

### Web site seeks truth about over-40 moms

BY JORY JOHN SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL

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In 2001, Angel La Liberte and her husband had a serious discussion. Both had been married before, but neither had children. The pair decided that they would like to conceive. La Liberte was 40 at the time.

"Basically, the attitude toward us was that it would be nothing short of a miracle," she said.

Against the odds, La Liberte's son was born in 2003. Three years after that, she had a daughter. Both were natural conceptions. And both babies were healthy.

La Liberte realizes that she is on the forefront of mothers having children when they're older than 40. And because she wants to form a community around the issue, La Liberte launched [www.flowerpowermom.com](http://www.flowerpowermom.com), "The truth about motherhood after 40."

La Liberte chose the name Flower Power Mom because of what it evokes.

"It brings home an understanding of where I'm coming from, and that is an era of acceptance, of embracing change and of the upheaval of social norms," she said. "And over-40 moms are upheaving the social norms."

La Liberte, a Watsonville, Calif., resident, said she started Flower Power Mom to talk openly to mothers about the aftermath of having a baby in their 40s. She said that when Web sites and magazines discuss the topic, they tend to focus primarily on fertility.

"Newsweek did a piece on over-40 moms, how trial-and-error it was," she said. "I thought it's great that they're bringing awareness to it, but here's another piece, talking about getting pregnant. They're not talking about what we do after pregnancy and how we're raising our kids."

"Let's talk about the long-term implications for our kids. Let's talk about what we bring to the table for our kids in terms of what we offer them as older parents. And let's start sharing the skills and the knowledge needed to do it effectively, to their benefit. That's not happening, yet."

Flower Power Mom, which launched last month, is a compendium of humorous articles, interviews, personal stories and reference material. Such categories as "Blast from the Past" serve to unify mothers of a certain age through nostalgia, La Liberte said.

"My intention is to inform, with humor, with my inner Erma Bombeck very much in place," she said.

The Web site ultimately will be devoted to her day-to-day life, La Liberte said, focusing on the profound changes of midlife motherhood.

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