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## jewish adoptive families

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3175 Commercial Avenue, Suite 100*

*Northbrook IL 60062-1915*

*1-773-274-1527:phone and fax*

[www.starsofdavid.org](http://www.starsofdavid.org) / [StarsDavid@aol.com](mailto:StarsDavid@aol.com)

S U M M E R 2 0 0 6

Sivan-Tammuz - Av 5766

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

#### **Presidents Message**

#### **SAVE THE DATE!!**

Planning for our Midwest Adoption Conference is well underway. The keynote speaker for the conference is a woman who has raised 15 adopted children, many of whom have special needs. Barbara Tremitiere, PhD, ACSW, LSW is an author, consultant and the founder of the *One Another Adoption Program*. Ms. Tremitiere is well known in the adoption world and we are delighted that she has agreed to join us this year!

The date for this year's conference is **Sunday, November 5** at William Rainey Harper College in Palatine. **This year promises to be the best conference yet!** You can choose from over 40 sessions on a wide range of adoption topics. We have included sessions for those of you that are adopting internationally and for those of you who are just thinking about adopting. For those of you who have adopted children who are approaching adolescence, Debbie Riley, C.A.S.E. Director and author of *Beneath the Mask* is joining us for a double



session workshop and she will also teach a WISE UP session!!

If you would like to volunteer to help us in any way please let us know. We can be reached by email at [starsdavid@aol.com](mailto:starsdavid@aol.com).

Our website is currently being completely updated. We recently switched both our server and webmaster. The updated website is nearly ready to go public. It has taken a great deal of time to make these changes. Big thanks go out to those of you who have been instrumental in making this transition happen!

Be sure to see conference flyer enclosed in this issue—and send in your registration soon.

Shalom!  
Elyse Flack

#### **In This Issue**

- The Benefits of Participation in An Adoptive Parent Support Group
- Tears of Sorrow: Seeds of Hope: A Chaplain's Response to Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin
- Part II- Adoption Law in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

## National Board of Directors

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*If you are interested in participating on our National Board, please let us know. We are particularly looking for people with experience in fund raising, publicity, grant writing, and board development.*

## Our Mission

***Stars of David: The Jewish Adoption Information & Support Network*** is a non-profit organization providing a compassionate network of ***support, adoption information, and education*** to prospective parents, adoptive families, adult adoptees, birth families, and the Jewish community.

Stars of David International, Inc. is approved as a charitable organization under 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code. Contributions to the national organization are tax deductible and greatly appreciated.

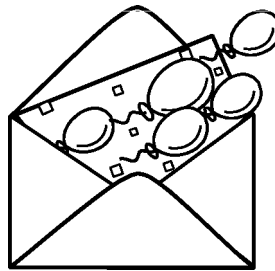
# New

*Jewish Adoptive Families* is published quarterly and available via email or snail mail to Chicago Chapter Members and selected

professionals and organizations *only*. We welcome your contributions to this newsletter! Please feel free to submit articles you have written or read, parenting tips, new resources, humorous anecdotes, or any other items that might be of interest to the chapter. This is *your* newsletter. Mail the editor at [StarsDavid@aol.com](mailto:StarsDavid@aol.com).

## WISHING ON A STAR

Stars of David National tribute cards are available for a minimum donation of \$10 each, 6 for \$50. To send a card, go to our website and complete the order Form or email [DebraB7416@aol.com](mailto:DebraB7416@aol.com). You may also purchase packets of cards to have on hand at home by contacting Elyse Flack at [StarsDavid@aol.com](mailto:StarsDavid@aol.com). All proceeds are used to underwrite the organization's activities. ***Tribute Cards are appropriate for special occasions including birthdays, anniversaries, adoptive placements, condolence, etc.***



## We Need Your Email Address Newsletters via Email!!

Don't forget to let us know if your email address changes! Newsletters will be posted as a PDF file on our website and other important notices will come via email. The only people who will receive a "hard copy" are those very few people who do not have email. If you do not have an email address at home, let us know if you can receive your newsletter at your office or pick it up at another location. Be sure to let us know when you email address changes!

## The SDI Discussion Group

Have you joined our private listserv yet? Stars of David members all over the world may now share information among themselves with ease by joining our e-group, "SDI\_Discussion." The service is free to members who register with the group, and allows members to exchange information by posting messages. You can subscribe to the SDI\_Discussion Group in one of two ways:

- 1) Visit the SDI\_Discussion website at: [http://www.egroups.com/group/SDI\\_Discussion](http://www.egroups.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.
- 2) Or, send an email to: [SDI\\_Discussion-subscribe@egroups.com](mailto:SDI_Discussion-subscribe@egroups.com). Type **Subscribe** in the header (subject line). In the body of the message, type *Subscribe* and your email address (for example, *subscribe sue@home.com*)

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

Learn about the importance of a Lifebook and how to use it throughout the years. This course will help you:

- Understand the purpose of a Lifebook and the need to start or to continue to develop one.
- Identify the components of a Lifebook.
- Identify situations that may benefit from employing the Lifebook.
- Develop some pages of your child's Lifebook.
- Understand the importance of Lifebooks as a lifelong project.

For information, see:

[www.adoptionlearningpartners.org](http://www.adoptionlearningpartners.org)

## FEATURES

### The Benefits of Participation in An Adoptive Parent Support Group

These days, young families seem busier than ever. Besides the schoolwork and responsibilities, children and their parents become involved in a wide range of extracurricular activities. In fact, it seems that it is almost impossible to fit it all in.

Nonetheless, I strongly suggest you consider making time in your busy schedule to participate in an adoptive parent support group. I continue to facilitate one such group, which first met approximately nine years ago. The core group members have remained the same over the life of the group.

All too often, support groups are allowed to generate into little more than an opportunity to vent frustration. When this occurs, members may leave group meetings feeling depressed and/or discouraged.

In my experience, the following suggestions impact group development in positive ways:

1. Consider hiring a professional to facilitate the group. A professional has the expertise to create a group forum that allows for personal connections as well as opportunities to learn and share.
2. Require a nominal fee be paid for a yearly membership into the group. It may surprise you, but the research clearly demonstrates that when we pay for something it becomes valued in a different manner than if the object or activity is free of charge.
3. Set a regular schedule and stick with it. Over the years I have learned that once the group begins to deviate from a regular schedule, any type of schedule becomes difficult to maintain. Our Connections group meets the 1st Wednesday of each month, September through June. The group is only

rescheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday when the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday falls on a major holiday.

4. During the early stages of the group, include an educational component to each session. The facilitator, with input from the group members, should be responsible for handing out articles to be read before each meeting. Having a topic of interest to discuss enhances learning and generates lively conversation.

5. Be an empathic listener. Group development is dependent upon members being unconditionally accepting of each other. In this environment, members feel safe and understood.

6. Consider sharing your own parenting triumphs and disappointments. No one makes all of the right decisions. Sharing honestly allows members to learn from each other.

7. Show up. Showing up means a lot. Work hard to make the group a priority. Although the benefits of the group may not be apparent early on, over time the group experience can enhance your understanding of yourself and your family. As one Connections member said, "This is the only place that people really understand. It feels like home."

Nancy Golden, LCSW, is the clinical director of the Midwest Adoption Center in Des Plaines. The center provides consultation, therapy, and search-related services to anyone touched by adoption. For more information, contact Nancy at (847) 298-9096 or visit MAC's website at [www.macadopt.org](http://www.macadopt.org).

### **Tears of Sorrow: Seeds of Hope A Chaplain's Response to Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin**

Rabbi Leonard J. Lewy  
National Association of Jewish Chaplains  
Annual Conference  
Baltimore, MD  
February 5, 2001

The Babylonian Talmud (Berachot 5) relates the following interactions about Rabbi

Yochanan who was regarded as both a great healer and a very handsome man:

"Rabbi Chiyya bar Abba became ill. Rabbi Yochanan went to visit him. He said, 'Do you appreciate your suffering?' He replied, 'neither the suffering nor any reward I might receive for the suffering.' Rabbi Yochanan said, 'Give me your hand.' He gave him his hand and Rabbi Yochanan healed him.

Rabbi Yochanan once became ill. Rabbi Chanina went to visit him. He said, 'Do you appreciate your suffering?' He replied, 'neither the suffering nor any reward I might receive for the suffering.' Rabbi Chanina said, 'Give me your hand.' He gave him his hand and Rabbi Chanina healed him. Why could not Rabbi Yochanan heal himself? The Rabbis replied: 'The prisoner cannot free himself from jail'.

Rabbi Eliezer fell ill and Rabbi Yochanan went in to visit him. He saw Rabbi Eliezer lying in a dark [windowless] room. Rabbi Yochanan bared his arm and the room lit up. He saw that Rabbi Eliezer was crying. He said to him: Why are you crying? Is it for the Torah in which you have not learned enough? We have learned: The one more, the other less--if only his heart is directed to heaven. Is it because of not enough sustenance you are crying -- not every person merits two tables. If because of [the lack of] children? See, this is the bone of my tenth son. Rabbi Eliezer replied to him: I am crying over this beauty of yours, which is to wither in the dust. Rabbi Yochanan said to him: You are right to cry over that. And they wept together."

In all three vignettes one rabbi attempts to provide assistance and support to another rabbi, the latter of whom is suffering. In the first two scenarios Rabbi Yochanan and Rabbi Chanina offer theological inquiry and succor to their ill colleague. While those questions do not help the patient, outstretched hands to touch the patient both literally and figuratively bring healing relief.

