

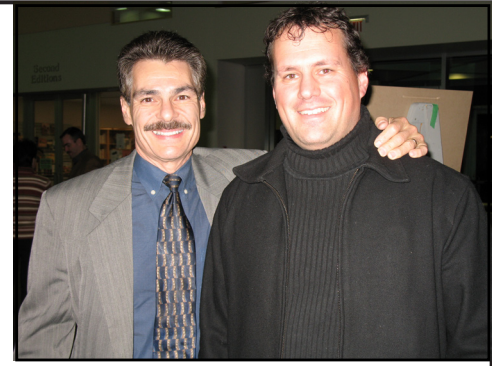
Neeje Association for Women and Family

Newsletter
Fall 2008

Neeje Association for
Women and Family
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Parenting conference Oct. 17, 2008

The title of Dr. Ray Guarendi's talk, "Laughter: Sanity in the Family", describes not only the humour of the speaker's approach to parenting but also points to the key elements of a sane, co-operative family life – discipline and standards. An engaging speaker, Dr. Guarendi had the audience under his spell from the very outset of the evening with his knack for mimicry (his imitation of a teenager's whine was priceless), his insights and his obvious commitment to family life.



He reminded the roughly 250 parents in attendance that although discipline is not always popular, it should be clear that unconditional love is the motivating force behind it. This was demonstrated by examples given from his own family life. He and his wife have adopted 10 children and raise them with humour, discipline and high moral standards. Dr. Guarendi is not afraid to question popular parenting approaches and urged parents to wonder, not if a given behaviour is normal at their child's age, but whether it is good behaviour according to their parental standards. Consequently parents were challenged by this father's infectious enthusiasm and supportive advice.



Parents were encouraged to take a second look at materialism in their homes. Children do fine with 90% less goods in their lives, according to Dr. Guarendi, and even better with less discussion and argument in areas of discipline. He stated that authority should be the cornerstone of a happy, co-operative family life, which often means ignoring the 'experts' and bucking popular trends. Disrespect, despite what many parenting magazines tell us, is not a part of growing up and parents should never tolerate disrespectful behaviour.

Parenting is a tough job that requires a huge commitment, Dr. Guarendi admitted. But he encouraged participants, some of whom had traveled from Kingston and Alexandria, not to give up when results don't come immediately despite their efforts. He reiterated that if parents don't discipline their children, someone else will: teachers, police officers or a judge.

Dr. Guarendi was pleased to see so many parents on a Friday night, especially so many Dads. Parents were inspired and encouraged by this informative talk and left convinced of the importance of their roles as parents. Everyone enjoyed listening to the charm and wit of this dynamic speaker.



A Taste of Christmas

As do all our fundraisers, this one aims both to help Neeje honour its financial commitments and contribute to the lives of the women and families we serve. Our baked goods (packaged and ready for the freezer) and coffee and tea help ease some of the Holiday stress, leaving more time and energy for the more essential aspects of Christmas.

This year's efforts have once again been successful because of the help of so many volunteers who purchase or donate ingredients and supplies, do the baking, packaging, freezing, selling, accounting, order-tracking, delivering, etc. Special thanks go to Rita Fortin, who has taken on the overall coordination in 2008. Valrideau staff, residents and their friends also chipped in during our rum-ball rolling party at Valrideau. None of this could have been accomplished without you all! We are also grateful to the many individuals who purchased our quality products.



Check out our Website!

New updates have recently been posted on Neeje's Website. Read about the fourth edition of our summer AESOP day camp programme. Find out about girls' clubs offered in your area (another term will begin in January!). Learn about how Neeje is making a difference by helping couples be the best parents they can.

Neeje is recruiting

We are now accepting applications for the position of AESOP camp coordinator. Read more about AESOP and the position at www.neeje.ca/AESOP/AESOP1.htm.



Coming soon!

Neeje wishes to reach out to women working in their professions. We hope to offer a series of events tailored to their interests and needs. A first event will be held in the spring of 2009. We will keep you posted!

Join our email list!

Would you prefer to receive Neeje correspondence by email?

We have been compiling an e-mail list that will enable us to contact you in the future about Neeje news that cannot wait until the next bi-yearly newsletter. This would include receiving our newsletter and correspondence electronically instead of by mail. You would also occasionally receive e-mails from Neeje about upcoming events, new Website postings, volunteering opportunities, etc.



To be added to our list, simply e-mail us at info@neeje.ca. Joining the list is voluntary. As our valued reader, your name will remain on our regular mailing list if we do not hear from you by e-mail.

Our very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year!