



# Arlington Family Connection

supporting children six and under and those who care for them

Volume VI, Issue 1 • March 2007

[www.arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](http://www.arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

## March 3, 10:30am-12:30pm Gibbs Gym – 41 Foster Street Winter Beach Party Fundraiser!



Just when you thought winter would never end... warm up at AFC's hot winter beach party. Admission (\$5 per person; \$15/family maximum) includes Chilly Cow ice cream, pizza, and coffee, plus beachy crafts, games, and a limbo party for the kids.

The party is open to the public so bring friends (with kids under 6)! Dig out some summer clothes and bring blankets and beach chairs for a picnic-style lunch.

### Support Local Charities and Win Fabulous Prizes!

AFC is hosting a charity raffle with over 30 truly outstanding prizes donated by local businesses, including:

- Memberships to the **New England Aquarium, Fitness First, Gold's Gym, Arl. Center for the Arts, and the Arl. Boys & Girls Club;** plus an **Arl. Reservoir Family Pass**
- Tickets to **Edaville USA RR, the Regent Theater, and Together in Motion**
- A free massage from **Joyful Shiatsu**
- Gift certificates to local stores and restaurants, and more!

For a complete list of businesses that have donated prizes see [www.arlingtonfamilyconnection.org/beachparty.html](http://www.arlingtonfamilyconnection.org/beachparty.html)

Proceeds from the party, raffle, and charity bake sale will support the Arlington Food Pantry and the Arlington Libraries' Children's Rooms.

## Maple Sugar Makes Winter Sweet

*By Helene Ragovin James*

My family has a painting in our living room, done many years ago by my mother-in-law, an enthusiastic amateur watercolorist. It shows a grove of trees set in the snow, with small buckets attached to the side of each.

Every so often, a visitor will look quizzically at the painting and ask something like, "Why do you have a picture of trees with mail boxes on them?"

Of course, they're not mail boxes — they're sap collection buckets; the trees are maples and the scene is that of a time-honored tradition: maple sugaring. In this part of New England, March is the time for collecting and boiling-down the maple sap to make some of this region's most delicious products: maple syrup, maple sugar, and maple-sugar candy.

This month, there are many opportunities for children, even very young ones, to watch the magical maple-sugaring process, or even to take part. For slightly older children, there are also many chances to learn about the history of maple-sugaring and the role it played in Colonial life. And, of course, there are lots of opportunities to taste the sweet, sweet result.

Most maple farms are located in central and western Massachusetts; many offer tours. See [www.massmaple.org](http://www.massmaple.org) for a directory of maple farms in the state.

Closer to home, many of the Mass Audubon wildlife sanctuaries host mapleing programs and demonstrations.

*Continued on page 3*



**Save the Date!**  
**Friday, April 27, 11:00am**  
**AFC Goes to the Big Apple Circus!**  
Discounted tickets – \$16.50/person!  
See the AFC Event Calendar for details.

## Inside

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| AFC Directory & Announcements .....            | 2      |
| Maple Sugaring Venues .....                    | 3      |
| Local Events and Activities .....              | 4      |
| AFC in Action .....                            | Insert |
| Beat the Sleet with the Compleat Day Tripper.. | Insert |
| Summer Camp Options .....                      | Insert |

## AFC Playtime!

Join us Monday mornings for a playgroup with coffee, fun with toys and friends, closing circle time, and frequent guest speakers. Mondays, 10-11:30am  
Arl. Enrichment Collaborative, 2nd Fl., 1100 Mass. Ave., Arlington. \$3/family. Info: Sarah 781-316-8181, [playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

### Upcoming Guest Speakers:

**March 12** – Storytime with Henry Bear's Park  
**March 26** – Early Language Development, Kate Kapstad  
**April 9** – Child Safety and Babyproofing  
**April 23** – Robbins Library Children's Room Services

### Special Thanks!

AFC would like to thank **Isis Maternity** and **Henry Bear's Park**, as well as many AFC members for donating toys to AFC Playtime.

### AFC Directory

**General Information** - Amy Speare, 781-646-5417  
[info@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:info@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

**AFC Playtime** - Sarah Albers  
[playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

**Book Club** - Trish Richardson

**Clerk** - Margit Griffith

**Community Service** - Debra Reardon & Jeanne Wells Hobbie  
[community@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:community@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

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**Newsletter Calendar** - Helene Ragovin James  
[calendar@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:calendar@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

**Options in Childcare & Preschool booklet** - Kristen Strechay  
[options@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:options@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

**Outings** - Amy Speare  
[outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

**Seminars** - Maureen Igoe  
[seminars@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:seminars@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

**Treasurers** - Ruth Kirby & Cynthia Murray  
[treasurer@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:treasurer@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

**Web Site** - Seth Maislin  
[webmaster@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:webmaster@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

**Working Moms Group** - Melanie Cooke, Su Joun & Teri Heard-Ralbovsky  
[workingmoms@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto: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](mailto:newsletter@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org); calendar listings to [calendar@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:calendar@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

## Get Involved with AFC! Open Volunteer Positions

Are you interested in getting involved with AFC?  
Following is a list of open volunteer positions.

**E-bulletin Editor:** The weekly e-bulletin is a member communication tool, events reminder, and calendar supplement. The ideal editor would be someone who loves to collect information and is very comfortable with email. Approximately 3-5 hours per week. Info: Ruth 781-643-2362, [bulletinboard@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:bulletinboard@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

**Newsletter Calendar Editor:** Compile calendar of local events and activities for the monthly AFC newsletter via Internet, email, and telephone. About 4 hours per month. Info: Helene, [calendar@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:calendar@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

**Web Site Team:** Help with ongoing Web site updates, special projects, and overall updating of the Web site. These responsibilities can easily be shared among a couple of people that would work with the current Webmaster. Info: Seth, [webmaster@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:webmaster@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

**'AFC Playtime' Playgroup staffers:** AFC Playtime meets every Monday from 10-11:30am, and needs a team of volunteers to share monthly shifts. Responsibilities include arriving early to set up, greet attendees, lead a closing circle time, and put toys away. Info: Sarah 781-316-8181, [playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org).

