Editor RITA DEMONTIS
rita demontisyot sunpub.or
415-947-2247

TOMORROW

Producer Lucy Hamlet showcases African-Canadian artists





To work or not to work ...

"Whether we're at

home or at work,

we all struggle ...

the internal

torment is

enormous."

Morgan Steiner

JOANNE RICHARD

Toronto Sun

Home or work?
It's the mother of all dilemmas and literally tears apart most moms today. Do you stay at home with the kids

or pursue a career?

It's an unrelenting conflict that brings out the inner cat-fight — and sometimes the outer catfight between working mothers and stay-athome ones. It pits mothers against one another, but mostly against themselves, all in a desperate effort to keep it all together, says Leslie Morgan Steiner, mother of three children under the age of 10.

"Whether we're at home or at work, we all struggle," the Washington Post executive and author tells the Sun. "It's incredibly difficult; the internal torment is enormous."

Mous.
Welcome to the Mommy
Wars—and the battle is raging. "It's definitely one of the
defining issues of our generation for women today—and
everyone has an opinion on
it"

it."
According to Steiner,
"Motherhood is fraught with
defensiveness, infighting, ignorance and judgment about
what's best for kids, family,
and women — a true catfight
among women who'd be far
better off if we accepted and
supported all good, if disparate, mothering choices,"

ate, mothering choices."
She says it's constant open season on mothers — "everyone feels they have a right to weigh in on what makes a good mother. We always feel like we're being judged all the time, yet all we want is to be

good moms.
"We're ultimately united

raise good kids but you wouldn't know it."

So Steiner decided to pu motherhood in the spotligh with her newest book, Mornm Wars: Stay At Home And Caree Mons Face Off On Their Choic es, Their Lives, Their Familie (Random House). It's a col lection of 26 unflinchingly can did essays by outspoken rea mommies on the state o motherhood today.

Her book focuses on every side of the war, from full-time stroller pushers to hard-driving executives, and moms in between, and reveals there's not only drudgery and misse opportunities whether you work or stay home, but defi-

nitely a jealousy for those who seem to have it all at home.

Steiner, who was on the battlefield of juggling a full-time career and family for years, says she has finally found the per-

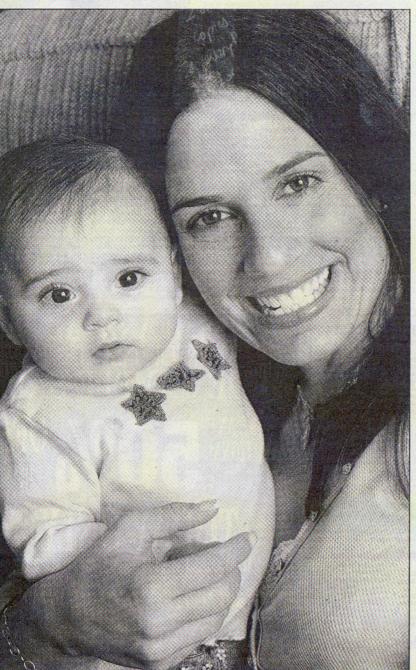
fect solution for herself, one that has made life "immeasurably ridger by combining motherhood with part-time work. It allows for fulfilling work and great sec-

ond shifts with my family.

"I've worked hard to have these choices and my kids love it. My nine-year-old tells

me I yell much less."
Yet while she relishes her profitable part-time position at the Washington Post, she embraces the full spectrum of lifestyle choices made by mothers today.

We're all in this together, she says. "Whether you're at home or at a desk, you risk your sanity when you become a mom, but it's totally worth it. It's part of the deal. Once you have a baby, it's not your life anymore — but it's the best thing in the world."



MARK O'NEILL/SUN