



Arlington Family Connection

supporting children six and under and those who care for them

Volume VI, Issue 8 • November 2007

www.arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

**Monday, Nov. 12 (Veterans Day)
2-3:45pm (drop in anytime)
Veterans Rink, 422 Summer St., Arl.
AFC's 3rd Annual
Tot Ice Skating Party**

Come introduce your kids to skating and socialize with other AFC members while enjoying a *gentle* skating experience with your children, ages 6 and under *only* please.

- Tot skates (sizes 6-13) will be available
- (Nut-free) snacks and drinks provided
- Helmets and mittens/gloves are required for all children for safety (bike helmets are OK)
- Larger skates (including adult skates) can be rented from the rink for \$4/pair
- The rink will have stacked milk crates to push around for balance – you can also bring your own.

\$1/person suggested donation to help us cover the costs of the party.

Info: Amy, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org or 781-646-5417.

“Options” Night Open House a Success

Thank you to all AFC members who braved the rain and attended our 6th annual Childcare & Preschool Options Open House. This year we were thrilled to welcome over sixteen of Arlington's childcare facilities to the open house which was held at Stratton School on October 11. The room was buzzing with information about the various childcare options and programs available in our community.

Thanks to Committee Members

Thank you to the Options Night Committee for organizing a fantastic event! The committee members were Kristen Strechay (team leader), Colleen Love, Kirsty John-Blyth and Dianna Queheillalt.

Preschool and Childcare Booklet for Sale

If you missed Options Night you can still purchase AFC's 2007 *Preschool and Childcare Options in Arlington* booklet. The book contains a comprehensive list of licensed preschools and childcare facilities in Arlington along with useful information regarding tuition, student/teacher ratios, pickup/drop-off hours, and tips on what to look for, questions to ask when you visit centers, and more.

The book is an excellent resource to help you compare and determine which preschools will suit your schedule, budget, and the needs of your child. The 2007 *Preschool and Childcare Options in Arlington* booklet is on sale for \$8 at Isis Maternity (397 Mass Ave., Arlington Center) and Together in Motion (1 Broadway, East Arlington). It is also available at AFC Playtime, AFC's weekly drop-in playgroup (see AFC event calendar for details).

For more information, contact Kristen at options@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Winter Skate Rentals from AFC

Want to teach your child to skate this winter? Looking for gently used skates at a reasonable price? Rent them from AFC! We have collected a large assortment of tot skates (sizes 6-13) that are available to AFC members to rent for the winter. Here are the details:

- \$10/pair to rent for the season
- \$10/pair security deposit by check (we won't cash it unless skates are not returned in the spring)

Try-on and pick up dates (please bring checks made out to AFC with you!):

- **End** of AFC's Skating Party, Mon., Nov. 12, 3:45pm
- Wednesday, Nov. 14, 6-8pm at 118 Ridge St.
- Saturday, Nov. 17, 3-5pm at 118 Ridge St.

Info: Amy, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org or 781-646-5417.

Volunteer Opportunities

Winter Beach Party Coordinator

AFC needs a coordinator for this year's Winter Beach Party. Last March, the party was a tremendous success and raised over \$1,400 for local charities. Help us plan another one!

Clerk

This is a great way to get involved in AFC with very little ongoing commitment. Prepare monthly steering committee agenda, attend and facilitate meetings, and take minutes.

AFC Directory

General Information - Amy Speare, 781-646-5417
info@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC Playtime - Sarah Albers
playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Clerk - Margit Griffith

Community Service - Lauren Boyle
community@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

e-Bulletin - Ruth Schmidt
bulletinboard@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Events - Jessie Keating
events@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Kindergarten Connections - Helene Ragovin
kinderconnect@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Membership - Leah Nelson and Molly Sanford
membership@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Newsletter Editors - Annette Donnelly and Carrie Finison
newsletter@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Newsletter Calendar - Aimee Linker and Louise Friel
calendar@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Options in Childcare & Preschool booklet - Kristen Strechay
options@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Outings - Amy Speare
outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Seminars - Maureen Igoe
seminars@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Treasurers - Ruth Kirby and Cynthia Murray
treasurer@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Web Site - Seth Maislin
webmaster@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Working Moms - Melanie Cooke and Su Joun
workingmoms@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Editorial policy: The Arlington Family Connection (AFC) newsletter is published monthly and is free with membership. Published articles reflect the views of the respective authors and do not necessarily represent the views of AFC. Childcare, healthcare and legal information is provided for informational purposes only. It is not intended as a substitute for medical or professional advice. Always consult your own healthcare provider for any decisions relating to your child's well being. Copyright remains with the individual author for bylined articles. All other materials are copyright Arlington Family Connection, 2007. Permission is granted to reproduce articles for which copyright is held by AFC provided appropriate credit is given and no fee is charged. The AFC newsletter accepts submissions from AFC members on issues relevant to families with children six and under. The editorial board reserves the right to refuse submissions for any reason. Send editorial submissions to:
newsletter@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org; calendar listings to
calendar@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC Volunteers

AFC welcomes and thanks the following volunteers who have recently joined AFC or taken on new volunteer roles.

Jessie Keating will be taking over as seminar coordinator from **Maureen Igoe**. Thanks to Maureen for all her hard work organizing some great seminars for AFC! Jessie moved to Arlington about a year and a half ago from Seattle, Washington where she graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in Interdisciplinary Visual Arts. She had her first child, Eamon, in 2006. Prior to taking on her role as seminar coordinator, Jessie volunteered as events coordinator for AFC and organized many fabulous AFC events including last year's winter beach party, pizza party, Town Day, and many more. Jessie also started and ran the popular Baby Buggy Brigade.

AFC Playtime, AFC's weekly drop-in playgroup, has some new volunteer hosts who help to run the playgroup on a rotating basis:

Kate Nugent is a performer, writer, and corporate trainer. She lives in Arlington Heights with her husband, Dan, and daughter, Anna (20 months).

