



# Women's Federation for World Peace

## National Newsletter

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## "Best Friends" Offers Girls Positive Experiences

Interview with  
Elayne Bennett



Elayne Bennett, wife of former US Secretary of Education, William Bennett, was interviewed by Tomiko Duggan for the Japanese WFWP magazine, *Ideal Family*. The interview focuses on the organization "Best Friends," which Mrs. Bennett founded.

**Q.** How did you get the idea for starting Best Friends?

**A.** As a consultant at the Georgetown University child development center, I saw increasing numbers of children coming with developmental disabilities, neurological impairment, and emotional problems. Records showed that the mother was a young teenager when the child was born.

I was thinking a lot about being a mother, because I had a year-old son at the time. I had studied child development and thought I was pretty well equipped to be a mother, but I realized how much we need each others' help in raising children. If I needed the support of other women, I wondered who is advising young girls as they embark upon womanhood.

Typically it is difficult for teen girls to communicate with their mothers, and it's also difficult for mothers to discuss matters of love, dating and sex with their daughters. One mother said, "I can't talk to my daughter. Would you talk to her?"

I began a neighborhood group to get an idea of what girls were thinking about. I envisioned a network of girls deciding to avoid sexual intimacy and supporting each other.

**Abstinence**, cont. on p. 5.

### Bulletin:

Keep your newsletter coming! After this issue, we will be sending newsletters to all members who have renewed their membership for 1994.

Renew your membership. Keep your connection with WFWP through this valuable communication.

## Teaching Kids Healthy Love

by Teri Lester

Last year I visited several local officials and community leaders. I gave each of them a copy of the WFWP Statement of Beliefs and asked what they thought was the best way for WFWP to serve our community. Every person who read the list made the same comment about the third point: "We hold that chastity and fidelity are desirable goals." They all said in one way or another, "That's really good, but nobody will ever do it."

After several meetings like this, I felt a clear calling to focus on providing abstinence education. I had a working knowledge of the subject, and some study at the

**Healthy Love**, cont. on p. 7.

# Eleanor Roosevelt A Time for Remembering

by Estelle Linzer

On November 8, 1932, Eleanor Roosevelt became the first lady of the United States when her husband was elected president. On November 7, 1962, she died, the first lady of the world.

Anna Eleanor Roosevelt not only spanned those 30 years; she was, for many people, those 30 years. In the 1930's she went out to see for herself—in the coal mines, the slums, on the farms. The Forties saw her at wounded men's bedsides in the war zone, coming "home" to the White House to make promised calls to anxious parents. And after the war and for the rest of her life, she made her mark on the conscience of the world with her unrelenting



Eleanor Roosevelt

determination to raise people's sights on their own behalf.

What manner of person was this woman? We know of her beginnings that she was an orphan at age ten, having lost her beautiful mother and her adored father, who always

promised to return home from his journeys but one day did not. She never attended school in our accepted sense—with the exception of her attendance at Allenswood Academy outside London. She was not to experience the cushioning effect of a family life with schoolmates. She never attended college or was elected to public office.

Speaking of her girlhood, she said: "I had painfully high

ideals and a tremendous sense of duty entirely unrelieved by any sense of humor or any appreciation of the weaknesses of human nature. Things were either right or wrong to me, and I had too little experience to know how fallible human judgments are."

By 1945, Eleanor Roosevelt was the widow of the president of the United States, and she cautioned reporters trailing her: "The story is over." In her autobiography she wrote poignantly:

"I had to face the future as countless other women have faced it without their husbands. No more children would be living at home. The readjustments of being alone, without someone else as a center of life and with no children about, would be difficult. There was a big vacuum which nothing, not even the passage of time, would fill."

Where to live? Where to put down roots after twelve years in the White House? She chose the cottage at Val-Kill Creek. "It was mine," she said, and "I felt freer there than in the big house." She chose, too, to continue occupying the apartment rented on Washington Square in New York City, where she received and welcomed visitors. Her mother-in-law, Sara Delano Roosevelt, once

## Former Eleanor Roosevelt Aide Speaks at Women's Leadership Program

by Alexa Fish Ward

The upstate New York chapter of WFWP sponsored its first program within the Women's Leadership Series, entitled "Eleanor Roosevelt: First Lady of the World." On April 29, 1994, 40 guests filled the living room of Mrs. Roosevelt's beloved summer home, Stone Cottage, at Val-Kill in Hyde Park, New York. Ms. Estelle Linzer, personal assistant to and professional colleague of Mrs. Roosevelt from 1953-62, gave a moving presentation of her life and character.

The 200-acre Val-Kill estate is officially entitled the Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site and is maintained by the National Park Service.

This was part of the Roosevelt estate which extended west to the Hudson River. Back in the 1920s, Eleanor Roosevelt used to frequent the Val-Kill area, picnicking with family and friends. In the autumn of 1925, she was lamenting plans to close the estate for the winter.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt turned to his wife and said, "Why don't you build a shack in the woods" at Val-Kill? The charming Dutch Colonial two-story home built from wood and local field stone came to be known as Stone Cottage. Mrs. Roosevelt enjoyed Stone Cottage from 1926-38, at which time she moved into nearby Val-Kill Cottage, which remained her country home until she died in 1962.

Stone Cottage is currently the home of the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-

Kill, which promotes the interests and concerns of Mrs. Roosevelt through sponsored and co-sponsored programs. It was decided to honor Mrs. Roosevelt with a "living memorial," as opposed to a statue or museum.