In the third story Rabbi Yochanan's enduring active listening to Rabbi Eliezer elicits that the latter's illness involves a deep emotional response to the finitude of human life. Rabbi Yochanan joins with Rabbi Eliezer, as they cry together. Merely joining Rabbi Eliezer in grief and helplessness as with holding hands in the first two vignettes seems to make Rabbi Yochanan a failure in the opinion of some commentators even today. Yet, I believe that Rabbi Yochanan is in fact a master healer and teacher for us.

Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin's pioneering *Tears of Sorrow, Seeds of Hope: A Jewish Spiritual Companion for Infertility and Pregnancy Loss* is a profound, sensitive treasure for those faced with infertility and miscarriage. Many wonderful tools are present; however, I want to reflect a caution that poetry, prayer, ritual, and theology alone may not be the correct gift for each of the myriad of individual patients and families whose holy space we enter as Jewish chaplains. In Judaism we approach and imitate God in a variety of ways, including through prayer but also through study, listening, and presence. It is essential to sensitively inquire and listen when encountering a patient or hurting individual as Rabbi Yochanan did before offering remedies. These texts (above) from *Berachot* indicate that sometimes hand-holding presence can loosen the bounds of the prisoner and sometimes weeping with the patient -- together -- in the face of deep felt sorrow or loss can be as profound or even a much greater gift of compassion and shared humanity as any words.

Rabbi Bonita Taylor has referred to infertility as one among several kinds of grief that our society -- Jewish or secular -- does not recognize or -- only with difficulty -- permits attention to be paid. Bonita deems this phenomenon disenfranchised grief. When individuals share their disappointment, their dashed dreams, others will tend to ignore those comments or be able to respond only with advice such as: It will work out. You'll adopt. It takes patience. Once you adopt

you'll relax and have a child naturally. These comments -- while well intended -- are insensitive, unhelpful, and demeaning to the individual or couple suffering with infertility. The more often support is sought and self-disclosure is made to friends and communities where many will respond as in these insensitive responses, the more isolated those unable to have children may feel -- often becoming ambivalent about or choosing not to share with others a second time.

Women have been given a greater degree of permission by society to share and grieve the inability to conceive going back to Sarah and Chanah. Men have tended to be less in touch with their feelings and less thought of as grievers in the face of infertility. However, I would maintain that once a man decides he wishes a child under whatever circumstances and cannot; his loss, while different than a woman's, is every bit as profoundly painful. Judy, my wife, and I are personally in this situation of being unable to have children. When I went to synagogue on Rosh Hashanah and read Chanah's Haftarah (I Samuel 1:1 - 2:10), I wept internally while seeing no one with whom I felt comfortable sharing that pain other than Judy and the *Kadosh Baruch Hu* (the Holy One). Men's grief is even more disenfranchised than women's in connection with infertility; therefore, men, whether aware of it or not, may often be even more in need of support. For a man who is infertile other things that are so important to the male gender are bound up with this condition, including virility and the equation of the ability to father children with sexual identity and manhood. Therefore, huge identity struggles and losses can accompany the fact of infertility or lack of the ability to father children for men.

Nina mentions the concept of life's dreams in her book (while sorry for the losses she and her spouse suffered, I greatly admire her candor and courage in stating them). Those dreams can change at each step of infertility, moving from denial and shock to anger and many other emotions enumerated in the book, including shame, blame, confusion,

frustration, jealousy especially of other couples with children, despair sadness, guilt, and hope. There is no linear progression. Hope ensues as each treatment is undertaken or an adoption process is pursued! As something fails, grief and despair may set in once again with the negative result of a procedure. Kuebler-Ross speaks of acceptance as the end stage of grief. Yet, I suspect in many infertility situations, acceptance-- both of the state of genetic infertility and later as Resolve, The National Infertility Association, calls it -- the decision to remain childless -- never stands alone without regret. Many of the stages of grief and other emotions manifest themselves as the individual or couple interfaces the world always in the presence of families with children and for Jews most especially at holidays like Purim and Simchat Torah that highlight the dream of what might be or might have been.

I have spoken previously at the last two NAJC conferences with Rabbi Stephen Roberts as my co-presenter, regarding providing chaplaincy visits to first and second generation Holocaust survivors. Those who are children of Holocaust survivors -- I speak once again from my own life situation - are likely to have further burdens, while experiencing infertility. Guilt at not continuing the generation that was wiped out in the Holocaust could be a major issue. The issue of theodicy - why a good, all powerful God allows bad things to happen -- while undoubtedly arising for many infertile couples, might be an all the more onerous burden for survivors with infertile children and second generation individuals personally still wrestling with the why of the Holocaust.

Prayer and ritual can movingly include the childless couple or individual in the bond of the Jewish community and God's presence. My great concern is that such powerful tools not be a crutch or escape for the Jewish Chaplain from his or her task to seek to be with the other. The words that we as Jewish chaplains speak can be powerful and can stay

with a patient or family for good or ill. The Rabbis teach, *chamim hiz'haru b'd'veiheim* -- take care with the words that you speak. Be careful to not try and fix those who suffer with infertility. Telling or praying with an individual, for instance in a prayer, that he or she needs to shift dreams or find hope and meaning now that childbirth will not happen can be a *hillul hashem* (a desecration of God's name) that further alienates an individual or couple from God or the Jewish community whom we as rabbis, cantors, and chaplains represent.

The greatest gift from my perspective, which many of you, have given me in this and other connections over the years, is that of listening. Listening with our emotions, with our own losses of dreams present, so that the listener and the one sharing -- touch! Then prayer and ritual can be part of an all the more powerful encounter and priceless treasure. Then, when we are called, Rabbi Yochanan's outstretched hand and tears will truly be transformed into gifts of healing and loosening the prisoner's painful bonds. *Ken yehi ratzon. Amen*

## CONFERENCES & EVENTS

### **13th Midwest Adoption Conference Sunday, November 5, 2006!!**

Our conference has become one of the biggest and best adoption conferences in the country. Once again Adoptive Families Today and Families with Children from China /Chicago are joining forces with Stars of David/Chicago. The conference will be all day at William Rainey Harper College. Watch for news about this great conference!

For information on how to GET INVOLVED and VOLUNTEER to help please call 773-274-1527 or email Elyse or Sue at [Starsdavid@aol.com](mailto:Starsdavid@aol.com).

**Parenting your "Tough Start" Child  
Saturday June 24, 9-11am  
DePaul University, Naperville Campus**

This workshop is a discussion of the tough starts children may experience, such as high-risk prenatal history or institutional care. Judy Stigger, Community Counselor at the The Cradle, is the presenter. Judy is the adoptive parent of two "tough start" children herself. Fees are \$20 for the first person attending and \$10 for a second family member. The workshop is free if you are a pre-placement client. Call 847-475-5800 for more information.

**Reviews  
Books, Articles, Movies, Etc.**

*Adopted Teens Only: A Survival Guide to Adolescence* is written by Danae Gorbett, Ms Gorbett was one of our speakers at last years Midwest Adoption Conference. Her book tackles the tough issues that adoptive parents are often times reluctant to discuss with their teenager. I read this book in one night. It is very organized and poses normal everyday situations that could become hot topics.

Some readers may find the some of the subject matter difficult. Some may find the subject matter negative. However, as the parent of an adoptee who is beginning her teen years I found this book to be honest and straightforward. I was very glad to finally have another book available to me providing insight into the feelings of my adopted teen and how to deal with them. Although I have been in the field of adoption since before she was born and learned early on how to validate the feelings my children may have, my daughter said this book was helpful in validating how she sometimes feels. She is not alone.

Adopted teenagers that read this book will discover and learn what feelings and thoughts

are common to the adoptive experience, what adoptive parents feel, what birth parents feel, what emotional issues can be connected with search and reunion, how to talk to parents about adoption questions.

Recommended reading for adoptive parents of children approaching their teens as well as teenage adoptees. Available at all major bookstores, Amazon.com and at this year's Midwest Adoption Conference.

Reviewed by Elyse Flack

**Borya and the Burps**

An Eastern European Adoption Story  
By Joan McNamara  
Illustrated By Dawn Majewski

With the rapid growth of adoptions from Eastern European Countries this book is a welcome addition to the world of adoption stories. The author, Joan McNamara, is a social worker and adoptive parent who has written this funny and telling story about a small boy (Borya) who is leaving his orphanage to be adopted.

This highly recommended book is written for children. It is a short 32 pages and easy to read. The wonderful whimsical illustrations help to bring to light the emotions Borya is feeling as he leaves everything he has known to go to his new home and his new mom and dad. The one thing he has been able to take with him is his ability to produce unbelievable burps.

The book is now available through [www.perspectivespress.com](http://www.perspectivespress.com) where you can view a review copy of the book, read advise for parents, advance book reviews and information about the author and illustrator.

**Media Reviews** - Celebrate Adoption, in partnership with the International Adoption Alliance, is now posting movie and program reviews to let adoptive families know the way adoption is portrayed. You can read reviews or submit your own reviews at the

Celebrate Adoption website:  
[www.celebrateadoption.org](http://www.celebrateadoption.org).

Note! - Many books and videos are available in our chapter library, which is housed at the chapter office. We also have an extensive listing of adoption & Jewish resources available. Come take a look!