Alfonso Velasquez moved to Arlington in February with his wife and 17-month-old daughter, Magdalena. They are enjoying the community and have found Playtime to be a great opportunity to meet other kids.

Sue Bavey and her husband are Brits who moved to Boston nearly four years ago. Their daughter Ellie was born here in July, 2005, and a baby boy is on the way. Formerly, while in England, Sue worked as a website producer.

Kirsty John-Blyth is volunteering as a host of AFC Playtime and also worked on the organizing committee for the 2007 Preschool and Childcare Options in Arlington event and booklet. Kirsty and her family (which include Alice, 23 months, and Oliver, 5 months) relocated from the UK in 2001 and moved into Arlington a year and a half ago. Formerly, Kirsty worked as an elementary and preschool teacher, and most recently at an au pair agency in Cambridge.

AFC Playtime!

Join us Monday mornings for a playgroup with coffee, fun with toys and friends, and closing circle time.

Mondays, 10-11:30am

Arl. Enrichment Collaborative, 2nd Fl., 1100 Mass. Ave., Arlington. \$3/family. Info: Sarah 781-316-8181, playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org



Dogs in Arlington's Parks

Reprinted from an announcement on the Arlington Parents email list.

Arlington's Board of Selectmen is looking for input about the "Green Dog" concept for Arlington. This proposal – a pilot program for allowing controlled off-leash activity for dogs in Arlington, will be refined based on the public input received and will be presented at the next Town Meeting in spring, 2008.

An initial meeting was held on October 25 and follow up meetings will be held as scheduled below. The meetings will be devoted to discussion and input from neighborhoods where there is already dog walking activity.

All of these meetings will be held in the Selectmen's Meeting Room in Arlington Town Hall from 7:30-9:00pm and are open to the public.

- Thursday, November 8 (Poet's Corner and Ottoson Woods)
- Thursday, November 15 (Mt Gilboa, McClennan Field, Hurd Field, and the Reservoir)
- **Wednesday**, November 28 (Menotomy Rocks)
- Thursday, December 6 (Robbins Farm)
- Thursday, December 13 (Waldo Park, Thorndike, and Magnolia Fields)
- Thursday, January 3 (Spy Pond Park and Spy Pond/Hornblower Field: across from the Arlington Girls and Boys Club)
- Thursday, January 10 (Hill's Hill, Turkey Hill)

For more information on this program, please contact Leslie Mayer at BLMayer@msn.com.

November 18, 7-9:30pm Burlington Mall Shop for a Cause

Arlington Enrichment Collaborative (the middle school after school program and an AFC partner) is participating in the "Simon Evening of Giving" on November 18 at the Burlington Mall. This special event of private shopping and entertainment to help non-profits raise funds will be held from 7-9:30 p.m.

The Burlington Mall will be reserved exclusively for shoppers who have purchased a \$10 "Simon Evening of Giving" ticket, all proceeds of which will go directly to charity. For each ticket, Arlington Enrichment Collaborative will keep \$7 of the proceeds, and \$3 goes to the Simon Youth Foundation.

Please consider buying one or more tickets for yourself, a friend, or a family member! **All ticket sales must be completed by November 7.** For tickets or more information, contact Ann at AEC, ann@arlingtonenrichment.org or 781-643-4794.

Childcare and Preschool Options Booklet Corrections

Please note the following corrections to the 2007 *Childcare and Preschool Options in Arlington* booklet:

Page 11. Arlington Heights Nursery School offers both school year and year round programs for children 3mo-6 yrs, hours are 7:30-5:30PM

Page 20. Creative Start offers 9 teachers, 1 assistant, 1 social worker, 1 parent liaison, 1 manager of early childhood services, 1 center liaison. Hours are 7:30AM - 1PM. Offers 3 full day and 2 half day classes. For application contact main office at 781-648-0515.

Page 21. Creative Start at Pierce is no longer a separate program. Contact Creative Start at Mass Ave for details.

Page 36. Email address for Nancy Daly is nancyadaly@aol.com. Email address for Sarah McDonnell is sarah.mcdonnell@yahoo.com. Maureen Dunn/"A Mother's Touch Daycare" is no longer open.

Page 37. Email for Esmeralda Z. Perkell is casaesme@rcn.com

Page 38. Email for Marie Powers is amvrpowers@aol.com. Email for Kristen Ricker is kristen.ricker@gmail.com

Give the Gift of AFC!

Looking for a
unique holiday gift?

An Arlington Family Connection membership makes a great new baby, new neighbor, or new friend gift! See the back page of this newsletter for a membership form, or visit the AFC website at www.arlingtonfamilyconnection.org to print out a form.



AFC in Action

October Highlights

Childcare & Preschool Options Open House



Together in Motion Outing



November AFC Events

Parent's Afternoon Out Saturday, Nov. 3

2:30-5:30pm. Arl. Enrichment Collaborative, 2nd Fl., 1100 Mass. Ave., Arl. Drop-off your kid(s) for an afternoon of fun with AEC staff and certified babysitters. Ages 6 mo. & up. \$19 for 1 child, \$30 for 2. **RSVP required by Oct. 30** Amy 781-646-5417, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC Playtime! Mon., Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26

10-11:30am. Arl. Enrichment Collaborative, 2nd Fl., 1100 Mass. Ave. (across from Jimmy's). Drop-in anytime at our weekly playgroup! Toys, coffee, closing circle time. Ages 0-4 yrs. \$3/family. Sarah 781-316-8181, playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org



AFC Drop-in Playgroup Tuesday, Nov. 6

3:30-5pm. Fox Library Comm. Rm., Arl. First Tues. of month. Drop-in anytime. Perfect for non-mobile babies. A great place for caregivers to get to know each other without having to chase their kids around. Ages 0-4. Free. Sandra 781-859-5050, playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC Steering Committee Mtg. Wednesday, Nov. 7