Ms. Estelle Linzer had the opportunity to work and travel with Mrs. Roosevelt from 1953 to 1962, when she was an active volunteer leader in the American Association for the United Nations (AAUN), presently known as the United Nations Association. Ms. Linzer served AAUN as the associate director for program. It is most fitting that Ms. Linzer is currently the president of the Board of Directors of the Eleanor Roosevelt Center.

remarked that Eleanor liked to keep a hotel, and obviously she did.

When President Harry Truman sent his message to her in December 1945 asking if she would serve as a member of the United States delegation to the organizing meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in London the next month, she was aghast. She reacted, "How could I be a delegate to help organize the United Nations when I have no background or experience in international meetings?" But accept she did, after gentle persuasion from her children and friends, and she began a remarkable new career that lasted until 1952, when she submitted her resignation as ambassador upon the advent of a new administration in Washington.

From her first tentative steps aboard the Queen Elizabeth in early 1946 to her more confident stride at UN sessions in London, Paris, Geneva and New York later on, Mrs. Roosevelt was energetic, inquiring, curious and serious about her assignments. She brought those qualities to the world scene from her vast experience in New York State and across the United States.

She was appointed to "Committee Three" of the General Assembly, because she couldn't do much harm there, according to the story she told. She remarked that, when she was asked to serve, "I realized that I had no more idea than the man in the moon what Committee Three might be." But she soon learned that it dealt with a social agenda, with human rights as one of its major concerns. We know that her leadership and untiring energy and patience as chairman of the UN Human Rights Commission was the key to the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 3:00 am, December 10, 1948, by the UN General Assembly with a vote of 48 in favor, none against, and eight abstentions. In an unprecedented gesture, the delegates rose to give her a standing ovation.

Mrs. Roosevelt continued her service on the Human Rights Commission and as a US delegate to the General Assembly

until her resignation in 1952. Mrs. Roosevelt was 68 years old when she switched gears again, becoming private citizen Eleanor Roosevelt until her death in 1962.

My own life was touched by Mrs. Roosevelt then because I was associate director of the American Association for the United Nations. When Mrs. Roosevelt, already a member of our board, offered her services to the executive director as a volunteer, you may be certain her offer was accepted.

When she entered our lives in 1953, there was some nervousness among staff members. What should we say to her? Does one say, "Good morning" or wait until spoken to? When she summons you to her office, do you stand until she invites you to be seated?

All of this was solved as if by magic wand, through the sheer force of her warmth and friendliness. Her shyness matched our own. Her cheery "Good morning" echoed through the halls and her gentle "Bye-bye" lingered with us when she left. And she came to our desks to talk things over.

What was her magic? It was a combination; she was a listener; she was honest; she had a sense of humor; she had an acute political sense; she was modest but at the same time aware of her identity. In other words, she had a balanced sense of self.

Through working with Mrs. Roosevelt and traveling with her, I was fortunate to have had the experience of a one-on-one relationship with an extraordinary human being.

Many have written about her; some have tried to analyze why she turned out the way she did; others have foisted their

own opinions on her philosophy and actions. She is her own best interpreter, I find.

In her autobiography, she wrote: "It was not until I reached middle age that I had the courage to develop interests of my own, outside of my duties to my family.... Almost at once I began to discover that interest leads to interest, knowledge leads to more knowledge, the capacity of understanding grows with the effort to understand."

And she continues: "From that time on, though I have had many problems, though I have known the grief and the loneliness that are the lot of most human beings, though I have had to make adjustments and still have to make endless adjustments, I have never been bored, never found the days long enough for the range of activities with which I wanted to fill them. And, having learned to stare down fear,

I long ago reached the point where there is no living person whom I fear and few challenges that I am not willing to face."

*Tomorrow Is Now* concludes with a quotation from Reinhold Niebuhr: "Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in a lifetime; therefore we must be saved by hope. Nothing which is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history; therefore we must be saved by faith. Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone. Therefore we are saved by love.

"The fundamental vital thing which must be alive in each human consciousness is the religious teaching that we cannot live for ourselves alone and that as long as we are here on this earth we are all of us brothers, regardless of race, creed or color." ☸



Estelle Linzer

# Women Gear up for UN Forum

by Nora Spurgin & Betsy Jones

A fourth World Conference on Women expected to draw more than 20,000 participants will be held in Beijing, China, September 4-15, 1995. The conference is part of a series of global gatherings which started with the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and will end with HABITAT in 1996.

There have been three United Nations world conferences on women. The first, held in Mexico City in 1975, led to the declaration of the United Nations Decade for Women from 1976 to 1985 by the UN General Assembly. The second, held in Copenhagen in 1980, adopted a Programme of Action for the Second Half of the UN Decade for Women. The third, held in Nairobi in 1985, adopted the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000. Participants and observers in the Beijing Conference will include governments, United Nations organizations, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, and professional associations.

On March 18, 1994, the UN Commission on the Status of Women ended two weeks of deliberations which, in addition to its regular work, also served as the preparatory committee for

the Beijing Conference. Gertrude Mongella of Tanzania, secretary general of the Beijing Conference, describes the process of preparing a Platform of Action as an "open" one which will be worked on by five regional preparatory committees. Mrs. Mongella has embarked on an extensive fundraising campaign to increase participation from developing countries whose governments may not be able to afford to send a representative.

