

QUESTIONS

WERE YOU EVER A SUBSCRIBER TO THE MOMMA NEWSPAPER/MAGAZINE? YES NO

HAVE YOU EVER ATTEMPTED TO START A MOMMA CHAPTER? YES NO

WHAT WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE?

HAVE YOU EVER ATTENDED A MOMMA MEETING? YES NO

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ATTEND A MOMMA CONVENTION IN LOS ANGELES? YES NO

WOULD YOU LIKE MORE DETAILS? YES NO

WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTINUE RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER? YES NO

HOW MANY CHILDREN HAVE YOU? THEIR AGES? ARE YOU RECEIVING WELFARE?

DO YOU RECEIVE CHILD SUPPORT? YES NO FOOD STAMPS? YES NO

MEDICAL AID PROGRAM? YES NO HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH

THE WELFARE DEPARTMENT? HELPFUL SATISFACTORY CONFUSING HOSTILE

GHASTLY COMMENTS:

MANY OF US WHO HAVE BEEN ON WELFARE HAVE FOUND WAYS OF SUPPLEMENTING OUR WELFARE

CHECK. IRONING, BABYSITTING, OUR MAN FRIEND HELPS OUT WITH THE BILLS . . .ETC.

IF YOU HAVE DONE THIS, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? HOW DID THE WELFARE DEPT. FEEL ABOUT IT? (USE MORE PAPER IF YOU WISH).

WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF THE WELFARE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES IN YOUR STATE?

DO YOU KNOW OF ANY LEGISLATION PENDING THAT WOULD AFFECT THE WELFARE RIGHTS OF YOUR STATE? YES NO WHAT?

HOW MUCH FORMAL EDUCATION HAVE YOU HAD? LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL?

HIGH SCHOOL? SOME COLLEGE? FINISHED COLLEGE?

HAVE YOU EVER WORKED OUTSIDE THE HOME? YES NO DOING WHAT?

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS, DONATIONS, ETC.

STICK A PHOTO YOU'VE TAKEN HERE OR A PHOTO OF YOU

INFORMATION YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE

TELL US A TALE OR DRAW A PICTURE OR WRITE A POEM

Muriel Rozynski 624 6804 cook
Napoleon Christensen 624 7153

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL MOMMA CHAPTER

P.O. Box 5759
SANTA MONICA
CA. 90405

Kathy Temmipon
14834 Sussex
Detroit, MI
618227

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Santa Monica, CA
Permit No. 148

the organization

Lin Hartwell
National Board of Directors

The MOMMA Organization has been growing steadily in the past year and, for a while now, we have been trying to think of a way to get the chapters around the country in touch with each other so they could share the news, the joys, the problems, of forming and keeping a MOMMA Chapter going. We want you to get to know each other without having to go through us, so what we have done is to list the names and addresses of some of the chapters around the country and we hope you will write to each other.

If your chapter has a newsletter, send a copy of it to some of the other chapters. If every chapter could receive a newsletter from every other chapter, the lines of communication would be open for every one.

We are thinking of having a MOMMA convention sometime early next year—we are only in the thinking stage right now but we are interested in finding out if you like the idea. Let us know your views. We are aware that we have not always answered promptly and that sometimes you think that we don't exist at all and if we do exist, we don't give a damn about your problems. We do exist, but we are not what people expect us to be. We have no offices, no paid staff and we do not possess great wisdom. We are what you are, single mothers, with multi-responsibilities and very little money.

We are sure of only one thing, we want to make changes in our lives and we can't do it without support of other single mothers who are willing to become involved in the effort.

Peggy Goldman
2242 E. Florence Dr.
Tucson, Arizona 85719

Glenda Boyer
3235 Central Ave.
San Diego, Calif. 92105

Diane Fritz
521 Moose Hill Rd.
Monroe, Connecticut 06468

Judy Brady
450 N.E. 130th St.
No. Miami, Florida 33161

Barbara Henderson
1559-F Holcomb Bridge Rd.
Norcross, Georgia 30017

Judy Mercier
P.O. Box 3940
Omaha, Nebraska 68108

Barbara Lee
P.O. Box 492
No. Windham, Maine 04092

Donna Carson
13988 Brookgreen Dr. #2112
Dalas, Texas 75240

Joyce Pinton
7515-22 N.W.
Seattle, Wash. 98117

Delores Carranza
1505 Brown Ave.
Yakima, Wash. 98902

Carolyn Ruef
65 Ambassodor Dr.
Manchester, Conn. 06040

Alicia Clark
c/o Women's Resource Center
Lewiston Hall, Texas Ave.
Bangor, Maine 04401

