



Arlington Family Connection

supporting children six and under and those who care for them

Volume VII, Issue 2 • May, 2008

www.arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

April Food Pantry Drive a Success

Arlington Family Connection held its second annual food drive for the Arlington Food Pantry during the month of April. We are pleased to announce it was a huge success. AFC collected canned goods and other food and toiletry items at every AFC event, and rounded out the month with a tour of the Food Pantry for children and a special sing-along led by Jeanne Marie Hobbie. As of April 30, AFC families had donated enough food to feed three families for a month. AFC would like to thank its membership as well as Isis Maternity, Together in Motion and the Arlington Enrichment Collaborative for joining the Food Pantry Drive.



Permanent Food Donation Locations

You can continue to donate to the Arlington Food Pantry throughout the year at one of the permanent collection boxes at the following locations: **Johnny's Foodmaster** (808 Mass. Ave.); **Cambridge Savings Bank** locations (188, 626, or 1300 Mass. Ave.); **Arlington Boys & Girls Club** (60 Pond Lane); **Arlington Food Pantry** (21 Marathon Street).

Help Make "Kindergarten Connections"!

Volunteers needed for Hardy, Brackett, and Thompson!

Would you like your kindergartner-to-be to see lots of familiar faces on the first day of school this fall? Would you like to meet other parents in your school district? Do you have an hour or two to plan some events? Then please volunteer as a Kindergarten Connections contact person for your school!

AFC's Kindergarten Connections program gives incoming kindergartners and their families a chance to meet during the summer. We are looking for volunteers from each school to schedule activities (playground outings, potluck dinners, etc.) for June-August and send the information to the KC coordinator, who will publish it to the Arlington community. Your name and contact information will be published in the AFC newsletter and e-bulletin.



We need one or two volunteers for Hardy. The Brackett and Thompson volunteers would each appreciate one more helper. We'd also love to have volunteers from private schools and from the homeschooling community. We have contacts established for Bishop, Dallin, Peirce, and Stratton, and those folks are making event plans—watch the newsletter and e-bulletin for announcements.

To volunteer, contact Susan Goetcheus at kinderconnect@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org or 781-643-0215.

Save the Date!

Sunday, June 22, 5pm
LeLacheur Park, Lowell

AFC Outing:

Lowell Spinners Baseball

Bring the family to see this Class-A Boston Red Sox affiliate (www.lowellspinners.com). \$6.50/ticket. **RSVP by May 31.**
Eileen 617-620-1772, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC Volunteers

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

Kelly Chiu is volunteering with AFC as co-chair of the membership committee. She takes over that role from **Molly Sanford**. Thank you so much, Molly, for all your hard work and good cheer. Kelly and her husband Jeff, have lived in Arlington Heights for almost 5 years. She works part time as a pediatrician and has a 2-year-old daughter, Clara. They have been AFC members since Clara was born, and enjoy what a great resource AFC is.

Catherine Hoffman, currently AFC's co-treasurer, has also volunteered to take over newsletter mailing duties from **Carrie Murphy**. Many thanks to Carrie for sticking all those stamps and labels, and getting the newsletters into the mail each month.

Laura Muller has volunteered as a host for AFC Playtime. She and her family moved to Arlington from North Carolina in 2007 where she worked as a clinical pharmacist prior to daughter Ava's birth. Laura is grateful for AFC's many resources, which have helped her to not feel so isolated as a newcomer to Arlington.

Cristina Garcia Lopez is another new volunteer host for AFC Playtime. Originally from Spain, Cristina married her husband A.T., a long-time college friend from MIT, in 2004, and moved to Arlington Heights in 2006 with her daughter Bunmi. She is an economist and a licensed translator and has been a stay-at-home since her daughter was born.

Elena Adamo has also volunteered as a host for AFC Playtime. Originally from Argentina, Elena and her husband moved to the Boston area in 2003 for post-graduate studies. Since October, 2006, they have lived in Arlington Center. With their two boys (Mathias, 22 months, and Franco, 3 months) they enjoy all the activities that Arlington offers for families and especially for children.

