

You Don't Know How Lucky You Are

An Adoptee's Journey Through The American Adoption Experience

www.howluckyare.com | Rudy Owens, MA, MPH | rudysdowens@gmail.com | 206 696 3740 / 503 232 3170

PRESS RELEASE

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Portland Author Rudy Owens' Book Reading Highlights Adoptee Rights Issues

Portland, Oregon: Portland author and adoptee Rudy Owens' will give a free public talk and reading on his newly released memoir that explores the secretive world of American adoption.

- **What:** Rudy Owens book reading and lecture on his memoir, *You Don't Know How Lucky You Are*
- **Where:** Tigard Public Library (13500 SW Hall Blvd., Tigard, OR 97223)
- **When:** Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2018, 6-7:30 p.m.

The event is geared to adults, given the subject matter of out-of-marriage pregnancies and births and the historic treatment of illegitimately born infants.



“My life as an adopted person embodies this national system that separated nearly 3 million mothers and their children in the three decades after World War II,” Owens said. “I describe my personal experience as an archetypal hero’s journey, confronting societal prejudice, laws that kept me from knowing my kin, and widely held cultural views that adoptees seeking to find their kin are ungrateful, bad actors. In reality, all adoptees seek what everyone wants: equality by law and knowledge of who we are as humans.”

Tracing his life story, starting at his birth at one the country largest maternity hospitals for single moms, Owens’ reading will discuss how current U.S. adoption laws discriminate against millions of U.S. adoptees solely on the basis of their status of birth. Owens will also highlight the need for comprehensive legal and public health system reforms to restore all U.S. adoptees’ full legal and human rights to their original birth records.

Owens reading will also give an overview of state adoptee records laws, which mostly prevent adult adoptees from receiving their original identity documents. He will highlight the **20th anniversary of the passage of Oregon Ballot Measure 58**, passed in November 1998, which restored Oregon adoptees’ access to their birth documents. The law is considered a model to ensure legal equality to U.S. adoptees. As of September 2018, the Oregon Health Authority reports [12,201 records](#) of Oregon-born adoptees have been released since 2000.

By comparison, it took Owens 27 years and a court battle to win his birth certificate from the State of Michigan, even though he had found his birth families in 1989—all because Michigan law bars most adoptees from getting their birth records for life.

Owens is available for press interviews before and after the event. Detailed information about Owens’ book, research materials on adoption and adoptee rights, and background information on adoption as a public health issue can be found on Owens’ book platform: www.howluckyare.com.

Copies of *You Don't Know How Lucky You Are* can be purchased in [paperback](#) or for [Kindle](#) on Amazon. E-book versions can be ordered from [Smashwords](#). Find Owens’ [bio](#) here.

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