



Arlington Family Connection

supporting children six and under and those who care for them

Volume VII, Issue 7 • October, 2008

www.arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Thursday, October 2, 6:30-8pm
Stratton Elementary School
Childcare & Preschool
Options in Arlington
Open House

AFC's 7th annual Childcare and Preschool Options night will offer parents a chance to find out everything they need to know about Arlington's childcare options in one night. Many of the schools and centers offering childcare in Arlington will be available for questions.

In addition, the updated 2008 *Childcare and Preschool Options in Arlington* booklet will be available for purchase for \$8 during the open house. This booklet lists information on each licensed preschool, daycare, and family provider in Arlington, and also provides tips and considerations in choosing the right program for your child.

During the open house there will be a play area for children as well as light refreshments. Admission is free and open to all.

Contact options@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org with any questions.

Friday, Oct. 31, 4:00pm
Spy Pond Playground
AFC Halloween Parade

Bring your little tricksters dressed in costume to join in on this fun Halloween parade. Gather at Spy Pond Playground at 4:00 then march along Mass. Ave. and back again. Bring a drum or other instrument to help your child make the parade extra fun! Invite your friends with young kids to come along – all are welcome. Info: Lauren 781-777-4052 and

community@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org.



Wednesday, October 15, 7:30-9pm

Location TBA

AFC Team Night
Wine & Cheese Social

Each year, Arlington Family Connection offers a huge array of parties, outings, and social and charitable events to AFC member families and to the Arlington community. These events are entirely volunteer-run. Last year more than 80 dedicated members gave their time to make AFC the vibrant community asset that it is.

This year, we need more volunteers to step forward and help AFC offer these activities to the community. Whether you can give an hour a year, an hour a month, an hour a week, or an hour a day, your contribution will help keep AFC active and fun!

Please join us for an "AFC Team Night" wine and cheese social on October 15 to meet some current volunteers and to learn how you can join in. You don't need any special skills to volunteer – just a willingness to get involved. Here are some ideas for volunteer roles:

- Newsletter editor
- Outings leaders
- AFC Playtime weekly playgroup volunteer hosts
- Working Moms Group co-leader
- Monthly drop-in playgroup co-leader
- Web site editors
- Email communications to members
- E-bulletin editor
- "Invent your own" based on your interests and strengths

So whether you'd like to help plan a party, organize a seminar, lead a family outing, or just relax and chat with some other Arlington parents, please join us on October 15. New ideas are very welcome. Bring your thoughts about what AFC could do!

RSVP required: contact Amy at 781-646-5417 or info@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org.

Wednesday, October 15, 7:30pm
Location TBA
Working Mothers' Group

Over 40% of AFC moms are juggling both careers and families. Get together with other working moms—new and experienced—on the third Wednesday of every month. RSVP to workingmoms@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Big Bugs Invade Garden in the Woods

Excerpted from the Big Bugs press release.



Through October 31 get a bug's eye view of the world when you come nose to knee with an 18-foot, 1200-pound praying mantis and 12 other enormous and beautiful natural sculptures by New York artist David Rogers at Garden in the Woods in Framingham.

"Insects play a vital role in a garden, but are unnoticed, so I put them on such a large scale that you can't help but notice them," says David Rogers. Roger's popular exhibition is a smash hit across America, and returns to Garden in the Woods, by popular demand, for an exclusive New England showing. Big Bugs is the centerpiece for a delightful celebration of the Web of Life and the world of plant and insect relationships.

Bugmobile activity stations feature a different bug

each weekend. One Bugmobile offers a chance for personal encounters with live insects, facilitated by New England Wildflower Society staff, volunteers, and bug enthusiasts—you! The hands-on activities use magnifying glasses, bug boxes, and insect nets. Catch and release live bugs and enjoy new "bug facts" each weekend. Another Bugmobile offers craft activities related to the feature Bug of the Weekend.

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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

Clerk - Eileen Coleman

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Newsletter Editors - Grace Carpenter and Carrie Finison
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Outings - Eileen Coleman and Amy Speare
outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Treasurers - Catherine Hoffman and Mimi Wan
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Web Site - Seth Maislin
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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, 2008. 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

Save the Date!