Open Volunteer Positions

Volunteering with AFC is a great way to meet new people and try fun activities in the area. AFC currently needs:

Outings Committee

Do you like to explore new places with your kids? Then we need you! We are currently seeking someone to coordinate and run AFC outings. Responsibilities include:

- Plan monthly outings (coordinate group discounts, tours, special visits if necessary), with other coordinator

- Write description of outing for AFC newsletter
 - Submit AFC Events page to newsletter each month
- Coordinating outings is very easy and fun! a) pick a place you would like to visit with your kids; b) invite AFC to come along; c) have fun and meet lots of AFC members.

For more info, call or email Amy at 781-646-5417, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Newsletter Co-Editor

Join the newsletter team and help keep the rest of the membership up-to-date on the latest events in and around Arlington. Work with a fabulous co-editor to write and edit articles and announcements; lay out pages in Word; and send the newsletter to the printer. Time commitment is about 4-6 hours per month. Please call Carrie at 781-646-4474 or email newsletter@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org if you are interested or want more information.

AFC Directory

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

AFC Playtime - Glendalys Ghandi
playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Book Group - Wendy Paramore
bookgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Community Service - Lauren Boyle
community@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

e-Bulletin - Marion Goodwin
bulletinboard@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Kindergarten Connections - Susan Goetcheus
kinderconnect@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

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

Newsletter Editors - Carrie Finison and Jessie Keating
newsletter@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

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

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

Outings - Eileen Coleman, Amy Speare, and Martina Vanha
outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Treasurers - Catherine Hoffman and Mimi Wan
treasurer@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Web Site - Seth Maislin
webmaster@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Working Moms - Su Joun and Mimi Wan
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 in Action

April Highlights

AFC Craft Time



Food Pantry Tour



May AFC Events

AFC Playtime! Mon., May 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, May 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. Tuesday, May 6

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

AFC Craft Time Wednesday, May 7

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

AFC Playground Fun Wednesday, May 14

3:30-5pm. (Rain date May 21). Menotomy Rocks Park Playground. Come meet other AFC families in this ongoing series of monthly playground fun! Eileen, 617-620-1772, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org



AFC Book Group Monday, May 19

7:30pm. Arl. Enrichment Collaborative, 2nd Fl., 1100 Mass. Ave. Join AFC's new book group! This month's title is *The Things between Us*, by Lee Montgomery. Come even if you don't have the chance to read the book. Wendy, 781-777-2706, bookgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC Outing: Puddlestompers Nature Exploration Class Tuesday, May 20

10am. (Rain date May 27). Great Meadows, Arl. Come explore nature and the outdoors during this private Puddlestompers Nature class just for AFC. The hour program will include an opening and closing circle, exploration and a craft. \$5/child. Ages 2 & up (babies welcome in backpacks). Space is limited, RSVP required. Amy 781-646-5417, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org



Working Moms Group Wednesday, May 21

7:30pm. Arl. Enrichment Collaborative, 2 Fl., 1100 Mass. Ave. Did you know that over 40% of AFC mom's are juggling both careers and families? Get together with other working moms! This is for ALL working mothers - both new and experienced! Please RSVP to workingmoms@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC Outing: Whipple Hill Nature Walk Thursday, May 29

4pm. (Rain date May 15). Whipple Hill Conservation Area, Winchester Dr. (across from Berkshire Dr.), Lexington. Explore this beautiful wooded area - swing on the giant rope swing and look for birds, frogs and ducks. Note: trails are not stroller friendly. Amy, 781-646-5417, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org



AFC Outing: Lowell Spinners Baseball Save the Date! Sunday, June 22

5pm. LeLacheur Park, Lowell. Bring the family to see this Class-A Boston Red Sox affiliate (<http://www.lowellspinners.com>). \$6.50/ticket. **RSVP by May 31.** Eileen 617-620-1772, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Local Events & Activities – May

