

SOME NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE ARTICLES

www.nelliejacobs.com

Toronto Star ▼
July 11, 1980

Family Classified

Motherhood gets a network

Spending the week with Julie Jacobs and Marlene Gordon, you can see how they have become a network of women who are helping each other. They are the founders of MAMMA, a newsletter and a television show.

Julie Jacobs, 35, and Marlene Gordon, 32, are both stay-at-home mothers. They met in 1978 when they were both assigned to the same elementary school in Toronto. Not only did they become good friends, they became sisters-in-law when they married Paul and Michael Jacobs. They each had three children and were determined to raise them themselves.

The early years passed in a cheerful welter of diapers, playdates and school conferences. Then in 1978, Nellie Waxman, a former teacher, came down with two-week relays, and for almost a year, she says, "I was content and we were here to let for mothers decided upon a as a forum for in full-time for Mothers' (MAMMA). MAMMA newsletter on revenue and a classically on-raising, cost 1,000 copies. effort ch features as dren's song- needs insur- child's room and family-style

From the late 70's through the mid-80's, Nellie Jacobs co-hosted two television shows, published a national quarterly newspaper, and created workshops and mini-conferences.

Homemaker's Magazine

October 1980

WOMAN'S PLACE

women to get out of the home and find jobs." MAMMA's philosophy is fairly embodied in the April 1980 issue of their newsletter: The front page promotes "family time" activities, and articles include a mother's open letter thanking her first child's first teacher. There's a full page for the children to color, and contests for young and adult readers. MAMMA is mainly written by its 1,000 subscribers (though it's professionally laid out), and it reflects their domestic insights and concerns. Still, the biggest piece in this issue is a short story about a mother of four young children who decides to take off one evening a week for herself, and does so triumphantly, without guilt.

"We're trying to make women strong," MAMMA's co-founder continued. "Working in the home is so isolated. Some women even find their vocabularies decrease. We want to make women at home aware that they're not alone." The newsletter was their first effort, and remains central to all their activities. While the subscription list is national, North York has hosted all the events to date (including the annual MAMMA Day, scheduled for February 24, 1981), and the cable TV show most recently originated from Scarborough.

Inviting women who work in the home to share their writing has been such a success that Nellie and Marlene Jacobs are now compiling a book about motherhood, as told by mothers. They welcome subscriptions of short

anecdotes, original jokes, poems, cartoons and cartoon ideas; also expressions of "your feelings as young wives, young mothers, grandmothers; your ingredients for coping; relationships with husbands, children, parents, etc." They ask that submissions be brief and that the sender keep a copy, as they cannot be returned. There's no payment involved, only glory.

"We're strictly a nonprofit organization," said Nellie Jacobs. "We think that our stress on active involvement and learning, especially about the media, makes our group particularly valuable to mothers." Any chance that MAMMA will become political? "We've just completed a reader survey and some readers do want us to take stands on issues like day care. I don't know where we'll find the time." She laughed. "It will be another learning experience." A sample copy of MAMMA's newsletter may be obtained by writing to MAMMA, Box 308, Station A, Willowdale, Ontario M2W 5S9. Subscriptions are \$3 a year (four issues) and associate (supporting) memberships are \$10 annually.

The Toronto Sun ▼
February 9, 1981

MAMMA: Group's set up for well, uh, mamas

It was a hard Toronto day, but the mothers of the city were out in force. They were at the launch of MAMMA, a newsletter and a television show, at the Toronto Convention Centre.

The group, which includes women from all over the city, is a network of mothers who are helping each other. They are the founders of MAMMA, a newsletter and a television show.

Julie Jacobs, 35, and Marlene Gordon, 32, are both stay-at-home mothers. They met in 1978 when they were both assigned to the same elementary school in Toronto. Not only did they become good friends, they became sisters-in-law when they married Paul and Michael Jacobs. They each had three children and were determined to raise them themselves.

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Three years ago, two stay-at-home mothers launched MAMMA, a newsletter to provide a stimulating outlet for others like themselves. Now, their own cable TV interview show, watched by thousands in the Toronto area, may go national

When Nellie Waxman and Marlene Gordon graduated from teachers' college, they were both assigned to the same elementary school in Toronto. Not only did they become good friends, they became sisters-in-law when they married Paul and Michael Jacobs. They each had three children and were determined to raise them themselves.

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Sisters-in-law Nellie and Marlene Jacobs: "We've only just begun, but MAMMA has enriched our lives."