See the insert page for a complete list of October AFC events. Mark your calendar for the upcoming event.

AFC's 4th Annual Tot Skating Party

**Veteran's Day, Tuesday, November 11,
1:30-2:50pm**

Veteran's Memorial Skating Rink, 422 Summer St., Arl. 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. Snacks, drinks, and tot skates provided. \$1/person. Ages 2-6. Amy, 781-646-5417, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC in Action

September Highlights

DeCordova Outing



Raspberry Picking



Town Day



October AFC Events

AFC's 7th Annual Childcare & Preschool Options Night	Thursday, Oct. 2
<p>6:30-8 pm. Stratton School, 180 Mountain Ave. Arl. A one-of-a-kind trade show to evaluate the diverse early childcare programs in Arlington. AFC's updated booklet of all Arlington providers will be for sale. Kristen 781-643-1184, options@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org</p>	
AFC Outing: Big Bugs at Garden in the Woods	Monday, Oct. 6
<p>10am. Garden in the Woods, 180 Hemenway Rd., Framingham. Join us to track down 13 enormous insects and spiders in the beautiful Garden in the Woods. \$5/child, adults free. RSVP to Eileen, 617-620-1772, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org</p>	
AFC Drop-in Playgroup	Tuesday, Oct. 7
<p>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. Ages 0-4. Free. Sandra 781-859-5050, playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org</p>	
AFC Planning Meeting	Wednesday, Oct. 8
<p>7:30pm. All members, feedback and ideas welcome! For location, contact Amy, 781-646-5417, info@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org</p>	
Working Moms Group	Wednesday, Oct. 15
<p>7:30pm. Location TBA. Meets the 3rd Wed. of the month. Over 40% of AFC mom's are juggling both careers and families. Get together with other working moms - new and experienced! RSVP to workingmoms@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org</p>	
AFC Team Night Wine & Cheese Social	Wed., Oct. 15
<p>7:30pm. Join us for a wine and cheese social to meet current AFC volunteers and learn how you can join in to keep AFC the vibrant and valuable community resource that it is. No special skills are required – just a willingness to get involved and tell us what you think AFC could do! RSVP to Amy, 781-646-5417, info@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org</p>	
AFC Outing: Mt. Gilboa Nature Walk	Thursday, Oct. 16
<p>3pm. (Rain date Oct. 23). Crescent Hill Ave. Arl. Come on a nature scavenger hunt and observe the changing seasons at this local treasure. Amy 781-646-5417, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org</p>	
Regent Theater Family Fun Series with Cats Pajamas	Sunday, Oct. 19
<p>11am. Regent Theater, 7 Medford St., Arl. The Cat's Pajamas makes very cool music for kids with dance, puppets, props and costumes and a great band backing their signature 3-part harmony. Special AFC discount: \$6/child; \$8/adult. Mention AFC when purchasing tickets. 781-646-4849, http://www.regenttheatre.com</p>	
AFC Book Group	Monday, Oct. 27
<p>7:30pm. Starbucks (327 Broadway, Arl Ctr.). Meets the last Monday of the month. Contact Wendy for this month's title. Come even if you don't have the chance to read the book. Wendy, 781-777-2706, bookgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org</p>	
Halloween Parade	Friday, Oct. 31
<p>4pm. Spy Pond Playground. Bring your little tricksters dressed in costume to join in on this fun Halloween parade. We'll march along Mass. Ave. and back again. Bring a musical instrument to help your child make the parade extra fun! Invite your friends with young kids to come along – all are welcome! Lauren 781-777-4052, community@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org</p>	

Please Note! AFC Playtime, our very popular drop-in playgroup that meets weekly on Monday mornings, is in the process of moving to a new space and we hope will resume in November. Watch the newsletter and your email for updates. Please feel free to contact Glendalys at playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org or at 781-316-8676 with questions.