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_Recreation/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

Reservoir Tags on Sale Now

Any Arlington resident who purchases his/her tags prior to May 16th will receive \$10 off the spring or summer recreation program of their choice. Program registration must occur at the same time as the tag purchase and all purchases must be made at the Recreation Office, located at 422 Summer Street
Office Hours: M-F 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
www.arlingtonma.gov

Bringing Up Baby

Fri. May 2, 4-6pm, Drumlin Farm, 208 South Great Rd. Lincoln. Come hang out with newborn lambs, piglets, and newly hatched caterpillars and chicks. \$10/members, \$12/non-members, under 3 yrs. free, Info: 781-259-2200 or
www.drumlinfarm@massaudubon.org

Night at the Museum

Fri. May 2, 5-8pm, Harvard Museum of Natural History, 26 Oxford St. Cambridge, Explore the galleries and have fun with hands-on activities, live animals, and interactive displays. Free. Info: 617-495-3045

Birds and Bards Festival

May 2-4, various outdoor locations & times, Explore birds and poetry in nature in over 1,000 acres of green space at the end of Boston's Emerald Necklace, includes children's activities, bring a picnic to enjoy between events. Free, Info:
www.birdsandbardsfestival

Big Apple Circus

Sat. March 29-Sun. May 4, Boston City Hall Plaza, Boston, Come see clowns, animals, acrobats, & more! www.bigapplecircus.org

Cambridge Science Festival

April 26-May 4, Nine days of science-themed activities for all ages going on throughout Cambridge. INFO:
www.cambridgesciencefestival.org

May Fair

Sun. May 4, 12-8pm, Harvard Square, Cambridge, Vendors selling food, artwork,

jewelry, clothing, etc. chalk on the walk, and more! Info: www.harvardsquare.com

Sunday Stories at the Fogg Art Museum

May 4, 11, & 18, 1:30pm, Fogg Art Museum, 32 Quincy St. Cambridge, Calderwood Courtyard, Ages 5-8 yrs. Free with admission, children under 18yrs. free & Cambridge Public Library card holders free, Info: 617-495-9400

Make Way for Ducklings Day

Thurs. May 8, 10am, 460 Main St. Watertown, Look for ducklings, geese, and turtles down by the Charles River. Feed the ducks and have a picnic. Have fun dressing in yellow (like a duck) too! Free, **Rain date:** May 15, Info: 617-926-1661

Alice in Wonderland

Fri. May 9 & 16, 7:30pm, Sat. May 10 & 17, 4pm, Sun. May 18, 2:30pm, Location TBA, \$12/reserved seating, \$9/general seating, Info: www.concordyouththeatre.org

Coloricocola: Interactive Family Concert

Sat. May 10, 1-3pm, 66 Marlborough St. Boston, Interactive story-telling concert that blends musical influences from all over the planet to create a show that entertains, engages, and teaches children to treasure the world's diversity, all ages show, \$8/French Library members, \$12/nonmembers, under 5yrs. free, Info: 617-912-0400

Mother's Day Tea & Tour

Sun. Ma 11, 1-3pm & 2-4pm, Concord Museum, 200 Lexington Rd. Concord, Bring your daughter, mother, grandmother or whole family to enjoy a special tour focusing on accomplished women in Concord's history followed by afternoon tea & sweets. Reservations required, \$15/members, \$20/nonmembers, Info: 978-369-9763 or www.concordmuseum.org

