

## About Linda O'Connell

Co-creator, *Not Your Mother's Book...On Family*

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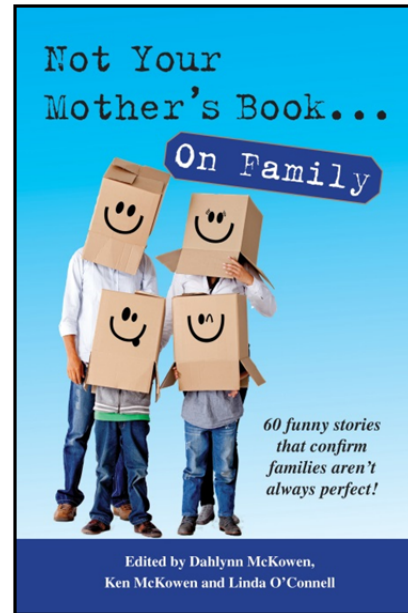
Linda O'Connell is a multi-published writer, early-childhood teacher, writing instructor, mentor and founding member of her outstanding critique group—Wild Women Wielding Pens. Her stories of hope, inspiration and humor have been published in several *Not Your Mother's Books*, *22 Chicken Soup for the Soul* books, *Sasee Magazine* and many other national publications.

Early family life colored Linda's writing in many ways. Her free-spirited parents didn't put down roots in one place for very long. She and her younger brother were always the new kids on the block and in school. Her life stories have paid off in the form of many publishing credits. She blogs at <http://lindaocConnell.blogspot.com>.

Linda's budding writing career began at age 10 when she won a large piece of yellow "teacher's chalk" as a Bingo prize. She used the side of her dad's faded green car as a chalkboard. Linda didn't just teach a lesson that day—she learned one. She's been learning ever since. In her 38th year as a very creative prekindergarten teacher, Linda continues not only to teach classes, but she still enjoys taking classes.



Linda and her husband, Bill (photo, left), live in St. Louis, Missouri. They have a blended family of four adult children. Ten grandchildren—ages five months through 25 years—call her "Nana." They have given her many laugh lines. Every family gathering results in hilarity and enough writing material for another personal essay. Linda keeps journals for each grandchild and presents them to the children on their 18th birthdays. Rubbing a grandchild's back, snuggling with them (Nicole with Nana, photo, right), listening to the older ones as they confide their dreams and wishes, cheering them on as they play sports, watching them grow way too fast—these are the things that make her family life fulfilling.



To interview Linda and to find out more about this great book, contact Publishing Syndicate at [Dahlynn@PublishingSyndicate.com](mailto:Dahlynn@PublishingSyndicate.com).

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