Areas of critical concern were the lack of sufficient mechanisms at all levels to promote the advancement of women, the lack of awareness and commitment to recognized women's rights, the insufficient use of the mass media to promote women's positive contributions to society, and the lack of adequate recognition for women's contributions to managing natural resources and safeguarding the environment.

On March 5, Betsy Jones attended a planning committee meeting at the United Nations. Following is her report on the meeting:

The planning committee met to set general guidelines for space and expenditures in Beijing. Over 250 women from all corners of the world packed the room.

A goal was formulated for the Beijing Conference: "To bring together women to challenge, create, and transform global structures and processes at all levels through the empowerment and celebration of women." It was further stated that we are committed to "equality, peace, and justice; inclusiveness and full participation of all."

Music, videos, posters, dancing and arts and crafts can be used to communicate the message. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were urged to set up permanent structures to influence the UN processes.

Irene Santiago asked for volunteers who are conference organizers, fundrais-

ers and media experts. Her address is:

**Irene Santiago**  
Executive Director NGO Forum '95  
777 UN Plaza, 8th Floor  
New York, NY 10017

I found that the informal sharing over lunch and after the conference helped establish bonds that I believe will only be amplified by working in preparation for this conference and multiplied afterwards as a lasting result. ☺

*NOTE: Internationally, some WFWP members and representatives will be attending this conference.*

## Thanks for Your Support

by Nora Spurgin

We want to thank everyone who supported WI-WP during 1993 through membership, participation in activities, and with prayer.

We appreciate your continued support of efforts to facilitate global peace through uniting women in the healing of our families and society. Thank you to every one of you out there!

## T-Shirt Season

Summer is the best time to wear your WFWP T-shirts and advertise WFWP. For those of you who want to buy one, please contact your WFWP local leader, or you can purchase them directly from headquarters.

Also, if anyone is interested in selling them as a fundraiser for WI-WP, please contact your state chairwoman or contact headquarters directly. We will supply them at wholesale cost for your fundraiser. Let's get them out there!

*NOTE: The promised interview with WFWP vice-president Josette Shiner will appear in the following issue of the newsletter, due to space constraints.*

### Women's Federation for World Peace

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President: Nora Spurgin  
Vice-President: Betsy Jones  
Newsletter Editor: Joy Pople

WFWP is dedicated to uniting women to take action for the moral education and healing of our families and societies.

# Family Pledge

1. *We families, centered on true love, pledge to restore our hometowns and establish the original ideal of creation, which is the Kingdom of God on earth and in Heaven.*

2. *We families, centered on true love, pledge to attend God and True Parents, to become central families representing the cosmos and to fulfill the way of Heaven by becoming individuals of filial piety for the family, patriots for the nation, saints for the world, and holy sons and daughters of Heaven and earth.*

3. *We families, centered on true love, pledge to establish the Four Great Realms of Heart, the Three Great Kingships and the Realm of the Royal Family.*

4. *We families, centered on true love, pledge to form one great family on the cosmic level, God's original ideal of creation, and to establish the world of freedom, peace and happiness.*

5. *We families, centered on true love, pledge to strive forward every day in order to unify the subject spiritual world and the object physical world.*

6. *We families, centered on true love, and representing God and True Parents, pledge to establish families which will mobilize heavenly destiny in order to transmit Heaven's blessings to others.*

7. *We families, centered on true love, pledge to establish the world of shimjung culture by maintaining our connection to the original blood lineage.*

Seoul, Korea, 1 May 1994. The Commemoration Day,  
40th Anniversary of the founding of HSA-UWC.

## Mother's Tour: Seeds Take Root

by Nora Spurgin

When Father announced at the leaders meeting in February that Mother would speak at 100 campuses throughout America, beginning in March and finishing by April 15, it was like a thunderbolt had hit us. "Beginning in just two weeks!" Our minds registered the reality, calculated the days, the finances, and the scheduling. Then Father informed us that he had not told Mother yet! In the end, Mother spoke at ten prestigious universities, and the married couples of True Family shared responsibility for the additional 90 campuses.

The month of March was Women's History Month, which made the sponsorship of the tour by WI-WP very appropriate. It was decided that Rev. Joong Hyeon Pak, Dr. Joon Ho Seuk, Mrs. Yoko Kobayashi and I would travel with Mother, and Dr. James Baughman would serve as moderator.

March 8 found us at Harvard Divinity School. There, on the pulpit where many a theologian and scholar must have delivered a sermon, stood Mother. Dr. Richard Rubenstein introduced Mother, pointing out that as co-founder of the Unification Church, she represented the equality of men and women. The chapel was filled, with an overflow crowd in the balcony, the aisles and outside the door.

The following night found Mother at the University of Maryland. There many Washington, DC, area members gained new life in a lively two weeks of campus witnessing which attracted much attention on campus. A small group of protesters held up signs of protest to no avail. The theater was filled with a crowd of about 1100. Michael Ahr, who won the door prize--a \$1000 study grant--said, "Her perspective on the family and the quality of true love is what students need to hear."

March 11 brought us into the heart of New York City, where Mother spoke at



Mother addresses a full house at the University of Maryland on March 9.

New York University. Cathy Van Noy, first vice-president of the New York Black Republican Council, gave a warm introduction to Mother. The fact that the 500-seat auditorium was filled on spring break was a miraculous feat, considering NYU's history of opposition toward the Unification Church and CARP.

