](http://www.parenttoparent.org)

**20th ANNUAL MAYA WEEKEND: A MAYA K'ATUN CELEBRATION**, April 5-7, at the University of Pennsylvania Museum, Philadelphia, PA, 215-898-4890. Email: [events@museum.upenn.edu](mailto:events@museum.upenn.edu)

**AMERICAN ADOPTION CONFERENCE (AAC)** will present its 24<sup>th</sup> annual conference in Philadelphia, PA on April 10-14. Contact Betsy Forrest, 201-891-4234

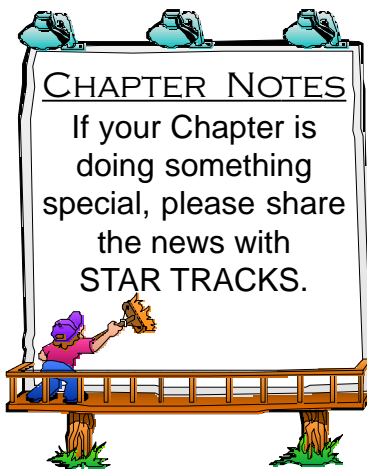
**MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT WEEKEND FOR SPECIAL NEEDS ADOPTIVE PARENTS**, May 17-19, 2002 at Black Rock Retreat Center in Quarryville, PA. For info call Elaine at 215-628-0202, X 209.



**CHAVERIM CHAPTER** – In the last issue of Star Tracks we announced that we are considering bi-monthly meetings. We've received a good response and we are planning for a meeting in April. Now we are asking you for meeting suggestions. Please call or email with your ideas. Debra 856-384-2764 or email: [StarsChvrn@aol.com](mailto:StarsChvrn@aol.com)

**CHICAGO CHAPTER** – In December we successfully entertained over 150 members and guests at our Hanukkah party co-sponsored with the Jewish Children's Bureau. We enjoyed latkes and yummy food and the children made a number of different crafts. Songs were sung, faces were painted, caricatures were drawn and a magician performed. We lit our menorah and learned the prayers.

We look forward to further establishing a relationship with many of the people who worked



along with us in order to give our members an even more enriching venue for resources and education as well as social activities.

**PHOENIX CHAPTER** – We've permanently combined our two support groups, "Families Making Adoption Plans" and "Families Created Through Adoption" which will meet monthly.

On February 10, Diane Eckstein, a psychologist, was our guest speaker. The topic was "Interpersonal Issues Associated With Adoption".

*Editor's Note: Now I know we have more than three chapters. Please Chapter Leaders, write to us and let us know how you're doing. We'd love to share in your successes. A big Todah Rabah (thank you very much) to the chapter leaders who are contributing to this column!*



## **IN MEMORIAM**

Stars of David International was saddened by the death of Dave Thomas of Wendy's fame. He died on January 8, 2002. He was 69.

Dave Thomas, an adoptee and a national advocate of adoption, created the Dave Thomas Foundation, a non-profit organization that focuses on public awareness of adoption. The profits from the sale of his books, "Dave's Way" and "Well Done!" go to the foundation. The adoption world is a better place for his efforts. He will be missed.

## **HOPE FOR CHILDREN'S ACT – ADOPTION TAX CREDIT**

The 2001 tax season provides a \$5,000 adoption tax credit. The \$10,000 tax credit is available for the 2002 tax season. We strongly recommend that adoptive families consult a tax or legal professional, particularly for international adoptions, as it may affect your claim for tax year 2001.

## **A NICE JEWISH BOY AND BAGELS IN CHINA????**

Dan Rebecca (Danny), born and raised in New Jersey, is the owner of Danny's Bagel in Guangzhou, China. Established in 1997, Danny's Bagel features Italian American foods that are delivered to your home, office or hotel room seven days a week! The delivery area covers most of Guangzhou City. When in China look him up. In Guangzhou: 8434-5823. Email: [gzbagels@public.guangzhou.gd.cn](mailto:gzbagels@public.guangzhou.gd.cn) or visit the web: <http://www.dannysbagel.com>

## **THE JEWISH MULTIRACIAL NETWORK**

The Jewish Multiracial Network's mission is to build a community of Jews of color and multiracial families for the purpose of support, learning and empowerment. Through education and advocacy, they seek to enrich Jewish communal life by incorporating diverse racial and ethnic heritages. For more info: 212-242-5598, email: [info@jmnetwork.org](mailto:info@jmnetwork.org) or check their website: [www.jmnetwork.org](http://www.jmnetwork.org)

## **INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION INFORMATION ON THE WEB**

The U.S. government has an excellent site including information about the Child Citizenship Act of 2000, important updates from countries where the adoption situation is in flux, an International Adoptions Booklet to download, and Country-Specific Adoption Flyers for every country. If you are considering an International adoption, you need to be an "educated consumer." So be sure and check the posted information for your country of choice at: <http://travel.state.gov/adopt.html>

## **OUR NEW MEMBERSHIP DATABASE**

We have recently updated our membership database, using ACCESS. Please check your newsletter label and let us know if you find any mistakes. Please send your corrections to: [StarsDavid@aol.com](mailto:StarsDavid@aol.com). Be sure to send address changes so that you will get your newsletter in a timely fashion. Also, we'd appreciate getting the information about your children. Prospective parents often ask to connect with other members who have adopted from a particular country and we'd like to be able to refer them. You can help by sending us your name, the name, birth year, and country of origin of your children.

## **WRONGFUL ADOPTION AND AGENCY LIABILITY**

This excellent article is one of many you can find on the site of the National Adoption Information Clearinghouse. The article explains the term "wrongful adoption" as a legal term that refers to the failure on the part of an agency or worker to disclose known information, or information that should be known, about a child to the prospective adoptive parents. The article includes examples of reported cases, disclosures obligations, obtaining background information, a bibliography and more. You will find this article at: [http://www.calib.com/naic/pubs/h\\_wrong.htm](http://www.calib.com/naic/pubs/h_wrong.htm).

## **OPEN ADOPTION**

For a comprehensive list of articles and other information on open adoption, check out [www.openadoptioninsight.org](http://www.openadoptioninsight.org). Topics range from helping people to decide if open adoption is right for them, to articles on the lifelong experience of open adoption.

## Stars Of David International E-mail Discussion Groups

Stars of David International, Inc. (SDI) has created four e-mail listservs (see “What Is A Listserv?” below as needed). Our goal is to use groups them to promote communication and fellowship among SDI members and their families.

The four lists include:

### **SDI\_Discussion**

This list is for SDI members.

See “Joining The SDI\_Discussion List” below for more information.

### **SDI\_Preteen**

This list is for children, ages 9 - 12, of SDI members.

### **SDI\_Teen**

This list is for children, ages 13 - 17, of SDI members.

### **SDI\_Chai**

This list is for children, ages 18 and over, of SDI members.

See “About The SDI Kids Discussion Lists” below for more information.

## What Is A Listserv?

A listserv is a list of e-mail addresses identified by a single name, such as **SDI\_Discussion@yahoogroups.com**. When a subscriber sends an e-mail message to the mailing list name, it is automatically forwarded to all the addresses in the list. You can reply to the messages, send new messages, or read the messages without participating.

To join an e-mail mailing list, you need an e-mail address. In addition, SDI’s membership office must have a record of this e-mail address. After you subscribe to a list, you will receive a reply giving you details about the list and how to participate. Then, you’ll begin receiving mail from other list participants.

## Joining The SDI\_Discussion List

SDI subscribes current members who have added an e-mail address to their membership profiles. You can unsubscribe or change your mail options at any time; see “Other SDI List Tips For Subscribers” below for details.

**Please note:** If you or your family currently belong to SDI, but have not updated us with a current e-mail address, your subscription to SDI\_Discussion will be delayed. To avoid this, you may send your name, organization (if applicable) and e-mail address to:

**SDI\_Discussion-owner@yahoogroups.com.**

You can also subscribe to SDI\_Discussion in one of the two ways described below:

1. Visit the SDI\_Discussion website at:  
[http://www.yahoogroups.com/group/SDI\\_Discussion](http://www.yahoogroups.com/group/SDI_Discussion)

Click the **Subscribe** link on the page. Follow the instructions provided. While there, please create a personal profile, including your name and geographical location.

Or,

2. Send e-mail to  
**SDI\_Discussion-subscribe@yahoogroups.com**

Type **Subscribe** in the header (subject line). In the body of the message, type **Subscribe**  
`youremailaddress (for example, subscribe`  
`sue@home.com).`

If you initiate your own subscription, your subscription request will be sent to the group moderators, who will verify your membership status. Once your SDI membership is verified, you will be added to the discussion group. The moderators will send you an e-mail welcome message.

To see how children ages 9 and up of SDI members can participate in their own SDI-sponsored e-mail lists, see “About The SDI Kids Discussion Lists” below.

## About The SDI Kids Discussion Lists

These groups are designed to be safe forums for adoptive and birth children of SDI members who want to communicate and get to know each other.

Carefully selected adults will moderate the preteen and the teen groups. They will not control the discussions; nor will they disclose information about the participants or their messages to anyone. Rather, the role of the moderators is to ensure the safety and privacy of the participants’ communication. In addition, we encourage parents whose child(ren) participate in these groups to carefully monitor their child(ren)’s e-mail behavior.

To subscribe to any of these discussion groups, a current member of SDI must submit a valid e-mail address to the group moderator at: **listname-owner@yahoogroups.com**

For example, to subscribe a child to the SDI\_Teen group, the member must send a request to **SDI\_Teen-owner@yahoogroups.com**.