Ducklings Day Parade

Sun. May 11, 12pm, Boston Common (base of Shaw Memorial, below State House) Boston, Retrace the steps of Mr. & Mrs. Mallard (from Make Way for Ducklings) and their eight ducklings dressed as one of your favorite characters from the book. Pre-register online

or beginning at 10am at the site that day, \$25/family includes snacks, entertainment, and a toy for each child, Info:

www.friendsofthepublicgarden.org

Bishop School Spring Fair & Yard Sale

Sat. May 17, 10-3pm, Bishop School, 25 Columbia Rd. Arl. Enjoy moonwalks, pony rides, mazes, tractor rides, games, face painting, raffles, plant sale, bake sale, fair food, and more! Free entry, games, rides, and food cost extra \$, **Rain date:** Sun. May 18, 10-3pm, Info: 781-646-1000

Once Upon a Time with Kidstock

140 Clarendon St. Boston, May 17, 18, 31, & June 1, 11am, **Swampelot** All ages, \$8/person, children under 3yrs. Free 617-585-5678 or www.lyricstage.com.

Earthfest

Sat. May 24, Hatch Shell, Boston, 92.9 FM hosts an afternoon of music & entertainment that also serves as a showcase for environmentally friendly activities & products. Free, time and other info: www.earthfest.com

Playtime Theatre

May 3, **Robin Hood**
May 10, **Wizard of Oz**
May 17, **Thumbelina**
May 24, **12 Dancing Princesses**
May 31, **Just So Stones**

All shows at 10:30am, Harvey Wheeler Community Center, 1276 Main St. W. Concord, These classic fairy tales are given a twist when the audience is strongly encouraged to participate. All ages, \$5/person, no advance ticket sales.
www.concordyouththeatre.org

BosTix Junior

Bring your child to the theater to see family friendly plays and musical productions. 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

Sing-alongs & Music

Spanish Learning by Singing

Learn Spanish by singing about everyday events. Info: 617-852-9687 or www.singalingo.googlepages.com/home2.

Singalingo with Pina Madera

Pina conducts class mostly in Spanish. The language is simple and relevant. Instructors are native speakers so that young people can learn from authentic voices. Info: www.singalingo.com or 617-852-9687.

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

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

Spanish Sing Along Classes

Offered by Luna Canta, this program uses music and dance to introduce little ones to the Spanish language. Class meets at First Church of Cambridge, 11 Garden St. Info: 781-646-4634 or www.LunaCanta.com

Storytimes and Library Programs

Celebrate Spring, Caterpillars, & author Eric Carle

Tuesdays, May 6 & 13, 4pm, Robins Library, Students in Kindergarten-Grade 3 can sign up for a two part workshop to make their own colorful Very Hungry Caterpillar. Info: 781-316-3234 or www.robbinslibrary.org

Spanish Story Time

Sat. May 10, 9:15am, Robbins Library, Sing songs, listen to stories, learn new words & make new friends. Songs in Spanish with translation, All ages, Drop-in, Info: 781-316-3234 or www.robbinslibrary.org

Baby Brunch

Sat. May 10, 11am, Robins Library, All babies born from Sept. 2007-May 2008 are invited to a bagel brunch, meet friends and get a free book. Please sign up. Info: 781-316-3234 or www.robbinslibrary.org

Mr. Badger and the Fairies

Weds. May 7, 4pm, Fox library, Enjoy this mysterious and delightful puppet show. Ages 4yrs. and up, Tickets available May 6, Info: 781-316-3198 or www.robbinslibrary.org

A Visit with Lucy the Dog

Weds. May 21, 6:30pm, Fox Library, Lucy returns with a volunteer from Massachusetts Pet Partners who will read a dog story. Lucy will then "read" to you. Children will receive a paw stamp and bookmark. Please sign up. Info: 781-316-3198 or www.robbinslibrary.org

Drop-in Storytime at Robbins

Toddlers (18 months-2.5 yrs.) Mondays, 10:30am, May 5, 12, & 19 Stories, rhymes, fingerplays and a simple craft
Preschoolers (2.5 yrs. and up) Mondays, 11am, May 5, 12, & 19 Longer stories followed by a craft

3-5 Year Olds

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

Sing-a-long at Robbins

Tuesdays, 10am, May 6, 13, & 20 Ages: 0-36 months, Space is limited so numbers are given out the day of the program beginning at 9am. Info: 781-316-3234 or www.robbinslibrary.org