Cornell University in upstate New York was the site of the speech on March 12. Four second-generation students at Cornell worked with the campus ministers to fill the 600-seat hall. Margaret Redmond, mother of two Unificationists and grandmother of five blessed grandchildren, introduced Mother by saying, "Mrs. Moon and I have two things in common. We both have handsome and supportive husbands and the best grandchildren in the world."

March 13 dawned with Mother on a plane to speak at Chicago State University. Dr. Morton Kaplan introduced Mother. Greetings were sent by Mayor Richard M. Daley, and a resolution proclaimed March 13 and March 20, 1994 as Women's Federation for World Peace Days.

Columbia University was the site of Mother's March 15 speech. Even during spring break, the hall was filled with approximately 800 students, guests and members. Ambassador Phillip Sanchez gave a gracious introduction. CARP's long struggles to become established on campus and a ten-year ban from campus made our presence itself a major victory.

Princeton University opened its doors to Mother's speech with only three days' notice on March 16. It was a battle

up to the last minute when the school administration realized that this speech, being held during spring break, was of no small import. The two Unificationist Princeton students worked tirelessly with the campus minister and the New Jersey church to bring 400 guests.

Rev. Henry J. Wells, founder of One Day at a Time, a recovery program for drug abusers, and graduate of ICC, introduced Mother at the University of Pennsylvania on March 19. An audience which filled the ballroom listened intently as Rev. Wells told of the inspiration he has received from his long relationship with our True Parents.

Howard University hosted the March 17 speech. A lively, largely student audience of over 1100 enjoyed entertainment by "The Chosen," heard Rev. Walter E. Fauntroy's introduction, and listened attentively as Mother spoke of bringing peace through racial harmony.

Mother's part of the campus tour came to a close with a speech at Yale Law School. The president of the faculty of the University of Bridgeport gave a beautiful introduction, stating that he had heard Father speak in Berkeley, California over 20 years ago and has followed our movement ever since.

For those of us who have been through many campaigns, it was such reassurance that as in the Biblical parable of the seeds, seeds planted take root, in many different ways and time periods. It is our prayer that the seeds of truth planted in the hearts of many a student will lead them in an upward journey working for global peace in the 21st century. ☸

## New Book on the Spirit World

by Lynn Mathers

*Insights into the Afterlife: Thirty Questions and Answers on What to Expect* is the title of a new 30-page booklet published by the Women's Federation for World Peace. Nora Spurgin, president of WFWP and author of the booklet, says it was a collaborative effort which was written for the purpose of applying profound truths to everyday life. It is the first in a series of such booklets which she envisions.

*Insights into the Afterlife* begins and ends with the personal experience of the author and several close friends as they experienced the illness and the death of their friend and co-worker, Linna Rapkins. Between these personal accounts are the following 30 questions and their answers about death, dying, and the afterlife:

Is there life after death? How do we know? If life continues after physical death, where is such life lived? What is a "near-death experience"? Is going to the spirit world automatic? What is the spirit world like? Can spiritual growth take place on the "other side"? Are people on the spiritual side aware of our passing? Will we know and be with our relatives and friends who have passed on before us? What will we look like in the spiritual world? What will we do in the spiritual world? Do we have to be religious? If we are not religious, what happens? Does what we believe and practice in different religious traditions make a difference in terms of quality of life in the spiritual world? Will we meet God and other religious figures? Of what significance are repentance and making amends before we die? What about heaven and hell? What could we do while still living in the physical body to make a better transition at death? After entering the spirit world, can we return to loved ones on earth? Why can't people on earth see or hear the spirit if it is still alive and trying to make contact? Do our prayers for the deceased help? Is there time and space in the spiri-

tual world? Can we still enjoy physical and sensual pleasures in the spirit world; for example, food, drink, and sex? What happens to one who commits suicide? Does suffering on earth have spiritual value? What about reincarnation? Are angels different from spirits of people who have lived on earth? Are there demonic spirits and angels? Do we pass through some kind of judgment on our earthly life? Are there marriages in the next life? If I'm married now, will our family be together? What are some guidelines for disposing of one's estate?

Mrs. Spurgin sees this as literature which can be used in door-to-door can-



### Women Fish for World Peace

On May 15, WFWP leaders went fishing with Father. When Mrs. Spurgin landed a 28-inch bass, Father turned around and said, "big fish." Later, when Mrs. Jones caught a 21-inch bass, Rev. Pak explained, "This is a good sign for WFWP." In the photo, Nora Spurgin and Yoko Kobayashi show some of the day's catch.

vassing; as materials for speeches; an excellent piece to send to our parents and relatives. It could be used by doctors and nursing homes in working with the elderly; in AIDS programs, and by ministers. The booklet is written with simple, succinct answers to some of the great questions and mysteries of life. Hopefully, it will open a way to share many thoughtful ideas with other women and friends.

In the introduction, the author states, "My heart aches for the many who die without preparation—without a sustaining philosophy of life, or death. This is the primary reason that I asked a few close friends of Linna's to help me in preparing this little booklet to share what we have learned through our experience with her, and through our own reading and searching. If there is life after death, and if our earthly life is preparation for that—then we have come to believe the greatest thing we could do for humanity is to share this understanding."

The material is presented, according to Mrs. Spurgin, "without specific religious doctrine and dogma and are for the sole purpose of enhancing life both on earth and beyond. This booklet is for those who are in the full bloom of life; for there is still time to prepare. For those who are terminally ill, maybe it can make a difference in the quality of the final years or months and help the new arrival into the spiritual world."

