

Experience the Benefits of Creating or Participating in a Singles Social Club

I would like to see every single person in this country happy with their social life, in touch with others who understand what it means to be an un-partnered person in America, and able to feel empowered to change their social circumstances if they don't like them. Creating or participating in a singles social club is one way to do this.

In December 2000, I read an article in my local paper about the Newcomers Club whose mission was "to make sure that new and existing families are connected to the town." I thought "What about people like me who are single, live alone, and have no family nearby? How do we get connected, not only to the town but to each other?"

I had noticed that most reporting in suburban newspapers emphasizes family life and activity and makes no reference to single people living right in their midst! Not only is this true locally, but it is a cultural defect which I decided I want to have some part in correcting.

I wrote a letter to the Editor expressing this oversight and the challenge single people have in creating a quality social life in suburbia. I invited other mature single people who feel as I do to contact me.

Within a few days several readers called me. We decided that, after the holidays, we would meet in a local café to discuss what we wanted to do.

In January, seven of us gathered for bagels and coffee and talked about what we wanted to create.

We put up flyers around town and some surrounding papers published free notices. Here is what the notices said:

"If you are typical of most unpartnered people - living alone in the suburbs - it is very difficult to find people like yourself with whom to enjoy fellowship and cultural activities. We invite you to join a rapidly growing network of single persons in the area who are seeking to improve the quality of their social lives. Our members host varied events based on their own interests. There are no fees; this is a community service."

Well, now it is a year later and we



Niela Miller

"Through the singles social clubs I have enjoyed fun-filled gatherings, and have made some wonderful friends. It has made a world of difference in my life."

"I have so many new friends who, like myself, knew almost nobody in their local area before this. Now I feel the fellowship of a real community of people in similar circumstances. It's great."

have about 155 and still growing, ranging in age from early 40's to early 70's. We have had many parties, trips to theaters, concerts, movies, sports events, and other activities. We have two gatherings each week, one during a weekday evening and one on a Saturday morning for breakfast.

Good friendships have formed. Some couples have formed too, although that is not the intention of the group.

The creation of our Singles Social Club has created a triple-win situation: for me since I now have a local social crowd; for club members whose lives have improved considerably; and for local businesses since they receive unexpected revenue and have new patrons whom they would otherwise have missed. So we are now more connected to our towns. We also have helped some people living in other

nearby areas to start their own satellite groups.

What distinguishes this social network from others? There are no fees. The group is upbeat, not getting together to discuss the problems of being single but to enjoy each other's company. Individuals are able to exercise or develop leadership skills in creating and executing activities and events.

So I encourage members of AASP and readers of Unmarried America to consider creating a Singles Social Club in their own community. It's not often that you can create a triple-win result!

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