7:30pm. Open to all members. Arl. Enrichment Collaborative, 2nd Fl. 1100 Mass. Ave. Amy, 781-646-5417, info@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC Playground Fun: Parallel Playground Friday, Nov. 9

3:30-5pm (rain date Nov. 16). Parallel Playground, Medford St., Arl.. Come meet and play with other AFC families. Martina 781-316-8433, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org



AFC Outing: Regent Theater with Laughing Pizza Saturday, Nov. 10

10:30am. Regent Theater, 7 Medford St., Arl. Audiences starved for smart, fun music that bridges the chasm between Barney and Britney make Laughing Pizza a fast-rising phenomenon. Special AFC price: \$10/adult, \$9/child. Mention AFC when purchasing tickets. 781-646-4849, <http://www.regentheatre.com>



AFC's 3rd Annual Tot Ice Skating Party Monday, Nov. 12

2-3:45pm. Veteran's Memorial Skating Rink, 422 Summer St., Arl. Join us at this low-key and fun event. Snacks, drinks and skates provided. Please bring a bike helmet. \$1/person suggested donation. Ages 2-6. Amy, 781-646-5417, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org



AFC at Together in Motion Tuesday, Nov. 13

9:30-11am. Together in Motion, 1 Broadway, Arl. Join us for an AFC exclusive visit! AFC discount price \$5/family. Eileen, 617-620-1772, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC Craft Time! Tuesday, Nov. 27

4-5pm. Fox Library. Drop-in anytime to make candles. \$2/child to cover supplies. 18 mo. & up. Maf 781-777-1994, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Mom's Night Out at Artbeat! Thursday, Nov. 29

6-8pm. Artbeat, 212-A, Mass. Ave., E. Arl. (www.artbeatonline.com). Celebrate winter and make a mosaic while relaxing with other moms. Just in time for holiday gift giving. \$25 & up depending on the project chosen. Come when you can! RSVP to Susan, [781-648-3691](tel:781-648-3691), danosue@rcn.com

Local Skating Programs & Rinks

By Amy Speare

Did your little tykes have so much fun at the AFC skating party that they want more? As a born and bred New Englander, I learned to skate on open ponds. But our recent history of mild winters hasn't provided many opportunities for outdoor skating. Here's a roundup of local beginner programs (and starting ages) and rinks with public skating sessions.

Arlington Recreation

Veterans Memorial Rink, Arlington (PS)

18 mo. & up

www.town.arlington.ma.us/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_Recreation/Programs/tikes or 781-316-3880

Bay State Blades

Burlington Ice Palace, Burlington (PS)

and Simoni Arena, Cambridge (PS)

2½ yrs & up

www.baystateblades.com or 888-74-SKATE

Bay State Skating School

Flynn Memorial Rink, Medford

LoConte Rink, Medford

Simoni Arena, Cambridge (PS)

Veterans Memorial Rink, Somerville (PS)

4½ yrs. & up

www.baystateskatingschool.org or 781-890-8480

Belmont Recreation

"Skip" Vigliolo Skating Rink, Belmont

3 yrs. & up

www.town.belmont.ma.us/Public_Documents/BelmontMA_Recreation/childprekskate or 617-993-2760

Hayden Recreation Center

Lexington (PS for members)

4 yrs. & up

www.jwhayden.org or 781-862-5575

Sharper Edge Skating School

Valley Sports Arena, W. Concord

18 mo. & up

www.sharperedgeskating.com/preschool.html or 978-369-0088

Skating Club of Boston

Soldiers Field Rd, Boston

4 yrs. & up

www.scboston.org/visitors_icesessions.php or 617-782-5900

(PS) Denotes public skating hours available. Call to check whether they allow crates for beginners. *Warning:* public skating sessions are open to all ages and abilities and may be daunting to beginners.

Outdoor Public Skating

For the full winter experience try outdoor public skating at the following locations:

- Kendall Square, Cambridge
76.162.165.88/ice.html
- Charles Hotel, Harvard Sq., Cambridge,
www.charleshotel.com/iceskating.htm

Refer to www.masshockey.com/Rinks/ for a complete list of Massachusetts rinks.



Amy shares the joy of skating with her kids at the AFC Skating Party last year.

Choosing a Program

Here are a few things to consider when choosing a skating program:

- Is there a separate fee for a membership to the rink?
- Do they have public skating hours to practice?
- Do public skating hours allow crates for beginners?
- How quickly does the program allow kids to skate on their own? (tip: they may learn more quickly if parents are not on the ice)
- Do they require helmets (very important for safety)?

Skater's Tip: Keep your blades sharp! It makes for an easier (and less slippery) learning experience.

Amy Speare is an AFC volunteer and mother of 2 kids. She welcomes your feedback at aspeare@verizon.net

Local Events & Activities – November

For even more resources refer to www.arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Arlington Venues

Arlington Boys and Girls Club, 60 Pond Lane, (Pleasant St. to Wellington St.). 781-648-1617. www.abgclub.org

Arlington Rec. Center & Veterans Memorial Rink, 422 Summer St. (Rt. 2A). 781-316-3880.
www.town.arlington.ma.us/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_Recr_eation/index

Fidelity House, 25 Medford St. 781-648-2005.
www.fidelityhouse.org

Fox branch library, 175 Mass. Ave. (East Arlington, at Cleveland St.). 781-316-3198.
www.robbinslibrary.org/html/fox.htm

Gibbs Gym, 41 Foster St. (also accessible from Tufts St., between Mass. Ave. and Broadway).
781-316-3880.