**Publicity:** Help spread the word about AFC in local newspapers and online resources. Info: Amy 781-646-5417, [info@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:info@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

**Volunteer Coordinator:** Help coordinate and recruit new volunteers to help with occasional special events. Info: Amy 781-646-5417, [info@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:info@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

**Stand for Children Liaison:** Attend Stand for Children meetings and write a summary to share with the AFC Steering Committee. Info: Amy 781-646-5417, [info@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:info@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

## Welcome New Volunteers

Welcome (and a big thank you) to the following members who have recently volunteered to take on roles.

**Seth Maislin** is AFC's new Webmaster. Seth is a work-at-home, self-employed dad of two young children who has been the Webmaster of a few other sites in his lifetime. As he puts it, "I know just enough programming to be dangerous." He writes the indexes for books and consults as an information architect -- basically, he organizes stuff for a living -- and teaches both professionally. His indexing blog is at <http://maislin.blogspot.com>. If you want to see something different at the AFC site, write him at [webmaster@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:webmaster@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org).

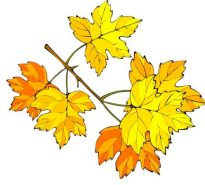
*Continued from page 1*

For information on programs at any of the Mass Audubon wildlife sanctuaries, go to [www.massaudubon.org](http://www.massaudubon.org). Please note that most Mass Audubon programs require advance registration; Mass Audubon membership is good for programs at all sanctuaries.

Following is a list of some maple-sugaring activities appropriate for older toddlers through kindergartners.

### **Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary, Lincoln**

**Maple Magic:** Fri, March 2 and March 9, 3:30-5 pm. For all ages. Adults \$10.00 m/ \$12.00 nm; children 2 and over, \$10.00 m/ \$12.00 nm. Half-price for 12-23 mos; under 12 mos. free if carried in backpack or sling; terrain not appropriate for strollers. Help collect sap from our sugarbush and visit the evaporator where it boils down into a sticky treat. Delight your taste buds with an old-time sugarhouse favorite. Register online or call 781-259-2200.



**Sap to Syrup Farmers' Breakfast:** Sat, and Sun., March 17 & 18. Seatings 9-11:30 am. Adults/\$13; children/\$10; under age 3, free. (Same price for members and non-members). Tickets may be purchased in advance by calling 781-259-2206, or online. Please list your first and second choices of times. Advance registration is strongly recommended, as space is limited. Tickets are non-refundable, and the event runs rain or shine. See how sap is collected from maple trees; enjoy a breakfast of hearty pancakes with maple syrup, Drumlin's own roasted potatoes and sausage, and breakfast beverages; learn about Native American sap-to-syrup techniques.

### **Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield**

**Sugaring-off Tours:** Sat. and Sun., March 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18 at 10:00 am, 12:30 & 2:30 pm. Adults, \$7.00 m/ \$8.50 nm; children \$6.00 m/ \$7.50 nm. Under age 3, free, but should be carried or in a backpack. Learn how to identify a sugar maple, observe tapping and sap collection methods, and watch the sap being boiled down in the sugarhouse, where everyone gets a sweet taste of the final product. Afterwards, warm up in the barn by the woodstove; indulge in a hot dog cooked in maple sap, sample soup and desserts made by sanctuary volunteers. Syrup is available for sale (quantities may be limited). Tours last about an hour and run rain or shine. Dress warmly and wear waterproof boots. To register, call 978-887-9264.

### **Habitat Education Center and Wildlife Sanctuary, Belmont**

**How Sweet it is:** Thu, March 8, 1-2:30 pm. For children 3-5, with adult. Adults \$6.00 m/ \$8.00 nm; children \$6.00 m/ \$8.00 nm. Learn through hands-on activities and a special puppet show, how people have tapped trees and used the sap. We will also visit the sanctuary's sugar maple trees. Register online or call 617-489-5050.

**Spring's Sweetest Sign:** Thu, March 8, 2:30-5 pm. For children 5-8, without adult. children \$12.00 m/ \$15.00 nm. Go on a scavenger hunt to find the sugar maple trees. Learn how people make sweet syrup from the sap and maybe get to have a little taste. Register online or call 617-489-5050.

**Sugaring Celebration:** Sun, March 4, Sat, March 10, Sun, March 11, 2-4 pm. For children 5 and over, with adult. Adults \$8.00 m/ \$10.00 nm; children \$8.00 m/ \$10.00 nm. learn how maple syrup is made. Sugaring activities and stories; We'll boil down a little of our sap and see how we did! Dress warmly. Register online or call 617-489-5050.

### **Turtle Lane Maple Farm, North Andover**

A back yard sugar shack at the home of a North Andover family—two parents and four kids—who are enthusiastic sugaring hobbyists. They tap trees throughout their neighborhood and turn it into homemade syrup and candy, and are more than glad to have visitors come see their sugaring operation. See [www.turtlelanemaplefarm.com](http://www.turtlelanemaplefarm.com) for hours, directions and information.