Spooky (and Not-So-Spooky) Halloween Treats for Little Tricksters

Halloween is a special and exciting time for little ones, and worth celebrating on more than one occasion. And when you have invested \$20 or more in a costume, it's nice to get some extra fun out of it. In addition to AFC's **Halloween Parade on October 31** (see page 1 for details), below is a list of Halloween-related events in or near Arlington that are geared toward the small set.

Artbeat: Halloween Crafts **Daily throughout October**

212A Mass. Ave, Arlington

Come to one of Artbeat's special Saturday workshops, or drop in any time to make a Halloween craft in the studio. (Best for ages 4 and up). Saturday workshops are 3-6pm. Check website or call for regular store hours. Saturday workshops include:

Oct. 4: Make Your Own Monster

Oct. 11: Spider Art

Oct. 18: Heads Will Roll!

Oct. 25: Spooky Night Candle

Info: 781-646-2200,

www.artbeatonline.com.



Wilson Farms: Haunted Hayrides

Oct. 4 – Oct 31

Weekends & Columbus Day: 10:30 – 4:30pm

Mondays & Fridays: 3:00 – 4:45pm

Thursdays: 12:30 – 4:45pm

Halloween Day: 3:00 – 4:30pm

10 Pleasant St., Lexington

Spooky (not scary) fun for the whole family.

Info: 781-862-3900, www.wilsonfarm.com

Arlington Boys and Girls Club: Fall Family Festival

Oct. 18, 1-3pm

60 Pond Lane, Arlington

Bring the whole family and enjoy face painting, pumpkin painting, music, moon bounces, and light refreshments. Info: 781-648-1617. www.abgclub.org.

Stone Zoo: Boo at the Zoo

Oct. 18 & 19, 11-3pm

149 Pond St., Stoneham

For a howling good time this Halloween, gather up all of the little "monsters" and head to Boo at the Zoo. Thrills, chills and animals lurk around every corner on the trick-or-treat trail, while Radio Disney gets everyone in the mood to dance and have fun at the main stage. The festivities also include creepy crafts as well as howling and costume contests. Don't forget to stop by the Haunted Maze for a close encounter of the creepy kind! Info: 781-438-5100 or www.zoonewengland.com

Regent Theater: A Haunted Fairy Tale

Oct. 23-24, 3pm & 7pm

Oct. 25-26, 10:30am, 1pm, 4pm, 7pm

7 Medford St., Arlington

To benefit Cradles To Crayons! Hosted by award-winning actress, Elaina Vratatos, as Witchy Wanda, this extraordinary,

professionally-produced Halloween event for families features a unique, seasonal take on classic fairy tale themes with singing, dancing, incredible costumes, tons of audience participation, and surprises galore! Information and ticket purchase visit: www.regenttheatre.com or call 781-646-4849.

Ecotarium: Great Pumpkin Fest

Sat. Oct. 25, 12-9pm

222 Harrington Way, Worcester

Looking for a fun Halloween festival that's not too scary for the kids? Don't miss the biggest Halloween celebration for families in Central Massachusetts – Great Pumpkin Fest on Saturday, October 25. From noon to 9 p.m. enjoy creative displays of hundreds of carved, lit pumpkins. Take a free hayride and a train ride, and enjoy a free digital planetarium show, games, animal encounters, kids' costume parades, crafts, pumpkin-carving demonstrations, Halloween story times, face painting, a magician, and much more festival fun. Info: 508-929-2700 or www.ecotarium.org.

Franklin Park Zoo: Zoo Howl

Oct. 25 & 26, 11-3pm

1 Franklin Park Rd., Dorchester

For thrills and chills this Halloween, gather up your little ghosts and goblins and head to Franklin Park Zoo's Zoo Howl for some frightful fun. The haunted happenings include creature encounters, creepy crafts, ghoulish games and a trick-or-treat trail. Radio Disney will spin spine-tingling tunes and host the howling and costume contests on the main stage. Be sure not to miss the haunted maze where spooky surprises lurk around every corner. Info: 617-541-5466 or www.zoonewengland.com.