Mrs. Spurgin would appreciate hearing from anyone who has an interest in helping to write more such booklets. For example, if given a list of questions on topics of family life, etc., would you like to try your hand at answers? If so, please contact the WFWP office. Maybe a small committee for each of the booklet topics could be formed.

Orders can be placed through:  
**WFWP Headquarters**  
**4 West 43rd Street**  
**New York, NY 10036**

Single copies are \$2.00 each plus \$.50 postage. Quantity prices, including postage, are \$1.50 each for 10-99 copies, and \$1.25 for 100 or more copies. ☺



## Essayists Focus on World Peace

by Cynthia Inman

WI-WP sponsored 13 programs in New York City on college campuses this spring, and as part of the campaign we organized an essay contest that was open to all students who attended the speech. Our desire was to stimulate the students to re-read the speech, thinking deeply about what it takes to build a world of peace. A city-wide awards ceremony was held on May 17 at the Manhattan Tudor Hotel. It was standing room only.

The evening commenced with a reception which included a buffet and music provided by a saxophone and bass duet. The mood was set, and the program opened with words of welcome from the NY Regional WI-WP Chairwoman, Debby Gullery. Guest speakers included Joy Hardinge, Montessori educator, Mark Anthony Jenkins, a motivational speaker with tremendous experience speaking to young people, and Bandefa Bicaise, representative of the Women's Organization Resources for Development in Liberia.

The cultural and age diversity among the speakers was also reflected in the audience. Each speaker offered words of congratulation to the participants and encouraged them to look at the essay contest as just a beginning to their efforts. They also expressed a sincere desire to join WI-WP—men and women!—and suggested the same to the audience as a way to complete their commitment to making a difference.

The first prize winner was Andrew Clarke, a student from Brooklyn, who received a check of \$500.00. He responded spontaneously to the audience's

request to say a few words. The second prize winner, David Smalling from Harlem, received a check for \$300. The third prize winner, Robert Joalisus, also from Harlem, received a check for \$200. There were four honorable mentions, each of whom received a diploma and a \$20 certificate from a local book store.

The evening closed with a spirit of unity surrounding the theme. It was clear that all had a determination to continue the effort to achieving world peace.

Following is a report from one of the essayists, Rubie Wilkie:

"*Jambo* to all my brothers and sisters! *Jambo* means hello in Swahili. I am a York College student and a resident of Queens, New York. I recently entered a contest sponsored by the New York area WI-WP, writing an essay for world peace. The essay that I wrote was called, "Solutions for World Peace." I wrote this essay out of frustration and anger, because I care so much about today's youth and the direction they are moving in. Therefore, I typed it up and mailed it in, with hopes of winning the first prize. Three to four weeks later I received a call from Celia Roomet (Queens chairwoman for WI-WP). I had completely forgotten about the contest. On May 17, a city-wide awards ceremony was held. The guest speakers spoke with dignity, pride, honor and encouragement. I received an honorable mention. I accepted the award with honor, as the only female among five men. I thank the WFWP for inviting me and presenting me with this award." ☸

## WFWP Activities Around America

### Region 7

When Josette Shiner came to Denver in 1992, one woman heard about and attended her reading of True Mother's speech. This woman had been a member in the early 1970s and had been out of touch for many years. In the meantime she had gotten married and started a successful business of her own. Through Mother's speech she was inspired to reconnect with our church and started attending various church activities. She brought her husband to Father's speech in Denver and after that they attended a two-day workshop together. Her husband was deeply moved by the workshop, and they decided to attend the blessing as a previously married couple. They now faithfully attend Sunday services and are an inspiration to all our local members.

### Region 10

Southern California WI-WP has been averaging two to five guests for each Divine Principle workshop. A conference is planned for June 25 on "The Role of Marriage and Intercultural Harmony," and a September conference will discuss "The Community's Role in Intercultural Harmony." WI-WP will sponsor a youth speech contest on the theme, "The Role of Parents in My Life." One Japanese sister wore a kimono to campus and made origami cranes at the witnessing table. Fifteen new guests came to a sushi lunch from this. The Japanese women are offering seminars on child abuse for Japanese who have just come to America.

### Region 11

While sitting around discussing Option Heal Our Nation in Mamaroneck, NY, Nina Magnin reported that a few women decided to spend a couple of hours collecting signatures. One of the initial contacts in a senior citizens home developed into a relationship with two other outreach organizations. Nina volunteered to teach quilting to seniors. A cable TV show featured these two organizations and Nina's quilting course. ☸

# A Prayer Honoring Parenting

by Nora Spurgin

One might say that the most noble of callings is that of nurturing and raising children. Yet, today we are experiencing a generation of families whose financial needs dictate that they offer their lucrative skills to the marketplace and resort to purchasing the nurturing of their children from a variety of educational sources. Added to the breakdown of values and other social and economic changes, we have become a nation of dysfunctional families and unnurtured children crying out for a renewal of parenting skills. Many concerned parents, educators and shapers of the future are taking a second look at the role of parents in giving structure and values to children's lives and preparing them for responsible citizenship.

Some of you may have participated in promoting a resolution calling for July 28, 1994 to be designated as Parents' Day. The resolution encourages all private citizens, organizations and govern-

mental and legislative bodies at the local, state and federal levels to recognize this day through proclamations, activities and educational efforts in the furtherance of recognizing, uplifting and supporting the role of parents in the rearing of their children. This resolution has been passed, and Parents' Day will be celebrated this year. This is an excellent opportunity for women to offer a variety of programs nationwide, promoting family values and good parenting.