### **Maple Days at Old Sturbridge Village**

Sat and Sun March 10,11, 9:30am-4 pm; Sat.& Sun., March 17,18,24, 25, 9:30am-5 pm. Included with Village admission: adults/\$20, children/\$6; under age 3 free. Learn about the role of maple sugar in the early New England household and when in history—and why—maple sugar was more common than maple syrup. Visit the outdoor sugar camp and see the tools and techniques in action. Be sure to visit the Freeman Farm where they will be using maple products to cook period foods. For information, [www.osv.org](http://www.osv.org)



### **Land's Sake Sugaring Off Festival, Weston**

Sun, March 24, 10am-2pm. Weston Middle School, 456 Wellesley Street, Weston. Land's Sake, the non-profit, organic educational farm sponsors a maple festival, with pancakes, syrup and boiling demonstrations. (Please note, this takes place at Weston Middle School, not Land's Sake Farm.) Call 781-893-1162, or [www.landssake.org](http://www.landssake.org).

### **March 29, 7:30-9:30pm Arlington Enrichment Collaborative Potty Training Seminar**

Arl. Enrichment Collaborative, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl., 1100 Mass Ave., Arl. Parents, grandparents, and caregivers are welcomed to this seminar led by Maureen Richichi, RN. \$15.00/person. **Limited to 15 participants.** To reserve a place, send payment by March 27 to: Maureen Igoe, Seminar Coordinator, 11 Water Street, Suite 2A, Arlington, MA 02476. Info: [maureen.e.igoe@ampf.com](mailto:maureen.e.igoe@ampf.com), 781-641-1414.

# Local Events & Activities

For even more resources refer to [www.arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](http://www.arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

## Arlington Venues

**Arlington Boys and Girls Club**, 60 Pond Lane, (Pleasant St. to Wellington St.). 781-648-1617. [www.abgclub.org](http://www.abgclub.org)

**Arlington Rec. Center & Veterans Memorial Rink**, 422 Summer St. (Rt. 2A). 781-316-3880.  
[http://www.town.arlington.ma.us/Public\\_Documents/ArlingtonMA\\_Recreation/index](http://www.town.arlington.ma.us/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_Recreation/index)

**Fidelity House**, 25 Medford St. 781-648-2005.  
[www.fidelityhouse.org](http://www.fidelityhouse.org)

**Fox branch library**, 175 Mass. Ave. (East Arlington, at Cleveland St.). 781-316-3198.  
<http://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](http://www.isismaternity.com)

**Regent Theatre**, 7 Medford St. 781-646-4849.  
[www.regenttheatre.com](http://www.regenttheatre.com)

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

## Special Events for Families

### Beauty and the Beast

Sun, March 4, 11 am. Lyric Stage Company 140 Clarendon St., Bos. Tickets \$8; under 2 free. Participatory theater for ages 2-8; not the Disney musical. 617-585-5678.

[www.lyricstage.com/Once\\_Upon\\_A\\_Time.htm](http://www.lyricstage.com/Once_Upon_A_Time.htm)

### Ralph's World

Sun, March 4, 10:30 am Somerville Theatre, 55 Davis Square, Som. Tickets \$16, reserved seating. 617-625-4088

[www.ralphsworld.com/shows.htm](http://www.ralphsworld.com/shows.htm) or [www.somervilletheatreonline.com/somerville/schedule/events.php](http://www.somervilletheatreonline.com/somerville/schedule/events.php)

### Junie B. Jones

Sun, March 4, 1 and 3 pm, Leventhal-Sidman JCC, 333 Nahanton St., Newton Center. \$9/member; \$10/non-member. A musical based on the June B. Jones storybooks. 617-558-6522.

[www.lsjcc.org/home/cultural\\_magic.html](http://www.lsjcc.org/home/cultural_magic.html)

### Build Some Fun

Sat., March 10, noon-4pm. Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston. Free with admission. A creative look at the world of engineering, with activities and stage shows featuring cast and characters from WGBH's "Curious George" "Fetch! With Ruff Ruffman" and "Design Squad." 617-723-2500.

[www.mos.org](http://www.mos.org)

### Stories with Joey Talbert

Sat., March 10, 10:30 am. Concord Youth Theatre, 358 Baker Ave., Concord. \$6. 45 minutes of seasonal stories. **Ages 3 and up.** 978-371-1482. [www.concordyouththeatre.org](http://www.concordyouththeatre.org)

### Schoolhouse Rock, Live

Fri, March 16&23, 7:30 pm; Sat. March 17&24, 2:30 pm; Sun. March 18&25, 2:30 pm. Concord Youth Theatre, location TBA. See [www.concordyouththeatre.org](http://www.concordyouththeatre.org) or call 978-371-1482. \$9-\$12. **For ages 4 and up.** A live revival of the '70s Saturday-morning cartoon.

### SteveSongs in concert

Sat, March 17, 10 am. Family concert to benefit the Lexington Preschool PTA Scholarship Fund. Lexington High School, 251 Waltham St. (use Worthen Rd. entrance) Featuring Steve's band and the Sillies. Tickets \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door, lap-sitting infants under 12-months are free. For advance tickets, [www.stevesongs.com](http://www.stevesongs.com) or 1-800-937-3397 (M-F 10am-6pm). Tickets will also be available at Catch a Falling Star and Michelson's in Lexington Center and Belmont Toys in Belmont Center. Cash or check only. If not previously sold out, tickets will be available at the high school on the day of the show.