1st Thursday of the Month Singalong at Fox

May 1 (& Tues. May 27!) 10am, Fox Library, Join Sulinha for singing, dancing, and fun! Info: 781-316-3198

Drop-In Storytime at Fox

Tuesdays, May 6, 13, & 20
Ages 2-3yr. 10am
Ages 4-5yrs. 10:30am
Stories and fingerplays followed by a craft
Info: 781-316-3198 or www.robbinslibrary.org

Tuesday

Barnes & Noble

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

Harvard Coop

11am, 1400Mass. Ave. Camb. Preschool story hour with snack & 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

Mornings at the Museum

Thurs. May 15, 10:30am, National Heritage Museum, 33 Marrett Rd. Lex. Enjoy a story and a related craft. \$3/child (members) \$5/child (nonmembers) Info: 781-861-6559 or www.monh.org

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

May 9, 1pm, 200 Lexington Rd., Concord. For ages 3-5 years; adult/child program. \$5/pair, members, \$8/pair, nonmembers. This month's story: "Workshop" by Andrew Clements. 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

Batting Cages Open

Rent a cage for \$45/hour at the Arl. Sports Center/Veteran's Memorial Rink, 422 Summer St. Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9-9pm, and by appt. on weekends. Call 781-316-3880 or David Cunningham for appt. at 781-316-3882 www.arlingtonma.gov

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, spring classes for children and a **Parent and Child Drop-in Swim** (until June 3) Tuesdays, 10:30- 11:15am, \$4/child, Info: www.abgclub.org

Arlington Center for the Arts

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

Arlington Recreation Dept.

Offers many fun, spring 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+
May 3, **Cinco de Mayo Tin Art**
May 10, **Flower Bouquet for Mom, FREE**
May 17, **Silk Mandalas**
May 24, **Peace Lanterns**
May 31, **Poetry for Painting Exchange**
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. May 3. **Cinderella**, \$10/adults, \$8/kids & seniors 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. Info: 781-648-2005 or www.FidelityHouse.org.

Isis Maternity

Programs & products for expecting & new parents. *AFC member discount-1st month free*,

Drop-in Playgroups:

Non-mobile babies Thurs. 1:45pm, Mobile babies Fri. 3:30 pm, Free for members, \$5 for non-members. Info: www.isismaternity.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-11:30am, 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-12:30pm; Sat&Sun, 9-11am. \$7/ages 1-6; \$5, 6-12 mos; under 6 mos, free with playing sibling. Fall classes include: **Matial Arts Sampler, Creative Movement, Creative Art Class (2-3yrs. & 3-5yrs.) and Movin' & Groovin'**, Info: 781-643-1377 or www.togetherinmotion.com

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. 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

LPPTA Drop-In Center

Fridays, 9:30-11:30am, Kennedy Hall in St. Brigid's School at St. Brigid's Church in Lex. (use Worthen Rd. entrance) This indoor playspace is for 0-5yr olds and their parents/caregivers to play, relax, and socialize. \$1/child. Info: www.lppta.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

Fridays, 1-2:30pm, Waldorf School, 739 Mass. Ave. Lex. (check in at the office for new room location) Drop-in, indoor playspace for toddlers and preschoolers, Requested donation of \$5. or \$10/family. Info: 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. **New separate play area for 5yrs+** 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.carylrary.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.

Butterfly Place

120 Tyngsboro Rd., Westford. Open daily 10am-5pm. Large, warm atrium with some 500 butterflies representing species from all over the world. \$9.50/adult, \$6.50/child 3-12, under 2 free. Info: 978-392-0955, www.butterflyplace-ma.com

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.

NEW! Chip-In Farm

201 Hartwell Rd, Bedford. Open daily 10am-6pm. Small family -owned farm with free petting zoo. Store with fresh eggs and produce. Info: 781-275-2545 or www.chip-infarm.org.

