

TALK ABOUT PARENTING WITH SHIRLEE SMITH

Our Newsletter



..... Vol 2010-02

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Our Activities



Theater Anyone ?

Thanks to a thoughtful donor, *Kooza*, an adrenaline rush of acrobatic performance, combined with the art of clowning by Cirque du Soleil, was a recent treat for a group of 15 parents and kids, with almost front row seats. Below are a few of the responses from our participants.



Julie and her 14 year-old daughter: "It wouldn't happened for us with me being a single parent. It was a GIFT and a memory that will always remind us of being under the big top together!"

Drew, age 7, who was with his grandmother: "It was awesome! The ending was sad because I wanted to see more performances."

Rhonda, age 18: "Not only were the seats great but the performance was to die for. The costumes were absolutely fabulous and the scenes were amazing."

Father of a 15-year-old with physical challenges: "Even though Daniel was scared, and spent part of the time with his head in my lap, he still came up to take another look. If he had been too scared, we wouldn't have come back after intermission."



Dreamgirls at the Ahmanson Theater, our February "outing", attracted 10 of our theater-goers. They enjoyed this discounted event through our membership with the Center Theater Group.

Contact us if you want to be added to our Theater Everyone email list.



parent Talk

"We felt very fortunate to find out there is such a good program out there that is talking about parenting. I also learned lots of valuable information after I visited your website. I believe all children are angels to begin with. It is the parent's responsibility to keep them on the road of virtue. We owe our children a good living environment and the proper guidance because we brought them into this world. I also want to encourage those kids who grew up from a single parent family like Andrew (editors note: he is the featured guest in the newsletter showtime this month) that they can be mentally strong, self disciplined and caring. We, as parents, must be an idol, emphasizing family values, the importance of being hard-working, and always showing love in front of our children."



Genna with son, Andrew

--- Genna Chin

Board of Director...Brenda Dabney, long-time member of our Board of Directors, has resigned. Brenda has recently been assigned legislative responsibilities at Los Angeles County Children's Court, where she has worked as a staff attorney. This new assignment, along

with the responsibilities of being a new mom, is taking up pretty much all of her time. She was the catalyst of our involvement with military recruitment of vulnerable young people; a great asset to our Board, and she will be missed.

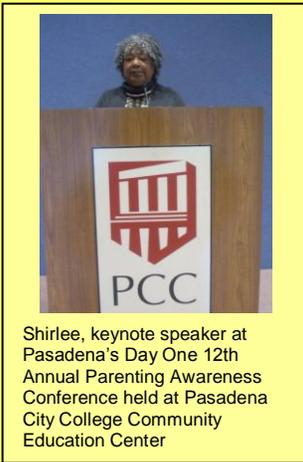
What's New / Coming Up...

We've caught the bug>>>

Actually, it may already be here. It happens 3X every week, a Shirlee's Parent Advice Blog. Everything from "Should I write my kid's English essay?" to "What do I tell my younger son who wants all the same privileges his older brother has?" I love the "Dear Abby" role. Please check out "A Shirlee Smith Blog" at iparentingadvice.com/blog/. We've caught the social network bug: We're on [twitter](#), [facebook](#) and [youtube](#).

Academic Excellence Begins at Home>>>

The late Dr. Beverlee Bruce was an educator and a scholar; she had an M.A. degree in Education from UCLA and a PhD in Anthropology from Harvard University. She worked hard to help every student she came in contact with to excel. She also believed academic excellence begins at home. We are raising funds to honor her work with on-going Talk About Parenting show segments focusing on this concept.



Shirlee, keynote speaker at Pasadena's Day One 12th Annual Parenting Awareness Conference held at Pasadena City College Community Education Center

When I was asked to present at the Day One Parenting Conference last month using the theme, "The Secret To Positively Influencing Your Kids," I took a deep breath and made sure not to say what I was thinking. I followed my mother's good example for always getting along, and responded by saying, "That sounds like a good one." What difficulty, I surmised, to expand on the answer to that obvious secret for 45 minutes - when there's no secret to recognizing that parents are the key.

While I may know we are the key and while I may not have thought this was much of a secret, I tackled the request and found that "They're Your Kids Not Your Friends", my book, was actually all about this secret and particularly embodied in the stories, "Wisdom of the Elders," "The Other Side of the Track," and "Stolen Goods."

The presentation was on target!

Shirlee Smith

Featured TalkAboutParentingLive! Show Guest: ANDREW PAU (pictured above)

A class assignment: Using personification to communicate the Chinese New Year Tiger's advice to humans.

Dear Humans,
The Chinese New Year, which is the Year of the Tiger, is quickly approaching, and people are thrilled. Although it is a time of celebration, it is also a fantastic moment to gain knowledge. We tigers can be your teachers in the school of life. We advise that you make a few changes in your lives. We believe that the humans should definitely reach out to others, take the advice of elders, and not be too materialistic in order to become a better and improved species.

Visit our [Show Resource Page](#) for more information and links.

Training Workshops

NEW WORKSHOP TOPICS:

- Child Development
- A Parental Philosophy & the Importance of Mothers
- Establishing & Maintaining a Healthy Lifestyle

Made possible with a grant from California Technical Assistance



For more detail about our workshops, visit our [Parent Advisor page](#)

Floor-Showing

White Folks Sound Off..... Ah, if there were only ratings in this business of delivering one's opinion. With last week's opinion piece, "When white America picks 'orphans'" I'd have blasted Leno, Oprah [More>>>](#)

Easier Said Than Done..... RAMON Cortines, school superintendent of that gigantic educational system somewhere down the Pasadena Freeway, was on the airwaves Thursday spouting a message..... [More>>>](#)

Donor Highlights



Individual Donors

Elliot Gold, Adelaide Hixon, Palma Lawrence, George Lutz, Ann-Marie Stephenson, Esther Thomaseec.



"YOU TALK"

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SHIRLEE SMITH

For participation, contact us at
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email Shirlee@talkaboutparenting.org
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start your discussion topic at our **YOU TALK**
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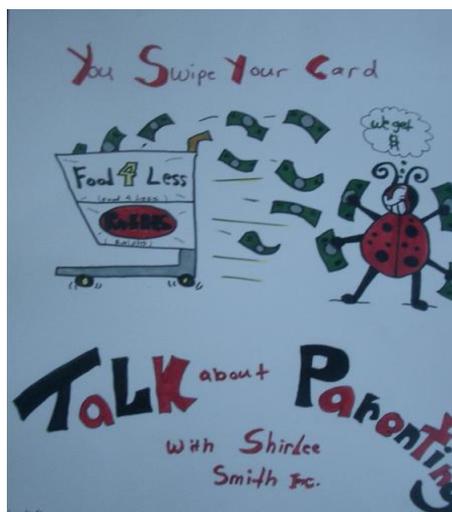


How you can



DONATION INFORMATION

- (1) **To donate through our website:** Click [here](#).
- (2) **To donate through Ralph's Community Program:** Register your Ralphs or Food4Less Club card using the following steps. We will get a percentage of the proceeds with every purchase you make at no cost to you!
 - (i) Click on the links below:-
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