### New England Flower Show

Sat, March 17-Sun, March 25. Bayside Exposition Center, Bos. **Plantapalooza: Children's Festival and Educators Night**, Fri, March 23. Animal visitors, hands-on crafts and gardening activities, music and storytelling. \$20/adults; \$10/child. For hours and tickets, [www.massshort.org](http://www.massshort.org)

### Family Folk Chorale

Sat, March 18, 2-3:30 pm National Heritage Museum, 33 Marrett Rd., Rt. 2A, Lex. \$8/adult, \$6/child, members; \$10/adult, \$8/child, non-members. Enjoy a concert with the Boston area's premier intergenerational chorus, the Family Folk Chorale. 781-861-6559, [www.monh.org](http://www.monh.org)

### Dan Zanes & Friends

Sat, March 24, 11 am& 3pm; Sun, March 25, 11 am & 3 pm. Somerville Theatre., 55 Davis Square, Som. Tickets \$22, reserved seating. 617-625-4088.

[www.danzanes.com/pages/calender.php](http://www.danzanes.com/pages/calender.php)  
[www.somervilletheatreonline.com/somerville/schedule/events.php](http://www.somervilletheatreonline.com/somerville/schedule/events.php)

### Go Diego Go Live! The Great Jaguar Rescue

Sat, March 24, 11 am, 2&5 pm; Sun, March 25, 11 am, 2&5 pm. Boston Opera House, 539 Washington St., Boston. 1-800-MYSEATS.

[www.aceticket.com/venues/boston-opera-house-tickets.php](http://www.aceticket.com/venues/boston-opera-house-tickets.php)

### Harlem Globetrotters

Sat, March 25, 7:30 pm; Sun, March 25, 2 pm. TD Banknorth Garden, Bos. \$16.50 and up. (617) 931-2000.

[www.harlemglobetrotters.com/events/grid.asp?state=MA](http://www.harlemglobetrotters.com/events/grid.asp?state=MA)

### Salamander Celebration

Sun, March 25, 1:30-3:30 pm, Garden in the Woods, 180 Hemenway Rd, North Framingham. \$7/member; \$9/non-member. Learn about salamanders: Puppet show, slide program, walk to a vernal pool. Salamander craft and a life-cycle flip-book to take home. Advance registration required. 508-877-7630.

[www.newfs.org/courses/Child-Fam.html](http://www.newfs.org/courses/Child-Fam.html)

### Baby Loves Disco

Sun, March 25, 2-5 pm, Revolution Rock Bar, 200 High St., Boston.

[www.revolutionrockbar.com](http://www.revolutionrockbar.com) \$12 (non-walkers, free). Child-proof disco/dance party with "real" music by the legendary DJ kom. Healthy snacks by Wild Oats/bar available for mom & dad. Held last Sunday of the month. For tickets, [www.babylovesdisco.com](http://www.babylovesdisco.com)

### **Grand Tea**

Sun, March 25, 2-4 pm. Museum of Fine Arts, Huntington Ave., Boston. \$10/adult; \$5/child. Share the magic of the MFA with a child. Music, sandwiches and sweets. Reservations required, 617-369-3998 or e-mail [dkyle@mfa.org](mailto:dkyle@mfa.org). [www.mfa.org](http://www.mfa.org)

### **Big Apple Circus**

March 31-May 6, City Hall Plaza, Bos. \$15-\$60. A one-ring circus under the big top, featuring the one-of-a-kind Grandma the Clown. [www.bigapplecircus.org/TicketTourInfo/](http://www.bigapplecircus.org/TicketTourInfo/)

### **Woolapalooza**

Sat., March 31, 10am-3pm. Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary, 208 S. Great Rd, Lincoln. \$9/adults, \$7/children, members; \$12/adults, \$10/children, non-members. Under 3, free. Celebrate sheep! Visit the sheep-to-sweater interpretive trail. Border collie demonstrations. Food, activities. Rain or shine; non-refundable registration required. 781-259-2200, [www.massaudubon.org](http://www.massaudubon.org)

## **Sing-alongs & Music**

### **Mondays**

5 pm. Finagle a Bagel, 91 Middlesex Tpke., Burlington. Ed Morgan performs fun original and classic children's songs. Free. 781-273-6500, [www.finagleabagel.com](http://www.finagleabagel.com)

### **Tues, March 6, 13, 20, 27**

10 a.m. Robbins Library. **Babies to 36 months.** Join either Liz Buchanan or Sulinha for songs and singing games. As space is limited by size of room, numbers are given out on the day of the program beginning at 9 a.m.

### **Thu, March 1**

10 am, Fox Library, **Infants and Preschoolers.** Songs and singing games with Sulinha.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fri. of the month**

10am Calvary United Methodist Church, 300 Mass Ave, Arl. Sing-along with Diane Taraz. \$1. 781-648-3719, [www.dianetaraz.com](http://www.dianetaraz.com)

### **Saturdays**

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

## **Storytimes & Library Programs**

### **Robbins Library/Toddlers**

Mon., March 5, 12, 19, 26. 10:30am **18 months-2 ½ years** with an adult. Stories, rhymes, fingerplays followed by play & simple craft. Drop-in.

### **Robbins Library/Preschoolers**

Mon., March 5, 12, 18, 26. 11 am. Stories and fingerplays, followed by a craft. Drop-in.

### **Fox Library/Lap-sit**

Tues., March 20, 27 10:30 am **For infants to age 2.** Brief stories, songs, games and play.

### **Robbins Library/3-5 year olds**

Wed., March 14, 21, 28. 10:30 am. Longer stories, rhymes, fingerplays and craft.

### **Fox Library/2 and up**

Thu, March 8, 15, 22, 29. 10:30 am. Winter story times, followed by a craft. Drop-in.

### **Celebrate Dr. Seuss' Birthday**

Thu, March 1, Fox Library. Dr. Seuss Craft, 10:30-11:30; Dr. Seuss Party, 3:30-4:30  
Fri, March 2, 3:30-4:30 pm. Robbins Library. Dr. Seuss party. All ages. Drop-in.