With this newsletter you are receiving a beautiful Parents' Prayer written by Sylvia Norton. We would like to offer this prayer to be used in your programs. For example, how about gathering parents in your area for a special prayer ceremony during which the prayer is read together and the group prays for each child of the gathered parents? You could collect the names of each child and read the list in a petition for guidance, love and healing. Be creative. Gather in churches, social halls, parks, the village

green. Offer the prayer to be read on radio spots. Send it to your local newspaper. Offer it to be read in churches, to be published in church bulletins. Create a parents' pledge to go with it at a parents' prayer ceremony. Make beautiful posters.

Create a Parents' Prayer ad hoc committee and involve friends and neighbors. Set up speeches on parenting and family values. Let's lift up parenting to its noble place before God, the ultimate parent.

How do we support all these activities? You can print the prayer and sell it, framed or unframed. It is yours. Pass it on in whatever way you choose. Selling it door to door is an excellent opportunity to talk about family issues and invite people to a program. Set up a table outside the supermarket and sell it while you promote other parenting programs.

Let this beautiful prayer be part of the way we celebrate Parents' Day 1994. May God "bathe us in the living water of ever-flowing love so that we may empower the lives we touch and pass it on eternally." ❀

## "A clear-cut message of abstinence has worked for us," *Cont. from p. 1*

other in doing that, I did a pilot study at Langley (Maryland) High School with 115 girls in the tenth grade. The focus of the group was not sex education but talking about love and life.

**Q.** One can emphasize abstinence out of concern for the consequences of a sexual relationship or out of a religious or moral point of view. How does your religious point of view play into this?

**A.** My personal moral philosophy is strongly based on my Christian faith, but a religious point of view is not part of our curriculum. I do not impose it on the girls or discuss it in the classroom. Our message is presented as one of good, healthy sense. Certainly it is enhanced by one's spiritual beliefs. Many girls believe in abstinence because of what they were taught at home. We are very careful not to make any girl feel excluded because of her religion or lack of religion.

**Q.** When your husband was secretary of education in 1987, how did that influence your program?

**A.** As educators, both of us are concerned about children. We were especially concerned about character issues and who is training our children. With mothers not at home—many of them out of necessity and some in pursuit of their careers—we saw the need for more direct instruction of our children about the best way to live, be happy, and stay healthy.

Children's values seemed to be declining as a result of the relativistic approach that was dominant in our classrooms. The values clarification curriculum never clarifies what is right and what is wrong, but teaches that values are relative. As a nation we need a common set of values if we are going to continue to have a civilization which is admirable.

My husband, Bill, wrote a book called *The Devaluing of America*, in which he outlines how our educational values began to diminish in the 1960s with laws such as that abolishing prayer or any mention of the Creator in school. I have fond memories of my public school education during which one student got to write a verse from the Old Testament on the chalk board each week.

The steadfast avoidance of any mention of religion has had an impact on our children. When the Challenger spacecraft exploded, schoolchildren throughout the country were watching, because a school teacher was going up into space. Sadly, as the teachers were trying to comfort children and help them in their grief, there was no opportunity to pray. There are times when prayer is what one needs. We've become so open-minded, our brains have fallen out. Do we have to restrict all religion in order not to impose

any religious values on people?

**Q.** What do you emphasize in Best Friends?

**A.** We start with friendship and then move on to love and dating. Our unit on self-respect deals with how you want others to treat you and how to conduct yourself so you will be treated that way. We present units on decision-making and drug and alcohol abuse. Eighth and ninth grade girls are taught a unit on AIDS. Units on nutrition and physical fitness complement a weekly aerobic dance class.

At the end of the year, we invite the mothers to a recognition program at which the girls speak, dance and sing. The girls receive their gold heart pin.

We focus on girls in the sixth through ninth grades. That's when they start getting exposed to sexual activity. We have followed the first group of sixth grade girls through junior high school. By the ninth grade, there was only one pregnancy in that group of roughly 35 to 40 girls. In some areas of our inner city, as many as 50 percent of girls become pregnant before they finish high school.

There are a variety of components to our program. Our girls have mentors for role models. You can't tell young people not to do something without offering other activities and a sense of belonging to an esteemed group. T-shirts, songs and theatrical productions make it fun.

We're creating our own peer pressure through the Best Friends group. Girls join in the sixth grade and continue through junior high school, with new girls entering each year. Other students seek out girls from Best Friends for counseling, indicating that they have prestige in the school. We remind the girls that they are a member of the group as long as they adhere to the principles of saying "No" to drugs and "Wait" to have sex—at least until after high school. Girls who commit to waiting to have sex until after high school often continue that commitment through college or until they are in their 20s and have found the right man.

We promote marriage through our role models. Women come in and talk about their marriage and how it has helped them. Many of them tell stories about how they persevered until they found the right man.

You can see in the girls' eyes that they are listening. I am concerned that not enough adults, in addition to parents, are talking to children. Teachers have volunteered as mentors and helped us locate other role models. They plan special activities for the girls.

**Q.** How do you train teachers?

**A.** Conferences for coordinators have been attended by teachers from Maryland, Virginia, New Jersey, and Seattle. Eight videotapes present the curriculum, including how to guide classroom discussion, elicit responses from the girls, set up mentor programs, develop role models, run the aerobics program, and create the feeling of trust.