## ADOPTION MATERIALS

**Adopt Shoppe** is a terrific site for finding unique adoption gifts, books, and resources. It is owned and operated by Roberta Rosenberg, who writes: "I wanted to build a small shop for adoptive parents to find items of usefulness, value, and beauty that I wasn't finding anywhere else. I've developed some resources myself. I've also networked with other like-minded adoption entrepreneurs and skilled artisans to showcase items both unique and hard-to-find." The site features announcements, books, magazines, artful gifts, jewelry, life books, journals, sweats and t-shirts, needlework, and more. Roberta is the adoptive mom of two children from Korea and an active member of the Jewish adoption community. You'll find her website at: [www.adoptshoppe.com](http://www.adoptshoppe.com).



### Music and Culture for Children Around the World

**Putumayo Kids** sells activity kits and CD's that will inspire the cultural diversity of families. One of their newest releases is called *Latin Playground CD* lyrics are in both English and Spanish. The activity book has recipes, cultural information, games, puzzles and more.

[www.putumayokids.com](http://www.putumayokids.com)

**Adoption Printing** - creates business cards for hopeful adoptive parents. Choose from over forty designs that are customizable with your name, message and contact information. Plus, you can add your own photograph to the backside. [www.adoptionprinting.com](http://www.adoptionprinting.com)

**Mandy's Moon** - this website features many products for adoptive families including:

custom printed announcements, address labels and stickers, shower invitations, thank you cards, plaques, baby gifts, magnets, and more. International a-parent, Laurie O'Neill owns and operates this business. See: [www.mandysmoon.com](http://www.mandysmoon.com).

## JEWISH RESOURCES

**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. Catalogs available or contact: *1-800-Judaism*, 2028 Murray Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15217, 1-800-583-2476, [info@judaism.com](mailto:info@judaism.com), [www.judaism.com](http://www.judaism.com). Take a look at *What's in a Name* by Rabbi Wilhelm, which talks about laws and customs regarding the naming of children, including those that have been adopted.

**Kolbo Fine Judaica, Inc.** - This company sells ritual items, books & videos, music, jewelry, invitations, graphic art, etc. Books include: *Adoption & the Jewish Family* by Shelley Kapnek Rosenberg. 437 Harvard St., Brookline MA 02446, 800-238-8743, [www.kolbo.com](http://www.kolbo.com)

**Dovetail** - a newsletter by and for Jewish-Christian Families. Available from Dovetail Publishing, P.O. Box 19945, Kalamazoo MI 49019. Many issues include an article about interfaith adoptive families. Stars/Chicago has a subscription, stop by for a look! Available from [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) or order directly from Dovetail on their website at: [www.dovetailinstitute.org](http://www.dovetailinstitute.org).

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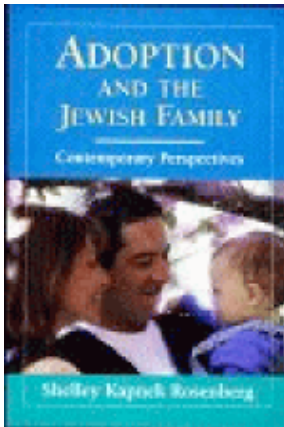
link to families who may not feel comfortable in traditional Jewish organizations.

Contact them at:

[jewishfamily@JFLmedia.com](mailto:jewishfamily@JFLmedia.com)

56 Kearney Road, Suite B, Needham, MA 02494, 781-449-9894, Toll Free 888-ILUV-JFL, Fax 781-449-9825.

**Jewish Lights Publishing** - publish books on Judaism and Jewish topics for adults and children including *The New Jewish Baby Album* by the Editors of Jewish Lights. *Jewish Lights Publishing*, P. O. Box 237, Sunset Farm Offices, Rt. 4, Woodstock VT 05091, 802-457-4000, Fax 457-4004, [www. j](http://www.j)



<http://www.jewishlights.com>  
[editorial@jewishlights.com](mailto:editorial@jewishlights.com)

**Jewish Publication Society** - offers the following titles of interest: *Celebration & Renewal*, *the Jewish Catalogs (1st, 2nd, & 3rd)*, *And Hannah Wept, Does God Belong in the Bedroom?* Their catalog includes Contemporary Jewish Life, Jewish Traditions, and Jewish Children's Books, etc. Call or write *The Jewish Publication Society*, 1930 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia PA 19103-4599, 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. Sample catalogs are available at open meetings. 6880 Tildenwood Lane, Rockville MD 20852, 301-984-8733, 1-800-4-

KARBEN, Fax 301-8 81-9195,  
[karben@aol.com](mailto:karben@aol.com), [www.karben.com](http://www.karben.com).

**Pitspopany Press** - publishers of books and guides for Jewish children, parents, and teachers including children's stories, holiday books, and bible series. Pitspopany Press, Devora Publishing, 40 E. 78th St., Suite 16D, NY, NY 10021, 1-800-232-2931,  
[pitspop@netvision.net](mailto:pitspop@netvision.net)  
[www.pitspopany.com/](http://www.pitspopany.com/)  
Publications include: *Noah 's Ark: A 3D Model and Storybook*.

## PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

**Adoption Today Magazine** - a bimonthly publication that explores issues pertinent to the adoption community of today, including domestic adoption, foster care, and intercountry adoption. This excellent magazine is written by adoptees, adoptive parents, and professionals in the field of education, medicine and social work and is available in the Stars office. *Adoption Today*, Richard Fischer, Editor; Louis & Company, 541 E. Garden Drive, Unit N, Windsor CO 80550, [www.adoptinfo.net](http://www.adoptinfo.net), 970-663-1185, Fax 970-663-1186, 888-924-6736, [louis@adoptinfo.net](mailto:louis@adoptinfo.net), \$21/6 issues

**Adoptive Families Magazine** - Every issue is packed with independent, reliable, practical information on how you can adopt and how to raise healthy, happy children. It is 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. Stay informed about current adoption news and trends, learn from others and make the most of your precious child-rearing years.

New Hope Communications, Susan Cushman, Editor & Publisher, 2472 Broadway, Suite 377, New York NY 10025, 212-877-1839, Fax 212-382-8910, Subscription Customer Service: 800-372-3300, [letters@adoptivfam.com](mailto:letters@adoptivfam.com). It also includes Lois Melina's *Adopted Child*. offered bi-monthly at \$39.95/yr. We get a \$5

donation for every identified member that subscribes. See our website for a subscription form.

Order the *Adoption Guide*, which includes an excellent overview of adoption, several feature stories, national listings of adoption resources, adoption basics and checklists and get a free sample copy of the magazine. Just \$14.95 from *Adoptive Families*, PO Box 5159, Brentwood TN 37024. See their updated website for help to find a local agency or support group, to find a local adoption attorney, and more. Orders by mail, phone, Fax 615-377-0525, [www.adoptivefamiliesmagazine.com](http://www.adoptivefamiliesmagazine.com)

Their website has posted some of their most helpful articles (which can be downloaded for free): *Teaching the Teachers, How I Explained Adoption to the First Grade, The Adoption Tax Credit Explained, Accurate Adoption Language, How to Lobby for Adoption Benefits, Ten Tips for Adoption Travel, 30 Ways to Celebrate Adoption, Health Insurance for Adopted Kids*, and more!!

***Adopting for Tomorrow Magazine*** - is committed to serving adoptive and potential adoptive parents as an invaluable resource by providing the most current and relevant information on domestic and international adoption, journalism excellence and integrity, comprehensive child profiles, and a format for sharing experiences among adopting families.

They aim to facilitate each stage of the individual adoption process by providing essential information and supplemental assistance to adopting parents. Subscription at \$29.95/year.  
888-281-1284 , Fax 302-225-1287 , 5165 West Woodmill Drive, Suite 12 ,  
Wilmington, De 19808 ,  
[Sales@Adoptingtomorrow.com](mailto:Sales@Adoptingtomorrow.com)

**An Educators Guide to Adoption and Why Should You Understand 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. Available for \$7.75 from [www.celebrateadoption.org](http://www.celebrateadoption.org). Excellent!

**fm Magazine** - FM, which stands for "First Mother" is the first magazine ever geared toward birthmothers. Michelle Curtiss, a birthmother herself, developed the magazine in the hopes of reaching as many birthmothers as possible. This 30+ page magazine is filled with personal stories as told by "fm's" in their own words from their own experiences. For details, check out: [www.fm-magazine.com](http://www.fm-magazine.com)

### ***National Adoption Information***

**Clearinghouse** Their website site 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  
License Private Adoption Agencies  
Adoptive Parent Support Groups and Post-Adoption Services  
Support Groups for Adopted Adults and Birth Parents  
Database on Jewish Adoption

Many of their fact sheets, including *State Adoption Statutes* are available in our resource library or you may order a free copy. *National Adoption Information Clearinghouse*, 10530 Rosehaven St., Suite 400, Fairfax VA 22030, 703-246-9095, [www.calib.com/naic/](http://www.calib.com/naic/)

**Perspectives Press** - adoption publishing company run by well known adoption and infertility author Pat Johnston. See our

chapter files for a list of available books and tapes or contact: *Perspectives Press*, P.O. Box 90318, Indianapolis IN 46290-0318, 317-872-3055, [ppress@iquest.net](mailto:ppress@iquest.net), [www.perspectivespress.com](http://www.perspectivespress.com)

***Proud Parenting*** - a publication for today's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender parents and their families. Each issue includes at least one article on some aspect of adoptive parenting. This is an excellent publication for this special population. To order call 800-256-8519 or visit their website at [www.proudparenting.com](http://www.proudparenting.com). *Proud Parenting, Inc.* PO Box 8272, Van Nuys CA 91409-8272, \$24/6 issues.