### **Mrs. Treasure's Story Time**

Wed, March 7, 10:30 am, Robbins Library. Lee Drescher invites children ages 3-5 to explore picture books through dance, drama and song, followed by a craft. Drop in.

### **Barefoot Books**

Fri. & Sat. 10:30 am. **Ages 1 & up.** 1771 Mass. Ave., Camb. A fun hour of age-appropriate stories. Coloring and refreshments. Free. 617-349-1610, [www.barefootbooks.com](http://www.barefootbooks.com)

### **Barnes & Noble**

98 Middlesex Tpke., Burlington. Pre-schoolers – Tues. at 10:30 am Pajamarama – Fri. at 7pm Free. 781-273-3871.

### **Concord Museum Story Hour**

Fri., March 9, 1 pm. Concord Museum, 200 Lexington Rd., Conc., **3-5 years;** adult/child program, \$5/pair, members, \$8/pair, non-members. Story (this month, "Little Blue and Little Yellow") activity, snack. Registration required. 978-369-9763. [www.concordmuseum.org](http://www.concordmuseum.org)

### **Harvard Coop**

Tues. & Sat., 11 am 1400 Mass. Ave., Camb. Preschool story hour with snack and craft. Free. 617-499-2000, <http://harvard.bkstore.com>

### **Henry Bear's Park**

Thurs. 11 am. **Ages 3-6.** Free. 685 Mass. Ave., Arl. 781-646-9400 and 361 Huron Ave., Camb. 617-547-8424, [www.henrybear.com](http://www.henrybear.com)

### **Mornings at the Museum**

Thu, March 8, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, National Heritage Museum, 33 Marrett Rd., Rt. 2A, Lex. **Ages 4 and under.** \$3/child, member; \$5/child, non-member. We'll read "Pooh's First Clock" and "Hickory Dickory Dock," followed by a timepiece-making craft. 781-861-6559, [www.monh.org](http://www.monh.org)

### **Porter Square Books**

Wed., 11 am Porter Sq. Shopping Ctr., Camb. Free. 617-491-2220, [www.portersquarebooks.com](http://www.portersquarebooks.com)

### **Pottery Barn Kids**

Tues., 10 am Check store for details. Free. Burlington Mall. 781-221-5833.

### **Winterfun at Bedford Farms, Concord**

Tues, 3:30-4:30 pm. 80 Thoreau St., Concord. Free. Drop-in story and arts & crafts for toddlers and preschoolers. Each week will have a different theme. 978-341-0000. [www.bedfordfarmsicecream.com](http://www.bedfordfarmsicecream.com) or [bedfordfarms@comcast.net](mailto:bedfordfarms@comcast.net)

## **Other Arlington Fun Stuff**

### **Arl. Boys & Girls Club**

March 6-May 29. Tues., 10:30-11:15 a.m. Parent & Tot Drop-in Swim, \$4/child (membership required). Fri, 5:30 – 6:15 p.m., drop-in Family Swim free for members. Also offers variety of programs for ages 6 mo. & up. \$20/annual child membership, plus fee for programs. [www.abgclub.org](http://www.abgclub.org)

### **Arlington Center for the Arts**

41 Foster St., Arl. Preschool, homeschool, and after-school classes for ages 5 & up. Jewelry-making, drama & improv, drawing, painting, songwriting, pottery, cartooning, more. 781-648-6220, [www.acarts.org](http://www.acarts.org)

### **Arlington Rec. Dept.**

Offers a number of programs for children: skating, indoor gym playtime, cooking classes, arts & crafts, gymnastics, sports. [www.town.Arlington.ma.us/Public\\_Document/s/ArlingtonMA\\_Recreation/index](http://www.town.Arlington.ma.us/Public_Document/s/ArlingtonMA_Recreation/index)

### **Artbeat Weekend Workshops**

212-A Mass Ave., Arl. Saturday drop-in program from 3-6pm. Different themed craft each week, focusing on world cultures. \$10-20/ project. Ages 4 & up. **March 3, Metallic Foil Eggs; March 10, Beaded Egg Magnets; March 17, Paper Pattern Eggs; March 24, Funny Bunnies; March 31, Painted Egg Candles.** 781-646-2200, [www.artbeatonline.com](http://www.artbeatonline.com)

### **Capitol Theater Movies for caregivers with babies**

Mon., new movie chosen weekly starting between 1-2pm. \$4.50/ adult. Nursing, bottle feeding, fussing, changing diapers are never frowned upon. 204 Mass Ave., Arl. 781-648-6022. [www.somervilletheatreonline.com](http://www.somervilletheatreonline.com)

### **Fidelity House**

Offers many programs for young children, including a tot playgroup (drop-in or class) Fridays at 9:30 a.m. or 10:30 a.m., \$5 drop-in, \$20/session. Also, pre-school sports, and gymnastics. No membership required for children up through kindergarten. Fees may apply for each class. [www.fidelityhouse.org](http://www.fidelityhouse.org)

### **Isis Maternity**

Programs and products for expecting parents, babies and toddlers. Infant CPR training. AFC membership discount; 1<sup>st</sup> month free. [www.isismaternity.com](http://www.isismaternity.com)

### **Kindermusik**

Music and movement classes for parents and children ages 0-7. Refer to Website for class locations. 800-628-5687, [www.kindermusik.com](http://www.kindermusik.com)

### **MOMfitters**

March 8-April 12. MOMswim 9:45am – 10:30am Arl. Boys & Girls Club. For moms and babies 4 months to 24 months. \$60 for Boys & Girls members; \$75 for non-members.