See “Sample Subscription Requests For The SDI Kids Lists” below for help on subscribing your child(ren) to any of the kids groups.

**Note:** To encourage open communication, we hope that the e-mail address the participant will use to receive and send messages will be different from the e-mail address of the SDI member. That is, we discourage the e-mail address of the subscriber from being the same e-mail address as that of the parent.

Once the membership has been confirmed, the group moderator will add the e-mail address of the child to the discussion group’s distribution list.

If you or your family are not current members of Stars of David International, please review the membership details at [http://www.starsofdavid.org/member\\_i.html](http://www.starsofdavid.org/member_i.html)

If you or your family are a current SDI member, but have not updated us with a current e-mail address, your subscription to any of these lists will be delayed. To avoid this, please add your your name, organization (if applicable) and e-mail address to:  
**listname-owner@yahoogroups.com.**

For example, to subscribe a child to the SDI\_Preteen group, the member must send a request to **SDI\_Preteen-owner@yahoogroups.com.**

## Sample Subscription Requests For The SDI Kids Lists

### To subscribe one child

Before sending the message, replace **listname-owner** below with the correct identifier: **SDI\_Preteen-owner**, **SDI\_Teen-owner**, or **SDI\_Chai-owner**). Replace the sample e-mail addresses with the correct ones for your family.

#### Example

```
Subj: Subscribe my child
Date: Mon, 1 Oct 2001 12:57:28 PM Eastern
Daylight Time
From: sdimember@mydomain.com
To: listname-owner@yahoogroups.com
cc: wordmstr@ix.netcom.com

Please add the following e-mail address to
this list:
mychild@domain.com
```

Thank you.

```
Our Family
City, State Zip
(555) 555-5555
sdimember@mydomain.com
```

### To subscribe to multiple lists

**Note:** Send the request to **SDI\_Discussion-owner@yahoogroups.com.** Replace the sample e-mail addresses with the correct ones for your family.

#### Example

```
Subj: Subscribe my children to discussion
groups
Date: Mon, 1 Oct 2001 12:57:28 PM Eastern
Daylight Time
From: wearemembers@somedomain.com
To: SDI_Discussion-owner@yahoogroups.com
cc: wordmstr@ix.netcom.com
```

Please add the following e-mail addresses to the SDI kids lists:

To preteen list:  
mykid@somedomain.com

To teen list:  
coolyidkid@yahoo.com

To over-18 list:  
maybepremmed@goodu.edu



Thank you.

```
SDI Member Name
City, State Zip
(555) 555-5555
wearemembers@somedomain.com
```

## Other SDI List Tips For Subscribers

To post a message to this group, send e-mail to **listname@yahoogroups.com** (for example, subscribers to SDI\_Discussion would send messages to **SDI\_Discussion@yahoogroups.com**)

To contact the moderator of this group, send e-mail to **listname-owner@yahoogroups.com** (for example, subscribers to SDI\_Discussion would send messages to **SDI\_Discussion-owner@yahoogroups.com**)

To unsubscribe from this group, send e-mail to **listname-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com** (for example, subscribers to SDI\_Discussion would send messages to **SDI\_Discussion-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com**)

To change your e-mail address, name or location, modify your profile by visiting the website at <http://www.yahoogroups.com/myprofile>

To modify your subscription options, visit the website at <http://www.yahoogroups.com/mygroups>

To set for individual (each message sent as posted) or digest (all messages from one day sent in one message) version, visit the website at <http://www.yahoogroups.com/mygroups>

To reply to a message from the digest:

1. Enter the following e-mail address in the **Send To** box: **listname@yahoogroups.com** (for example, subscribers to SDI\_Discussion would send messages to **SDI\_Discussion@yahoogroups.com**)
2. Create a new header in the subject line, e.g. "Re: Val's message <date>"; or, copy the actual subject header from the message to which you are replying, and paste it into the **Subject** line of your message.

To create a new message, use the same e-mail address as above.

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Hopefully you received your belated "Chanukah" newsletter with an explanation of the dues increase. We were gratified to find that the vast majority of our members were very supportive of the necessary increase. A very big THANK YOU to everyone who sent in a donation. Since annual dues and donations are still trickling in, we will wait until the next issue to give a full report on our financial status, but suffice it to say that we were pleased with the rate of return and the number of people who renewed their memberships.

We are trying very hard to “professionalize” the organization as much as possible. Here are some of our plans:

- 1) We plan to apply for grants to obtain sufficient funding to open a small office with at least a part time staff person. This is our #1 priority! If you have experience in grantwriting, we need your help. Please write StarsDavid@aol.com to volunteer.
- 2) We will be changing all newsletter subscriptions to Rolling Subscriptions, i.e. your subscription will renew annually on the month you joined the organization (or renewed) rather than on January 1. This will be changed in our database over the next year or so. Your patience is appreciated.
- 3) Do you have expertise in ACCESS? We need help to fine tune our database which is in ACCESS. Please volunteer to StarsDavid@aol.com.
- 4) The National Office will collect all dues (new members AND renewals). Chapter dues will be rebated to the chapters on a quarterly basis. CHAPTERS! We can't do this if you don't tell us the names of your members. MEMBERS! You must tell us if you are in a local chapter. We will request names of all chapter members on a quarterly basis and THEN rebate local dues based on the number of dues PAID members. All members-at-large will be serviced by the Main Office and we will act as their “Chapter.”
- 5) We need a team of people to maintain our website. If you are skilled at web design, please contact Val Lipow@aol.com to offer your services. We intend to offer a great deal more information on our site in the future. The more grant money we obtain, the more we can offer for free. Most of our members do NOT belong to a chapter. We need to develop a way for all our members to interact and our website and listservs are the best way for us to do that.
- 6) Please join the SDI Discussion Group. If you are not computer savvy, you can write to Val Lipow@aol.com or to me at StarsDavid@aol.com and we will enroll you. It's easy to participate, it's fun, and it's educational. Join us!
- 7) Rather than having multiple addresses, the organization will consolidate all mailings to and from us at the Northbrook, Illinois address. We plan to list various contacts on our website, so our officers will be available to help our members more directly.
- 8) Please remember that we are ALL volunteers. If we don't call you back right away or mail out what you asked for, keep in mind that we're struggling along with very few volunteers to serve the *entire* Jewish adoption community. It is a daunting task!!

- If you want to do a real Mitzvah, please volunteer!
- 9) Do you have any ideas for ways to do things better? We are open to your suggestions. This is YOUR organization!!

*Sue Katz*

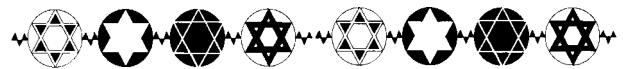
## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I'm always looking for meetings and events in my area and look forward to the listings of Conferences and Meetings in each issue of Star Tracks. This column would be easier to read if the listings were grouped according to geographical area, maybe state by state. Thank you very much.

—Jill from New York City

*Editor's note: Thanks a bunch for the great suggestion. Beginning with this issue you will find the information in the Conferences, Meetings and Events column grouped according to state. If anyone has any other suggestions to help make this newsletter more reader friendly please do not hesitate to write or call.*



## THE THRILL OF CULTURE CAMPS

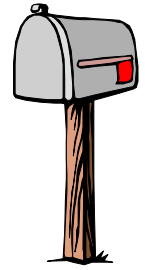
*By Debra Berger*

Many of our children who were adopted transculturally spend part of the summer attending a culture/heritage camp. These camps are a wonderful opportunity for our children to develop a sense of self-esteem and pride in their origins. They also spend time "with children who are just like me"! For some it's the first time they are in the majority and they learn that there are other families just like theirs. So, make some extra time this summer to attend a culture camp. It's an awesome experience, not only for your child, but for the whole family. You will not be sorry! Here's but a sampling of camps around the country.

### CHINA

Michigan, Ferndale--Heritage Day by FCC Metro Detroit, **September 14**, Janet Swanson, 313-277-4839, xialanweiwei@aol.com

New Jersey, Medford--FCC at the YMCA Camp Ockanickoon and Matollionequay, **June 14-16**, Leslie Karpiak, 856-354-3211, Karpiak@rch.com



Tennessee, Gatlinburg--ChangDeKids (families with children from ChangDe HuNan) Culture Camp, **July 23-28**, LuAnn Hartmann, hartmann@usit.net

### *EASTERN EUROPE*

Colorado, Denver--Russian Heritage Camp, **July 12-14**. Pam Sweetser, 303-388-3930, www.heritagecamps.org

### *INDIA*

Pennsylvania, Johnstown--SPICE CAMP, for families with South Asian Children, **June 30-July 4**. Christine Futia, cfutia@aol.com

### *KOREA*

New York, Albany--Camp Mu Ji Gae, **July 29-July 3**, Cathy Sutton, 518-426-2606, Suttonc@ParsonsCenter.org

### *LATIN AMERICA*

Minnesota, Lakeville--La Semana Culture Camp, **July 29-August 2**, Mary 952-925-5724 or Mary 651-698-3378, www.lasemana.org

Ohio, Cleveland--Mi Pueblo, **June 17-21**, Bill Gruber, 216-371-3570, GruberWL@aol.com

*MULTI-CULTURAL* (various ethnic camp groups within the same organization)

California, Concord--PACT's 1st Annual Transracial Adoption Summit and Family Camp, **July 3-6**, Stanford University, 510-243-9460, info@pactadopt.org

Illinois, Arlington Heights--Hands Around the World Culture Camp, 7 different ethnic camps. For info and dates call Gail Walton, 847-255-8309.