Isis Maternity, 397 Mass. Ave., at Broadway.
781-429-1598. www.isismaternity.com

Regent Theatre, 7 Medford St. 781-646-4849.
www.regenttheatre.com

Robbins Library, 700 Mass. Ave. (near Pleasant St./Rt. 60).
781-316-3234. www.robbinslibrary.org

Special Events for Families

Once Upon a Time with Kidstock

140 Clarendon St. Boston,
Nov. 3, 4, 10, & 11, 11am, **Rapunzel**
All ages, \$8/person, children under 3yrs. Free,
617-585-5678 or www.lyricstage.com.

Drop-In and Draw

Sun. Nov. 4 & 11, 1-3pm, Fogg Art Museum
Courtyard, 32 Quincy St. Cambridge, Free for
the courtyard only or included with gallery
admission, Info: 617-495-9400 or
www.artmuseums.harvard.edu

Silhouette Cutting with Jean Comerford

Nov. 9 & 10, 9:30-4pm, Concord Museum,
200 Lexington Rd, Concord, Heirloom-quality
art makes a good gift or keepsake, sittings are
10 minutes each, registration required, Ages: 6
months- adult, \$28/profile with \$10 for
additional copies. Info: 978-369-9763 or
www.concordmuseum.org.

Belmont World Film's Family Festival

Sat. Nov. 10, 376 Trapelo Rd. Belmont,
10:30am-Animated Best Loved Children's
Books Program I (ages 4-8)
12:30am- Animated Best Loved Children's
Books Program II (ages 4-8)
3pm- Rhythms of the World, music and
storytelling for all ages, \$3 all events, Info:
617-484-3980

MIT Model Train Club Open House

Sat. Nov. 17, 2-5pm or 7-10pm, MIT Museum
Building (Bldg. N52) room 118, 265 Mass.
Ave. Cambridge, Come see trains running,
signals working, and more. Free, Info: 617-
253-3269 or www.tmc.mit.edu.

The Day It Snowed Tortillas

Fri. Nov. 23, 10:30am, JFK Library, Columbia
Point, Boston, Come see this funny Mexican
folktale and puppet show. Appropriate for all
ages, Free, but reservations are required for
space, Info: 617-514-1646

MIT (F.A.T) Chain Reaction

Fri. Nov. 23, 1-4pm, Rockwell Cage Gym, 120
Vassar St, Cambridge, Imagine a ball rolling
down a track that lands on a board that tips a
book that falls onto a string that pulls six
precariously balanced blocks that fall onto a
pan causing it to get heavy enough to fall and
make a big crashing sound followed by... Yes,
you get the idea! \$10/adult, \$5/child under
18yrs. (fee includes an additional one- time
free entry to the MIT Museum -valid for the
next 30 days) Info: 617-253-5927

Zoolights

Thanksgiving- Dec. 30, 5-9pm, Stone Zoo,
149 Pond St. Stoneham, Visit Santa (through
Dec.23) and a magical holiday world filled
with fairy tale characters and dancing plush
animals **Belmont Kidspace**. Walk tree lined
paths lit by thousands of twinkling lights.
\$4/person, under 2yrs/free, Santa photos and
carousel rides cost extra, 781-438-5100 or
www.zoonewengland.com.

Free Friday at the Zoo

Both the Stone Zoo in Stoneham (149 Pond
St.) & the Franklin Park Zoo in Dorchester (1
Franklin Park Rd.) have **FREE ADMISSION**
ALL DAY the Friday after Thanksgiving.
781-438-5100 or www.zoonewengland.com

Make Your Own Book

Fri. Nov. 23, 11-2:30pm, Concord Museum,
200 Lexington Rd., Concord, Drop-in, learn,
create, and spend time with your family while
making your own book. Artist Susan Gaylord
will be giving ongoing demonstrations and
workshops. All ages, Free with museum
admission. Info: 978-369-9763.
www.concordmuseum.org.

Magic Show & Workshop

Sat. Nov. 24, Concord Museum, 200
Lexington Rd. Concord, Come see an all ages
magic show followed by a workshop (ages
4yrs.+) where you can learn to do your own

magic trick! Also take home a packet of tricks.
Performances at **11am, 1:30pm, & 2:30pm**.
978-369-9763 or www.concordmuseum.org

Boston Tree Lighting Ceremony

Nov. 29, 6pm, Boston Common, Attend
Boston's official tree lighting ceremony during
a holiday sing-along. Trees throughout the
common and public garden will be lit. A stage
show will include carolers, local and
international entertainment, Santa, and more!
Info: 617-635-4505 or
www.cityofboston.gov/parks

BosTix Junior

Bring your child to the theater to see family
friendly plays and musical productions. Shows
like, **The Wizard of Oz, The Lion, the
Witch, and the Wardrobe, and Cabaret
Noel: Sing-Along Secession** are all coming
soon to theaters around Boston. Info:
www.BosTix.org

Baby Loves Disco

Last Sunday of each month, 2-5pm,
Revolution Rock Bar, 200 High St. Boston,
\$12 (non-walkers, free) Childproof
disco/dance party with "real" music by the
legendary DJ kon, healthy snacks by Wild
Oats, bar available for mom and dad. Info:
www.babylovesdisco.com

Holiday Family Concert

Dec. 1, 2pm, Wellesley Hills Congregational
Church, 207 Washington St. Wellesley, Join
the Back Bay Ringers for holiday carols and a
sing-a-long. Free, Info: 617-688-5768

United States Air Force Band of Liberty Holiday Concert

Sun. Dec. 2, 3pm, Framingham Town Hall,
(Memorial Bldg.) 150 Concord St.
Framingham, Come enjoy some holiday
music, Santa may stop by for some holiday
cheer, Free, all ages

Sing-alongs & Music

Monday

5pm. **Finagle a Bagel**, 91 Middlesex Tpke, Burl. Ed Morgan performs fun original and classic children's songs. Free 781-273-6500, www.finagleabagel.com

11am. **Stellabella Toys**, 1967 Mass. Ave., Camb., Porter Sq. Sing-along, play games Free For more information call 617-864-6290