Register: <http://www.abgclub.org/>

### **MommaStroll**

Thursdays 8:30-9:30am. Meet other moms for brisk walking, simple stretching. Sign-in at Isis Maternity at 8:15am. \$4.50/ members; \$5/non-members. [www.isismaternity.com](http://www.isismaternity.com)

### **Music Together**

Explore what music sounds like, looks like and feels like. 10-week classes for child and caregivers. 781-648-4084, [www.musictogetherofarlington.com/](http://www.musictogetherofarlington.com/)

### **Parent and Tot Connection**

Fridays, 9:30-11 a.m. Arl. Boys & Girls Club. Drop-in playgroup for toddlers and preschoolers with caregiver. Play, crafts, stories, music. Free. [www.abgclub.org](http://www.abgclub.org)

### **UPDATED! Public Skating**

Until March 16, Veterans Memorial Rink, Fri.: 11am-1pm, 2:45-4:45pm, 7-9pm; Sat.: 4-6pm; Sun.: 9:30-11:30am, 2-4pm. \$3/child under 16, \$6/adult. Additional skating March Tues, 20, 22, 27, & 29, 2:30-3:50pm; \$1.50/child; \$3/adults. *Please note:* Skating with crates *no longer allowed* Fri. mornings. 781-316-3880,

[www.town.arlington.ma.us/Public\\_Documents/ArlingtonMA\\_Recreation/rink](http://www.town.arlington.ma.us/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_Recreation/rink).

### **Puddlestompers Playgroup**

Tues. 10:30am-12:30pm. Drop-in pre-school playgroup. Occasional field trips, meets outside at playgrounds. Meets in the Fox Library in inclement weather (\$1/family donation requested). Susan, 781-641-3792 or [sedorson@yahoo.com](mailto:sedorson@yahoo.com).

### **Regent Theatre Family Fun Shows**

[www.regenttheatre.com](http://www.regenttheatre.com)

**Sat., March 3, 10:30 am, Vanessa Trien and the Jumping Monkeys**, \$7/adult; \$5/child. Children's songwriter, musician and educator. [www.vanessatrien.com](http://www.vanessatrien.com) (presented in part by AFC).

**Fri, March 9, 7 pm & Sat. March 10, 10:30 am, Peter Pan.** Presented by Bishop School Cooperative Theater; adapted by Liz Buchanan. Performed by Bishop School 3-5 graders. Tickets \$10. To order, [www.bishoptheater.com](http://www.bishoptheater.com) or 781-325-2085.

**Fri, March 16, 7 pm; Sat. March 17, 10:30 am & 7 pm; Sun, March 18, 2pm, Into the Woods Junior.** Presented by Arlington Children's Theatre. Check with Regent for ticket information.

**Sat., March 24, 10:30 am & 1 pm: Billy Jonas**, \$12/adults; \$10/kids. Inactive performance of voice, guitar and 'industrial re-percussion' - instruments made from found and foraged objects.

**Sat., March 31, 10:30 am. The Jim Show.** \$7/adults; \$5/kids. Armed with nothing more than a trunk full of props, a quick, dry wit, and

a mysterious, "cat-like" agility, Jim bounds to the stage and begins his show. He performs amazing feats of skill, thrives on audience interaction, and enjoys accepting challenges. He runs, he jumps, he dances and sings! (Actually, Jim doesn't do any singing.) When attempting the impossible, things can go wrong, and in The Jim Show, they often do; yet Jim displays an intriguing self confidence and "stick-to-it" attitude that keeps audiences glued to every performance. People love to watch Jim accomplish his seemingly unachievable tasks. The show is guaranteed to amaze and amuse. [www.thejimshow.com](http://www.thejimshow.com)

### **Toddlers and Twos**

Wed. & Fri. 9:30-11 am., through May 4. Gibbs Gym, Tufts St. Arl. Indoor gym time for ages 15 mos-3 yrs. with parent. Drop-in for \$5/visit or purchase a punch ticket at Arl. Rec Office (422 Summer St.) for \$45/10 visits.

### **Together in Motion**

Together in Motion, 1 Broadway, E. Arl. Newly opened, drop-in play space with 3 areas for: crawlers, open play; organized game. Ages 0-6. **Weekdays, Drop-In Motion & More, 1:30-5pm. Weds. 9:30am-noon. Sat&Sun, 9-11 am.** \$7/ages 1-6; \$5, 6-12 mos; under 6 mos, free with playing sibling. 781-643-1377. [www.togetherinmotion.com](http://www.togetherinmotion.com)

## **Indoor Play Spaces**

### **Bedford Family Connection Playroom**

Mon. – Fri. 9:30-11:30am. First Parish Church, 75 Great Rd., Bedford. Members: \$.50/ child; non-memb.: \$2/child. 781-275-5231, <http://mywebpages.comcast.net/rlcww/BFC.htm>

### **Belmont KidSpace**

Mon & Thu., 1-5pm, Fri. 5-8pm, Sat. 9am-noon; 2nd, 3rd, 4th Sunday of the month, 2-5pm. Payson Park Church, 365 Belmont St., Bel. Parent-run cooperative for ages 5 and under. Membership, \$45/family/season. Single first-time visit, \$10. Donna Ruvolo, 617-489-5446; [www.belmontkidspace.org](http://www.belmontkidspace.org).

### **Gymnastics Academy of Boston**

Open Gym Mon.-Fri. 11:30am -1 pm; drop-in and explore. \$5/member; \$8/non-memb. 617-441-9700, [www.gymnasticacademy.com](http://www.gymnasticacademy.com)

### **UPDATED! LPPTA WinterFun**

Lexington Preschool PTA's drop-in arts and crafts program for ages 5 and under. Alternate Weds. during the school year, 9:30-11 am, Bowman School cafeteria, 9 Philip Rd., Lex. \$2/child. **March 14, St. Patty's Day; March 28, Spring Fling; April 11, Patriots Day.** Wendy Bertsekas, 781-862-1298, [wkbert@mac.com](mailto:wkbert@mac.com). [www.lppta.org](http://www.lppta.org).