### *PHILLIPINES*

Colorado, Denver--**July 26-28**, Pam Sweetser, 303-388-3930, www.heritagecamps.org

### *VIET NAM*

Minnesota, Northfield--Catalyst Foundation Culture, Caroline Parker, 952-707-9437, cntpar@catalystfoundation.org

## ADOPTION IN THE WAKE OF TERRORISM AND WAR? THE SEARCH FOR ANSWERS

*By Linda Harowitz*

In the weeks following the tragic acts of terror against the United States on September eleventh, many Americans struggled to make sense of their lives, forever changed, and turned to volunteerism and charitable giving as ways to ease the pain felt by so many victims. Record-breaking levels of donations for the victims of September eleventh made, and continue to make, headlines. Yet some Americans expressed interests in providing a more personal form of assistance by opening up their hearts and homes to children orphaned as a result of terrorism.

Just two days after September eleventh, Family-to-Family Mentoring, a California-based charity, along with a national coalition of public relations professionals, established the Twin Towers Orphan Fund to provide support to children who lost one or both parents as a result of the terrorist attacks. Shortly thereafter, volunteers contacted the organization seeking to adopt orphaned children. Although the Twin Towers Orphan Fund took names of these volunteers for future reference via a Foster Care/Adoptions Registry, representatives of the Fund reported that to the best of their knowledge, "no child has been left without some form of family support, be they an aunt, uncle, grandparents, older siblings or others." Considering the devastation caused by the attacks, the absence of any orphans is certainly a blessing.

Soon after 9-11, questions about the possibility of helping others through adoption shifted from the United States to Central Asia, likely inspired by powerful images of young children living in the dire surroundings of war-torn Afghanistan, which dominated television news reports and papers. Journalists informed the country of the plight of Afghan children, facts known to humanitarian aid workers for quite some time. According to UNICEF, approximately half of Afghanistan's children are malnourished and one quarter of the nation's children will not live to celebrate their fifth birthdays, their deaths often caused by preventable diseases. Factor in the death toll caused by the war and the harsh weather conditions that characterize Afghanistan's winters, and the bleak outlook for the people of Afghanistan, and particularly the children, is apparent.

For those who were moved by the accounts of extreme hardship endured by the children of Afghanistan to the extent that they were interested in learning about the possibility of adopting an Afghan orphan, the search for information is challenging. As a leader in the humanitarian efforts to protect children around the world, UNICEF seemed like a logical place to begin to search for information about the fate of orphaned children in Afghanistan. According to Alfred Ironside, a UNICEF spokesman, UNICEF views “[i]nternational adoption as a last resort,” preferring instead to encourage “community-based care for orphaned children” so that they “have every opportunity to grow to healthy adulthood within the sphere of extended family.” Although he did not have any information regarding adoption resources, Ironside noted that UNICEF has future plans to add information for people interested in adoption to its website, located at [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org). As this newsletter goes to press (mid-February 2002), no adoption guidelines appear on UNICEF’s site.

As for the U.S. government’s view of Afghan adoptions, the State Department, as late as January 2002, issued a general information statement on its website that the adoption of children from Afghanistan was not possible because “Islamic law does not recognize adoption.” Several weeks later, however, the reference to Afghanistan and Islamic law disappeared from the State Department’s website. The absence of any information from the State Department concerning the permissibility of adopting children from Afghanistan is puzzling. On its website, the State Department does provide information about adoptions from Islamic countries such as Pakistan. Conversely, the State Department currently advises that adoption of children from other Islamic countries, such as Saudi Arabia, is barred by strict interpretation of Islamic law. Does Islamic law prohibit adoption or doesn’t it? It may be that differing interpretations of Islamic law exist and that the new interim Afghan government has not yet confronted the issue of international adoption. In any event, the issue of a religion prohibiting, or possibly prohibiting, adoption is intriguing, particularly to those raised in a culture accepting of adoption.

At the outset of this discussion of Islam and adoption, it is worth mentioning that no attempt to provide an in-depth analysis of Islam is made herein – that effort is best left to religious scholars in other forums. Rather, the following observations are derived from a review of available literature, with sources noted for reference by those who have an interest in

learning more on the subject. That said, it appears that a key to understanding this issue is the acknowledgment that the term “adoption” has multiple meanings to Muslims. For example, Islamic law prohibits the familiar scenario of birth parents relinquishing parental rights to adoptive parents. Muslims view the bond between biological parents and their children as permanent and inseparable, thus rendering the western concept of adoption unworkable. Birth parents cannot consent to terminate parental rights. Simply stated, under Islamic law, a child’s identity is defined by his or her bloodline. (*The Islamic View of Adoption and Caring for Homeless Children* by Imad-ad-Dean Ahmad, Ph.D., located at [www.islamfortoday.com](http://www.islamfortoday.com)) As expressed by one commentator, “[a] mere verbal expression or figure of speech cannot make the blood of a man run in the veins of the adopted son[.]” (*Adoption in Islam* by Atika Ghaffar, located at [www.iica.org](http://www.iica.org)) Another commentator suggests, however, that birth parents who are unable to care for a child may enter into a consensual arrangement with another couple to care for the child without taking the place of the birth parents. (*Adoption – An Islamic Perspective* by Suriati Abdullah, located at [www.muis.gov.sg](http://www.muis.gov.sg))

The literature further suggests that the Muslim world views care for orphaned children differently than the adoption of children with living biological parents. Islamic law encourages the charitable act of families caring for orphaned children and rewards those who “adopt” in this manner with admission to heaven or paradise. (Ghaffar) This form of “adoption” does have limitations. As mentioned earlier, the blood relationship between biological parents and their child is paramount, and the adoptive parents are not permitted to compromise that bond by, for example, holding the child out as their own. One scholar calls this arrangement *kafala*, sponsorship or foster parenting, defined as “the promise to undertake without payment the upkeep, education and protection of a minor, in the same way as a father would do for his son.” (Ahmad) The distinction between this concept and the western approach to adoption is the idea of caring for another family’s child as if he were your son (the Islamic view) versus caring for your adopted child as your own son (the western view). To westerners, this distinction has both emotional and legal implications.

For the purpose of this article, the legal implications have particular relevance. In the United States, for example, adopted children generally have the same rights under the law as biological children.

Under Islamic law, however, families adopting an orphan are prohibited from changing the child's surname to that of the adoptive family in order to preserve the blood bond that the child has with his or her birth parents. (I note that the term "birth parents" is likely unnecessarily redundant in the eyes of Muslims, who only recognize biological parents as parents, but old habits die hard.) Moreover, unlike the laws in the United States, Islamic law does not itself confer on an adoptee a right of inheritance from his or her adoptive parents. Instead, Muslims wishing to pass their estates to persons not born to them, whether "adopted" or not, must express these desires in a will. (Ahmad)

Another area where the distinctions between western and Islamic views on adoption are apparent is in the selection of a spouse. Because the laws of the United States do not distinguish between biological and adopted children within a family, laws that restrict close relatives from marrying one another are enforceable against all family members. To the contrary, under the Islamic concept of adoption, no such familial relationship exists between the adopted child and his or her adoptive family, so the adopted child is free to marry any of his adoptive family members (with the exception that an adopted son cannot marry any woman who breastfed him as an infant). (Abdullah)

The fundamental differences between Islamic and American views on adoption present challenges to American Muslims, but the differences between cultures do not prevent American Muslims from building families through the adoption of orphans. Some families, for example, harmonize the religious prohibition against changing an adopted child's last name and American law and custom to the contrary by allowing the child to retain his or her birth parents' last name and encouraging the child's assumption of an alias for legal and administrative purposes using the name of the adoptive family. (Abdullah)

Whether American Muslims or any other Americans will be permitted to adopt orphans from Afghanistan any time soon, however, is unclear. The U.S. State Department's current silence on the issue, at least according to its website, is an indication that adoption from Afghanistan is not presently an option. Periodic checks with the department, as well as with trustworthy international adoption agencies and adoption attorneys, are ways to track whether this situation changes in the future. For now, at least, it appears that the best way to offer help to the children

of Afghanistan is by donating to reputable charitable organizations. Without endorsing any particular charity, further information on how to help the Afghan children may be found by contacting UNICEF ([www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)), America's Fund for Afghan Children ([www.whitehouse.gov/afac/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/afac/)) or The Twin Towers Orphan Fund ([www.ttof.org](http://www.ttof.org))

*In addition to the references cited in this article, the author relied on information contained on the Twin Towers Orphan Fund website, located at [www.ttof.org](http://www.ttof.org), and in an Associated Press report dated December 22, 2001 entitled "America reaches out to Afghan orphans."*

## KidSpeak

THIS COLUMN IS FOR CHILDREN. IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THEM TO SHARE THEIR VIEWS, THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS ABOUT ADOPTION AND FAMILY. IF YOU FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE OMITTING OR CHANGING IDENTIFYING INFORMATION WE CAN PUBLISH THE STORY, POEM, ETC., WITH COMPLETE ANONYMITY. PLEASE SUBMIT ALL MATERIAL TO STAR TRACKS, P.O. BOX 573, WOODBURY, NJ 08096-0573 OR [StarTrackss@aol.com](mailto:StarTrackss@aol.com)

### CHILDREN OF ADOPTEES, MY STORY by Jennifer Yellin

*Editor's Note: Most adoption articles in magazines and on the web speak to the issues surrounding the young adoptee. Sometimes I think we forget that our young children, who were adopted, grow up to be adults. I've seen little written on the effect of adoption on the offspring of the adoptee. This is one viewpoint.*

I met my mother's birthmother, Marcia, about 7 years ago when I was 8 years old. I met Joe, my mom's birthfather, about 9 years ago. (My Mom met them a few years earlier.)