PHOTOGRAPHED BY TED YAMWOOD

Homemaker's ▲
October, 1980

Over the years, Jacobs has received national and local media coverage, in print (newspapers, magazines), and on television and radio.

When her book was published in 1996, she wrote, directed, filmed and narrated a 22 minute video, 'Writing a Book - One Woman's Dream Come True,' presented at speaking engagements.

Chatelaine ▶
April, 1981

Support for MAMMA grew. The newsletter appeared quarterly, and each time it brought more subscriptions and material from readers across Canada and even the U.S.

Last year, a suburban To-

MORE ARTICLES



TODAY'S PARENT
February, 1998



BEST-SELLERS

FICTION

1. Alias Grace, Margaret Atwood (3)
2. Executive Orders, Tom Clancy (1)
3. A Crown of Swords, Robert Jordan (8)
4. The Tenth Insight, James Redfield (2)

Last Don, Mario Puzo (10)
Of Sight, Elmore Leonard
On Your Knees, Ann-Marie MacDonald (4)
Ant of the Bones, Anne Rice (5)
Celestine Prophecy, James Redfield (6)
Englishman's Boy, Guy Vanderhaeghe

NON-FICTION

1. Bust & Echo, David Foot (1)
2. Gilbert Principle, Scott Adams (2)
3. Emotional Intelligence, Daniel Goleman (3)
4. The Zone, Barry Sears (4)
5. China Blues, Jan Wong (5)
6. The Edge, Vincent Bugliosi (6)
7. I Wanna Be, Dennis Rodman (8)
8. The Duchess of Windsor, Michael Bloch (10)
9. Simple Abundance, Sarah Ban Breathnach (7)
10. Clicking, Faith Popcorn

() Position last week Compiled by Brian Bethune



...PARENTS' roles, responsibilities and accountability and more.

Keynote speakers

Nellie Jacobs

Author of "Grading the Teacher" and a former teacher, Nellie Jacobs addresses the significant influence teachers have on children and the learning and environment. To take action promptly and positively when problems arise in the classroom, parents need to understand the culture of the school and those working in it, and how to navigate the system. Jacobs' plenary session will validate concerns about the quality of education.

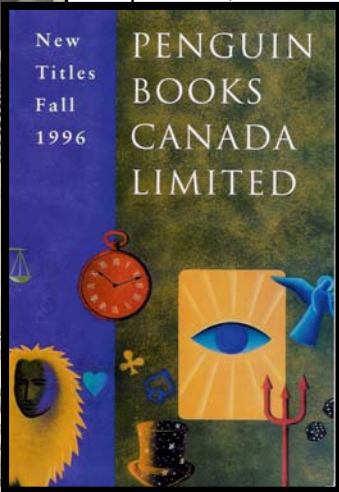
Continued on page 5

BRITISH COLUMBIA CONFEDERATION OF PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS
September, 1997



www.nelliejacobs.com

Bayview Post
September, 1996



Turning the tables

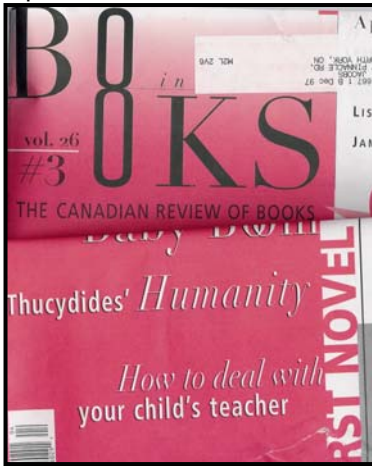
Former Toronto elementary school teacher Nellie Jacobs, a mother of four, examines the profound effect teachers can have on children in *Grading the Teacher: A Canadian Parent's Guide*. The book offers common-sense advice on evaluating teachers—and what to do when they don't measure up.

Maclean's
September, 1996

The Toronto Sun
January, 1992

Toronto Star
September, 1996

BOOKS in Canada
April, 1997



TEACHER GETS TOP GRADES ON NEW BOOK

The reviews are in and it is raving about Nellie Jacobs' book, *Grading the Teacher*. Jacobs, of York Mills and wrote the book as a guide for parents in order to help them recognize an influence a teacher has on a child's life while they are at school. The book urges parents to be more aware of what goes on in the classroom.

Jacobs describes the pressures faced by educators and explains how parents can work together with teachers to address difficult situations, and to solve the problems those situations will present.

Grading the Teacher is receiving such a positive response from the public that instructors from the Faculty of Education have shown interest in adding the book to class reading lists.

A mother of four and a teacher in the North York system, Jacobs received feedback from a number of people, including ministers of education, deans and school