Tuesday

Tim Seston Songs and Stories

Nov. 13 & 27, 9-9:45am, Main Streets Market and Café, 42 Main St. Concord, Infant and toddler sing-a-long & playtime, Free, every other Tues. Info: 978-396-4149

Wednesday

Bear Rock Café

10am, 350 Cambridge St. Woburn (near Whole Foods), Info: 781-938-6100 or www.bearrockcafe.com

1st and 3rd Friday of the month

10am, Calvary Church, 300 Mass. Ave. Join Diane Taraz for a fun sing-a-long, \$1/person, Info: www.dianetaraz.com

Saturday

11am. **Stellabella Toys**, 1360 Cambridge St. Inman Sq.. Camb. Sing songs, play games Free 617-491-6290

Storytimes and Library Programs

Debbie Cavalier and Friends

Sat. Nov. 3, 3pm, Robbins Library, Songs, dancing, and fun. Ages: 0-6yrs. Tickets available on day of program, Info: 781-316-3234 or www.robbinslibrary.org

Thanksgiving Craft

Sat. Nov. 10, 10am-2pm, Robbins Library, Come make a turkey centerpiece for Thanksgiving. All ages, Drop-in, Info: 781-316-3234 or www.robbinslibrary.org

Drop-In Storytime at Robbins

Toddlers (18 months-2.5 yrs.) Mondays, 10:30am, Nov. 5, 19, & 26 Stories, rhymes, fingerplays, and a simple craft

Preschoolers (2.5 yrs. and up) Mondays, 11am, Nov. 5, 19, & 26 Longer stories followed by a craft

3-5 Year Olds

Wednesdays, 10:30am, Nov. 7, 14, 21, & 28 Stories, rhymes, games, fingerplays, & a craft 781-316-3234 or www.robbinslibrary.org.

Sing-a-long at Robbins

Tuesdays, 10am, Nov. 6 & 13 Infants and toddlers, space is limited so tickets are given out that day beginning at 9am. Info: 781-316-3234 or www.robbinslibrary.org.

1st Thursday of the Month Singalong at Fox

Nov. 1, 10am, Fox Library, Join Sulinha for singing, dancing, and fun! Info: 781-316-3198

Drop-In Storytime at Fox

Tuesdays, Nov. 6, 13, 20, & 27,

Ages 2-3yr. 10am (6th&13th stories in Spanish)

Ages 4-5yrs. 10:30am

Stories and fingerplays followed by a craft Info: 781-316-3198 or www.robbinslibrary.org

Baby Brunch

Thurs. Nov. 8, 10am-11am, Fox Library, Calling all babies born between May '07 & Oct. '07. Bagel brunch, songs, stories, meet new friends and get a free book. Please sign up. 781-316-3198 or www.robbinslibrary.org

Tuesday

Barnes & Noble

98 Middlesex Tpke., Burlington Preschoolers, 10:30am, Free, 781-273-3871

Harvard Coop

11am, 1400 Mass. Ave. Camb. Preschool story hour with snack and craft, Free, Info: 617-499-2000 or <http://harvardbkstore.com>.

Pottery Barn Kids

10am, Burlington Mall, Free, 781-221-5833

Wednesday

Porter Square Books

11am, Porter Sq. Shopping Ctr. Camb. Free 617-491-2220, www.portersquarebooks.com

Starbucks, Arlington Center

10am, 327 Broadway, Free, 781-641-2893

Thursday

Henry Bear's Park

11am, 685 Mass. Ave. Arl. 781-646-9400 and 361 Huron Ave, Camb. 617-547-8424, Ages: 3-6yrs. Free, Info: www.henrybear.com.

Friday

Barefoot Books

10:30am, 1771 Mass. Ave. Camb. A fun hour of age- appropriate stories, coloring and refreshments, Free, Ages 1yr.+ Info: 617-349-1610 or www.barefootbooks.com.

Barnes & Noble

98 Middlesex Tpke. Burlington, Pajamarama: 7pm, Free. 781-273-3871

Concord Museum Story Hour

Fri. Nov. 9, 1pm. Concord Museum, 200 Lexington Rd., Concord. For ages 3-5 years; adult/child program, \$5/pair, members, \$8/pair, nonmembers. The story this month has an autumn theme. Activity and snack registration required Info: 978-369-9763. www.concordmuseum.org.

Saturday

Barefoot Books

10:30am. 1771 Mass. Ave. Camb. A fun hour of age- appropriate stories, coloring and refreshments, Free, Ages 1yr.+ Info: 617-349-1610, www.barefootbooks.com.

Harvard Coop

11am, 1400 Mass. Ave. Camb. Preschool story hour with snack and craft, Free, 617-499-2000 or <http://harvardbkstore.com>.

Other Arlington Fun Stuff

Adoptive Family Gym Mixer

Mon, 9:30-11am. Together in Motion, 1 Broadway, Arl. \$5/child. For families with children 0-6.years. Call 781-643-1377. www.togetherinmotion.com

Arlington Boys and Girls Club

Offers many fun, fall classes for children and a **Parent and Child Drop-in Swim** (Sept. 11-Nov. 27) Tuesdays at 10:30- 11:15, \$4/child Info: www.abgclub.org

Arlington Center for the Arts

Offers many fun, fall classes for children Info: 781-648-6220 or www.acarts.org.

Arlington Recreation Dept.

Offers many fun, fall classes for children. Info: 781-316-3880 or www.arlingtonma.gov.

Artbeat Weekend Workshops

Saturdays, 3-6pm, 212A Mass. Ave, Arl. Free instruction, pay for materials, Ages 4yrs+

Nov. 3: Glitter Candles

Nov. 10: Stained Glass Sun Catcher

Nov. 17: Beaded Pens and Boxes

Nov. 23 & 24: ALL DAY 10am-6pm

Gift Making Bonanza: Decopatch Gifts Info: 781-646-2200, www.artbeatonline.com.