***The Red Thread*** - Quarterly magazine for families with children from China. \$20/yr. *The Red Thread*, 5900 SOM Center Rd., Suite 104, Willoughby OH 44094, Fax 440-953-9228, [rthreadmag@aol.com](mailto:rthreadmag@aol.com), [www.redthreadmag.com](http://www.redthreadmag.com)

***Tapestry Books*** - over 300 titles of books on adoption, infertility and parenting available for children, teens, and adults. Call or write for a free catalog: *Tapestry Books*, P.O. Box 359, Dept. C-3, Ringoes, NJ 08551-0173, 1-800-765-ADOPT (2367). *Tapestry Books* Catalogs are available in our chapter files, or from their website at [www.tapestrybooks.com](http://www.tapestrybooks.com).

## INTERNET RESOURCES

*The information superhighway, has many relevant resources for adoptive families. We will feature new recommendations with each issue. A comprehensive list is available to our members and may be e-mailed to you upon request.. All sites listed have been checked and are current as of date of publication of this issue. Please e-mail your favorite web sites to: [StarsDavid@aol.com](mailto:StarsDavid@aol.com).*

[www.starsofdavid.org](http://www.starsofdavid.org)

This is the official website of Stars of David !

Includes detailed information about Stars of David , Jewish and "Jewish user-friendly" adoption agencies, Jewish adoption and parenting resources, links to other useful sites, essays on Jewish adoption, and much more.

### [Adoption.about.com](http://Adoption.about.com)

Comprehensive commercial site on adoption. Many helpful articles and lists of resources.

### **Adoption Clip & Save Articles:**

*Adoption in the Classroom, Tips for Adoption Travel, How I Explained Adoption to the First Grade, 30 Ways to Celebrate Adoption, Accurate Adoption Language, Health Tips for Adopted Kids and MORE!*

<http://www.adoptivefamilies.com/clip.php>

### **Can we adopt a Jewish child?**

<http://jewish.adoption.com/faith-based/can-we-adopt-a-jewish-child.html>

The authors talk about generational continuity, kinship, control, and the reaction of the Jewish community.

### **Jewish Adoption Listserv**

Send an email to

[LISTSERV@MAELSTROM.STJOHNS.EDU](mailto:LISTSERV@MAELSTROM.STJOHNS.EDU)

Type "subscribe" (without the quotes) in the body of the message

### **Judaism and Adoption**

<http://www.adopting.org/adoptions/judaism-and-adoption.html>

Resources and information for Jewish and interfaith families interested in and/or connected to adoption. Includes "Adoption and Conversion of a Non-Jewish Child."

### **SDI\_Discussion Group Signup**

[www.egroups.com/group/SDI\\_Discussion](http://www.egroups.com/group/SDI_Discussion)

Go here to sign up for the various listservs exclusively for Stars of David members and their children.



## *Notes*

*Announcements about various adoption programs and materials have been selected from other publications,*

*summarized from information sent by the source, or received in our newsletter exchange. Unless expressly written, STARS of DAVID/Chicago, has no first-hand knowledge of these programs or materials. Inclusion of any resource in our newsletters does not imply endorsement or approval. We provide them solely as a resource for our members.*

### **NAT'L AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS, EXCHANGES & PROGRAMS**

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

**Jewish Children's Adoption Network (JCAN)** is a nonprofit 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 limitations.

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 parent, are interested in being a foster parent, or you wish to make a tax-deductible contribution: *JCAN*, P.O. Box 16544, Denver, CO 80216-0544, 303-573-8113. Call 303-637-4777 for a recorded message on available children. Flyers are available in our [files.jcan@qwest.net](mailto:files.jcan@qwest.net), <http://www.users.qwest.net/~jcan/index.htm>

JCAN is currently raising money to start a therapeutic home for children with very serious problems JCAN has helped families to obtain adoption subsidies years after finalizing an adoption. If you have a special needs child in need of services, please contact them for such assistance.

**INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION  
INS National Toll Free Line 800-375-5283, Monday-Friday, 8am-6pm.**

**U.S. State Department - Adoption**

Site [http://](http://http://travel.state.gov/family/adoption/adoption_485.html)  
[http://travel.state.gov/family/adoption/adoption\\_485.html](http://travel.state.gov/family/adoption/adoption_485.html)

Includes guidelines, requirements, fact sheets, and country specific adoption information.

**Joint Council on International Children's Services - International Adoption Updates**

<http://www.icics.org/> Check on agency accreditation and country specific updates here. (More info below.)

**International Adoption Medical Specialists & Adoption Clinics - See *Adoption Therapists, Medical Issues, & Special Needs.***

**Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption** aka Intercountry Adoption Act (HR2909) was signed into law October 2000. International adoption services providers MUST be accredited by their state.

For details on the law, see the following:  
<http://www.holtintl.org/advocacy.shtml>  
[http://www.hcch.net/index\\_en.php](http://www.hcch.net/index_en.php) [http://](http://http://travel.state.gov/family/adoption/adopton_485.html)  
[http://travel.state.gov/family/adoption/adopton\\_485.html](http://travel.state.gov/family/adoption/adopton_485.html)  
[www.hagueregs.org](http://www.hagueregs.org)

For more information on the medical issues related to ***Adopting An Institutionalized Child: What are the Risks?*** please see an excellent article written by Dr. Dana Johnson, director of the International Adoption Clinic at the U. of MN, at: [www.adoption-research.org/risks.html](http://www.adoption-research.org/risks.html)

**U.S. Flags from Your Senator** - to celebrate your child's adoption finalization or naturalization, purchase the flag that flew over the U.S. Capitol that 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."

### **Ten Tips for Adoption Travel - Factsheet**

<http://www.adoptivefamilies.com/articles.php?aid=247>

**Application for Citizenship on Behalf of an Adopted Child** - effective Jun 17, 2003, BCIS (Bureau of Citizenship & Immigration) has replaced form N-643 with form N-600. The fee is still \$155, and the form and instructions can be downloaded from the BCIS website at: [www.bcis.gov/graphics/formsfee/forms/n-600.htm](http://www.bcis.gov/graphics/formsfee/forms/n-600.htm). For a complimentary do-it-yourself citizenship packet, contact Patti Urban of Legal-Eaze (international adoption document specialist) at [PattiLegalEaze@aol.com](mailto:PattiLegalEaze@aol.com).

### **Traveling with Your Foreign-Born Child/ren**

Please be advised that when traveling in and out of countries that only require birth certificates as proof of identity (such as Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean Islands) the birth certificates of foreign-born children do not act in the same ways as those of children born in the U.S. Foreign-born children **MUST** travel with a *Certificate of Citizenship* or a U.S. Passport if they want to get back into the U.S. They may also use a *Permanent Resident Card*. Until BCIS issues a *Certificate of Citizenship* for your child, your child is still classified as a *Permanent Resident* on their records. With increased U.S. security, it is a very good idea to spend the additional \$155 and get the *COC*.

### **Post Adoption Paperwork Recommended**

The following are recommended for adoptive parents of foreign-born children:

- will (for guardianship purposes)
- life insurance
- readoption
- U.S. Birth Certificate
- Certificate of Citizenship (mandatory)
- Social Security
- U.S. Passport (for travel purposes)
- return of original documents (INS Form G884) (Thanks to Patti Urban for this list.)

### **Countries that DO NOT Permit**

**Adoptions:** (from International Concerns for Children) Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iraq, Israel, Kosovo, Kuwait, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen. **For Israel:** *Adoptions are strictly controlled by the Ministry of Social Welfare and the District Courts. Few children are available to foreigners. The adoptive parent(s) must be the same religion as the child and work through a licensed adoption agency.*

### **Joint Council on Int'l 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 19th Street, N.W., Suite 200, Washington, DC 20036, Executive Director, Antonia Edwardson, [jcics@jcics.org](mailto:jcics@jcics.org), <http://www.jcics.org/>. Check their site for information on any agency you might be considering, including accreditation.

### **Report on Intercountry Adoption -**

published by International Concerns for Children, a nonprofit 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 license, 501C3 status, and history of any listed agency programs. All information is no older than one year. If you are interested in pursuing a foreign adoption, we recommend an individual membership--*this is a must for all international adopters*. Available online ONLY for the time being (during the transition between editors) at [www.iccadopt.org](http://www.iccadopt.org). For information, please contact editor Penny Rearick,MSW, LCSW of the Adoption Resource Center of Connecticut,78EasternBoulevard, Glastonbury, CT 06033 (860) 657-2626 [prearick@arcct.org](mailto:prearick@arcct.org).

**Ties Program** - homeland tours this year include Paraguay, China & Chile. Other programs being considered: Bolivia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Romania, Russia. For more information: 800-398-3676 or [www.AdoptiveFamilyTravel.com](http://www.AdoptiveFamilyTravel.com).

## LOCAL CONSULTANTS

**Adoption Connection** - A not-for-profit service organization that provides a wide range of consultation, support and educational services to all participants in adoption including both prospective adoptive parents and birth parents. Their Birthparent line, at 847-433-0340, plays a message from a birthmother about their services, which would be helpful for any individual contemplating an independent adoption.

