



Arlington Family Connection

supporting children six and under and those who care for them

Volume VII, Issue 5 • August, 2008

www.arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

It's Membership Renewal Time!

August brings in the summer heat, and reminds us that its time again to renew your Arlington Family Connection membership. All memberships start fresh in September so please renew your membership now to make sure you don't miss a beat — or a newsletter!

Last year, we added a new “sponsor” level of membership and had an enthusiastic response from members. Many members contributed an extra \$5 along with their regular yearly membership fee of \$20 to help support new AFC programs. Please consider continuing your support and renewing this year as a sponsor member.

How to Renew

By Mail

Please fill out a membership form (we ask you to do this each year to ensure we have your correct information). The membership form is included with this newsletter, or you can print it out from the AFC website at: www.arlingtonfamilyconnection.org/membership

Mail the form, along with your check for \$20 (or \$25 for a sponsor membership) to:

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

In Person

You can renew in person at the Pizza Party on Saturday, August 23, or at Arlington's Town Day, Saturday, September 20, at the AFC booth.

Thank you for renewing your membership and continuing to support AFC. We wouldn't be able to provide resources for families in and around the Arlington community without your continued commitment as members. Enjoy the summer and we look forward to seeing many of you at the Pizza Party or at Town Day!

If you have any questions, please email membership@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org, or call Leah at 781-316-2848.

Saturday, August 23, 5:30-7:30pm Parallel Playground, Medford Street AFC's Annual Pizza Party!

Originally scheduled for July 26, AFC's annual Pizza Party was postponed and will now be held on August 23 from 5:30-7:30pm (rain date August 24).

AFC will provide FREE pizza and drinks, plus freeze pops, and watermelon...you bring picnic blankets and the kids! Please also invite family and friends — anyone interested in exploring what AFC has to offer. This is a good opportunity to join AFC or to renew memberships.

This year's pizza party will also feature a special thank you treat to recognize all the members who have volunteered their time in the last year.

Contact Lauren Boyle to RSVP (requested, not required) or to volunteer to help at lvarian@aim.com or 781-777-4052.



Kids having a blast at last year's Pizza Party.

September 20, 10am-3pm Mass Ave, Arlington Center Visit AFC on Town Day

Arlington's Town Day celebration is Saturday, September 20, from 10am-3pm in Arlington Center (rain date, September 27). Meet up with friends old and new at the AFC booth and take the opportunity to renew your membership and find out about upcoming events. Have fun decorating a colorful crown with your children.

Volunteer at the booth!

Volunteering at the AFC booth is a great way to meet members. If you can spare an hour (between 8:00 and 4:00) please contact Lauren Boyle at lvarian@aim.com or 781-777-4052.

Kindergarten Connections: August Events

AFC's Kindergarten Connections volunteers have scheduled lots of playdates for incoming kindergartners and their families to meet one another this summer! The following events are for children who will enter kindergarten in September.

Bishop

Sat. August 16, 11am-1pm, Bishop School playground. Come play some games! Bring sunscreen, a bag lunch, and a blanket. Rain date: Sun. August 17, 3-5pm.

Wed. August 20, 4-6pm, Robbins Farm Park.

Contact: Mary Ellen Aronow (maronow@hnr.com, 781-316-0218), Annette Donnelly (amdonnelly@verizon.net)

Brackett

Sat. August 2, 10am-12pm, Menotomy Rocks Park playground.

Sun. August 10, 3-5pm, Robbins Farm playground.

Contact: Dana Ansel (dana.ansel@gmail.com, 781-643-0159)

Dallin

Sun. August 3, 12-2pm, Dallin School field. Bring a blanket to sit on and a picnic lunch for yourselves. We'll supply Popsicles for everyone!

Mon. August 18, 5-7pm, Dallin School kindergarten playground.

Contact: Jenny Brown (jbrown68@yahoo.com), Deanna Cook (dee16cook@comcast.net), Janet Wilder (janetwilder@earthlink.net)

Hardy

Fri. August 22, 6:30-8pm, Spy Pond playground.