### **Winterpark**

Fri, 9:30-11 am; Waldorf School, 739 Mass Ave., Lex.; ages 0-3. Drop-in parent/child playgroup. \$5-\$10 donation. 781-863-1062. [www.thewaldorfschool.org/home/home.asp](http://www.thewaldorfschool.org/home/home.asp)

### **Winchester Rec. Playtime**

Thu, 9:30-11 am. Mystic School, 263 Main St., Win. 9 mos-4 years. \$5/family. Drop-in playtime, games & toys provided. 781-721-7125.

### **TumbleKids Open Gym**

Fri. 12:30-2pm, Winchester & Waltham locations. \$10/child. Classes also offered for add'l fee. 201 Arl. St., Watertown, 617-926-2640 and 38 River St., Winchester, 781-721-1144. [www.tumblekidsusa.com/](http://www.tumblekidsusa.com/)

### **Kids Playground**

15 Normac Rd, Woburn. Indoor playground with play space, tubes & tunnels, mini golf. 781-935-2300, [www.kidsplayground.com](http://www.kidsplayground.com)

### **Perpetual Motion**

345 Chelmsford St., Lowell. (Off Rt. 3). Indoor playground for kids 6 & under. 978-452-0777, [www.perpetualmotioninc.com](http://www.perpetualmotioninc.com)

## **Beyond Arlington**

### **Puppet Showplace Theatre**

Sat. & Sun., 1 & 3pm shows; Wed. & Thurs. 10:30am show. 32 Station St., Brookline. Recommended for age 3 & up. Age appropriateness varies per show. \$7.50/ members, \$9.50/non-members. 617-731-6400, [www.puppetshowplace.org](http://www.puppetshowplace.org)

### **Babes in the Woods**

Tues. 10am. Middlesex Fells. Strolls & hikes through the park. Free. 781-396-8994, [www.fells.org](http://www.fells.org)

### **Home Depot Kid's Workshop**

First Sat. of the month. 10am-12pm. Home Depot, 10 1<sup>st</sup> Ave., Waltham. Drop-in build-it-yourself project. Ages 2 & up, with an adult. 781-672-0900.

### **Play Academy**

25 Riverside Ave., Medford. Offers classes for infants to age 5; drop-off program. 781-738-PLAY, [www.play-academy.com/](http://www.play-academy.com/)

### **Pre-school movies**

Tuesdays, 10:30am. Cary Mem. Library, 1874 Mass. Ave., Lex. Drop-in movies for ages 2-6. Free. 781-862-6288, [www.carylrary.org](http://www.carylrary.org)

## **Local Attractions**

### **Boston Children's Museum**

**Closed through spring 2007 for renovation/expansion.** 300 Congress St., Boston. Open daily. Hands-on approach to history, science, etc.; toddler PlaySpace. [www.bostonkids.org](http://www.bostonkids.org).

### **Children's Discovery Museum**

177 Main St., Acton. Victorian house with transformed into 10 hands-on exhibit areas. Ages 6 & under. Check Website for special programs. \$8, Free/under 1. 978-264-4200, [www.discoverymuseums.org](http://www.discoverymuseums.org)

### **Concord Museum**

200 Lexington Rd, Concord. Open daily. \$8/adults, children under 6 free. Historical, literary, artistic treasures of the area. Monthly storytimes and children's programs. (978) 369-9763. [www.concordmuseum.org](http://www.concordmuseum.org)

### **Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary**

208 S. Great Rd, Lincoln. Explore the fields, forest and farmyard. Weekly programs for kids. Closed non-holiday Mon. Members free, \$6/Non-memb. adult, \$4/Non-memb. ages 3-12. 781-259-2200, [www.massaudubon.org](http://www.massaudubon.org)

### **Ecotarium**

222 Harrington Way, Worcester. Monthly family preschool programs. Members free, \$8/Non-member adult, \$6/Non-member ages 3-18. Explorer Express Train ride, \$2.50/person. 508-929-2700, [www.ecotarium.org](http://www.ecotarium.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. 617-489-5050, [www.massaudubon.org](http://www.massaudubon.org)

### **Harvard Museum of Natural History**

26 Oxford St, Cambridge. Wide array of stuffed animals in the mammal exhibit. 40ft dinosaur replica. \$7.50/adult, \$5/ages 3-18. *Free 3-5pm Weds. from Sept. -May and every Sun. 9am-noon.* "Saturday Scholars" programs for ages 4-5, w/adult; and grades K and up. Advance registration necessary. 617-495-3045, [www.hmn.harvard.edu](http://www.hmn.harvard.edu)

### **Institute of Contemporary Art**

100 Northern Ave., Boston. Free Family Fun Playdates, last Saturday of every month, 10 am-4 pm. March 31, "Sightseeing at the ICA." Program and admission free to adults accompanied by child 12 and under. 617-478-3234. [www.icaboston.org](http://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, 11 am-4 pm. 617-267-9300. [www.mfa.org](http://www.mfa.org)

### **Museum of Science**

Science Park, Boston. Open daily. Hands-on Discovery Zone, with Children's Gallery for those 5 and under. 617-723-2500. [www.mos.org](http://www.mos.org)

### **National Heritage Museum**

33 Marrett Rd., Rt. 2A, Lex. Great monthly programs including storytimes with crafts. 781-861-6559, [www.monh.org](http://www.monh.org)