Capitol Theater Movies for Caregivers with Babies

Mondays. 204 Mass. Ave. Arl. Begin between 1-2pm. New movies chosen weekly. \$5/adult Nursing, bottle feeding, fussing, changing diapers are never frowned upon. Info: 781-648-6022, www.somervilletheatreonline.com.

Family Fun Saturdays

10:30am, Regent Theatre, 7 Medford St. Arl. , **Nov. 3,** The Frog Princess, **Nov. 10,** Laughing Pizza, **Nov. 17,** Rob Surette's, "Amazing Hero Art" **Nov. 24,** Sing-a-long Mary Poppins (additional screenings Thanksgiving week), Info: 781-646-4849 or www.regenttheatre.com.

Fidelity House

25 Medford St. Arl. Offers classes for preschoolers that also have a drop-in option **Tot Time**, Fridays, 9:30am or 10:30am, 1 hr. structured activity time designed to develop fine/gross motor and social skills, parent remains w/child, \$5 drop-in fee (space permitting), or \$20 for 5 wks.(Oct. 5-Nov.2 or Nov. 9- Dec. 14) Info: 781-648-2005 or www.FidelityHouse.org.

Isis Maternity

Programs and products for expecting and new parents. **AFC member discount-1st month free.** www.isismaternity.com.

Mom and Me Pilates

Thurs. 9:15am. Atelier Pilates, Union Sq., Som. 5-class cards for \$75, 6th class free. Drop-in for \$19. Registration required, Call Megan Berry 617-718-0237 or visit megan@mommanet.com.

Music Together

Explore what music sounds like, looks like, and feels like. Call 781-648-4084 or visit www.musictogetherofarlington.com

Parent and Tot Connection

Fridays, 9:30-11am, Arl. Boys & Girls Club, Drop-in playgroup for toddlers and preschoolers with caregiver, Play, crafts, stories, music, Free, Info: www.abgclub.org.

Puddlestompers Playgroup

Wednesdays, 10am-12, local playgrounds (free) or the Fox Library Community Room (\$1). This drop-in playgroup is for toddlers, preschoolers, siblings and their caregivers. Come make friends and have fun! Meeting locations are emailed on Tues. nights. To be added to the group email list contact Sarah at 781-648-3342 or siendo@verizon.net.

Toddlers and Twos

Every Weds. & Fri. 9:30-11am, Gibbs Gym, Foster St. Indoor play program for tots (15-36 months) and parents, structured for the development of gross and fine motor skills, \$45/10 visit pass or \$5 drop-in/child, Info: 781-316-3880 or www.arlingtonma.gov.

Together in Motion

1 Broadway, E. Arl. Drop-in play space with 3 areas for: crawlers, open play; organized games. Ages 0-6. Mon-Fri 1:30-5pm; Mon, 11am-12:30pm; Wed, 9:30am-noon; Sat&Sun, 9-11am. \$7/ages 1-6; \$5, 6-12 mos; under 6 mos, free with playing sibling. Fall classes include: **Itsy, Bitsy Yoga, Matial Arts Sampler, Creative Movement, and Movin' & Groovin'**, Info: 781-643-1377 or www.togetherinmotion.com

Veteran's Memorial Skating Rink

422 Summer St. \$3/children under 16, \$6/adult Public Skating: **Mon.** 12-1:50pm, **Thurs.** 9-11am, **Fri.** 11-1pm, 2:30-4:30pm, & 7-9pm, **Sat.** 4-5:50pm, **Sun.** 9:30-11:30am, & 2-4pm, Info: 781-316-3880 or www.arlingtonma.gov.

Indoor Playspaces

Bedford Family Connection Playroom

Mon.-Fri. 9:30-11:30am, First Parish Church 75 The Great Rd. Bedford (use Elm St. entrance) Info: contact Amy Pearson at alm.pearson@verizon.net or www.kidsplaybedford.com.

Belmont Kidspace

Payson Park Church (lower level) 365 Belmont St. Belmont, This indoor playspace is a parent run co-op where families with infants, toddlers, and preschoolers can have lots of fun. **OPENS Sat. Nov. 4**, Hours: **Mon. & Thurs.** 1-5:30pm, **Fri.** 5-8pm, **Sat.** 9am-12, **2nd & 4th Sun.** 2-5, **3rd Sun. of the month** 2-5pm for special children, See website for admission info. www.belmontkidspace.org

Winchester Recreation Playtime

Thurs. 9:30-11 am, 263 Main St. Winchester, Drop-in, \$5/family, Ages: 9 months-4yrs. Info: 781-721-7125

Winter Park

Waldorf School, 739 Mass. Ave. Lex. Starting later this month, Call for location and times. 781-863-1062 or www.thewaldorfschool.org

Gymnastics Academy of Boston

Open gym Mon.-Fri. 11:30am-1pm. Drop-in and explore. \$5/members, \$10/non-members Info: 617-441-9700 or www.gymnasticacademy.com.

TumbleKids Open Gym

38 River St., Winchester- **Thurs. 10:30am-12 & Fri. 12:30-2pm.** (781-721-1144) or 201 Arl. St.,Watertown- **Fri. 12:30-2pm.** (617-926-2640) \$10/child. Classes offered for an additional fee. Info: www.tumblekidsusa.com.

Kids Playground

15 Normac Rd., Woburn Indoor playground with playspace, tubes and tunnels, mini golf. Info: 781-935-2300, www.kidsplayground.com.

Perpetual Motion

345 Chelmsford St., Lowell (off Rt. 3) Indoor playground for kids 0-6yrs. Info: 978-452-0777 www.perpetualmotioninc.com.

MyGym

1065 Comm. Ave. (behind Shaw's) Boston, New indoor playspace for babies and toddlers. Open gym: Mondays at 4pm and Thursdays at 2:15pm, Info: 617-789-3669

Beyond Arlington

Puppet Showplace Theatre

Sat. & Sun. 1 & 3pm shows, Weds. & Thurs. 10:30am show. 32 Station St., Brookline. Ages 3 and up. Age appropriateness varies per show. \$7.50/members, \$9.50/non-members. Info: 617-731-6400, www.puppetshowplace.org.

