



Jewish Family
SERVICES
the heart of our community

For Immediate Release
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Jewish Family Services welcomes “World’s Worst Mom” to Charlotte
Author and TV host Lenore Skenazy to speak at JFS “Family Reunion”
annual meeting and recognition ceremony Sunday, April 21

Charlotte, NC, March 6, 2013 —Lenore Skenazy is flying into Charlotte next month – but she won’t be arriving by helicopter. Skenazy launched the national anti-helicopter parent movement, *Free Range Kids* in 2009, in response to the media frenzy she received after writing an article about allowing her 9-year-old to ride the subway alone in New York City.

Two days later she was on *The Today Show*, MSNBC, Fox News, and all manner of talk radio with a new title under her smiling face: "America's Worst Mom?"

Parent groups argued about it, bloggers blogged, spouses became uncivil with each other, and the media jumped all over it. “A lot of parents today, see no difference between letting their kids walk to school and letting them walk through a firing range,” Skenazy says. “Any risk is seen as too much risk. But if you try to prevent every possible danger or difficulty in your child’s everyday life, that child never gets a chance to grow up. We parents have to realize that the greatest risk of all just might be trying to raise a child who never encounters choice or independence.”

Skenazy is visiting Charlotte at the request of **Jewish Family Services of Greater Charlotte**, a non-profit agency that provides professional therapy, parent workshops, support groups and senior outreach to the local community, Jewish or not.

As the keynote speaker at Jewish Family Services’ *Family Reunion* annual meeting and recognition ceremony, Skenazy will offer insight to families looking to rear independent children without all the worry about the perceived dangers of today (e.g., “baby-snatchers, creeps, germs, grades, flashers, bugs, bullies and the perils of a non-organic grape”). Drawing on facts, statistics, and humor, she will discuss how we live in one of the safest periods for children in the history of the world; reiterating that *mostly*, the world is safe and *mostly*, people are good.

The *Family Reunion* takes place **Sunday, April 21st** beginning at **10am** in the Sam Lerner Cultural Center in **Shalom Park, 5007 Providence Road in Charlotte**. The event is free but reservations are requested by contacting info@jfscharlotte.org or calling **704-364-6594**. Skenazy will have copies of her book *Free Range Kids* available for signing after she speaks.

Following her lecture at **12:30pm**, Skenazy will participate in a lunch and learn panel discussion with *Michelle in the Middle*’s Michelle Icard and *Charlotte Parenting Solution*’s Wendy Petricoff. This event will be held in the Weinberg Senior Center, next door to the Sam Lerner Cultural Center, and is \$25 including lunch. Reservations are required: info@jfscharlotte.org or 704-364-6594.

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Skenazy’s presentation is open to the media: *Sunday, April 21, 2013, 10:00am– 12:00pm, followed by book signing and Lunch & Learn panel discussion 12:30pm – 2:00pm*

Personal interviews with Lenore Skenazy available by appointment: *In Person: Saturday, April 20 & Sunday, April 21; Via Telephone: Any time by appointment*



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About Jewish Family Services – www.jfscharlotte.org

Founded in 1980, Jewish Family Services has evolved from an agency serving Jewish Russian immigrants, seniors, and the financially needy to one that provides a full range of counseling and social service assistance to the entire Greater Charlotte community.

Jewish Family Services provides comprehensive integrated social services that help members of our community in the most effective compassionate way possible, providing people of all ages, religions and socio-economic backgrounds with the encouragement and tools they need to become productive and self-reliant.

About Lenore Skenazy – www.freerangekids.com

Lenore Skenazy is a New York columnist, author, and reality show host who lives in Queens with her husband and two sons. Her controversial decision to let her then-9-year-old son take the New York subway home alone became a national story that prompted multiple media appearances.

Skenazy is a graduate of Yale University and has written for New York Daily News, The New York Sun, NPR and even Mad Magazine. She authored the book: *Free-Range Kids, How to Raise Safe, Self-Reliant Children (Without Going Nuts with Worry)* and currently hosts her own show on Discovery/TLC, “*World’s Worst Mom*” (airing in Canada on Slice TV as “Bubble Wrap Kids”).

About “World’s Worst Mom” - <http://goo.gl/BExDp>

On the show “World’s Worst Mom”, Lenore is like the Supernanny. Except instead of dealing with out-of-control KIDS, she deals with out-of-control PARENTS who have taken over-protection to extremes. Some don’t let their school-age kids play on the front lawn or even make themselves a sandwich. (Why not? Knives!) One still drags her 13-year-old son into the ladies room. Over the course of five intensive days, Lenore pries the kids away from their folks and has them walk to school, play in the woods, or run a lemonade stand while she films them from afar.

About Michelle Icard – www.michelleinthemiddle.com

Michelle Icard is most known for her signature leadership skills curriculum, Athena’s Path and Hero’s Pursuit, which give middle school kids tools to manage their social environment. Her middle school curriculum is taught in four states and has impacted over 7000 students and 250 teachers. She is also creator of Michelle in the Middle, a website about how to parent kids in or transitioning to middle school. In 2010 Michelle was awarded Leadership Charlotte’s Unsung Hero award for her work with students in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school system.

About Wendy Petricoff – www.charlotteparentingsolutions.com

Wendy is a Love & Logic Parent® Independent Facilitator and a parent of two children who has incorporated Love & Logic into her daily life. A graduate of Indiana University, Wendy received a B.A. in Communications and went on to work in the Marketing and Advertising field. After spending time at home raising her own children, she jumped at the chance to become a facilitator for Love & Logic® to help parents with practical parenting solutions. Wendy’s unassuming husband Adam is the test subject for many of the Love and Logic® tools she teaches.