Contact directors Deane Borgeson, Enid Callen and Vicki Towmey,*The Adoption Connection*, 452 Central, Suite 210, Highland Park, IL 60035, 847-433-7820,

[info@adoptionconnection.com](mailto:info@adoptionconnection.com)  
<http://www.adoptionconnection.com/>

**The Adoption Process** - Sally Wildman, Chicago and Northbrook attorney, member of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys, past Chair of the ABA's Adoption Committee, has represented adopting parents since 1985.

Sally offers "The Adoption Process Today" which focuses on the different types of adoption now available, initiating your search for a child, the unique qualities of adoptive families, and steps in the legal proceedings of adoption. She also represents adult adoptees or other parties in the legal steps to do search in Illinois. Contact: Law Offices of Sally Wildman, 200 N. LaSalle Street Suite 2750 Chicago IL 60601 (847) 475-6286 (312) 726-9214 (312) 236-7727 [loswildman@aol.com](mailto:loswildman@aol.com) [swildman@adoptionattorneys.org](mailto:swildman@adoptionattorneys.org)  
[www.adoptionattorneys.org](http://www.adoptionattorneys.org)

**Mary Kennedy, Attorney at Law** announces the opening of her office in Cary IL. Located in McHenry County she represents adoptive families and individuals involved in administrative hearings before state agencies, including foster care license

revocations, indicated reports of child abuse or neglect, DCFS service appeals and related matters. You can contact her at (847) 462-0806 or email her at

[MaryKKennedy@worldnet.att.net](mailto:MaryKKennedy@worldnet.att.net)

## ADOPTION THERAPISTS, MEDICAL ISSUES & SPECIAL NEEDS

**Adoption Therapists/Counselors/Medical:** Need professional help? Contact the main office for a list of local therapists and medical specialists who work with adoption issues. Be sure to ask service providers for references and check them!

**American Academy of Pediatrics Website of Pediatricians with a Special Interest in Adoption and Foster Care Medicine** - the

Academy has a state-by-state listing of medical professionals dealing in adoption and foster care. You can find this helpful list at: [www.aap.org/sections/adoption/adopt-states/adoption-map.html](http://www.aap.org/sections/adoption/adopt-states/adoption-map.html)

### **CHADD (Children & Adults with Attention Deficit Disorder)**

The North Suburban Chapter is now meeting at Lakeside Congregation for Reform Judaism, 1121 Lake Cook Road, Highland Park., [chaddns@yahoo.com](mailto:chaddns@yahoo.com), 847-501-5662. The Lincolnshire Area Chapter is meeting at The Wheeling Community Recreation Center, 847-438-6220.

**Prenatal Drug Exposure** - to learn more about this topic and how it may affect your child, consult the following resources:

*Adoption and Prenatal Drug Exposure: Research Policy, and Practice* by Barth, Freundlich, and Brodzinsky; Child Welfare League of America and the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute.

*Children with Prenatal Alcohol and/or Other Drug Exposure: Weighing the Risks of Adoption*, by Susan Edelstein; Child Welfare League of America.

See: [www.cwla.org/pubs/](http://www.cwla.org/pubs/)

## **LOCAL ADOPTION AGENCIES & PROGRAMS**

*A resource listing in our newsletter is not to be considered a recommendation. Always ask for references! Let us know about YOUR experiences, good OR bad! Contact us to connect with other members who have used these agencies.*

<http://naic.acf.hhs.gov/general/nad/index.cfm>

State-by-state listings of adoption resources are available online at the site of the National Adoption Information Clearinghouse. Included are: state adoption specialist, foster care manager, reunion registry, confidential

intermediary service, attorney referral service, public and private agencies, adoption and search support groups.

### **State of Illinois Adoption Unit:**

IL Dept. of Children and Family Services  
Div. of Foster Care and Permanency  
Services Diane Deleonardo  
406 East Monroe Street, Station 25  
Springfield, IL 62701-1498  
(217) 524-2422, Fax: (217) 524-3966 <http://www.state.il.us/dcfs>  
[ddeleonardo@idcfs.state.il.us](mailto:ddeleonardo@idcfs.state.il.us)

### **Adoption Information Center of Illinois (AICI)**

We receive a monthly photo-listing book (ALS), which includes profiles, as well as photos, of children who are in the care of DCFS and are awaiting adoption. The Center is funded by the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services and provides general information about adoption and foster care in the state of Illinois, specific information on waiting children, and referrals for service. They also offer a bimonthly newsletter, *Adopt Me*, information on post-adoption services and financial assistance. For more information, contact Marilyn Panichi, MSW, ACSW, Exec. Dir, Adoption Information Center of Illinois, 120 W. Madison St., Suite 800, Chicago IL 60602, 800-572-2390, Fax 312-346-0004, [aici@adoptinfo-il.org](mailto:aici@adoptinfo-il.org), <http://www.adoptinfo-il.org/>

**The Truth About Domestic Adoption** - one of a series of excellent fact sheets from Adoptive Families Magazine: <http://www.adoptivefamilies.com/articles.php?aid=522>

**ABC's of Adoption** - a 4-week program held at Lutheran General Hospital's Johnson Auditorium, Park Ridge. Pre-adoption education series is designed to acquaint

prospective adoptive parents with the various adoption alternatives available today. Domestic and international adoption is covered, and a panel discussion with adoptees, birthparents, and adoptive parents is included in the program. Faculty includes Alicia Smith, Kitty Mann, and Shelley Ballard. Contact Alicia Smith at 815-407-0034 or the Help Line at 800-395-395-5522 or visit [www.resolveofillinois.org](http://www.resolveofillinois.org). This program is offered many times during the year, contact them to get upcoming dates.

**Adoptees, Birth Parents & Adoptive Parents Together** - this adoption triad support group meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at Faith Evangelical Covenant Church, 2 S. 571 Lakeview Dr., Wheaton, IL 60137. The facilitator is Jody Moreen. Jody also publishes *Adoption Blessings Newsletter/Magazine* (a 20pg. magazine for the Adoption Triad that shares faith stories of adoption from all members of the triad). Contact Jody Moreen at 630-778-0636, [adoption@wideopenwest.com](mailto:adoption@wideopenwest.com).

**Adoption Ark** is a licensed child welfare agency based in Illinois and California. It specializes in placements from Eastern Europe and its principals are from the various Eastern European countries that it serves. The agency has placed more than 500 children in slightly more than a year. The agency offers Illinois residents the advantages of having a licensed and local office that conducts home studies and also assists clients throughout the process. Monthly seminars are offered. For more information contact their, Coordinator of Home Studies at (847) 215-2755 or find them online at: [www.adoptionark.com](http://www.adoptionark.com).

**Adoption Learning Partners** - an interactive elearning course produced in conjunction with The Cradle, offers several free online courses for learning about various aspects of adoption. Currently available online at [www.adoptionlearningpartners.org](http://www.adoptionlearningpartners.org)

*Journey of Attachment*

A course to help parents develop the insights and use the tools they need to build strong attachment with their child.

*With Eyes Wide Open: A Preparation Guide to International Adoption*

This course will help you think about and plan for how you will parent your child.

*Let's Talk Adoption: A Lifetime of Family Conversations*

Develop the skills to make these conversations comfortable for you and your child.

*Understanding the Adoption Tax Credit*

Take advantage of this adoption friendly legislation that can help make adoption affordable.

*Conspicuous Families*- which was awarded a Bronze Medal for Custom Content in the 2002 Excellence in E-learning Awards

**Bridge Communications** is offering a 3-part teletraining course examining diversity and how it related to your family and your environment; role-playing situations other parents have experiences; and ways to incorporate the changes into your life. Includes adoptive parents panel, adult adoptee panel and extensive resource guide. Check with them for the next dates. Classes are held at Oak Park Hospital, 520 S. Maple Ave., Oak Park, IL, 6:30-9:30pm, \$150/person. *Bridge Communications*, 221 N. LaSalle, Suite 1100, Chicago 60601, 312-377-2748, Fax 312-377-1347, [bridgecom@core.com](mailto:bridgecom@core.com), [www.bridgecommunications.org](http://www.bridgecommunications.org)

**Center for Family Building, Inc. & Adoption Resources** - Illinois child welfare agency founded in 1987. They provide family preparation, licensing and homestudy, birthparent and direct placement services, as well as advertising and screening of birthparent calls. They also offer short term counseling to all members of the triad and an

egg donor program. See our files or contact: Tobi Ehrenpreis, adoptive parent, MA, MPH, LCSW, Founder and Exec. Dir., Maggie Gill Benz, adoptive parent, MA, MSW, LCSW, Clinical Dir., 1740 Ridge Ave., Suite 208, Evanston IL 60201-5908, 847-869-1518, 888-759-2672, also offices in Indiana.

Online at:

[www.centerforfamily.com](http://www.centerforfamily.com),  
[info@centerforfamily.com](mailto:info@centerforfamily.com).