NEW! Codman Community Farm

58 Codman Rd, Lincoln. Open Tues-Sun 9am-6pm. \$1.50/person. Non-profit, histori working farm that produces hay, meat, eggs and other products. Get close to the animals and learn about agriculture. Also offers children gardening class. Info: 781-259-0456 or www.codmanfarm.org.

Concord Museum

200 Lexington Rd, Concord. Open daily, Mon-Sat 9-5pm Sun 12-5pm, Historical, literary, artistic treasures of the area. Monthly storytime and children's programs, \$8/adults, children under 6 free., Info: 978- 369-9763 or www.concordmuseum.org.

NEW! Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary

208 S. Great Rd., Lincoln. Explore the fields, forest and farmyard. Weekly programs for

kids. 9am-5pm, closed non-holiday Mondays. \$6/non-member adults, \$4/non-member ages 3-18. Info: 781-259-2200 or www.massaudubon.org.

Ecotarium

222 Harrington Way, Worcester. Open Tues-Sat 10am-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.

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. Monthly programs including storytimes with crafts. Free admission. Info: 781-861-6559 or www.monh.org.

New England Aquarium

Central Wharf, Boston. Daily 9am-6pm, Fri-Sun to 7pm. \$17.95/adult, \$9.95/children ages 3-11, free 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 weekdays 10am-5pm & weekends 10am-6pm, 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" for children ages 4-9. Backpack rental, \$5. Info: 781-894-2798 or www.goreplace.org.

Seminars and Open Houses

Parents' Workshop: Healthy Moms

May 4, 11am-noon, Stellabella Toys, 1360 Cambridge St. Inman Sq. Cambridge. This workshop focuses on the importance of mom staying healthy after giving birth. Topics include: ways to improve your health in the postpartum year and the ways in which mom's health influences her children. Free, Info: 617-491-6290 or www.stellabellatoys.com

Transitions for Children by Dr. Debbie

Weinstock-Savoy
Jun 10, 7-8:30pm at WarmLines, 225 Nevada Street, Newtonville. Transitions such as moving to a new neighborhood or town, changing child care programs, or starting school can be stressful for children. Examine children's reactions to transitions, and learn how adults can cope. WarmLines mem free, \$20 to general public. Register online at www.warmlines.org

Register NOW for Lesley Ellis Summer 2008!

Exciting programs for early childhood (ages 2.9 - 5) and elementary-age children (6-11). Weekly Sessions begin June 16. Visit www.leslevellis.org for a brochure and registration information.

Benefits

Lesley Ellis School

Gently Used Clothing Sale

Sat. May 3, 10am-1:30pm. 41 Foster St., Arlington. High quality brand name clothes from infant to size 8. Cash only. Info: 781-641-1346 or www.leslevellis.org.

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

Suzan Wolpow, a licensed therapist with a specialty in women's issues and an older mom herself, has started a new group. This monthly discussion & support group for moms of babies &/or young children meets on Mondays from 9:30-11am in North Cambridge \$25/meeting. Info: 617-441-0758 or www.yourclearvoice@msn.com

Arlington Area Adoption Moms

Contact Rachel Silverman for date and 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. Info: 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.

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. Meets Tues 10-11:30am at 1430 Main St, Waltham. Info: 781-693-5677 or eberne@jfcscoston.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.

Postpartum Adjustment Support Group

Fridays 1-2:30 in West Newton, Drop-in, Contact Haven Fyfe-Kiernan, MSW, LICSW to register (617-739-1022) or to discuss private therapy specializing in postpartum adjustment and parenting issues. Sponsored by Jewish Family & Children's Svcs.

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 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 Moms Group,

3rd Weds. of the month, 7:30 pm, Arlington Enrichment Collaborative, 1100 Mass. Ave - 2nd floor. Get together with other working moms - both new and experienced! Please RSVP to workingmoms@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

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

May, 2008

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