Drumlin Farm: Tales of the Night

Oct 29 & 30, 6:30-8:30pm

208 S. Great Rd. (Rte. 117), Lincoln

Prowl the farm with curious creatures of the night on candlelit paths. Visit the ghoulish graveyard for witch's brew and spooky snacks. Enjoy a haunted hayride in the frightening fields or visit the creepy critter mansion. Dress in costume and bring a flashlight to light your way! Info and ticket purchase at 781-259-2206 or

www.massaudubon.org/Nature_Connection/Sanctuaries/Drumlin_Farm/news.php

Robbins Library: Ghostly Tales

October 30, 6:30-7:30

700 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington

Get ready for Halloween by listening to ghostly tales. Drop in.

Info: 781-316-3234. www.robbslibrary.org

Continued from page 2

Big Bugs

Upcoming weekend events include:

- Oct. 4-5 – **Assassin Bug Weekend**: Meet the “true bug” of the show
- Oct. 5 – **Student Art Show**: Bring or create your own artwork
- Oct. 18-19 – **Spider Weekend**: Make your own spider and web for low-key Halloween fun
- Oct. 25-26 – **Bye Bye Bugs Weekend**: Vote for your favorite bug!

The exhibit is free for members and children under 3, and \$8 for adults, \$6 for students with ID and seniors, and \$4 for youths 3-18. Web-of-Life Extravaganza events included FREE with admission unless otherwise noted. Visit the event website

www.newfs.org/visit/bigbugs for more information. You can also join the special Arlington Family Connection outing at a discounted admission price (see details below).

Monday, October 6, 10am
AFC Outing: Big Bugs at Garden in the Woods
180 Hemenway Rd., Framingham.

Join us to track down 13 enormous insects and spiders in the beautiful Garden in the Woods. \$5/child, adults free. RSVP to Eileen, 617-620-1772, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Local Events & Activities – October

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

Together in Motion, 1 Broadway, at Route 16. 781-643-1377.
www.togetherinmotion.com

Special Events for Families

Fall Fest at Drumlin Farm

Oct 4 & 5, 10am-4pm,
208 S. Great Rd. (Rte. 117), Lincoln. Pick your own produce, enjoy crafts from local artisans, listen to autumn stories, go on a hayride, meet the wildlife and listen to live bands both days from 11am-3pm.
\$10/adult, \$8/children, under 3 free. Info: 781-259-2206 or www.massaudubon.org.

Topsfield Fair

Oct 4-13, 10-10pm, Rt. 1, Topsfield
Activities include: Blacksmith, milking and wood carving demonstrations, chick hatching and miniature train exhibits, giant pumpkin contest winner, petting farm, Kiddy Korral, racing pigs, sand sculpture, live music, rodeo, honey bee house with live observation hives, and more. Weekday tickets \$10/adult, weekend tickets \$12/adult, children under 8 free. Parking

\$8. Info: 978-887-5000 or
www.topsfieldfair.org.

Honk Festival, Davis Square, Somerville
Oct. 10-12. A street party to celebrate with the community. Bands perform 12-9pm on Sat. and join the parade from Davis Square to Harvard Square on Sun. at 12pm. Info: www.honkfest.org

Family Fun Saturdays (and one Sunday)

Oct. 11 – Steve Songs
Oct. 18 – Vanessa Trien & Jumping Monkeys
Oct. 19 – The Cat’s Pajamas
Oct. 23-26 – A Haunted Fairy Tale
Nov 1 – Little Groove
For information on the individual shows, show times, ticket prices and purchase visit: www.regenttheatre.com or call 781-646-4849.

Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus

Oct. 8-13, TD Banknorth Garden, 100 Legends Way, Boston. **Bellobration Show**. Ticket prices vary. Info: 617-931-2000 or www.tdbanknorthgarden.com.

Fall Family Festival

Oct. 18, 1-3pm, Arlington Boys and Girls, 60 Pond Ln. Bring the whole family and enjoy face painting, pumpkin painting, music, moon bounces and light refreshments.

Annual Field Day

Sat. Oct. 18, 1-5pm, Robbins Farm Park, Eastern Ave. Arl. (across from the Brackett School) Activities and fun for the whole family, rain date: Oct. 14, Info: www.robbsfarmpark.org.