**Family Counseling Clinic**, a private, non-sectarian, not for profit agency, established in 1970 that specializes in the adoption of infants and young children. FCC staff has extensive experience with both domestic and international adoptions. They offer programs in China, Poland, Russia, Bulgaria and Azerbaijan. They work with Faith International Adoptions of Tacoma, WA and the China Center for Adoption to arrange adoptions in China. They provide comprehensive adoption services, free pregnancy counseling for birth parents, home studies, post-placement and post-adoption services; FCC offers free international and domestic adoptions seminars twice a month at their Mundelein office and in St. Charles. *Family Counseling Clinic, Inc.*, Ginny Mann, Supervisor; 505 E. Hawley St., Suite 100 Mundelein IL 60060, 847-566-7121, [adoptfcc@aol.com](mailto:adoptfcc@aol.com), [www.rainbowkids.com/familycounseling.htm](http://www.rainbowkids.com/familycounseling.htm)

**The Family Institute at Northwestern U.** Founded in 1968, the Institute is the Midwest's oldest and largest center devoted to marital and family therapy, professional education and research. They sponsor an Adoptive Families Program. This program is designed to meet the needs of post-adoptive parents and children at critical times in the adoptive family's life. Visit them online at: [www.family-institute.org](http://www.family-institute.org).

**Family Resource Center of Chicago** has been an Illinois licensed child welfare agency since 1989. FRC has placed more than 575 children for adoption. They offer a

range of program options for adoptive and birth parents including a Traditional Adoption Program, an Identified Adoption Program, an African-American Adoption Program, and individualized services for children with special needs. They also have a facility to house birth parents. Jane Turner, ACSW, is the intercountry Adoption Program Coordinator. FRC has programs in China and the Ukraine (this program accepts singles and has no age restrictions). *Family Resource Center*, Richard Pearlman, MSW, Exec. Dir., 5828 N. Clark St., Chicago IL 60660, 773-334-2300, <http://www.f-r-c.org/html/main.cgi>.

**Families Thru International Adoption, Inc.** is a state licensed not-for-profit child placement agency. Keith M. Wallace is Executive Director of this *Jewish user-friendly* agency. They have programs in China, Guatemala, Vietnam, and Russia. *Families Thru International Adoption*, 991 S. Kenmore Drive, Evansville IN 47714, 812-479-9900, Fax 812-479-9901, [adopt@ftia.org](mailto:adopt@ftia.org), [www.ftia.org](http://www.ftia.org).

**Families & Life Education Series - Jewish Family & Community Service** offers many excellent opportunities. To contact the North Suburban office for details, call 847-392-8820.

**Glenkirk Adoption Services** is a licensed child welfare agency that began adoption services in 1992 and works with couples and singles to complete the necessary paperwork and fulfill the legal requirements of adoption. Glenkirk specializes in assisting with both international and local adoptions. They specialize in conducting home studies for prospective adoptive parents. *Glenkirk Adoption Services*, 701 N. Harlem Ave., Glenview IL 60025, Nichole Cawdle, Adoption Coordinator at 847-998-8380. [www.glenkirk.org](http://www.glenkirk.org) and go to support services

**Journeys of the Heart** is a licensed, non-profit agency that completes domestic and

international adoptions. Journeys has programs in China, Guatemala, Nepal, Vietnam, India and the Pacific Islands. They are based in Oregon and have a Chicago office in Glen Ellen. Contact them at: 516 N. Main St., Suite B, Glen Ellen IL 60137, 630-469-4367 (International), 630-545-0542 (Domestic), Fax 630-469-4382 [JOHChicago@aol.com](mailto:JOHChicago@aol.com), [www.journeysoftheheart.net](http://www.journeysoftheheart.net). Melanie Meyer, Adoption Coordinator. Co-Executive Director, Natalie Gale and several of the staff are Jewish themselves. They have Jewish staff in both offices and have worked with many Jewish clients. See our files for brochures and references.

**Lutheran Child & Family Services of Illinois** is a statewide social service agency founded in 1873. This licensed agency provides pregnancy counseling and various adoption services including identified adoption, interstate and intercountry adoption, and post-adoption services. Prospective clients, contact: Laurie Lawton, 333 W. Lake Street., Oak Park IL 60101, 630-628-6448 x222, <http://www.lcfs.org>.

**Midwest Adoption Center** provides clinical services, family consultations, workshops, children's groups, family activities, search and reunion services, Confidential Intermediary Service, and educational seminars for professionals. They also offer a search support group for adoptees and birth parents, and a support group for latency-aged adopted children and adolescents. Run by Nancy Golden, LCSW, the clinical administrator and Gretchen Schulert, BA, adoption professionals who administer the post-adoption programs including the Confidential Intermediary and IDCFS Search & Reunion Program.

The center also offers *Connections: An Adoptive Family Network*. The network is designed to allow adoptive parents to meet together regularly to discuss adoption related topics, ask questions, share experiences and

enjoy each other's company. The group meets for ten sessions at a cost of \$170/family, call Nancy Golden for details on the next session, 847-298-9096.

Main office: 3158 DesPlaines River Road, #120, Des Plaines IL 60018. Branch office: 5519 RFD, Long Grove IL 60047. 847-298-9096; FAX 847-298-9097. See info in our files.

**Post Adoption Clearinghouse** is a service of the Adoption Information Center of Illinois. They offer an information and referral service for families formed by adoption and maintain a database of service providers in Illinois who offer adoption sensitive services. Among these providers are mental health therapists, support groups, child welfare agencies offering post adoption services and adoption search and support groups. Resource staff are available to respond to inquiries about available post adoption services and can refer families to appropriate service providers. Contact: 312-346-1516 or 800-572-2390.

**Sunny Ridge Family Center** - Sunny Ridge Family Center of Wheaton, presents seminars on General Adoption, International Adoption, and Chinese Adoption. They provide a variety of learning opportunities for both adoptive and prospective adoptive parents as well as professionals in the community. Licensed foster parents receive credit hours towards required training. For info, contact them at 630-668-5117. Sunny Ridge Family Center is located at 2 South 426 Orchard Road, Wheaton, IL USA 60187.

**Waiting Adoptive Parents** is a support group offered by RESOLVE of Illinois. The group is for couples and individuals who are waiting for an agency referral, or pursuing private or international adoption. This group meets on the third Monday of each month from 7-8:30pm at 435 W. Diversey, Chicago. The group is led by Katherine Mann, PhD. The group is aimed at individuals or couples who are either in the process of adoption or

who are seriously thinking about adoption and want to explore this option in a small group setting. Reservations need to be made at least 3 days in advance. For more info: Dr. Mann at 773-248-3701. \$15/person/session.

**Adoptive Parenting Classes** are offered by Lutheran General Hospital three times a year. Classes are \$15/person/session and are held in the East Cafeteria, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor. For information and registration, call 1-800-3Advocate. This three hours class is for individuals who are anticipating the adoption of an infant. Topics include newborn characteristics, daily care, feeding options, healthcare and medical practices. New parenting issues as well as adoptive parenting issues will be discussed.

**Uniting Families Foundation** - licensed child welfare agency founded in 1992. They provide aid and direct support to children and orphanages in Russia and Romania, are involved in conferences and support for the families of children adopted from institutional settings, do home studies, and place children for adoption from Russia and Romania, including children with special needs. They have sponsored conferences together with the Parent Network for the Post-Institutionalized Child. Contact: Lynn Wetterberg, Exec. Dir., *Uniting Families*, 95 W. Grand, Suite 206, P.O. Box 755, Lake Villa IL 60046, 847-356-1452, [UnitingFam@aol.com](mailto:UnitingFam@aol.com)  
<http://members.aol.com/UnitingFam/index.html>

**World Child Midwest** - the Midwest branch of this national agency founded in 1981 conducts a monthly informational session entitled "International Adoption: The Process, the Issues, the Joys." The session is held at 7:30pm on the first Thursday of every month in Oak Park.. World Child currently offers adoption programs and humanitarian aid in more than ten countries including Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, China, Cambodia, Viet Nam, Guatemala and Peru. Local support services and free private consultation are

available for Chicago area families interested in foreign adoption. For more information call: Sue Schroering at 708-848-6727.  
<http://www.worldchild.org>.

**Traveler's Health & Immunization Center** in Niles is offering a reduced consultation fee to Stars of David/Chicago members--from \$40 to \$25. Contact Lisa on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday mornings in their office at 847-663-9500. Be sure to identify yourselves as Stars Members. Great whether you are traveling to adopt a child, traveling for business, or planning to vacation abroad. Located at 7900 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles in the Oak Mill Shopping Center.  
<http://www.travelmed.net/>

What is the Heart Gallery? The Heart Gallery is a new approach to finding loving adoptive families for children who are in the care of the state's child welfare system. The gallery features beautiful photos of the children, taken by professional photographers who have graciously donated their time and talent to the cause. Posted alongside each photo is information about the child, designed to give visitors an insight into his or her personality, interests and aspirations.

The gallery helps viewers imagine themselves as adoptive parents to these children and promotes thoughtful discussion among families that visit. Heart Galleries in other states have met with great success at recruiting adoptive and foster families. We are hoping for similar success in Illinois. The Gallery Schedule: November is National Adoption Awareness Month and with your help, the dream of having a "forever" family can soon come true for waiting children in Illinois.

The grand opening of the Heart Gallery of Illinois was Friday, November 4th 2005 at the Chicago Children's Museum at Navy Pier. The portraits are a traveling statewide exhibition to promote adoption and foster care.

View the complete gallery schedule here:

<http://www.adoptinfo-il.org/heartgallery/Schedule.aspx>

Who We Are: We are a group of volunteers working closely with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, the Adoption Information Center of Illinois, and the Office of Illinois Lt. Governor Pat Quinn to find permanent homes for children who need and deserve them. We want to raise the awareness of people in our communities about the needs of children in foster care. We want to inspire people who otherwise would never see themselves as potential adoptive parents.