I had expressed an interest in meeting Marcia. My Mom wanted Marcia and I to take it one step at a time so we corresponded in writing and also talked on the phone a few times before we actually met. Marcia lived about 3 hours away and we (me, Mom and Marcia) met at a hotel about half way with plans to spend the night. When Marcia came up to me in the hotel lobby she gave me a big hug, which made me feel a little uncomfortable. I would have preferred shaking hands. By the end of the weekend I felt a lot more comfortable with her. She was a very open and

friendly person who did not put up any fronts. She was what she was and I liked that.

Marcia is short, just like Mom and me. I thought that was neat. It felt good to see someone who looked like me. We do have some of the same likes and dislikes. My Mom resembles both of her birthparents. Getting to meet them has brought together some of the missing links for me.

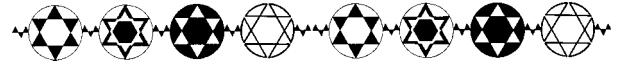
When I was about 11 or 12, I started to have some loyalty conflicts. I thought my Mom should stop contact with her birthfamily, because I thought it was unfair to my adoptive grandparents, even though I did not see my Mom do anything negative. I didn't want to have any contact with my mom's birthfamily for a while. That was O.K. with my Mom and she didn't pressure me either way. She did, however, make it very clear to me that I couldn't decide who she was to have contact with, because adults should be able to make that decision for themselves. It helped that my Mom was not pressuring me, but she did tell me that I had to act appropriately on the phone when anyone called, whether it be someone in my mom's birthfamily or not.

About a year later I decided that I did want contact with both sides of my mother's birthfamily and to continue to get to know them. Now I feel close to my birthgrandparents, they are like special friends. Neither of them ever put pressure on me to call them grandma or grandpa (or Bubbe or Zedye), that has always been reserved for my grandparents (my mom's adoptive parents and my dad's parents).

Sometimes I tell my friends about my Mom being adopted and sometimes I also tell them about her reunion. Some of my friends will say "that's cool" and drop it. One of my best friends gets confused at times when I say I am going to visit my grandparents. Sometimes she says, "Who Marcia?" and I say, "No, that's my mom's birthmother." Then my friend Julie says, "Oh, that's her real Mom," then I correct her terminology. My Mom definitely taught me the more positive ways to talk about adoption.

As a child of an adoptee I've learned that adoption also affects me and I'm really glad my Mom has been open and honest with me. I think being able to talk about adoption and what it means has been helpful to me in understanding myself and my family. It's also part of me and my history. And part of me and my history also comes from my mom's adoptive family and my dad's family.

*Jennifer Yellin, daughter of Linda Yellin, was age 16 at the time this was written. She has co-presented workshops with Linda on this subject and these comments come from her summary of a workshop. Jennifer will be 25 years old, and graduated from college 3 years ago.*



## THE INTERGENERATIONAL IMPACT OF ADOPTION: ADOPTees AS PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN.

*By Linda Yellin, MSW, ACSW*

The phrase: "Adoption is a lifelong process" is a recognized concept among those touched by adoption and adoption professionals. We know adoption impacts adoptees, adoptive families and birthfamilies throughout their lives. I believe this concept needs to be expanded to "adoption is lifelong and intergenerational." Adoption not only affects triad members (adoptees, adoptive parents and birthparents) it also touches extended family members in present and future generations in many ways.

This article will highlight some of the experiences of adoptees as parents and children of adoptees. Part II, to be published in the next newsletter, will concentrate more on the aspects of when adoptive parents become grandparents (I don't mean to be aging you too fast!!).

The issues, feelings and experiences of adoptees as parents, and children of adoptees, touch me both personally and professionally. There are many things I've experienced as a result of being an adult adoptee (I joined my family when I was 3 weeks old), a parent of a daughter by birth who is almost 25, and an adoption professional. Through my travels, working with clients and by participating in various adoption groups and conferences I have been blessed with meeting many others touched by adoption.

### IMPENDING PARENTHOOD

For anyone, adopted or otherwise, thinking about having children, or being pregnant, can activate various issues and feelings. For an adopted person who does not have any current medical information, or who has limited information, impending parenthood may bring questions about their genetics. For adoptees, I believe there is a correlation between the ability to discuss adoption, feelings of self-worth and the true meaning of acceptance of differences. When the

adopted person, as well as their adoptive family, can bring up the realities of pregnancy, medical questions, and acknowledge similarities as well as differences within their family, the stage of impending parenthood runs smoother.

### *PARENTHOOD*

For some adoptees, having a child may be the first blood relative they have been able to hold or to look at and to acknowledge a biological link. These experiences can bring up a roller coaster of feelings, joy, awe, loss and fear as well as questions and uncertainty. The parent has a biological link with the child, yet the parent (adopted person) does not know their biological linkages.

As new parents, some adoptees may experience a deeper sense of understanding and compassion for their birthparents (often thinking more about the birthmother than the birthfather). Some have been able to recognize what a difficult decision it must have been for them and the losses that arose. Some adoptees have also experienced a greater sense of connectedness and appreciation towards their adoptive parents and have gained a richer sense of what family is. This has also been experienced by many adoptive parents. At times, the reminder of loss and infertility will surface for the adoptive parents as they experience their child having a child. Some adoptees may feel “wasn’t I worth keeping?” and some wonder about their birthparent’s decision and struggle with “how could she give me away, why?”

When a baby is born, one of the most common things we experience, whether or not we were adopted, is wondering who the baby looks like? We’ve all been part of discussions and have heard comments such as, “Look, he has your nose.” “Wow, he has the Greenblatt’s chin!” “Do you think she looks like Grandma Helen?” “I hope she gets your athletic abilities!!” Over the years these questions take on new meanings and sensitivities for those who are touched by adoption. When adoptive parents bring their child into the family we recognize that comments related to heredity do not have the same connotation as in non-adopted families.

When I became pregnant, my husband and I wondered who the baby would look like and what he or she would inherit. We knew my husband’s family’s history, but I did not know mine, since I had not searched at that point.

When our daughter was born everyone, of course, was elated! My parents were at the hospital, waiting

for news of their first grandchild and to “ohh” and “ahh” over this new family addition. My in-laws, who lived out of town, were waiting anxiously by the phone for news of their second grandchild and, of course, if it was a boy, they would begin travel plans to come for the bris.

Part of the normal reactions to the arrival of a new baby (besides saying she is the prettiest one in the nursery) is to do the family claiming experience. Who does she look like, etc.? The reality in my situation, was that we could all have comments about our daughter looking like her Dad, cousin or Grandma and that our daughter looked like me in some ways. I could not, however, and neither could anyone else say she looked like so and so on my side. This is the reality of being an adoptee who has not searched and met his or her birthfamily. It is not necessarily positive or negative, it is just one of many realities for female adoptees giving birth or for male adoptees becoming a biological father.

For some adoptees, the life cycle event of becoming a parent provides an impetus to work through some of their adoption issues and to become more comfortable with how adoption impacts them as an adult and as a parent. These normal life cycle events and celebrations offer a wonderful opportunity for open, honest discussion with their adoptive parents and other family members about being part of an adoptive family. In turn, the adopted person becomes stronger, healthier and has gained additional insights.

### *SEARCH, REUNION AND AFTER REUNION*

More and more adult adoptees are choosing to search for their birthfamilies. If children of adoptees are aware of their parent’s search they play a role, directly or indirectly, in the search process. It is common for them to question why their parents are searching. Their reactions range from being supportive, curious and excited to feeling that searching for one’s birthparents is disloyal to the adoptive family. Parents need to help their children understand their particular need to have contact. It is important for the adult adoptee to recognize that their children will usually not feel the intensity of the search and reunion in the same way they do.

The relationships that evolve post reunion between adoptees, their adoptive families and birth families vary. We know some develop ongoing relationships. Some adoptees find themselves in a quandary when they want to introduce their children to the birth family and are uncertain if they should be honest as to

the identity of the person. Some adoptees rationalize their decision not to tell in the following ways: “Why should I tell my kids who the birthparents are if contact might not continue”, or, “If I tell my children the truth, I’m afraid they will tell my adoptive parents and I don’t want them to know I’ve had a reunion.” In my work, I see this occurring more with the parents of preschool and elementary school age children.

Adult adoptees need assistance at times to sort out the best approach in talking with their children to enable an open and honest relationship. What kinds of messages are being imparted if the search and reunion are kept secret from their children as well as their adoptive family?

### *TALKING TO KIDS ABOUT ADOPTION*

No matter which way our family has been formed, being a parent is always a life altering experience and continues to teach us many things as our children grow. Many adult adoptees who have become parents find themselves with a heightened awareness and sensitivity for their birthparents and their adoptive parents.

I have become acutely aware that it is common and to be expected that many adult adoptees struggle with explaining adoption to their children. This is very similar to the adoptive parent’s struggles in talking to their children about their adoption. The adult adoptee may worry about what their kids are going to think about them. The adoptee may worry about reactions from grandparents. Many times the adoptee has not resolved or accepted the true circumstances of their conception and the reasons they were placed for adoption. When a child asks the question, “Why did they give you away?” it may be a blow to one’s self-esteem. Sometimes a child of an adoptee responds with, “You mean your real mommy didn’t want you?” and this shameful issue may resurface.