Newton Harvest Fair

Sun. Oct. 18, 10am-5pm, Oct. 19, 11-5pm, Newton Centre Common (Langley St. & Centre St.) Amusement rides, handmade &

internationals crafts, face painting, pumpkin decorating, children's activities, sand art, food, live music. Info: 617-796-1540.

Arlington Open Studios

Sat.-Sun. Oct. 18 & 19, 12-5pm, Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St. View art from 80 visual artists, see live music and dance. Info: 781-648-6220 or www.acarts.org.

Boo at the Zoo

Oct. 18 & 19, 11-3pm, The Stone Zoo, 149 Pond St. Stoneham, Go to the zoo to enjoy a trick-or-treat trail, creepy crafts, a haunted maze, and howling and costume contests hosted by Radio Disney. Info: 781-438-5100 or www.zoonewengland.com.

Davis Farmland Weekend Fun

145 Redstone Hill, Sterling
Oct. 4, World Animal Day with performances by Jackie Landry
Oct. 11 & 12, Kindermusik sing-a-long with Pam Espinosa,
Oct. 25 & 26, Halloween Costume Weekend
Oct. 18-26 Farm Open Sat & Sun. ONLY,
ALSO: **The MagaMaze is open**
Farm: 978-422-6666, Maze: 978-422-8888 or www.davisfarmland.com

Creepy Crafts

Oct. 25, 10am-12pm, Cary Library, 1874 Mass Ave, Lexington. Children off all ages are invited to make Halloween crafts of all kinds. Info: 781-862-6288 or www.caryllibrary.org

Zoo Howl

Oct. 25 & 26, 11-3pm, Franklin Park Zoo, 1 Franklin Park Rd. Dorchester, Haunted happenings include: creature encounters, creepy crafts, ghoulish games, a haunted maze, and a trick-or-treat trail. Radio Disney hosts howling and costume contests on the main stage while playing spooky tunes. Info: 617-541-5466 or www.zoonewengland.com.

Digging to America Cultural Festival

Oct. 25, at Town Hall. A family event for all ages. Doors open at 1:00 pm. Performances at 1:30 Aftab Persian Dance Group and Poetry and images of Iran, 2:30 Korean Dance School performance and 3:30 American folk songs. Food available at 3:00 pm. Crafts, displays, art and more throughout the afternoon.

Great Pumpkin Fest

Sat. Oct. 25, 12-9pm, Ecotarium, 222 Harrington Way, Worcester, train rides, costume parade, & games, \$14 non-

members, \$10 members, Info: 508-929-2700 or www.ecotarium.org.

Tales of the Night at Drumlin Farm

Oct 29 & 30, 6:30-8:30pm, 208 S. Great Rd. (Rte. 117), Lincoln. Prowl the farm with curious creatures of the night on candlelit paths. Visit the ghoulish graveyard for witch's brew and spooky snacks. Enjoy a haunted hayride in the frightening fields or visit the creepy critter mansion. Dress in costume and bring a flashlight to light your way! \$9/person, children under 3 free. Info and ticket purchase at 781-259-2206.

Big Bug Festival Weekends

Visit the NE Wild Flower Society Sat. and Sun. in Oct. for family fun, sculptures, Bugmobiles' crafts and hands-on bug experiences, Build-a-bug Park Grasshopper Jump competitions and bug construction, and Bug Activity Bags filled with binoculars, field guides, sketch pad, and scavenger hunt for children and families. Each weekend focuses on a different insect. \$4/children 3-18, \$8/adults. 180 Hemenway Road, Framingham, MA. Info: (508) 877-7630, www.newenglandwild.org.

Sing-alongs & Music

Monday

4:45pm. **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** (except holidays) 1967 Mass. Ave., Camb., Porter Sq. Free Sing along. Info: 617-864-6290.