Home Depot Kid's Workshop

1st Sat. of the month, 10am-noon, 10 1st Ave., Waltham. Drop-in build-it-yourself project, Ages 2+ with an adult. Call 781-672-0900

Play Academy

25 Riverside Ave. Medford. Offers classes for infants-age 5yrs; Drop-off program. Info: 781-738-PLAY, www.play-academy.com.

Pre-school Movies

Tues. 10:30am. Cary Mem. Library 1874 Mass. Ave., Lex. Drop-in movies for ages 2-6. Free. Info: 781-862-6288, www.caryllibrary.org

Local Attractions

Boston Children's Museum

300 Congress St., Boston. Open daily, 10am-5pm, Fri until 9pm. Hands-on approach to history, science, etc.; toddler PlaySpace. New, expanded space and exhibits, including 3-story climbing structure. Info: www.bostonkids.org.

Children's Discovery Museum

177 Main St., Acton. Open daily, 9am-4:30pm. Victorian house with transformed into 10 hands-on exhibit areas. Ages 6 & under. Check website for special programs. \$8, free under 1. Info: 978-264-4200 or www.discoverymuseums.org.

Concord Museum

200 Lexington Rd, Concord. Open daily, Mon-Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 12-5pm. Historical, literary, artistic treasures of the area. Monthly storytime (Sept 14) and children's programs.

\$8/adults, children under 6 free. Info: 978-369-9763 or www.concordmuseum.org.

Ecotarium

222 Harrington Way, Worcester. Open Tues-Sat 1am-5pm, Sun 12-5pm. Monthly family preschool programs. Members free, \$8/Non-member adult, \$6/Non-member ages 3-18. Explorer Express Train ride, \$2.50/person. Info: 508-929-2700 or www.ecotarium.org.

Frog Pond, Boston Common

Opens Nov. 15, 5:30pm, The Frog pond offers concessions, skate rentals, rest rooms, and a warming area. Info: 617-635-2120 or www.bostoncommonfrogpond.org.

Habitat Wildlife Sanctuary

10 Juniper Rd, Belmont. Trails wind through forests, across meadows, around 2 ponds, wetlands. Programs for kids. Members free, \$4/non-memb. adult, \$3/non-memb. child. Info: 617-489-5050 or www.massaudubon.org.

Harvard Museum of Natural History

26 Oxford St, Cambridge. Open daily 9am-5pm. Wide array of stuffed animals in the mammal exhibit. 40ft dinosaur replica. \$7.50/adult, \$5/ages 3-18. Free every Sun. 9am-noon. Info: 617-495-3045 or www.hmnh.harvard.edu.

Institute of Contemporary Art

100 Northern Ave., Boston. Open Tues-Sun 10am-5pm, Thurs & Fri until 9pm. Free Family Fun Playdates, last Saturday of every month, 10 am-4 pm. to adults accompanied by child 12 and under. \$12 general admission. Info: 617-478-3234 or www.icaboston.org.

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave., Boston. Family Place, for families with children 4 and up, interactive art activities. Wed-Fri, 3-4:45 pm; Sat-Sun, 11am-4pm.. Info: 617-267-9300 or www.mfa.org.

Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston. Open daily 9am-7pm, Fri until 9pm. Hands-on Discovery Zone, with children's gallery for those 5 and under. Info: 617-723-2500 or www.mos.org.

National Heritage Museum

33 Marrett Rd., Rt. 2A, Lexington. Open daily 10am-5pm, Sun 12-5pm. Great monthly programs including storytimes with crafts. Free admission. Info: 781-861-6559 or www.monh.org.

New England Aquarium

Central Wharf, Boston. Open daily 9am-6pm, Fri-Sun until 7pm. \$17.95/adult, \$9.95/children ages 3-11, free for children under 3. Info: 617 -973-5200 or www.neaq.org.

Southwicks Zoo

2 Southwick St, (off Rt. 16), Mendon. Open daily, 10am-5 pm. Animals & birds, shows, kiddie rides, animal rides (ponies, camels, elephants). \$16.75/adults; \$12.75/ages 3-12; under age 2, free. WGBH & AAA discounts. Info: 800-258-9182 or www.southwickszoo.com.

Stone Zoo

149 Pond St. Stoneham. Open daily 10am-4pm, Small zoo, with a petting barnyard, playground and many animal exhibits. \$8/Adult, \$5/Ages 2-12, under 2yrs. free, Info: 781-438-5100 or www.zoonewengland.com.

Take a Walk at Gore Place

52 Gore St., Waltham, Mon-Fri, 9am- 3pm; Sat & Sun. 12-3pm. Visit llama, sheep, goats, chickens, rabbits. Rent an "activity pack" with activities appropriate for children ages 4-9. Backpack rental, \$5. Info: 781-894-2798 or www.goreplace.org.

Seminars and Open Houses

Lesley Ellis School Open House

Nov 3, 9:30-11am, 41 Foster St., Arlington. Meet the faculty, staff and current parents. Visit classrooms, and attend an information session with the Head of the School. Children welcome. For more info. Including directions call 781-641-1346 or www.lesleyellis.org.

Parent Education Forum

Thurs. Nov. 8, 7-9pm, Dallin School, 185 Florence Ave. For parents of boys from pre-K to grade 12. Michael Thompson, PhD, presents "It's A Boy!" He will discuss how a boy's inner life progresses through infancy, childhood, and adolescence. He will give expert advice on the developmental, psychological, social, and academic life of boys from infancy to the teen years. Info: 781-316-3730 www.michaelthompson-phd.com

Effective Parenting

Groups forming now. Workshop designed for parents of children 0-3yrs. Explore different parenting topics each week. \$140/person, \$180/couple. For info contact Melissa Lucius 781-641-4284, parenting@rcn.com or www.effective-parenting.org.