I’m often asked by adopted persons, “When should I tell my children that I was adopted?” Other adoptees tell me, “I’ll only tell my children if I find my birthparents, there’s no sense to tell them otherwise.” I believe it is important for many reasons that the parent’s adoptive status be shared with his or her children. All family members, whether children or adults, whether adopted or not, deserve to know the truth about how their family was formed. Of course, discussions need to be age appropriate and based on the developmental stage of the child. It is a biological right for the children of adoptees, as much as it is for the adoptee, to know their family story. This

information has implications for the entire family system. “Telling” keeps the lines of communication open and honest and avoids family secrets. Talking to children of adoptees about adoption is similar to talking to adoptees about their adoption. It is an ongoing, lifelong and intergenerational process.

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*Editor’s Note: I met Linda Yellin several years ago when she was a presenter at an adoption conference. I believe her experience as an adoptee, mother and adoption professional has helped her understand the many life stages an adoptive child/adult experiences. I’ve always found her insights to be right on the mark. New adoptive parents, as well as veteran adoptive parents, spend time reading articles about the developmental stages of our children that relate to adoption in the present time and for a few years ahead. Not much thought is given to our children as adult adoptees. I think this article sheds some light on the issues surrounding adult adoptees as parents and its message is this: From the very beginning it is important for us, as adoptive parents, to create a climate of openness and honesty about the circumstances of our children’s history and other adoption related issues. In doing so, we will help them to grow into confident and capable adults ready to face all the stages of their lives.*

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## SURFING THE 'NET

by David Sloves

One of the fears expressed by people looking into adoption is the aspect of legalities -- what is or is not legal, who should or should not be the guide through these waters.

[www.lawyers.com/lawyers-com/content/aboutlaw/family\\_3.html](http://www.lawyers.com/lawyers-com/content/aboutlaw/family_3.html) is a section of the Martindale-Hubbel web site devoted to family law, in this instance, adoption. Martindale-Hubbell is a printed and internet source of information about lawyers and law firms around the world. On this particular page, there is basic information about the legal process of adoption including termination of parental rights; voluntary adoptions; different types of adoptions (family, stranger, stepparent); legal status of an adopted child, and adult adoptions. Links will take the reader to sections on "Parent and Child".

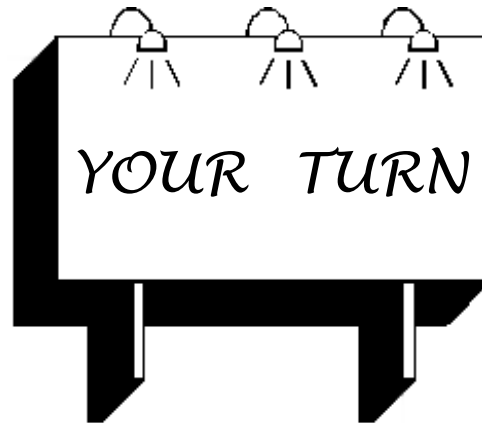
[www.ncfa-usa.org](http://www.ncfa-usa.org) is the official site of the National Council for Adoption. The NCFA is a 501 (c)(3) charity with the stated goal "to help as many children as possible find permanent homes through adoption". The site includes articles from the NCFA memo. Recent postings include articles on the automatic citizenship bill and on tax credits. There are links to join NCFA and links for information on adoption agencies, attorneys, and legislative updates.

[www.calib.com/naic](http://www.calib.com/naic) is the site for the National Adoption Information Clearinghouse. As the name implies, this is a source of a variety of information on adoption. Links exist for professionals, adoptees, birth relatives and parents. There are statistics, databases, publications and laws accessible. Current links include a publication "Cooperative Adoptions: Contact Between Adoptive and Birth Families After Finalization"; a web site for National Adoption Month; Information and resources in response to the events of September 11, 2001; and the National Adoption Directory 2001.

[www.adopt-usa.com/rootsandwings](http://www.adopt-usa.com/rootsandwings) is the site for Roots & Wings magazine. This site recently announced that Roots & Wings is joining Adoption Today magazine effective April 2001. Roots & Wings

subscribers will receive Adoption Today for the duration of their subscription. The November/December 2001 issue included articles on transracial adoption; National Adoption Month; Bibliotherapy-- Books with an adoption theme; and an adoptee's advice to prospective adoptive parents.

Finally, [www.pbs.org/weblab/gathering](http://www.pbs.org/weblab/gathering) is the site for "adoption:a gathering". The site is promoted as "a space where our conversation can grow and deepen". Amongst the sections are ones with adoption resources, scrapbooks of adoption families, and personal stories. The issues on "Hope" contain stories about what happens to an adoptive family when the birthmother changes her mind, and a birthmother's hope for her daughter's future. The various volumes contain stories and poems by birthparents, adoptees, and adoptive parents to reflect themes such as hope and fear.



By Anonymous

I've been an adoptive parent for many years now and consider myself finally prepared to handle all types of adoption

issues. As a neophyte dad, however, I found myself stung by the words "real parent—real mom and dad." Usually, I would politely enlighten the "offender" and naively believe that this wouldn't happen again. However, it did recur. Sometimes it would be months and months before I heard someone use the words "real parent". Other times I would hear it week after week. Depending on my mood I would either educate the person or let it slide.

A few months ago, I couldn't let it slide. I had to correct the person. And who was this person? Non other than my Rabbi! My synagogue sets aside one Friday a month for family night services. The majority of the congregation on this night is made up of families with children, some of whom were adopted. On this particular night we had at least six families with children who were adopted. The Rabbi was talking about Moses and the fact that he was "adopted" by Pharaoh's daughter. "However", he said, "Moses was very lucky because his real mom was able to take care of him.

Pharaoh's daughter hired a Jewish woman to help her take care of Moses. And guess who that person was? His real mom!!!” It felt as if I was slapped in the face. I looked out into the congregation and saw several adoptive parents with concerned faces. I wondered what their children were thinking. I wondered what my daughter was thinking. At that moment I really didn't understand what I was thinking!

After much reflection I came to realize that I had to talk to the Rabbi. I had to “educate” him. And I was afraid. Afraid because my Temple is VERY supportive of Stars of David. They allow us to use the facilities without charge, they participate in Stars of David functions and they are open, warm and accepting of my daughter, my family and other adoptive families. I knew the Rabbi was totally unaware of how these words could hurt and how could I correct the Rabbi?! What would I say?

I decided to brooch the subject with the Rabbi by expressing my gratitude for his support of my family, other adoptive families and Stars of David. I explained that respectful adoption language is very important because it helps to dispel the myth “that adoption is

second-best and that in being part of an adoption one has somehow missed out on a “real” family experience.” I also gave him articles about positive/respectful adoption language. My fears were unfounded as the Rabbi was apologetic and thankful that I brought this matter to his attention. He promised that he would read the articles and incorporate them into his way of thinking and not make the same mistake again. I was relieved. I felt empowered and I was grateful.

The moral of the story: “No matter how supportive, learned or enlightened someone is he or she can still slip. We need to be able to recognize this, fix it and move on.” And that is what I did.

*Editor's note: The author of this column wishes to remain anonymous to protect the identity of the Rabbi/synagogue. There are several opportunities in Jewish studies where the uniformed can cause discomfort to adoptees and their families by using inappropriate adoption language and insensitivity in certain areas of the religious school curriculum (life cycle issues—family tree, brit milah, baby naming, etc). It is suggested that these areas be addressed before the fact to avoid unnecessary uneasiness*



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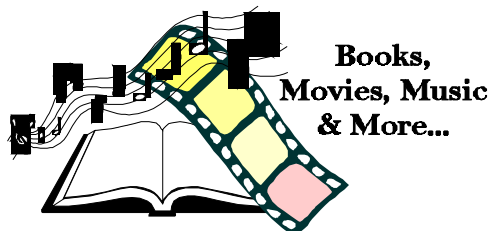
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By Edie Stoltz Zolkower  
Ages 3 - 8 \$5.95

Bubbie is interrupted while she is making charoses for the Passover seder. While she chats on the phone, family members wander into the kitchen and add their own special ingredient to spice up the mixture. As a result of too many cooks, the "charoses is atrocious!" An amusing introduction to the festive Passover meal.

**MY VERY OWN HAGGADAH**

Judyth Groner and Madeline Wikler  
Ages 3-8, \$3.95

The ultimate children's haggadah, with bright new pictures to color. A child's elementary seder service, with the story of Passover, an explanation of holiday symbols, seder blessings, and songs. Plus recipes and craft ideas. Over 2 million in print!

**THE GREATEST GIFT: Reflections on International and Domestic Adoption**

Betsy Buckley  
\$14.95 @ TapestryBooks.com

This book is a poignant look at the feelings and issues surrounding adoption. The author spent

over a year interviewing families from all across the U.S. about their feelings concerning adoption. She heard from families living in 27 states, from all ages and socioeconomic groups. Interwoven throughout are Betsy's firsthand reflections and descriptions of adopting a child from Guatemala.

*FRIENDSHIP: A Celebration of Humanity (M.I.L.K)*  
ISBN: 0066209706  
\$35.00 @ barnesandnoble.com

A book that celebrates the essential human bond of friendship with 100 images from 34 countries. These include: Bangladesh, Malaysia, U.S., Mexico, New Zealand, Cuba, India, Israel and others. The 99 people who took the photographs are as diverse as their subjects and were chosen in a worldwide competition, the M.I.L.K. (Moments of Intimacy, Laughter and Kinship) project. The other 200 winning pictures, selected by a panel of renowned photographers, were published in the book's counterparts, *Family and Love*. *Friendship* was published in five languages and distributed in more than 20 countries.

