



# New Jersey Coalition for Adoption Reform & Education

NJCARE: A grassroots organization that supports honesty in adoption through educational outreach and legislative advocacy

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**Adoption Advocates:**

**Joe Collins**  
Private Investigator  
Morristown

**Bronwyn Chartier**  
Adoptee  
Manahawkin

**Betsy Forrest, LSW**  
Adoptee  
Franklin Lakes

**Michele Fortier**  
Adoptee  
High Bridge

**Judy Foster**  
Birth Parent  
Randolph

**Pat Fox**  
Birth Parent  
Morristown

**Fred Greenman, J. D.**  
Birth Parent  
Cleveland, OH

**Bob Hafetz**  
Adoptee  
Warrington, PA (NJ-born)

**Pam Hasegawa**  
Adoptee  
Morristown

**Laura Masonic**  
Birth Parent  
Stanhope

**Tom McGee**  
Adoptee  
Oceanport

**Mary Mild, MSW, M.Div.**  
Ewing

**William Mild III, J.D.**  
Ewing

**Brenda Mirly, LCSW, MBA**  
Morristown

**Jane Nast**  
Adoptive Parent  
Mendham Twp.

**Larry Newman**  
Adoptee  
Dumont

**Susan Perry**  
Adoptee  
Cherry Hill

**Tom Schaefer**  
Legislative Advisor  
Chatham

**Peggi Sturfels**  
Adoptee  
Jackson

**Randie Zimmerman**  
Adoptee  
Hillsborough

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## NJ Int'l Film Festival Entry Highlights Human Side of Adoptees' Birthright Bill: Meet Filmmaker Jean Strauss and Featured NJ Adoptees WEDNESDAY May 19

NJCARE invites the press to meet filmmaker Jean Strauss and adoptee Joe DeGironimo of Edison, NJ, who is featured in Strauss' award-winning entry, *For the Life of Me*, to be screened June 13, 7 p.m. at the NJ International Film Festival. The film addresses the issue of adoptee access to information nationwide, with a spotlight on New Jersey and the thirty year battle for access to original birth certificates that's taken place here. DeGironimo's story, with its touching and heartwrenching conclusion, is helping legislators and constituents nationwide understand the damaging effects of lifelong secrecy.

Strauss and DeGironimo will be in the State House TODAY to support NJCARE's advocacy for the Adoptee Birthright Bill, and will be available for interviews. They will be in Committee Room 9 from 12-1:30 to speak with the press, For app't at a later time Wed. (or phone interviews), please call Jean Strauss at 909-261-2012.

NJCARE will staff an informative exhibit all week in the elevator lobby outside Cafe NJ, where videos and literature supporting adult adoptees' right to access a copy of their original birth certificate will be available.

On March 22, the Senate passed the Adoptees' Birthright Bill with a vote of 27-10. NJCARE anticipates it will be heard by the Assembly Human Services Committee on June 14. If released by the committee as expected, the bill will go to the full Assembly for a vote shortly thereafter.

- A great introduction to the film, "For the Life of Me," is the 1:30 trailer at the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/2g2gpqq>
- To learn more about how this film relates to legislation currently under consideration by the NJ Assembly, please view this 8 min. <http://tinyurl.com/29czt82>
- For a review copy of the film, please contact Pam Hasegawa at [PamHasegawa@gmail.com](mailto:PamHasegawa@gmail.com).
- For more information about the filmmaker, please see [www.jeanstrauss.com](http://www.jeanstrauss.com)
- For more information about the NJ Int'l Film Festival: [NJfilmfest.com](http://NJfilmfest.com)