Benefits

PTO Thrift Shop

Benefits Arlington Public Schools
Basement of the Fox Library,
Hours: Weds. 4--8pm, Thurs. 9:30am- 1pm,
2nd Sat. of the month 12:30--5pm, Gently-used clothing for all ages, toys, books, housewares, and more., Info: 781-483-3433 or www.ptothriftshop.com.

Groups

40-something Mom's Group

Ongoing monthly discussion and support group for moms of babies &/or young kids led by Suzan Wolpow, a licensed therapist with a specialty in women's issues, and an older mom herself. Meets monthly in North Cambridge \$25/meeting. Info: 617-441-0758 or www.yourclearvoice.com.

Arlington Area Adoption Moms

Nov. 7 & 29, 7:30pm, Contact Rachel Silverman for location info. 781-641-2947 or rachelannathome@yahoo.com

Belmont Food Allergy & Asthma Support Group

Parents group meets monthly to discuss and advocate for children living with food allergies and asthma. For info contact Theresa Normile 617-489-6668 or Tnormile@foodallergyfacts.com.

Breastfeeding Drop-in Group

Thurs. 3pm, Isis Maternity,
For nursing moms and babies, Free,
Staffed by certified lactation consultants, Info: www.isismaternity.com.

Drop-in Playgroups

Isis Maternity,
Non-mobile babies Thurs. 1:45pm,
Mobile babies Fri. 3:30 pm,
Free for members, \$5 for non-members. Info: www.isismaternity.com.

Grandparents' Support Group

Second Tues. of the month, 12-1:30pm. For grandparents who are primary caretakers of their grandchildren. Free. Info: 781-316-3410.

International Adoptions

Free 8 week support and education group for parents accompanied by their children. Begins Sept 25. Meets Tues 10-11:30am at 1430 Main St, Waltham. Info: 781-693-5677 or eberne@jfcsboston.org.

La Leche League

Dedicated to providing education, information, and support to breastfeeding women .
Meetings in the basement of Fox Library on the 3rd Tues. of each month at 7:30pm, or 2nd Thurs. of the month at 10am in Cambridge (175 Harvey St.). Free For info contact Heather 781-648-2988 or <http://home.comcast.net/~jrsladkey/lll/index.html>.

Learn & Play Adoption Group

For parents and adopted children ages 0-5yrs. Facilitated by First Connections. Community Agencies bldg., Emerson Hospital, 111 Old Rd. to 9-Acre Corner, Concord. Registration required \$30. Info: 978-287-0221 or www.jri.org/cfys/.

New Babies/New Mom's Group

First time mothers bring infants up to 6 months old to meet with other mothers and a leader for support and discussion. Session begins Sept 18. Info: www.warmlines.org.

New Mothers' Drop-in Group

For mothers with children under 1yr. Fri. 10-11:30am. Calvary United Methodist Church, 300 Mass. Ave. Arl. Free, non-sectarian, facilitated group. Sponsored by Jewish Family & Children's Svcs. Info: 617-558-1278.

New Mother's Group

Tues. 11:30am-1pm, Temple Isiah, 55 Lincoln St, Lexington, Sponsored by the Parent Connection of BIDMC. Free 8 week sessions, Registration required. Info: 617-667-2229.

Older First -Time Moms

3rd Weds. of each month , 7pm Fox Library.

Social and support group for first-time moms in their late 30's and 40's, Free, Suggested \$1 donation. Info: 781-674-2029.

Spanish Playgroup

Formed by an Arlington-based group of parents, the age range is 1-8 yrs old. Spanish skill ranges from beginner to bilingual. Most of the families have one parent who speaks some Spanish. For info contact Deb Savage at debsavage@juno.com.

We Are Family

3rd Thurs. of the month, 7-9pm Community Agencies bldg., Emerson Hospital , 111 Old Rd. to 9-Acre Corner, Concord , Support group for parents of older (3yrs.+) internationally adopted children or children previously in DSS custody. Info: 978-287-0221 or www.jri.org/cfys/.

Working Mom's Group

Nov. 14, 7:30pm at Arlington Enrichment Collaborative (1100 Mass Ave, Arl, across from Jimmy's). Info: workingmoms@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

**Arlington Family
Connection
P.O. Box 150
Arlington, MA 02476**

November, 2007

AFC Membership/Renewal Form

New member **Renewal** Date: _____

Gift membership from: _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email Address(es): _____

All AFC correspondence (announcements and newsletters) are sent out via email by default.

Please check below if you would rather:

Printed newsletter mailed to me, in addition to email.

Printed newsletter only, not the email version.

I prefer not to receive any email from AFC. (Printed newsletter will be mailed to you.)

Please list your child(ren): (if applicable)

Name Gender Date of Birth (mo/year)

School District: (circle one for geographic location)

Bishop Brackett Dallin Hardy

Peirce Stratton Thompson Out-of-Town

Would you like to be contacted about volunteering?

Yes No

Volunteer Interests

(check all that apply)

Events/Parties New Parent Outreach

Newsletter Outings with Kids Playgroups

Outings without Kids Seminars Web Site

Email Bulletin Childcare & Preschool Options

Publicity Membership Working Moms

Community Service Kindergarten Connections

Treasurer/Clerk Other _____

Membership Fees: All memberships renew in August, 2008, and begin September 1st for a flat \$20/yr.

Sponsor Member (\$25). Enjoy the usual benefits of membership plus make a \$5 donation to help support new AFC programs.

Standard Member. Circle the month you are joining:

\$20 (August/September/October)

\$15 (November/December/January)

\$10 (February/March/April)

\$5 (May/June/July)

Please mail membership form and check to:

Arlington Family Connection

P.O. Box 150

Arlington, MA 02476