Girls truly love this program, and that's what's critical. They value being part of it. It's not restricted to the "goody-goodies." It is for all girls.

Best Friends meet once a month during the school day and weekly for an after-school aerobics class. The school coordinator tries to meet with small groups every other week. Girls meet with their mentor for 45 minutes a week. It may be a ten minutes here and 15 minutes there, but we try to promote as much contact as possible without burdening anyone. The mentors are teachers, whom the girls select from a list of volunteers. The coordinator is a teacher or guidance counselor, selected by the principal.

**Q.** I understand that about 500 girls have participated in the Best Friends program in the Washington area. Do they still get together from time to time?

**A.** When they are in high school, the junior high school Best Friends coordinator invites them to Saturday get-togethers. Last year we had a Valentine's Day celebration to which we invited all our high school "Diamond Girls." The

girls want to work with their "little sisters," as they call them. They talk about coming back home from college in the future, to talk to the Best Friends

**Q.** Do you try to coordinate your work with similar organizations?

**A.** We certainly do. We want to share information. People are realizing that abstinence is the only way to prevent AIDS from spreading into the heterosexual young population at a frightening rate.

Young people who go to church are often in good communication with their family. It's the children who don't that we have to get to. The schools are the vehicle for communicating the message.

Joycelyn Elders' view is to give them condoms. The girls tell me that they don't use condoms, and they don't want them. None of the statistics indicate that condoms are effective prevention.

I believe that we can be the greatest country in the world. With our democratic history, our openness to other cultures and our melting pot philosophy, we have much to offer. But we are imperiled. We are trying our best to turn the tide.

**Q.** What publications do you have?

**A.** We have the Best Friends Program Guide and the Student Journal. Each girl keeps one journal for her whole school year. In subsequent years we repeat many topics, but we tailor them as the girls get older and ask for more thoughtful responses.

**Q.** Are you trying to change the Clinton administration's course?

**A.** We are not a political organization. I have publicly invited Dr. Elders to come and see our program. We would be happy to have her come and hear from the girls herself. Young people between 12 and 15 are not going to use condoms, and they are the ones most at risk right now. A clear-cut message of abstinence has worked for us for seven years, and the girls tell us it works for them. I'd be happy to talk to anyone. ☺

## Healthy Love,

Cont. from p. 1

library showed me that there was a real lack of materials available for abstinence education. I figured that the internal guidance lectures I had heard over the years ought to be good for something.

Over the course of several months, the Healthy Love program evolved. The first thing I discovered is that most abstinence programs concentrate on why you should abstain from premature sexual activity. There is very little advice on how to practice abstinence. Therefore, the first guiding principle of Healthy Love is to give a practical, step-by-step method for practicing abstinence.

People are sick and tired of a negative approach to abstinence—the so-called “fire-and-brimstone” attitude, or what I like to call the “death threats.” You know, “If you have sex you’ll die”—of AIDS, or diseases, or whatever. So I strive for a positive attitude towards abstinence.

### Positivity first

The first step toward creating a positive attitude towards abstinence is to get rid of that awful word: Abstinence. What does abstinence mean? It means to not have sex. How can you be positive about not doing something? You can't.

We need to focus on what we are doing. What are you doing when you're not having sex prematurely? You're free to love and be loved, and to grow and become a mature person capable of real, true, deep, strong love. Then you are acting in the most healthy way, choosing to pursue Healthy Love rather than premature sex.

I teach people about real love (true love) by asking questions: What kind of love do you want? Do you want love that is weak or strong? Do you want love that is temporary, or love that lasts forever? By asking questions in this way, you reach the person's conscience, and they become internally convinced of the truth of what you are saying. As people in the

audience realize for themselves what true love is, they begin to awaken naturally to a higher ideal.

After we talk about love, we begin to talk about sex. We talk about what's good about sex. Then we talk about what's bad about sex. At this point, we make the distinction between sex in a faithful monogamous relationship, and premature sexual activity.

I have a lot of information about the medical aspects of premature sexual activity, but I try to focus primarily on the emotional issues. Most school programs, especially programs that promote contraceptives, only discuss the physical side of sex. We can serve people best by exploring the emotional side (which is actually the spiritual side).

I say, for example, “We have just discovered at the start of the talk that everyone wants relationships that last forever. Most premature sexual relationships will break up.” That very simple fact is enough to deflate most questions that will come up about contraceptives. Although contraceptives may offer some protection from the physical problems of premature sexual activity; they offer no protection from the emotional problems.

### Practical advice

Often when abstinence is discussed, nothing is said about the behaviors and choices that lead an individual to engage in sexual activity. It is presented as if, at the moment of passion and excitement, we are just going to decide to pass on the pleasure for now for the sake of future health and well-being. This is what I call the “Just Say No” method, or the “Torture of the Saints” method; it's how most people think of abstinence, and it doesn't work very well.

In reality, most of us already know how to abstain from sex. Everyone practices abstinence most of the time, because any time we are not actually having sex, we are abstaining from sex. The trick is to learn how to practice abstinence consistently.

No one has sex by accident; any time we are in a situation where we have to decide whether or not to have sex, we have already made choices that have brought us to that point. These choices involve who we're with, where we go, what we wear, what we carry with us, and what we're thinking. To successfully practice Healthy Love, we need to learn how to make choices that support our decision to be abstinent. Recognizing situations and making choices are skills that can be learned and practiced.