For more information, please contact DeAudrey Davis, the Adoption Information Center of Illinois, <http://adoptinfo-il.org/>, 312-462-7237

## JCB & PROJECT ESTHER

Project Esther: The Jewish Adoption Network sponsored by the Jewish Children's Bureau, is designed for adoptive families, prospective adoptive parents, adoptees, birth parents and the Jewish community.

Project Esther services include:

- Consultation and linkages to domestic and international adoption resources,
- Home Study, licensing and post placement services,
- Educational programs, support groups and social networking programs.

To carry out the goals of Project Esther, JCB collaborates with Stars of David, Jewish Family and Community Service, The Jewish Community Centers, the Chicago Board of Rabbis, and the Chicago Rabbinical Council.

For more information please contact:

Marsha Raynes, MSW, LCSW, Director, Project Esther: The Chicago Jewish Adoption Network, Jewish Children's Bureau, Project Esther, Joy Faith Knapp Children's Center, 3145 West Pratt Blvd., Chicago, IL 60645,

773-467-3747, Fax 773-467-3799.

Marsha can also be reached via email: [marsharaynes@jcbchicago.org](mailto:marsharaynes@jcbchicago.org) Website: [www.jcbchicago.org](http://www.jcbchicago.org).

Jewish Children's Bureau has been helping children and families in the Chicago metropolitan area for over 110 years. In addition to Project Esther, JCB offers a comprehensive range of services for children, adolescents and families, including: The Center for Young Children with Autism, The Goodman Child and Adolescent Institute, Early Intervention Services, Counseling and Psychotherapy: Family, Group and Individual, Eva Cooper Disabilities Services, Community Respite Services, Foster Care; Residential Services, Consultation Service to Organizations serving children, Psychological Services, and Therapeutic Day School and Yeshiva.

## Merger

JCB and JFCS are pleased to announce the pending merger of the two agencies. Members voted on the merger June 13, 2006.

The new name of the agency will be called Jewish Children and Family Services. "JCFS". They will merge as of July 1, 2006.

Marsha Raynes of JCB's Project Esther and Elyse have collaborated with Jewish Family and Children's Service providers for years now so we do not anticipate any change for Stars of David. As a matter of fact we are hoping it will enhance the services and the speakers available to us.

Look at the following dates for events held with JCB and Stars members  
Children's Group 8 years old and above:

**June 29:** Mini Golf and Batting Cages in Skokie 6pm - 7:30 pm includes pizza

**July 18:** Tranracial/Transcultural Adoption in the Jewish Family Group with Marsha Raynes and Robyn Kaplan Seidman - informational flyer to be sent via email

**July 27:** Save the Date! - Deborah Siegel,

PhD - informational flyer to be sent via email  
- "Helping Your Child Cope with Feelings about Adoption" An evening workshop session at Elaine Kersten Children's Center  
**August 6:** Stars of David and Project Esther Annual Picnic - 11am - 1pm Joy Faith Knapp Center - Soccer, Baseball, Water Balloons!, Basketball and more. - more information via email

**Sept 17:** Woodland Bingo activity at Emily Oaks Center - the Children 8 and Older Group - more info to follow

**Nov 19:** Paint and Party at Fired Works in Highland Park - Hanukah gifts etc. - the Children 8 and Older Group.

### **An Adoption Support Group for Pre-Adolescent Girls???**

If your daughter has an interest in joining a group to meet once a week or once a month please let us know - we would like to attempt to form a group for girls.

**If you have a specific interest in any educational programs you would like to see us provide please contact either Marsha or Elyse.**

## **ADOPTION EXCHANGES**

**Children Awaiting Parents, Inc. (CAP)** - lists children who are available for adoption from the child welfare system. Contact CAP at: 5959 Blossom Road, Suite 306, Rochester NY 14610, 888-835-8802, [www.capbook.org](http://www.capbook.org), [info@capbook.org](mailto:info@capbook.org).

**National Adoption Center (NAC)** - The Center is a non-profit organization whose mission is to expand adoption opportunities throughout the United States for children with special needs and those from minority cultures. *National Adoption*

*Center*, Carolyn Johnson, Exec. Dir., 1500 Walnut Street, Suite 701, Philadelphia, PA 19102, 215- 735-9988, Fax 215-735-9410, Toll Free 800-862-3678, [nac@adopt.org](mailto:nac@adopt.org), [www.adopt.org](http://www.adopt.org)

## **ADOPTION LAW, LAWYERS & LEGISLATION**



Check our resource files for background information, business cards, and a listing of lawyers in the area who do private adoptions and for a copy of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys Directory. For your own free copy, write to the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys, 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://www.congress.org/congressorg/issuaction/bill/>

(You will need to know the bill 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:***

[http://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm)

***To Research an Adoption Legal Question:*** [www.adoptionLawsite.org](http://www.adoptionLawsite.org)

## State of Illinois

### **Senators:**

<http://www.ilga.gov/senate/>

### **Representatives:**

<http://www.ilga.gov/house/>

### **Legislation:**

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/>

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

**Illinois Adoption Registry and Medical Information Exchange** - Find the Act, FAQ's and download all important forms online at the Illinois Dept. of Health's website: <http://www.idph.state.il.us/vitalrecords/index.htm>

The IARMIE was instituted in January 2000. It allows adult adopted persons, adult surrendered persons (born, adopted or surrendered in Illinois), adoptive parents, birth parents, and birth siblings to place medical information, nonidentifying pictures and other non-identifying information with the Illinois Dept. of Public Health at no cost. Under certain circumstances, these same people may be matched when there is mutual consent between both parties. Registration is \$40 if no medical information is given. ALL adoptive parents and birth parents involved in adoption finalizations in Illinois SHOULD be notified of this registry, either by their agency, attorney, or the court in which the adoption is finalized.

For more information, please contact the Illinois Adoption Registry at (TOLL FREE

within Illinois) 877-323-5299 or at 217-557-5159.

## State Adoption Statutes

Persons contemplating adoption must comply with adoption laws. For the most part, adoption issues are subject to State laws and regulations.

**State Statutes** are available online on this website

<http://laws.adoption.com/statutes/resources-for-state-adoption-statutes.html>

**Illinois Compiled Statutes** are available in our files or online at:

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs.asp>

Cornell University maintains a comprehensive website on **Adoption Law**. The site includes federal statutes and regulations, state statutes and a state-by-state listing of adoption laws at:

[www.law.cornell.edu/topics/adoption.html](http://www.law.cornell.edu/topics/adoption.html)

## Post-Adoption Contact Agreements

Post-adoption contact agreements are written contractual agreements between placing and adopting parents that detail how and when contact and communication will be handled following the finalization of the adoption. What are they? Why make one? How to make one? Legalities? An excellent discussion of the topic appears on the site of <http://www.adopting.org/adoptions/post-adoption-contact-agreements-what-are-they.html>

## **ADOPTION LAW IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

(Look for Part III in the Fall issue)

### **Agency or Private?**

In Illinois, agency-assisted adoptions outnumber strictly private or independent adoptions. The classic agency adoption, where the agency chooses the adoptive

parents for a non-related child, is the exception not the rule. Instead, the agency often assists both birth and adoptive parents with services: counseling, home studies, payment of living expenses, arranging medical visits and hospitalization, mediating issues around openness and contact between birth and adoptive parents, and a series of other post-adoption issues. Thus, birth parents ordinarily pick the adoptive parents, but the agency provides its services to both sides in the proposed adoption.

In private or independent adoption, the lawyer performs many non-legal functions that trained social workers would do in an agency-assisted adoption. The clients often come to the lawyer with the match already made. The lawyer may have a fair amount of contact with non-clients—often the birth mother. The birth parent contact can be troubling to the practitioner, who wants to minimize any possible, future claim that s/he induced the birth parent's consent to the adoption by fraud, coercion or duress. In addition, the strict rules about what constitutes legal services in an adoption, for which a lawyer may be compensated, discourage independent adoption. Further, there are serious, criminal strictures in the Adoption Compensation Prohibition Act about payment of living expenses to birth parents in private adoption, which often militate against independent adoption. The Act prohibits payments without prior court approval, limits the kind of expenses that can be paid, and requires attorney accounting

### **The Lawyer's Role**

Even though there are fewer private adoptions, there is more lawyer involvement than ever in adoption practice. Clients come to attorneys at the outset for guidance on how to adopt, how to get started, who to contact. If clients select an agency or have contacted a non-agency facilitator (often by means of the internet), there are contracts to be reviewed and signed. In domestic adoptions, a skilled adoption attorney helps the client assess how

much legal risk there is in any proposed adoption; i.e., whether the birth father is involved; whether the birth mother is married, regardless of whether her husband is the biological father; whether the birth parents appear likely to execute relinquishments of their parental rights; and other issues. There are medical risks to assess and referrals to experts may be needed. The Putative Father Registry law in regards to putative and legal fathers must be analyzed and explained to clients.

If the adoptive parents are in Illinois and the child is to be born in another state, then the laws of both states must be followed. The attorney needs to help the clients understand the complexities of dealing with contradictory state laws on birth father rights, time periods for birth parents to relinquish rights and to revoke such relinquishments, rules about birth parent expense payments, and other legal issues. Interstate adoptions tend to be much more complicated and result in adoptive parents paying higher costs as they often work with lawyers and agencies in two states. Dealing correctly with the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) requires experienced adoption attorneys so that adoptive parents are not trapped endlessly in another state, away from home with a newborn infant.