Pamela Dinnacenzo
480 Whitman #96
Goleta, Calif. 93017

resources

Getting Out: A Collective Experience In Self-Help Divorce by the Women's Legal Center of San Francisco. Distributed by Know Inc., Box 86031, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15221. Cost \$1.75

I Can Be Anything: Colleges and Careers For Young Women published by the College Entrance Examination Board. 256 page guide to 90 careers. Available from College Board Publication Orders, P.O. Box 2815, Princeton, N.J. 08540 Cost \$4.50 ppb., \$6.50 hardcover.

Children's News from the Childcare Switchboard and Single Parent Center, 3896 24th St. (at Sanchez), San Francisco, Ca. 94114, Phone 282-7858. They offer many services and referrals and the newsletter is very informative. Donations requested.

Corperations and Childcare published under the Women's Research Action Project. The Sisterhood, Box 119, Porter Square Station, Cambridge, Mass. 02140

Playgroups: How to Grow Your Own From Infancy Onward Available from the Child Care Resource Center, 123 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge, Mass. 02138

Peter Learns to Crochet by Irene Levinson, La Aventura de Yolanda/Yolanda's Hike by Thomas Rodriquez Gaspar, Some Things You Just Can't Do By Yourself by Naomi Schiff. Three new, non-sexist books from the New Seed Press, P.O. Box 3016, Stanford, CA. 94305

Assert Yourself - a handbook about assertiveness training for women. Available from the Seattle NOW office, 2252 N.E. 65th, Seattle, WA. 98103

WomanSpirit - a wonderful new feminist journal published quarterly dealing with the spiritual sphere of women's culture. Subs \$6.00/year, \$2.00 for single and sample copies. WomanSpirit, Box 263, Wolf Creek, OR. 97497

MOMMA Recommends Things To Do

Go to your local library. Lots of good kids books and the latest best sellers for adults too. Some even have free programs and entertainment and/or give away old or donated books. Library bindings are durable. After all, as some feminist said, "It is better to go to bed with a good book than a mediocre man." Ask your librarian.

Garage sales and rummage sales for extra money. If you live in an out of the way area, take the junk to an empty lot near a shopping center or public place, (but make sure it's legal first).

Local birth control clinics often do studies for drug companies or the FDA on new contraceptives. They pay well for the time and energy required. Tests and requirements vary with each study.

Correction: We gave you the wrong address of the New Schools Exchange in the Resources issue. Their correct address is N.S.E., Pettigrew, AK. 72752. Our apologies for such a gross error.

Good Things!

Santa Clara Valley Women's Re-entry Educational Program. This program is designed to meet the needs of mature women who wish to complete post-secondary education. A great program at four junior colleges in the Santa Clara Valley (south of San Francisco). For more information write to: Virginia Lockhart, Director of the program, De Anza College, 21250 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino, CA. 95014

Lesbian Mothers Defense Fund, 1941 Division, Enumolow, WA. 98002. "To insure lesbian mothers from all parts of the country fair representation in court." Membership \$2.00.

THE MOMMA BOOK TO DEBUT IN SPRING

THE MOMMA BOOK, edited by Karol Hope, will contain the best articles from past MOMMA publications and substantial new information for single mothers. The publisher, New American Library, expects an early 1976 release date. Ask for it; make sure it's on order at your local bookstore.

LETTERS

Thank God you are alive and going forward. I believe in you and am working on an article for you. Its subject may not seem pertinent to you but I believe the plight is: The Plight of the Single Grandmother. The daughter who gifted me with the MOMMA subscription recently separated from her husband and is divorcing him. I came back from New Mexico to Florida in order to be with my four year old granddaughter while my daughter returns to work and tries to figure out her life after seven years of marriage. I see this young woman encountering all the situations I did when I divorced her father in her early childhood; now I have to examine how guilty I am for her present situation.

Keep on MOMMA. You're needed, even if you only publish once a year.
I love you,
Penny Morgan

Dear MOMMA:

Here's an extra ten bucks I intended to save by growing my own garden this summer. Hope it helps a little. I got all teary when I read your front page. It is so tough hanging your own world together when you're in this situation. But I personally feel that MOMMA may be one of the most important pieces of paper published today and we can't let you fail. Sometimes, I see a whole new hope for America in the personal, individual revitalization of women who go through this experience. Barry Goldwater screamed for a return to rugged individualism, but he hadn't seen anything compared with the growth that is going to come about when a large number of mothers get put under pressure by a shitty system that is trying to trample them and their kids. I think we're raising a new breed who will view personal commitment a little differently than their milk-toast reared fathers.