For instance, if you wear football clothes, carry football equipment, hang out with people who play football, go to a football field, and think about football plays and strategies, what is probably going to happen? You'll probably play football.

If you wear sexy clothes, carry condoms and spermicide, hang out with people who have sex, go to a place where people have sex, and think about sex, what is likely to happen?

On the other hand, if you make smart, healthy choices about who you associate with, where you go, what you wear, what you carry, and what you think about, you can very easily maintain the commitment that you make to yourself to abstain from sex. You can examine each area, and learn how to make healthy choices in small things, so that you are never confronted with a situation that is overwhelmingly difficult.

This process presents abstinence in a positive, practical and very powerful way. People of all ages want to be in control of their lives. By teaching them about Healthy Love you are de-mystifying sex, promoting true love and giving people tremendous power to change.

### The program

We have two Healthy Love projects. The first is to give talks at local schools, where we distribute a 25-page booklet with an overview of the Healthy Love program. Because Healthy Love is presented as a health issue (rather than a religious or moral issue) it can fit into most

school programs quite easily.

The other project we are doing is a "Yellow Ribbon" campaign. We distribute brightly colored bookmarks, with a piece of yellow ribbon attached, that urge people to "Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round Your Heart for Me!"

Many years ago, a man wrote a letter to his wife. He had been away from home for many years. He wanted to come back to her, but he realized that after such a long time she might not feel the same way. So he told her he was going to take the bus and pass by their house, and that he was leaving it up to her; if she still loved him and wanted him back, she should tie a yellow ribbon in the tree. If he didn't see a ribbon, he would stay on the bus and never trouble her again. When he got to the house he saw hundreds of yellow ribbons fluttering in the wind. His wife had waited faithfully all those years and wanted him back more than anything.

In 1979, people started using yellow ribbons to show that they were waiting for their loved ones who were being held as hostages in the Middle East.

The yellow ribbon has come to mean that you're waiting for the one you love. What is Healthy Love? Healthy Love is waiting for the one you love, saving sex for later while you grow into your full potential as a loving person. We ask peo-

ple to display a yellow ribbon to show that they support Healthy Love.

There is a serious difference in perceptions between teenagers and adults. A vast majority of adults favor abstinence education, but most teenagers are convinced that no one but Mother Teresa and the Pope actually practice abstinence (and they're not so sure about the Pope). Displaying a yellow ribbon is a way of demonstrating to teenagers that if they choose to abstain from sex, they will have the support of the majority of adults around them.

### You can do it

Healthy Love is a low-tech, low-budget way to make a real difference in your community. The biggest single piece of equipment is already in place; that is you, and your loving heart, and your living example of true love.

Every time I give a talk about Healthy Love, I come away with the overwhelming impression that the most important thing I did was to show up. Young people are incredibly sensitive to hypocrisy. That is why most abstinence programs are received so poorly. It is rare to find an individual who really believes that sex is great and believes equally strongly that sex should wait.

Because our understanding is so simple and so harmonious, we can easily teach abstinence without resorting to

"death threats." There is a lot of humor in Healthy Love, and teenagers are astounded that a nice lady like me can stand there and make jokes about sex! (For instance, someone always asks me "What if you get married and you find that you're not very good at sex?" I say, "If that happens, you read some books on technique and then you practice. A lot. A whole lot. If you're really bad, you may have to practice for twenty or thirty years. Think you can handle that?") It may not get me on the Tonight Show, but it gets the point across very powerfully.

You don't need to memorize a lot of statistics. Numbers don't really convince people. Stories and anecdotes and things that people can relate to emotionally are much more convincing. On the rare occasions that I use statistics, I always follow with a story that illustrates my point.

I don't plan to make slide shows or anything complicated. My experience is that people don't want a lecture about true love, they want to talk about true love. The best way to present Healthy Love is to study the material thoroughly, and then go and speak your heart.

I have booklets, bookmarks and lecture manuals for sale. The booklets are \$2.00 each for 1-9 copies, \$1.25 each for 10-20 copies, and \$1.00 each for 21 or more. The bookmarks are free with the booklets, or 20 for \$1.00. The 40-page manual is wire bound and costs \$8.00. All prices include shipping.

I will also be holding workshops here in Kansas City this summer. In keeping with the "low-tech, low-budget" policy, they will be sleeping bag workshops, and the fee will be a bag of groceries. We will spend two days talking about Healthy Love, and we will eat whatever you bring. They will be June 18-19, July 23-24, and August 20-21.

Please call or write for more information. My address is:

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# Parents' Prayer

*O Loving Creator, divine parent of us all,*

*Thank you for the path of parenthood.*

*Thank you that we can know your hope for us  
as we hope for our children.*

*That we can know your tears for us  
even as we cry for them.*

*That parenthood is not our path alone  
but a path we walk together in our course of growth.*

*Thank you for the lessons our children teach us,  
lessons we could learn no other way.*

*Truly parenthood is a calling of the heart.*

*Grant us the humility that we may hear your voice  
moment by moment  
and that we may speak to our children from your heart.*

*Show us the way of harmony with others, for only if we so walk  
will our children have vision for a peaceful world.*

*Grant us to partake of the universal parent energy  
that we may care for this beautiful world we call our home  
that generations to come may also know the joy of its beauty.*

*Bathe us in the living water of ever-flowing love so that  
we may empower the lives we touch and pass it on  
forevermore.*

*Amen.*