**JEWES IN AMERICA: A Cartoon History**

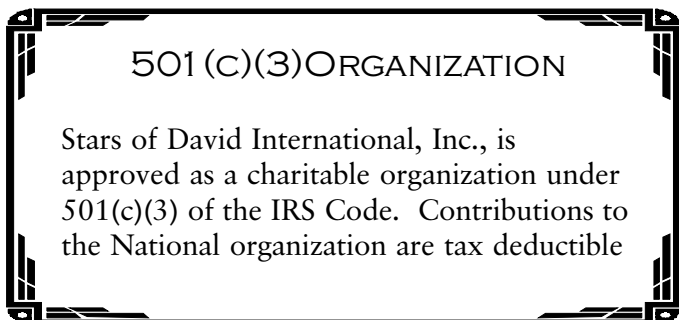
By David Gantz  
April 2002, Ages 12 to 120  
\$24.95

This book is a graphic history that uses the comic book format to depict five centuries of Jewish life in this country. With its blend of humor, history and old-fashioned sentimentality, the artist who has spent a lifetime using paper and ink to present social commentary and issues with a wry wit, illustrates the prominence of Jews in American history from the time Columbus first set foot in America. The Long Island, New York-based cartoonist, illustrator, author and sculptor has written and illustrated more than 75 children's books.

*PUTUMAYO Presents*  
*Colombia*  
\$15.95 at Music Stores

This is a collection of Colombian music and features traditional and contemporary dance styles. You will learn about the origins and diversity of each style.

**D**ifferent  
**I**ndividuals  
**V**aluing  
**E**ach Other  
**R**egardless of  
**S**kin  
**I**ntellect  
**T**alents or  
**Y**ears



# RAISING A JEWISH-GUATEMALAN CHILD

By Debra A.W. Berger

As a blonde, blue-eyed Jewish woman I've tasted a smidgen of the confusion my Guatemalan-born daughter may encounter. One fall day, on the job as a nurse for a surgical practice, my boss casually mentioned that I would be working on Yom Kippur. I had to explain that I most certainly would not. "Oh," he said, "I thought you were a little Irish girl!"

My husband and I know Chloe, whom we adopted as an infant, will likely face similar misunderstandings. So as part of our campaign to reinforce our daughter's Jewish identity we take her to Jewish adoption support group events sponsored by Stars of David International—a non-profit information/support network for Jewish and interfaith Jewish adoptive families encompassing all branches of Judaism, with chapters throughout the United States and Canada.

However, even though Chloe is being raised Jewish, we cannot deny that she is of Guatemalan descent. So we labor to bring that piece into the picture as well. Fitting her Guatemalan heritage into a complex identity puzzle means jumping at chances for Chloe to mix with other adopted children of Latin American descent. It means belonging to an area Latin American adoptive support group as well.

Recently 8-year-old Chloe voiced her connection to Judaism by telling us "I don't want to go to Brittany's church to hunt for Easter eggs, Mom. I would feel like I was breaking The Law." She also expressed her need to be among others like herself (Latin American) when she was asked how she liked the Latin American culture camp we attended last summer. Her response was, "I can't believe how many people there are that look like me!"

As Jewish parents, my husband and I, along with the Jewish community, can be the providers of Chloe's Jewish cultural and religious background. However, it is important for us to understand that we can never be the sole providers of her Latin American culture or heritage. Our children need role models and teachers from the Latin American community. We need to seek out these individuals and provide our children with the opportunity to interact with and learn from them.

The importance of this is demonstrated by this simple exercise. Think about one positive and negative

trait or comment you've heard about your own culture or heritage and try to recall from whom or where it was learned. The positive thing I learned from my family about the Jewish people is that there are many successful Jewish scholars who have contributed greatly to the field of medicine and the arts. The negative thing I learned was from society, in general, and that is that "Jews are cheap".

Almost invariably, the positive trait is learned from family while the negative trait, almost always, comes from outside the family; someone in school, newspapers, media, etc. What then happens to kids who are adopted from another culture or heritage? If we do not give our children something positive about their biological heritage and culture all they will hear is the negative from the outside. We need to incorporate their culture and heritage into our, and their, lives, to give them something of which to be proud. This will also help them evaluate the positive and negative input they will learn from other people.

It is easy to incorporate aspects of their culture and heritage into our daily lives. However, it is important to incorporate those that reflect your family's style and interests, such as ethnic foods; artwork, linens, tablecloths and other decorative items from your child's native country; books about her culture. Multicultural resources surround us: all we need to do is to learn how to use them. They include: the Sunday paper; travel agencies and magazines; book stores; universities; art museums; newspapers and magazines from around the world; teacher supply stores and catalogs; National Geographic magazine; restaurants; ethnic food markets; adoption agencies, support groups and newsletters; multicultural festivals; flea markets and culture camps. Also, any hobby or interest can be expanded to include your child's culture.

While a great deal of information is yours for the asking, it will not benefit your child unless it is brought into the home where she can see that it is important to you. While your child may seem oblivious to your efforts, as she grows she will recall bits and pieces of what she's learned. In my family, a by-product of my efforts is the enthusiasm my 8 year old has for her Guatemalan culture. I knew I was on the right track when I heard her tell her friends that she is most proud of her American girl doll in Guatemalan-made and designed clothing "that looks just like me"!

*This article was previously posted on [www.jewishfamily.com](http://www.jewishfamily.com), and is reprinted here with the author's permission.*

# SOLO PARENTING

By Marlyn Kress  
marlkress@comcast.net

My name is Marlyn Kress and I am a single parent by choice. Some of you know me as Zoe's Mom. Others recognize me as simply the name that goes on these newsletters or on your membership applications. Regardless of how you know me, I'd like to introduce myself and talk about a new column that I will be writing, with your input, for Star Tracks. This will be a column on single parenting. I will share my experiences with you—my triumphs, my errors (hey, am I crazy?), lessons that I learned. This will be your column, too. If there are topics that you would like me to discuss in future issues, please write and share your thoughts. I will try and incorporate them in my columns. Some of the topics I will write about are germane to all adoptive parents- single or married. Some topics will be more recognizable to other single parents. Regardless, I hope you will enjoy my meanderings and give me some great feedback.

I adopted my daughter Zoe FuMian Suni from FuZhou (renamed Linchuan), Jiangxi Province, China when I was 44. This was amazing to me. Not the adoption, but the fact that here I was, a very attractive, bright, charming, (I could go on and on- I'm sure you get the picture)-in other words a prime "catch."- Still single and maturing as the days flew by. I always knew I would adopt. As a young girl, I would fantasize that I would be so happily married with three wonderful children that my husband and I would adopt a child into our wonderful family and share our love. What a hoot! In reality, the marriage did not take place. I won't bore you with the whys.

When I was 42, a relationship fizzled and I realized that if I wasn't going to be a "Sadie", at least I could be a Mom. Sure, my road to motherhood was not my ideal, but at that time it was, and continues to be, my reality. I was not going to spend my life being "Auntie Marlyn" to my niece and godchildren. I was not going to become a bitter woman angry for not having the courage to stand up for myself and get what I needed out of life.

Flash forward to three failed pregnancies, two years of drugs, the waiting, the ups and downs of waiting...waiting...waiting. Whether one is single or

married, the trip down Infertility Lane is familiar territory. I kept thinking, "I can do this. If young girls walking down the street can do this by accident, then surely, I who am so determined can do this natural thing". Well, I guess I couldn't. A rude and painful awakening. After my last miscarriage, I was given two choices—IVF with a 10% chance of success, or buying an egg. So, I sat down and weighed my options. First the money thing—IVF was not covered by my insurance, so it would be a huge out of pocket expense with no guarantee of success. Buying an egg—also expensive and again no guarantee of success. And no genetic tie to me. I would be the vessel. So, I asked myself what exactly did I want. And the V-8 moment came: I wanted to be a Mom. How I got there was not important. What mattered was that I would finally be like everyone else I saw walking down the street. I wouldn't be different—I would be.....a MOM. So, you are thinking – the end of the story.

But alas, only the beginning.....

## PASSOVER & The Moses Dilemma

By Shelley Kapnek Rosenberg, Ed.D.  
*Author of Adoption and the Jewish Family: Contemporary Perspectives*

Passover provides adoptive families with a very unique and interesting dilemma: the Moses Dilemma. Moses, as we all know, was the probably the most famous Jewish adoptee. When Pharaoh announced that all of the Jewish baby boys would be killed, Moses' mother placed him in a basket and hid the basket in the reeds by the river's edge. When Pharaoh's daughter came to the river to bathe, she found the basket and recognized that the baby was a Hebrew. Despite Pharaoh's orders, the princess decided to adopt the child and raise him as her own. Moses' sister, Miriam, who was watching from a hiding place on the bank, came forward and offered to bring a Hebrew woman to nurse the child. The princess agreed and Miriam, of course, brought her own mother.

At this point, the Torah tells us, "And Pharaoh's daughter to her, 'Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' And the woman took the child, and nursed it. And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses, and said, 'Because I drew him out of the water'" (Exodus 2:9-10).

The commentaries on this story tell us that Moses lived with his birth mother during most of his childhood, the most impressionable years of his life. During those years, she must have taught him his religion, belief in one God, and the traditions and values of Israel. This was training that would never be forgotten. When he went to the palace, as the adopted son of the princess of Egypt, he received an education befitting a prince. This was training that, although not what the Pharaoh intended, would later be beneficial to him as the leader of the Hebrew people.

Now, the dilemma: When Moses was grown, and ultimately became a hero and leader of the Jewish people, he left his adoptive (Egyptian) family and reconnected with his birth family, people, and culture. For some adoptive families, this stirs many complex and difficult feelings. For some, it plays into their most dark and dire fears. Some say that they are at a loss to explain Moses' actions to their adoptive children.