Illinois lawyers also play an active role in the adoption of children from the child welfare system. The attorney may become first involved when foster parents seek legal representation before parental rights of the biological parents have been terminated due to unfitness. More often, the lawyer is asked to assist in representing the adoptive parents after the termination of parental rights. In the vast majority of cases, the child (a DCFS ward) is eligible for adoption assistance, which ordinarily includes a monthly payment to the adoptive parents until the child is 18, a medical card, and payment of legal fees. Children from the child welfare system are often medically complex because of the circumstances of their birth. They may have

been born with addictions, drug exposure, and sexually transmitted diseases, which require special care and may result in serious developmental delays. The children are usually older and need psychological services. Lawyers often review the proposed adoption assistance contracts (subsidies) and the supporting documentation of the child's special needs. Lawyers, therefore, assist in not only the adoption court process, but also the financial aspects of the adoption assistance.

In intercountry adoption cases, attorneys are less involved in the entire process unless the prospective adoptive parents are attempting to do a private international adoption. In that case, the lawyers involved ordinarily concentrate in immigration law. More often, however, adoption lawyers become actively involved after the international placement has occurred through one or more adoption agencies. The lawyer's job in such cases may be limited to referral and contract reviews in advance of the placement and to representation of the parents in an adoption or re-adoption when the clients return from the country where the child was born. The lawyer assists with an adoption in Illinois if only a guardianship was created in the foreign country. If a finalized adoption occurred in the foreign country and it is recognized by USCIS (formerly INS), then the adoptive parents may choose to have a re-adoption in Illinois.

In co-parent or second parent adoption cases, lawyers also play an important role. If the adoptive parents are a same sex couple, it is critical that proper care is taken to insure that the child gets maximum legal protection. In the absence of a correct adoption, the child will be deprived of all of the medical, legal, and financial benefits available from both parents. The court in Cook County has handled such cases routinely since the K.M. decision from the Illinois Appellate Court, First District, in 1995. An experienced adoption attorney is needed to represent clients knowledgeably.

Similarly, there are other adoption cases that require additional expertise: adult adoption of non-relatives, relative adoptions across state and country borders, and disrupted adoptions. The Adoption Act has specific limitations on adult adoptions, as well as how relatives adopt when the birth parents are in another state or country. Disrupted adoptions occur when a prior adoption must be dissolved and subsequent adoptive parents are located. This occasionally happens in cases, where the adoptive parents are unable to deal with the extreme special needs of a child coming put of serial foster homes in DCFS or a foreign country's orphanage.

Thus, in every type of adoption Illinois attorneys are involved. The type and depth of involvement are dictated by the facts of the cases. Adoption cases are necessarily sui generis (i.e. unique in its characteristics).

*Our next issue will feature, Part III – Cost of Adoption and Recent Legislation*

Kathleen Hogan Morrison concentrates her practice in adoption law. She has been chosen as a Top Lawyer by the Leading Lawyers Network and an Illinois Super Lawyer, both in the practice area of adoption law. Ms. Morrison is located at 70 West Madison Street, Suite 2100, Chicago, Illinois 60602; and she may be contacted by telephone (312) 977-4477, by facsimile (312) 977-0872, and by electronic mail ([k.morrison@adoptionattorneys.org](mailto:k.morrison@adoptionattorneys.org)). Her website may be accessed at [www.chicagoadoptionattorney.com](http://www.chicagoadoptionattorney.com).  
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## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Hello Stars Members:

I am pleased to tell you that after close to 6 months of unpleasant circumstances regarding our website we are now ready to have all of you take a look at some of the user friendly changes we have made. We still have many things we will change over the course of the next year. If any of you have any suggestions we would welcome them!

We are happy that we have a national newsletter once again.

The Stars of David /Chicago chapter has agreed to share a small part of the proceeds from last Novembers' Midwest Adoption Conference with the National Organization to help defray costs for Phyllis and the website. Your Board of Directors has tried to recruit new board members. We are delighted with the new members and grateful for their dedication.

\*We are also planning a daytime brainstorming retreat so that we can determine where we go from where we are and how to get to where we want to go.

\*We are hiring a not for profit consultant who helps out Jewish organizations at a discount. Since none of our members have come forward to volunteer we are finding it necessary to outsource and pay people to get things done.

We have discussed reducing the membership fees for those that renew their memberships however; it does not seem feasible right now. There are too many costs we need to incur to remain the ONLY Jewish adoption support group in the world providing information for pre-adoptive and adoptive parents who are a Jewish or interfaith. This is especially important as we become more internet based and so many more people need our help. It is also important that our members remember the concept of tikkun olum, or healing the world through social action, by helping others just as Stars of David has helped them. We need to remember that adoption lasts for a lifetime; adoption is not just the process of getting a baby.

I wish all of you a wonderful summer and a wonderful Jewish New Year.

I hope you not only remember your membership dues but this coming new year remember how fortunate you are to be a family and have so much adoption knowledge

because of Stars of David and open your tzedakah to those we can help tomorrow.

Shalom!  
Elyse Flack

## HOLIDAYS

**Tisha B'Av** is a day of mourning to remember the many tragedies that have happened to the Jewish people. The holiday mostly commemorates destruction of the first and second Temples. They were destroyed on the ninth of Av. Tisha B'Av means the ninth day of Av and it usually occurs during August. The restrictions are similar to those that occur on Yom Kippur which include fasting, washing, bathing, wearing cosmetics, wearing leather shoes, studying Torah, and working.

**Rosh Hashana** is known as the Jewish New Year and occurs on the first and second days of Tishri. The shofar is blown in the synagogue during this holiday. The shofar is a ram's horn. Another observance of this holiday is dipping apples in honey to symbolize having a sweet new year. People greet one another with L'shanah Tovah, which means good New Year.

**Yom Kippur** means Day of Atonement. It is a day to atone for the sins of the past year. During this holiday people take off work, fast and/or attend synagogue services. Yom Kippur occurs on the 10th day of Tishri.

**Sukkot** begins on Tishri 15 and is referred to as the Season of our Rejoicing. Sukkot commemorates the forty-year period in which the children of Israel were wandering the desert. It is also a harvest festival. Sukkot means booths and symbolizes the temporary shelters that we are commanded to live in during this holiday. The temporary shelter is referred to as a sukkah. A sukkah must have at least two and a half walls covered with a material that will not blow away in the wind. The roof must be made of something from the

ground that was cut off such as tree branches, corn stalks, bamboo reeds, or sticks. The sukkah is commonly decorated with corn and dried squash, and children's artwork.

Another observance of Sukkot involves the Four Species. The Four Species are the lulav, etrog, aravot, and hadassim. The lulav is a palm branch, the etrog is a citrus fruit similar to a lemon from Israel, aravot are two willow branches, and the hadassim are three myrtle branches. The six branches are held together and are collectively known as the lulav because the palm branch is the largest part, the etrog is held separately. A blessing is recited and the species are waved in six directions (east, south, west, north, up and down). This symbolizes that G-d is everywhere.

<http://www.jewfaq.org/>

## FEATURED RECIPE

### Jewish Apple Cake

3 cups all-purpose flour  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoons baking powder  
2 cups white sugar  
1 cup vegetable oil  
4 eggs  
1/4 cup orange juice  
2 teaspoons vanilla extract  
3 apples - peeled, cored and sliced  
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon  
5 teaspoons white sugar

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease and flour one 10-inch tube pan. Combine the ground cinnamon and 5 teaspoons of the sugar together and set aside.

In a large mixing bowl, combine the flour, salt, baking powder and 2 cups of the sugar. Stir in the vegetable oil, beaten eggs, orange juice and vanilla. Mix well.

Pour 1/2 of the batter into the prepared

pan. Top with 1/2 of the sliced apples and sprinkle with 1/2 of the cinnamon sugar mixture. Pour the remaining batter over the top and layer the remaining sliced apples and cinnamon sugar.

Bake at 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) for 70 to 90 minutes.

<http://cake.allrecipes.com/AZ/JewishAppleCake.asp>

## NOTES

**Need help?** The office is open, by appointment, to anyone who needs access to adoption information. If *you* need information, or just a sympathetic person on the other end of the line, feel free to give me or call, or contact me via phone or email: Elyse Flack at 773-274-1527; [starsdavid@aol.com](mailto:starsdavid@aol.com)

**MEMBERSHIP**

*E-mail addresses PLEASE!*

Membership- New                       Renewal

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phones ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

All Children (name, birthdates, adopted/bio, name of agency/facilitator, cultural background/country of origin, adoption date if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Circle all that apply: Adoptive parent, birth parent, adoptee, prospective parent, adoption professional, international, domestic

Enclosed is \$50/individual/family or \$125/agency/professional for a combined Chicago Area Chapter Membership (includes newsletter subscription & admission to all programs) and National Membership (includes subscription to "Star Tracks" the national membership list & all other national mailings).

What a great group! Enclosed is a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Thank You!

Date this form \_\_\_\_\_  
Received by SDI \_\_\_\_\_

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**STARS OF DAVID/Chicago**  
c/o Elyse Flack, Director  
3175 Commercial Ave. - Suite 100  
Northbrook, Illinois 60062-1915  
*Address Correction Request*

**CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL!**

**HAS YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRED?**