### **New England Aquarium**

Central Wharf, Boston. Open daily Aqua Kids Family Days for young children on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays; various Preschool Explorer programs. 617-973-5200. [www.neaq.org](http://www.neaq.org)

### **Stone Zoo**

149 Pond St., Stoneham. Small zoo, with a petting barnyard, playground, lots of animal exhibits. \$7.50/Adult, \$4.50/Ages 2-12. 781-438-5100, [www.zoonewengland.com](http://www.zoonewengland.com)

### **Take a Walk at Gore Place**

52 Gore St., Waltham. Mon - Fri, 9am to 3pm; Sat. March 3, 10, 17, 24, 11 am-2pm. Visit llama, sheep, goats, chickens, rabbits. Rent an "activity pack" with activities appropriate for children ages 4-9. Children's snowshoes available for rental when weather permits. Backpack rental, \$5. 781-894-2798 [www.goreplace.org](http://www.goreplace.org)

## **Seminars & Open Houses**

### **Effective Parenting**

Groups forming now. Workshop designed for parents of children 0-3. Explore different parenting topics each week. \$140/person, \$180/couple. Melissa Lucius, 781-641-4284, [parenting@rcn.com](mailto:parenting@rcn.com) or [www.effective-parenting.org](http://www.effective-parenting.org)

## **Benefits**

### **Mothers of Twins Spring Sale**

Sat., March 31, 10am-1pm. Winchester High School, 80 Skillings Rd., Win. \$1; under 14 free. Bargains on gently used clothes, toys, baby/child equipment. Cash only. [www.mmota.org/events.htm](http://www.mmota.org/events.htm)

### **PTO Thrift Shop for Arl. Public Schools**

Wed. 4-8 p.m., Thurs. 9:30 a.m. -1 p.m., 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of the month 12:30-5 p.m. Basement of the Fox Library. Gently-used clothing for all ages, toys, books, housewares, more. 781-483-3433, [www.ptothriftshop.com](http://www.ptothriftshop.com)

## **Groups**

### **40-something Moms Group**

For moms of babies and/or young kids (moms-to-be welcome). Led by a licensed therapist with a specialty in women's issues, and an older mom herself. Meets monthly in North Cambridge. \$25/meeting. Suzan Wolpow, 617-441-0758 or [yourclearvoice@msn.com](mailto:yourclearvoice@msn.com)

### **Arl. Area Adoption Moms**

Thu, March 15, 7:30 pm, Open to all adoptive mothers in Arlington and nearby communities. Location TBA. Contact Rachel Silverman, 781-641-2947, [rachelannathome@yahoo.com](mailto:rachelannathome@yahoo.com).

### **New Mothers' Group**

Tues. 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Sunrise Senior Living, 24 Mall Road, Burl. Sponsored by the Parent Connection of BIDMC. Free. 8 week sessions. 617-667-2229.

### **Belmont Food Allergy & Asthma Support Group**

Parents group meets monthly to discuss and advocate for children living with food allergies

and asthma. Theresa Normile, 617-489-6668, [Tnormile@foodallergyfacts.com](mailto:Tnormile@foodallergyfacts.com)

### **Breastfeeding Drop-in Group**

Thurs. 1pm. Isis Maternity, Free. For nursing moms and babies. Staffed by certified lactation consultant. [www.isismaternity.com](http://www.isismaternity.com)

### **Drop-in Playgroups**

Non-mobile babies - Thurs., 3:30pm  
Mobile babies - Weds, 3:30pm  
Isis Maternity, Free for Isis members, \$5/non-members. [www.isismaternity.com](http://www.isismaternity.com) (Please note, new days; same times.)

### **Grandparents' Support Group**

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

### **La Leche League**

An int'l, nonprofit, org. dedicated to providing education, info. and support to breastfeeding women. Arl. meetings at Fox Library at 7:30 p.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues. of ea. month. One morning meeting is held in Camb. on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs. of the month at 10 a.m., 175 Harvey St., Cambridge. Free. Heather 781-648-2988, <http://home.comcast.net/~jrsladkey/lll/index.html> For listing of Mass. Leagues, [www.llusa.org/MARIVT/Massachusetts.html](http://www.llusa.org/MARIVT/Massachusetts.html)

### **Learn & Play Adoption Group**

1<sup>st</sup> Wed. of month, 10-11:30am. Sept.-June. Community Agencies Bldg., Emerson Hosp., 111 Old Rd. to 9 Acre Corner, Concord. For parents and adopted children 0 - 5 yrs. Facilitated by First Connections. Registration requested. \$30. 978-287-0221, [www.jri.org/cfys/](http://www.jri.org/cfys/)

### **New Moms Group**

Wednesdays, 11am. Beaver Brook Pediatrics, 411 Waverly Oaks Rd., Waltham. Free sessions run for 5 weeks. 781-891-3706.

### **New Mothers' Drop-in Group**

Fri. 10-11:30am, Calvary United Methodist Church, 300 Mass Ave., Arl. Free, nonsectarian, facilitated group. Sponsored by Jewish Family & Children's Svcs. 617-558-1278.

### **Older First-Time Moms**

Third Wed. of ea. month, 7 p.m. Fox Library. Social and support group for first-time moms in their late 30's and 40's. Free. \$1 donation suggested. 781-674-2029.

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

**March, 2007**

## AFC Membership/Renewal Form

**New member**  **Renewal** Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

**Newsletter Delivery Preference:**

US Mail  Email  Both

**Would you like to get occasional AFC email?**

Yes  No, please send the newsletter only

**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

**Volunteer and Activity 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Would you like to be contacted about volunteering?**

Yes  No

**Membership Fees:** All memberships renew in September, 2007.

Please 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