1st and 3rd Friday of the month

10am, Calvary Church, 300 Mass. Ave. Join Diane Taraz for a fun sing-a-long, \$2/person, \$5/family, Info: www.dianetaraz.com

Thursday

11am. **Stellabella Toys** (except holidays) 1967 Mass. Ave., Camb., Porter Sq. Free Sing along. Info: 617-864-6290.

Saturday

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

Sunday

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

Story Times and Library Programs

ROBBINS LIBRARY:

Meet Winnie the Pooh Story Time
Weds. Oct. 15, 10:30am. Children ages 3-5yrs. can listen to stories and meet Winnie the Pooh. Bring your cameras. Tickets available beginning on day of program at 9am. Info: 781-316-3234 or www.robbinslibrary.org.

Ghostly Tales

Oct. 30, 6:30-7:30pm. Get ready for Halloween by listening to ghostly tales. Drop in.

English story time

Mon. Oct. 6, 20, 27 (drop in)
10:30 am for ages 18-30 months. Stories, rhymes and fingerplays for the first 15 minutes followed by a simple craft
11am for ages 2½ and up
Longer stories followed by a craft.
10:30am, Wed. Oct. 1, 8, 22, 29, for 3-5 year olds. Longer stories followed by a craft. Drop in.

Spanish story time

Sat. Oct 11 at 9:30am. Sing songs, listen to stories, learn new words and make new friends. Join Mike Beck for songs and stories in Spanish with translation. All ages. Drop in

Sing alongs for Infants and Toddlers

Tues. Oct 4, 14, 21, 28 at 10am. Space is limited; tickets are given out the day of the event beginning at 9am.

FOX LIBRARY:

Sing alongs

Thurs, Oct. 2, 10am, (the first Thursday of every month). Join Sulinha for singing dancing and fun.

Special Story Times with Bill Havnor

Tues. Oct 7, 14, 21, 28
10:00am for ages 2-3
10:30am for ages 4-5
Join Bill for old favorites, silly rhymes and more. Drop in.

Tuesday

Barnes & Noble for preschoolers
10:30am, 98 Middlesex Tpke., Burlington. Free. Info: 781-273-3871.

Harvard Coop for ages 2-4

11am, 1400Mass. Ave. Camb. Free, Info: 617-499-2000.

Pottery Barn Kids

10am, Burlington Mall. Free. Info: 781-221-5833

Wednesday

Porter Square Books

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

www.portersquarebooks.com

Thursday

Henry Bear's Park for ages 3-6
11am, 685 Mass. Ave. Arl. Free. Info:
781-646-9400 or www.henrybear.com
11am (call to confirm) 361 Huron Ave,
Camb. Free. Info: 617-547-8424 or
www.henrybear.com.

Friday

Barefoot Books for ages 1yr +
10:30am, 1771 Mass. Ave. Camb. A fun
hour of age- appropriate stories, coloring
and refreshments, Free. Info: 617-349-
1610 or www.barefootbooks.com.
Barnes & Noble for preschoolers
6:30pm, 98 Middlesex Tpke. Burlington,

Saturday

Barefoot Books for ages 1yr +
10:30am. 1771 Mass. Ave. Camb. A fun
hour of age- appropriate stories, coloring
and refreshments, Free. Info: 617-349-
1610, www.barefootbooks.com.
Barnes & Noble for preschoolers
11am , 98 Middlesex Tpke., Burlington.
Free. Info: 781-273-3871.
Harvard Coop for ages 2-4
11am, 1400 Mass. Ave. Camb. Preschool
story hour with snack and craft, Free, 617-
499-2000 or <http://harvardbkstore.com>.

Other Arlington Fun Stuff

Arlington Boys and Girls Club

Offers many fun, fall classes for children
and a
Parent and Child Drop-in Swim (Sept.
9-Nov. 25) Tuesdays at 10:30- 11:15,
\$5/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 Children's Theater

Register for fall workshops including
Musical Theater, Creative Movement and
Story Theater, all for ages 3-5. Other
classes for ages 6 and up offered as well.
Info and registration at 781-316-8090.

Arlington Recreation Dept.