Rabbi Philip Pohl of B'nai Shalom in Olney, Maryland, says, "This may stir real feelings in the adoptive child, and it is crucial to admit it." He suggests beginning a dialogue with the child and explaining that what Moses experienced in the palace, in Pharaoh's household, "wasn't authentic to him, and that's why he turned against it." Because he had already had his birth mother's training in Jewish values, we may say that he turned toward something more connected to his soul.

One adoptive parent says that she has explained to her daughter that Moses needed to be adopted to save his people. However, his adoption was under duress, literally, to save his life. The decision to have him raised as an Egyptian was not a decision freely made by his birth mother."

Other adoptive parents have put yet another positive spin on this story: They see Moses' adoption as the first bicultural and first, at least partially, open adoption. These qualities were, as the rabbis point out, partly what made Moses so successful a leader. By learning his birth culture and religion, as well as the leadership skills of a prince, he had the best of both worlds. Moreover, he was able to remain untouched by the depression and enervating influence of slavery while he matured. What is more, had he always lived among the Hebrews they might not have shown him the acceptance and respect as a leader that were essential to accomplishing his great task.

While parents, teachers, and rabbis should be

sensitive to the feelings that the Moses story can open up, it seems that this is an opportunity for adoptive parents to begin a dialogue with their adopted children and explore their reactions to Moses' adoption as well as their own.

## **FEATURED RECIPE**

### **PASSOVER LEMON SQUARES**

Crust: ½ cup butter, ½ cup sugar, 1 cup of matza cake meal. Combine well. Place in well-greased 8 x 8 inch pan. Bake 15 minutes @ 350 degrees.

Filling: 1-1/2 cup water, 2 T potato starch, 4 T lemon juice, ½ cup sugar, 2 egg yolks, 1 T butter. Cook all ingredients (except butter) in a small saucepan until thickened. Add butter, let melt. Pour over cooked crust.

Topping: 2 egg whites, 2 T sugar. Beat egg whites till stiff. Spread on top of filling and bake 20 minutes @ 350 degrees.

Makes 16 2-inch squares. Store in refrigerator.



## **NATIONAL AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS, EXCHANGES & PROGRAMS**

*Please check all agencies and sources carefully. Please send information to the Editor regarding programs of interest to our members.*

Jewish Children's Adoption Network (JCAN) is a non-profit adoption exchange dedicated to providing a national clearinghouse so that Jewish children in need of foster homes or adoption can find families who will preserve their Jewish identity. Most of the children referred to them are "special needs," older, mixed-race, sibling groups, or children with a potential medical limitation.

Most of their recruiting is done word-of-mouth. Contact Steve and Vicki Krausz if you want more information, know of a Jewish child in need of adoption, are interested in being an adoptive or foster parent, or wish to make a tax-deductible contribution. JCAN, P.O. Box 6544, Denver, CO 80216-0544, 303-573-8113. Call 303-637-4777 for a recorded message on available children. [jcan@uswest.net](mailto:jcan@uswest.net), [www.users.uswest.net/~jcan](http://www.users.uswest.net/~jcan)



## International Adoption News

INS National Toll Free Line  
800-375-5283, Monday – Friday, 8 AM – 6 PM

U.S. State Department – Adoption Site  
<http://travel.state.gov/adopt.html>  
Includes guidelines, requirements, fact sheets, and country specific adoption information.

International Adoption Medical Specialists and Adoption Clinics  
For a complete listing, see the National Adoption Information Clearinghouse's listing of Developmental Evaluations of International Adoptees at: <http://www.calib.com/naic/resources/deveval.htm>

**U.S. Flags from Your Senator** – to celebrate your child's adoption finalization or naturalization, arrival day, birthday, etc., you can purchase a flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol on that particular day. Contact your senator at 202-224-4543, or go to [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov), choose your state from the pull-down menu, click on "Services", then click on "Ordering the U.S. Flag."

**Joint Council on International Children's Services (JCICS)** is the oldest and largest affiliation of licensed, nonprofit international adoption agencies in the world. JCICS membership also includes parent groups, advocacy organizations, and individuals who have an interest in intercountry adoption. JCICS member agencies subscribe to established Standards of Practice designed to protect the rights of children, birth parents and adoptive parents. Stars of David is a member organization of JCICS. JCICS, 1320 19<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Suite 200, Washington, DC, 20036, Executive Director, Sharon Kaufman, [Skaufrman@jcics.org](mailto:Skaufrman@jcics.org), <http://www.jcics.org/>. Check their site for information on any agency you might be

considering. You can check the accreditation of agencies at this site.

**Report on Intercountry Adoption** – published by International Concerns for Children, a non-profit adoption information service. Agency listings include pertinent facts including any religious restrictions, approximate costs, waiting periods, and types of children available from dozens of agencies and other organizations that they believe work in morally, ethically, and legally correct ways for adoptive placement in North American homes. ICC checks for currently valid licenses, 501C3 status, and history of any listed agency programs. ICC distributes various specific reports on adoption topics and provides counseling for adoptive parents. If you are interested in pursuing a foreign adoption, we recommend an individual membership—this is a must for all international adopters! Forms available. 911 Cypress Dr., Boulder, CO 80303, 303-494-8333, [iccinc@webaccess.net](mailto:iccinc@webaccess.net), [www.iccadopt.org](http://www.iccadopt.org)

**CANADIAN ADOPTION NEWS**--September--The Adoption Council of Canada (ACC) launched Canada's Waiting Kids, an online resource for prospective adoptive families that includes adoption information as well as photos and non-identifying profiles of Canadian children who are waiting for adoptive homes. So far, only Ontario has submitted children to the site, but ACC expects more provinces will submit children once the site has proven useful. The site was funded in part by a grant from the Dave Thomas Foundation.

**ROMANIAN ADOPTIONS SUSPENDED**--October 9th, Romania announced a one-year suspension of all international adoptions of Romanian children. Its current government (which came into power a year ago) says the suspension will give it time to pass legislation to reform its adoption system. Pressure for reform has come from European Union (EU) members who have asked Romania to improve child welfare policy and practice before joining the EU ([www.familyhelper.net/news.html](http://www.familyhelper.net/news.html))

**VIET NAM ADOPTIONS**-- February 12, 2002,--The government of Viet Nam has informed the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi that it will promulgate a new decree on international adoption in April 2002, possibly as early as April 1. At that time it is likely that there will be a suspension of international adoption of indeterminate duration. American citizens who have not already done so are strongly urged not to enter into an agreement with an adoption service provider to adopt in Viet Nam at this time.



## Adoption Law, Lawyers & Legislation

To check background information and a listing of lawyers who do private adoptions write for a free copy of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys Directory. P.O. Box 33053, Washington, DC, 20033-0053, available online at <http://www.adoptionattorneys.org>

### LEGISLATION INFORMATION

U.S. Congress

Pending bills, information and summaries: <http://thomas.loc.gov/bss/d106query.html> (You will need to know the bill's number or other identifying information to use this site.)

To Write Your Representative, go to the website: <http://www.house.gov/writerep>

To Write Your Senator, go to the website: [www.senate.gov/writesen](http://www.senate.gov/writesen)

If you experience misrepresentation in adoption advertising or with professional adoption services you should report your experiences to these organizations in your state: the Department of Child and Family Services Adoption Unit, the Attorney General's Office, and the Better Business Bureau

Persons contemplating adoption must comply with adoption laws. For the most part, adoption issues are subject to State laws and regulations. These statutes are available online on the National Adoption Clearinghouse's website: <http://www.calib.com/naic/laws/index.htm>.

Cornell University maintains a comprehensive website on adoption law at: <http://www.law.cornell.edu/topics/adoption.html>.

**INFANT ADOPTION AWARENESS ACT**--This act was included in the Children's Health Act of 2000. On October 15, 2002, HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson announced the release of \$8.6 million in grants to start new programs to raise awareness about adoption as an option for pregnant women. Funds will be used to train health care workers and to provide pregnant women with information about adoption, as well as other options, when providing counseling and other services.

**PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION**--On November 5th, President Bush signed his first National Adoption Month Proclamation. In his statement, the President mentioned the increase in public adoptions during the past few years and alluded to the adoption incentive bonuses issued in September, expressed support for the generously funded Promoting Safe and Stable Families proposal before Congress, and touted the new adoption tax credit that goes into effect in 2002.



### PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

*These publications are relevant for Jewish and interfaith Jewish adoptive families. If you find any discrepancies, inaccuracies and/or changes please let me know. Likewise, if you become aware of a publication not listed here please inform me so I can share the information with your fellow members. --Debra Berger*

**Adoption and the Schools: Resources for Parents and Teachers**, edited by Lansing Wood and Nancy Ng and published by FAIR, using a mini-grant from NACAC. It's full of information and ideas for discussing adoption in the schools, parent and teacher communications and adoption sensitive issues, such as the dreaded family tree assignment. There are also sections dealing with special education and transcultural issues. To order, send a check for \$30 (\$25.00 plus \$5.00 S & H, California residents add 8.25% tax) to FAIR, PO Box 51436, Palo Alto, CA 94303 or order online at [www.fairfamilies.org](http://www.fairfamilies.org)

**Adoptive Families Magazine** – Every issue is packed with independent, reliable, practical information on how you can adopt and how to raise healthy, happy children. A four-times Parent's Choice Award winner! Adoptive Families is written by real parents with real kids, and every issue is packed with real-life stories and real-life advice. Better than ever, it now includes Lois Melina's *Adopted Child!* New Hope Communications, Susan Caughman, Editor and Publisher. Subscription Customer Service: 800-372-3300, letters [@adoptivefam.com](mailto:@adoptivefam.com). Offered bi-monthly at \$24.95/yr

**Adoption Medical News** – this publication, available by only subscription only, includes clear and practical medical advice for adoptive families and their doctors. Published by William L. Pierce. Adoption Medical

News, Suite 302, 2001 "S" St., NW, Washington, DC 20009 Subscriptions, contact Donna Hermann at 814-364-2449, [www.adoptionmedicalnews.com](http://www.adoptionmedicalnews.com)

*Adoption Today Magazine* – a bi-monthly publication that explores issues pertinent to the adoption community of today, from domestic adoption and foster care to intercountry adoption. It is written by adoptees, adoptive parents, and professionals in the field of education, medicine and social work. Adoption Today, Richard Fischer, Editor, 888-924-6736, [louis@adoptinfo.net](mailto:louis@adoptinfo.net), \$21/6 issues, [www.adoptinfo.net/adoptinfo.html](http://www.adoptinfo.net/adoptinfo.html)

*An Educator's Guide to Adoption* – published by Celebrate Adoption, Inc., for parents to give to their child's classroom teacher to create a partnership on how to handle adoption in the classroom. The 22-page guide, available for \$7.50 from [www.celebrateadoption.org](http://www.celebrateadoption.org).

*Dovetail* – a newsletter by and for Jewish-Christian Families. Available for Dovetail Publishing, P.O. Box 19945, Kalamazoo, MI 49019

*Jewish Family & Life* is an e-publication of Jewish Communication Network. They publish a monthly webzine at [www.jewishfamily.com](http://www.jewishfamily.com). Contact them at [jewishfamily@JFLmedia.com](mailto:jewishfamily@JFLmedia.com), Toll-free 888-I-LUV-JFL.

*Jewish Lights Publishing* – publishes books on Judaism and Jewish topics for adults and children, including *The New Jewish Baby Book and Lifecycles*. Jewish Lights Publishing, P.O. Box 237, Sunset Farm Offices, RT 4, Woodstock, VT 05091, 802-457-4000.

*Jewish Publication Society* – offers the following titles of interest: *Adoption and the Jewish Family*, *Contemporary Perspectives*, *Celebration and Renewal*, *The Jewish Catalogs (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>)*, *And Hannah Wept*, *Does God Belong in the Bedroom?* Their catalog includes *Contemporary Jewish Life*, *Jewish Traditions* and *Jewish Children's Books*, etc. 1-800-234-3151

*Kar-Ben Copies, Inc.* – one of the best publishers of Jewish children's books in the country. They publish books for toddlers, holiday books, activity books, calendars, books on the Bible, Israel, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Shabbat, grief and loss, and much more. 800-4-KARBEN, [karben@aol.com](mailto:karben@aol.com), [www.karben.com](http://www.karben.com).

*National Adoption Information Clearinghouse* – Their website has the most comprehensive listing of online Fact Sheets on adoption-related topics available on the

Web. Search their directory for: state adoption specialists; state licensing specialists; state adoption exchanges and photo listings; state reunion registries; state confidential intermediary services; attorney referral services; local public agencies; regional and/or district offices; licensed private adoption agencies; adoptive parent support groups and post-adoption services; support groups for adopted adults and birth parents. They even have a database on Jewish adoption! 110530 Rosehaven St., Suite 400, Fairfax, VA. 703-246-9095, [www.calib.com/naic/](http://www.calib.com/naic/)

*Perspectives Press* – adoption publishing company run by well-known adoption and fertility author, Pat Johnston. P.O. Box 9318, Indianapolis, IN 46290-0318, 317-872-3055, [ppress@iquest.net](mailto:ppress@iquest.net), [www.perspectivespress.com](http://www.perspectivespress.com)

*Pitspopany Press* – publishers of books and guides for Jewish children, parents, and teachers, including children's stories, holiday books, bible series. 800-232-2931, [pop@netvision.net.il](mailto:pop@netvision.net.il), <http://www.pitspopany.com>

*Proud Parenting* – formerly known as *Alternative Family Magazine*, this publication for today's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender parents and their families has recently been re-named and re-launched. Each issue has included at least one article on some aspect of adoptive parenting. This is an excellent publication for this special population. 800-256-8519, [www.proudparenting.com](http://www.proudparenting.com), \$24/6 issues.

*Roots and Wings* – now merged with *Adoption Today Magazine* (see entry). Current subscribers will receive *Adoption Today* until their subscription expires. You may order a complete collection of back issues for \$42. 888-924-6736. Send check or money order to: Roots & Wings Magazine, P.O. Box 577 Hackettstown, NJ 07840, or order online at <http://www.adoptinfo.net/ORDERFOR.htm>.

*Tapestry Books* – over 300 titles of books on adoption, infertility and parenting available for children, teens and adults. For free catalog: 800-765-ADOPT (2367)

*1-800-Judaism*: The Catalog for a Jewish Lifestyle – includes adult and children's books (many on adoption), computer software, travel guides, holiday materials, music cassettes and CD's, videos, giftware, Jewish art, cookbooks, jewelry, games and toys, religious supplies, and calendars. 800-Judaism, [info@judaism.com](mailto:info@judaism.com), <http://www.judaism.com>

STARS OF DAVID CHAPTERS AND CONTACTS - THE FOLLOWING IS A LISTING OF CURRENT STARS OF DAVID CHAPTERS AND CONTACTS AS OF 1/01. SHOULD YOU WISH TO START A CHAPTER OR BE AN AREA CONTACT, PLEASE CALL NATIONAL CHAPTER COORDINATOR DEBRA BERGER, TOLL-FREE, 1-888-550-3732. SHOULD YOU WISH TO CONTACT SOMEONE LOCALLY, PLEASE CALL THE CLOSEST CHAPTER OR CONTACT LISTED.

**CHAPTERS**

AZ PHOENIX CHAPTER, Craig & Andi Maron, The Shalom Center, Phoenix, 602-971-1234; craig\_maron@yahoo.com; shalomcenter@templechai.com  
 CA EAST BAY CHAPTER, Ellen Geisler, Walnut Creek, 925-932-3078; MikeREllen@aol.com  
 CA LOS ANGELES/SAN FERNANDO VALLEY CHAPTER, Curtis and Myrna Miller, Northridge, 818-368-0737; MyrnaM3@aol.com  
 CA ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER, Marcia Marsinko, JFS, Orange, 714-445-4950, X102  
 CA SAN DIEGO, Jamie Rodin, 619-291-0473, Fax 619-291-2419, jamier@fjssd.org  
 CA NORTHERN CALIFORNIA PENINSULA/SOUTH BAY CHAPTER, Dorothy and David Heller, Sunnyvale, 408-832-1825; dorothyheller@hotmail.com  
 HI SHALOHA CHAPTER, Jana & Howard Wolff, tel/fax 808-988-1989; janawolff@lava.net  
 IL CHICAGO CHAPTER, Susan M. Katz, Northbrook, (847) 509-9929, starsdavid@aol.com  
 MI METRO DETROIT CHAPTER, Rosa Schindler, 248-661-3978 and Judi Shapiro, 248-626-2716, West Bloomfield  
 NJ NEW BRUNSWICK CHAPTER, Joy Willinger, Dayton, 732-329-8043; willinge@rci.rutgers.edu  
 NJ CHAVERIM CHAPTER, Debra Berger, 856-384-2764, StarsChvrm@aol.com; Marlyn Kress, Mt. Laurel, NJ 856-866-0055, markkress@home.com  
 NY NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER, Stars of David Coordinator, Jewish Child Care Association, New York, 212-33-4722; JCCANAP@aol.com  
 RI RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER, Roberta Schneider, 401-431-0728

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 CA Irvine, Ellen Simpson, (714) 857-1986; elsimpo@uci.edu  
 CA Sacramento, Cherryne Kravitz, (530) 757-7738  
 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  
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 CT Norwalk, Nancy Salk & Robert Jellinek, (203) 866-1276  
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 FL Hollywood, Lisa Math, (954) 961-0532  
 FL Ft. Lauderdale, Bennett & Mindy-Jo Lorman, (305) 749-1526 (H)/(305) 763-8973 (W)  
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 FL Longwood, Linda Silver and Michael Baron, 407-833-0216, ets1204@aol.com  
 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  
 MD Central Maryland, Gail Lipsitz, JFS Baltimore, (410) 466-9200 ext. 234

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 MI Metro Detroit, JFS, Diane St. Peter, (248) 559-1500  
 MN Afton, Amy Silberberg, (612) 436-2015  
 NC Charlotte, JFS, (704) 364-6594  
 NC Durham, Marjorie Scheer, 919-676-2200; FAX 919-676-2122, mscheer@shalomdch.org; or Ann Hess, JFS Raleigh, ann.hess@rcjp.org  
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 NJ Cherry Hill, Meira Itzkowitz & Marlene Winn, JFCS, 856-424-1333  
 NJ Highland Park, Reva Kaufman, (908) 545-7174  
 NJ Ventnor, Matt Greenberg, JFS, (609) 822-1108  
 NJ Wayne, Cindy Ratner, (973) 694-1691  
 NV Las Vegas, Jani Novotny, JFS, (702) 732-0340  
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 TN Memphis, Penny Glatstein, JFS, (901) 767-8511  
 TN Nashville, Teri Sogol, JFS, (615) 356-4234  
 TX Austin, Leah Cohen, JFS, (512) 795-8092  
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