So MOMMA can't fail because MOMMA is their voice. So hang in there. We're with you and we need you.

Love,
Paula

I am not as fortunate as most of the single mothers that I read about, because I am not divorced. I am a single mother because of the fact that I was unwed when I bore my two sons. Their ages are now five and six. I'm now twenty-two years old and, through years of work am now a registered nurse. I am still alone with a boyfriend I do not think intends to ever marry me, because of my two sons and an estranged wife. Is there any future for me and my two sons? I'm not speaking about this man, but, honestly I mean with anyone. Does anyone ever speak about their good times or becoming married with acceptance of their children without the burdening outlook from the man? I am truly becoming disgusted with men and their selfishness. Please help me! I'm very interested in your organization. Is there any way that I can become a member?

Thank you very much for reading,
Patty Holman

Dear Ms. Hope:

Thank you for your article in the April '74 PLAYGIRL. It helped. It's hard to realize when we are down that we are not alone in our feelings of frustration.

All around me I see single mothers living with men, which I am not condemning it's just that I don't want that. If I can't do it on my own instead of copping out to the first man I like, then I don't feel I'm capable of much.

It has taken me five years to get my thinking straightened out, realizing that it is not a personality deformity in my being single. Maybe someday I'll remarry, but I try not to think about it because that is living with tomorrow and all my time has to be spent coping with today.

I would greatly enjoy subscribing to your newspaper and belonging to the organization.

Thank you very much,
Linda L. Robinson

single mothers together

Now that it is all over, I can hardly believe that we attempted it. To live with three adults and five children under five in a funky old house in funky old Venice. We must have been out of our minds. But we were idealistic and hoped that our single mothers collective would work.

The kids called us "the mothers" and I felt like the old Frank Zappa Mothers of Invention - Crazy! The three mothers each had their own bedroom (although one was a converted sun porch, not really a separate bedroom). The kids all slept in the dorm at the back of the house and they had their own playroom (which they rarely used) but it was summer when we moved in and they played outside most of the time.

We worked out an elaborate schedule of cooking, doing dishes, and cleaning so that each of us had to make dinner one night, do the dishes the next, and had the third night off. We rotated cleaning various rooms of the house each week. Actually, the schedule worked quite well. The house wasn't really clean, but it wasn't too filthy either.

We didn't plan regular meetings and the reserved silences built up until they exploded into harsh words. No, it wasn't all hunky dory. There wasn't enough space for all of us. There was no place to go to escape from the noise of the kids and none of us felt that we had any privacy.

Mary Ann was the first to move out. After much agonizing and soul-searching discussions about loyalty and breaking up the house, she decided that her sanity was more important to her. Around that time, I took a long trip and returned six weeks later refreshed and with renewed energy. Now, Lorraine and I shared the house with just three kids. Unfortunately, we had to give up the back part of the house because we could not afford to rent the whole house.

It seemed to work for a while. Then the same old hassles - lack of privacy and poor communication led to the same old problems. Things got so bad that we

each retreated to our own rooms and watched our own separate TV's. Soon I found my own place to live.

Now I'm left to wonder why it didn't work. I think that to begin with, our expectations were unreal; the space was too small for so many people; we didn't have regular meetings to air our feelings and we didn't make any house rules. We weren't a family, we were three separate families living in the same house.

It wasn't all bad though. There were some real good times. Like late at night when the three of us sat around the dining room table and read each others' Tarot cards and shared our innermost thoughts. It was the close times that made it worth the effort.

The kids loved it. They played together all day and half the night and generally got along better than their mothers. Some of the things they did were so outrageously funny that they always gave us a good laugh. They learned to share their toys (although that was a touchy area) and their room. I think that shared housing is really good for the children, especially for an only child. All of them learned to trust all the mothers. It helps to know that there is someone else that your child can go to when he needs something.

It also gave me much more freedom to come and go, knowing that there would be someone there to watch my child and I couldn't afford the luxury of paying a babysitter. Sometimes I would take a whole day off just to be by myself and do whatever I wanted without dragging a child along. It made me feel like a whole person again, not just a mother. Shared babysitting is probably the greatest advantage of shared housing.

I can't say that living together was any cheaper than living alone. The rent was high and we seemed to go through vast quantities of food. But it was nice to enjoy someone else's cooking for a change.