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

Artbeat Weekend Workshops

Sat., 3-6pm, 212A Mass. Ave, Arl.
Free instruction, pay for materials, Ages
4yrs+
Oct. 4, Make Your Own Monster
Oct. 11, Spider Art
Oct. 18, Heads Will Roll!
Oct. 25, Spooky Night Candle
Info: 781-646-2200,
www.artbeatonline.com.

Capitol Theater Movies for Caregivers with Babies

Mon. 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.

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.5 or Nov. 7- Dec. 12)
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. 1:45-2:45pm,
Mobile babies Fri. 3:30-4:30 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

Toddlers and Twos

Every Weds. And 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. Kitchen area, bouncy house,
riding and climbing toys. New this year: a
music program with sing along and
instruments in the lower classroom on
Weds. and scheduled art project on Fri.
\$45/10 visit pass or \$5/drop-in/child. Info:
781-316-3880 or www.arlingtonma.gov

Together in Motion

Drop-in play space entirely padded with
soft play blocks, modules, balls etc. Mon-
Fri 2:30-5pm for ages 0-6. Tues 10am-
12:30pm for ages 0-24 months only.
\$7/ages 1-6; \$5, 6-12 mos; under 6 mos,
free with paying sibling. Group rates
offered for 8 or more children. Various
classes offered as well, see website for
more info. 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). Members 50 cents/child,
non-members \$2/child. Info: contact Niki
Curry at currymn@comcast.net or
www.kidsplaybedford.com.

Gymnastics Academy of Boston

Open gym Mon.-Fri. 11:30am-1pm. Drop-
in and explore. \$5/members, \$10/non-
members 128 Smith Place, Camb. Info:
617-441-9700 or
www.gymnasticacademyofboston.com.

TumbleKids Open Gym

Thurs. 10:30am-12pm, Fri. 12:30-2pm in
Winchester, only Fridays in Watertown.
\$10/child. Classes offered for an additional
fee. 38 River St., Winchester 781-721-
1144 and 201 Arl. St., Watertown, 617-
926-2640 or visit 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.

My Gym

362 Cambridge Rd, Woburn (in Whole
Foods/Toys R Us shopping center).
Indoor playspace for babies and toddlers.
Open gym: Tues. 11:45am-12:45pm, Wed.
3:30-4:30pm. Info: 781-376-9102 or
www.my-gym.com.

Beyond Arlington

Puppet Showplace Theatre

Shows on Sun. 1pm, Wed. & Thurs. at
10:30am and 1pm. 32 Station St.,
Brookline. Ages 3 and up. Age
appropriateness varies per show.
\$7.50/members, \$9.50/non-members.
Reservations recommended. 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

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 or
www.carylbrary.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

Codman Community Farm

58 Codman Rd, Lincoln. Open Tues-Sun, 9am-5 pm. Non-profit, historic working farm that produces hay, meat, eggs and other products. See the animals and learn about agriculture. Pick-and-pay flower garden. \$1.50/non-members. Info: 781-259-0456 or www.codmanfarm.org.

Chip-In Farm

201 Hartwell Rd, Bedford. Open daily, 10am-6 pm. Small family-owned farm with free petting zoo. Store with fresh eggs and penny-candy counter. Info: 781-275-2545 or www.chip-infarm.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. \$9, 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. \$10/adults, children under 6 free. Info: 978- 369-9763 or www.concordmuseum.org.

Davis Farmland

145 Redstone Hill, Sterling. **Until Oct. 12 Open Thurs.-Sun. ONLY, Oct. 18-26 Open Sat. & Sun. ONLY**, admission 9:30-4pm, farm closes at 5pm, weather permitting. Meet barnyard animals and learn how a farm works. \$13.95/ages 2 and up; free under 2, MegaMaze open Sat.& Sun. ONLY 10am-5pm 978-422-6666 or www.davisfarmland.com

Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary

208 S. Great Rd, Lincoln. Open daily 9am-5pm., closed non-holiday Mon. Explore the fields, forest and farmyard. Weekly programs for kids. Members free, \$6/Non-member adults, \$4/non-member ages 3-12. 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, \$.10/Non-member adult, \$8/Non-member ages 3-18. Explorer Express Train ride, \$2.50/person. Info: 508-929-2700 or www.ecotarium.org.

