

Mothers Puts the Act in Acting Up

By Beth Osnes

Boulder mother of three and co-founder of Mothers Acting Up, Beth Osnes, is putting on an act to get the children of the world protected and their needs made a priority. She will be presenting her one-woman show, *(M)other*, at the Dairy Center for the Arts on Sept. 7, 8, 13 & 14 at 8:00PM. This show explores what it just might take to get the people of one nation to authentically care about the children of other nations. The show's opening describes a fictional program, called "Baby Swapping," created by the United Nations to generate care for the world's children. In this small, limited pilot program, seven mothers from seven nations from around the world are required by their governments to swap their six month old babies with another mother from another nation for one month. What follows is an intimate look at one of these mother's experience and her eventual realization of her interconnectedness with these other mothers, their children, and their nations. The terrain of this drama is rich with humor, realizations, and abundant hope. It offers a new perspective of our world through the eyes of a mother. For tickets, visit www.thedairy.org or call 303-444-SEAT (7328). The September 7th performance is a fundraiser for MAU; tickets are \$12-120.

In conjunction with the theatrical performance, Osnes will also present a "Rehearsal for Activism" workshop at the Dairy on Sept. 8 from 9AM to noon that uses theatre as a tool for empowering mothers and others to effectively advocate for the world's children. This interactive workshop provides a supportive environment where participants can literally act out, or 'rehearse,' situations often encountered in advocating for the world's children. Together we will devise solutions to obstacles and strengthen each other's confidence for speaking out. The workshop is \$25 with a sliding scale (tickets available online--www.thedairy.org).

This, and other events listed below, are being offered through Mothers Acting Up (MAU), an international movement that started right here in Boulder, Colorado in 2002. MAU inspires, educates and engages mothers*-- a gigantic force to be reckoned with—to prioritize children in our corporate and public policies. Mothers Acting Up believes that mothers united can ensure the health, education and safety of *every* child—wherever they live on earth. Though potentially the most powerful lobby on earth, mothers rarely participate in shaping policies that impact children and often don't consider themselves "political." Therefore, MAU is specifically designed to invite mothers into spirited civic participation through a new breed of activism; one that is positive, accessible and supports mothers in making informed personal choices, inspiring collective action and influencing decision-makers. When nearly every other child in the world lives in poverty, mothers are hearing the call to take to the streets to publicly declare their priorities. For more information and to sign on to the movement, visit www.mothersactingup.org.

The local Boulder Mothers Acting Up community will be meeting the first and third Monday of each month at the Parenting Place from 1-3 PM beginning Sept. 10th. This will be a wonderful and sustaining community of mothers and others meeting regularly to share their concerns, ideas and plans for spirited civic participation. Kids are, of course,

welcome. Together we will plan actions that we wish to take that suit the community of mothers involved. We will also plan for our most public expression, the annual Mothers Acting Up Mother's Day Parade!

Run for Congo Women (RFCW), an event benefiting the women of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), is excited to announce the inaugural Colorado Run/Hike on September 15th in Morrison, Colorado. This event is being organized by local women, one them being Jen Parsons-an active MAU organizer, to bring long overdue relief to the women and children of the DRC, who have been suffering unspeakable atrocities during this often forgotten war. Colorado Run for Congo Women brings hope to the women of the DRC by raising sponsorships for Women for Women International's Congo Program. In this program they can exchange letters with their sponsoring "sister", receive counseling, job skills training, rights awareness training, seed money for business start-up and more. We are sending a simple message: *Congolese lives matter. The lives of Congolese women are significant. The lives of Congolese children are precious. They have waited far too long. They are worth our effort. We are running to help.* The Colorado Run for Congo Women is scheduled for September 15th at Bear Creek Lake Park in Morrison, Colorado. There is an option to Run/Hike a 5K or a 10K. The event begins at 8 AM with a finish line celebration to follow including a raffle, speakers, and African music. For more information go to www.runforcongowomen.org, www.womenforwomen.org, or contact the event organizers through colorado.runforcongowomen@yahoo.com. The local MAU community will be there!

Schedule for Fall Happenings for Mothers Acting Up! Please clip this out and attach to the side of your refrigerator! Questions? Write beheard@mothersactingup and write Boulder MAU Community in title line!

Mothers Acting Up EVENTS!

Sept. 7 Opening Night MAU Benefit for performance of (M)other, 8:00PM Dairy Center, \$12-\$120

Sept. 8 (M)other, 8:00PM, \$12

Sept. 9 Workshop for Activism, 9-12 noon, \$10 donation, Dairy and (M)other performance, 8:00PM

Sept. 10, MAU Meeting, 1-3PM Parenting Place

Sept 13 & 14, (M)other, 8:00PM

Sept. 15, The Colorado Run for Congo Women, 8:00AM, Bear Creek Lake Park in Morrison

Sept. 24, MAU Meeting, 1-3PM Parenting Place

Oct. 5, Fri. Boulder MAU Potluck, 945 Grandview Ave, 6:00PM call 303-442-7628 with questions

Oct. 8, MAU Meeting, 1-3PM Parenting Place

Oct. 22, MAU Meeting, 1-3PM Parenting Place

Nov. 5, MAU Meeting, 1-3PM Parenting Place

Nov. 19, MAU Meeting, 1-3PM Parenting Place

Dec. 3, MAU Meeting, 1-3PM Parenting Place

Dec. 17, MAU Meeting, 1-3PM Parenting Place

NO MEETING DEC. 31

Spring Schedule To Be Announced!