All in all, it was a learning experience. It had its ups and downs, but that's par for the course. If there is a next time, I hope that I will be more careful and more aware.

momma

This issue was put together by Lin Hartwell, Art Herman, Nancy Jacobsen, Therese Madonia and Mary Smearer.

This obviously is not the MOMMA Newspaper/Magazine which many of us once knew and loved. But if you take an issue of the MOMMA Newspaper/Magazine and cancel weeks of planning, researching, writing, editing, rewriting and typesetting; subtract Nancy Young's graphics, Karol Hope's genius and about a thousand dollars in publication expenses; this MOMMA NEWSLETTER is what you'd have.

For those of you who may have missed the explanations (and as it slowly disintegrated from a monthly to a quarterly, to a never, there were constant explanations) it simply became increasingly difficult to muster the necessary energy until finally it became impossible. The main problems were of course, time and money. Time and Money. . . the Nemesis of single Motherhood.

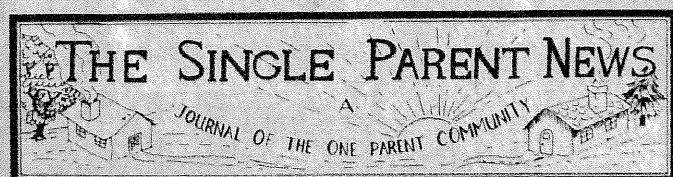
When it became evident that MOMMA Newspaper was dying, it was painful to everyone concerned, but there was one small consolation. The demise of the Newspaper did not mean the demise of the MOMMA Organization. The Organization has been growing steadily since then, and wants to keep the lines of communication open, not only with the general membership of the MOMMA Organization, but with the people who enjoyed and supported the MOMMA Newspaper as well. That is what we hope this newsletter will accomplish. While we are acutely aware that it is a small compensation, those people who had been subscribers to the MOMMA Newspaper/Magazine have been included on the mailing list for this newsletter. However, as a large portion of the costs for this newsletter belong to the post office, and because we don't want to waste money mailing newsletters to wrong addresses or to people who really aren't interested, we have to ask you to let us know if you want to remain on the mailing list. Future newsletters will be sent only to those people who let us know (by returning the questionnaire in this newsletter or by other means) that they wish to remain on the mailing list.

As you may be aware, MOMMA is big on questionnaires! This one has to do with your experiences, if any, with the Welfare Department. If you wonder what we do with the information we gather this way, well, we use it to prove a variety of points to a variety of people and bureaucracies to whom we have a need to prove a point. Statistics about us are hard to come by, yet they are the one real proof of what the single mother experience is all about. That's why your honest answers are so important and appreciated. The more information available to the policy makers, the more they will be able to consider realistic solutions to our specific problems.

We especially enjoy printing the MOMMA Recommends section and would really welcome your recommendations and input. Your letters, comments, observations, feelings, anything related to your single motherhood is welcome. Your journalistic skills aren't as important as your personal experiences. The focus of course, will be the needs, interests and lifestyles of single parents-what our lives look like right now.

Our intentions are to keep going. We will write and distribute future newsletters such as this as long as the money and energy are available. We will also incorporate our thoughts, ideas, letters and other reader responses into a new venture to debut next year called The Single Parent News, a journal of the one-parent community.