Garden in the Woods

Daily 9am-5pm, 180 Hemenway Rd, Framingham, Free parking, Tours included with admission (weekdays at 10am and weekends at 2pm) \$8/person, seniors & students \$6, children 6-18yrs \$4, members & children under 5 yrs. free 508-877-7630 or www.newenglandwild.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. \$9/adult, \$6/ages 3-18. Free for MA residents every Sun. 9am-noon, Wed. 3-5pm. 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, 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-5pm, Sat & Sun until 6pm. \$19.95/adult, \$11.95/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-5pm. Animals & birds, shows, kiddie rides, animal rides (ponies, camels, elephants). \$18.75/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-4pm, Small zoo, with a petting barnyard, playground and many animal exhibits. \$9/Adult, \$6/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, 10am-4pm; Sat 11-3pm. Visit llama, sheep, goats, chickens, rabbits. Rent an "activity pack" with activities appropriate for children ages 3-9yrs. Backpack rental, \$5. Special Concert Sept. 14. Info: 781-894-2798 or www.goreplace.org.

Seminars and Open Houses

Child Studies

Have you ever wondered what your infant is thinking when they meet a new person or play with a new toy? The Tufts University Emotion, Brain, and Behavior Lab is seeking subjects for studies whose goal is to gain new knowledge that will ultimately contribute to the healthy development of children of all ages. The lab is currently conducting research studies with infants between the ages of 3 to 7 months old. There are also ones for older children. If you are interested in participating call 617-627-3478 or email babylab@tufts.edu.

Lesley Ellis School Open House

Nov 1, 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.leslevellis.org.

Benefit

Little Fox Resale Shop

Open Tues & Thurs 9am-12pm, Wed. 2-8pm, on the upper level of the Fox Library. The shop will be closed Sept. 2, 3, 4. Benefiting the Fox Library, the shop includes toys, books, children's gear, the shop as well as maternity clothes, kids shoes, games, and sports equipment. Info: www.littlefoxshop.com.

Groups

40-something Mom's Group

Suzan Wolpaw, 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 Mon. from 9:30-11am in North Cambridge \$25/meeting. Info: 617-441-0758 or www.yourclearvoice@msn.com

AD/HD Support Group for Women

Session began in Sept, and meets Tues. 6-7:30pm twice a month in Lexington, cost is approx. \$50. Contact Heidi Lack, Ph.D., A.T.R.-BC, at 781-863-8696 for more info.

Arlington Area Adoption Moms

Contact Rachel Silverman for date and location info. 781-641-2947 or rachelannathome@yahoo.com

Baby Brunch at Fox Library

Thurs. Oct 16 at 10:00am. A chance for parents to bring along their little ones from newborn to age one, learn what the library has to offer and meet other people. Call Library at 781-316-3198 to sign up.

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.

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@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 Isaiah, 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 Wed. 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

Fri. 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 for ages 3-5

Learn from a native speaker by playing, making crafts and singing. No prior knowledge required. Playgroup began in Sept. and meets Tues, 2-4pm. \$16/class. Contact Regina Velasquez for info and sign up at: Letslearns spanish@live.com

Spanish Playgroup for ages 1-8

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 Moms Group,

3rd Wed. of the month, 7:30 pm, Arlington Location TBA. Get together with other working moms! This is for ALL working mothers - both new and experienced! Please RSVP to workingmoms@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

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

October, 2008

AFC Membership/Renewal Form

New member Renewal Date: _____
 Gift membership from: _____

Name(s): _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Email Address(es): _____

AFC newsletters are sent out via email. If you prefer to receive a printed newsletter, please email or call us with your request and we will be happy to mail it to you.

Would you like to receive occasional AFC email?
(e-bulletin, special event announcements, etc.)
 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

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, 2009 and begin September 1st for a flat \$20 per year.

Sponsor Member (\$25). Enjoy the usual membership benefits and make a donation to support new 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