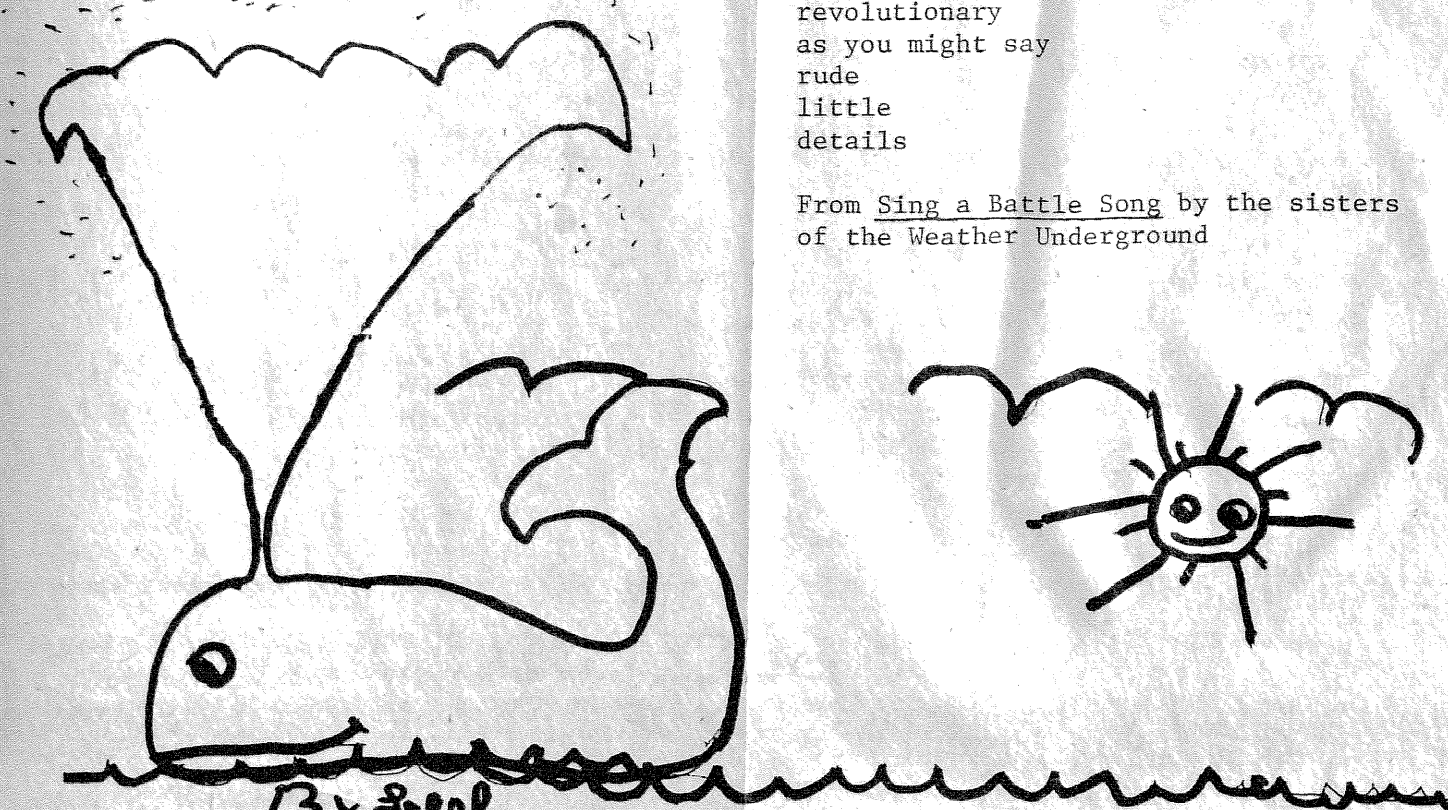
Our contribution to The Single Parent News will be the same uncompromising viewpoint that MOMMA readers have come to expect. The Single Parent News, we hope, will offer ideas from a variety of single parent sources, allow a free exchange of self-validation and community-building information. So, we'll see you next in The Single Parent News.



Dear MOMMA:

It seems as if we've made some progress in unemployment benefits and maternity leave for women (and in certain cases for men). Checking through the personnel manuals for several local service agencies, I have found that a conscientious effort has been made in this area. This should help women who are pregnant and do not wish to work at that time. It would seem, therefore that the government and employers are tacitly approving the population explosion by giving human consideration to their pregnant employees. There are, however, no benefits in any of the personnel policies I have seen for adoptive leaves. If it is important to allow parents time for pregnancies and the care of infants, the same should hold true for adoptive parents. In some cases, it may even be more important for the adopted child to have uninterrupted time with his parents. It appears that we discriminate against the child of adoptive parents since they are not allowed the same benefits as the "natural parents". Can you help me find ways of abolishing this form of discrimination?

Sincerely,
Penelope Spiller
YWCA Kokokahai Branch
45-035 Kaneohe Bay Dr.
Kaneohe, Hawaii



STRAIGHT TALK

Hey, just a minute,
Now what was that you said?
Oh, you really got guts
to say it again--
Well--let me be plain
No mincing words
Stick
Yes, stick--I mean stick
stickety stick
stick stack stuck
stick it up your ass
your ass
That's right--
That's just what I said
Yes--
You got it
now you can close your mouth
you actually understood
what I said
Rude?
Now really--
So I am rude
no manners to use
such language
such foul language--
Foul!

Did you say foul,
while fouling me?
What a way
what a long way
yes quite a long way
still to go for us
even in these small
not particularly
revolutionary
as you might say
rude
little
details

From Sing a Battle Song by the sisters
of the Weather Underground