Contact: Jennifer and Dave Erbe (jenerbe@comcast.net)

Peirce

Thu. August 7, 9-11am, McClennen Park playground.

Rain date: Fri. Aug 8.

Sat. August 23, 9-11am, Peirce School lower playground. Rain date: Sun. Aug 24.

Tue. August 26, 5-7pm, McClennen Park playground. Bring a picnic! Rain date: Wed. Aug 27.

Contact: Susan Goetcheus (kinderconnect@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org, 781-643-0215), June Rutkowski (june.rutkowski@verizon.net)

Stratton

Sat. August 23, 10am-12pm, McClennen Park playground. Rain date: Sun. August 24.

Contact: Ann Pirone (781-646-2715, a_pirone@hotmail.com), Saskia Oosting (781.648.4504, soosting@yahoo.com)

Thompson

Tue. August 12, 3pm, Spray park at Thompson School.

Sat. August 23, 5pm, Thompson School playground. Picnic/Potluck: bring a dish to share and a blanket to sit on to meet some new friends and families. Rain date: Sun. August 24.

Contact: Alison Miller (alison.r.miller@comcast.net), Kathy O'Rourke (shawnandkathy@verizon.net)

For general information, contact Susan Goetcheus, kinderconnect@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

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 Kelly Chiu
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 and Amy Speare
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

July Highlights

Kindergarten Connections



Circus Smirkus Outing



August AFC Events

Please note that AFC Playtime, Craft time, the Working Mom's group, and the monthly drop-in playgroup at the Fox library are all on vacation for the month of August and will resume in September. Please look for updates in the newsletter and in the AFC e-bulletin.

AFC Steering Committee Mtg. Tuesday, August 5

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

AFC Outing: Monday, August 11 Thompson Spray Park

3:30-5pm (rain date August 14). Thompson Spray Park, Everett St., E. Arl. Come stay cool at this local spray park. Eileen, 617-620-1772, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Annual Pizza Party Saturday, August 23

5:30-7:30pm (rain date August 24). Parallel Playground, at the corner of Medford Street and Mystic Valley Parkway, near the Medford rotary Enjoy FREE pizza, drinks, watermelon, and freeze pops at this annual event. Meet other AFC families and renew memberships. This party is open to the public so please invite family, friends, new neighbors, or anyone else who is interested in learning more about AFC. RSVP is requested (not required) to get an approximate headcount for food; but please come even if you forget to RSVP! We also need several volunteers to help set up food and serve pizza; To RSVP or to volunteer, please contact Lauren Boyle at lvarian@aim.com or 781-777-4052.

AFC Book Group Monday, August 25

7:30pm. Starbucks (327 Broadway, Arl Ctr.). This month's book is *Divided Minds*, by Pamela Spiro Wagner and Carolyn S. Spiro. Come even if you don't have the chance to read the book. Wendy, 781-777-2706, bookgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Save the Date: Saturday, September 20 Arlington Town Day

10am-3pm. (rain date September 27) Mass Ave from Pleasant Street to Jason Street, Arlington Center. Come visit the AFC booth at Arlington's Town Day to meet fellow AFC members, renew your membership, and decorate a colorful crown with your children (free). Volunteers are needed to staff the booth. If you can spare an hour (between 8:00 and 4:00) please contact Lauren Boyle at lvarian@aim.com or 781-777-4052.

Save the Date: Thursday, October 2 Childcare and Preschool Options Open House

Mark your calendars for AFC's seventh annual open house night on Thursday, October 2, 2008. This special event allows parents and caregivers the opportunity to meet with representatives of the preschool and daycare facilities to learn more. Bring the kids and your questions and join us in October!

Volunteers Needed for Childcare and Preschool Options Open House

We are looking for several volunteers to help run the Options Night open house on October 2. If you'd like to be the first to get the inside scoop on all of Arlington's preschools and daycare centers, consider volunteering to help plan and run this very popular event.

Contact Kristen Strechay at options@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org or by phone at 781-643-1184 for information or to volunteer.



Hundreds of attendees packed Stratton school at the 2007 open house.

A Big Thank You to AFC's 2007-2008 Volunteers!

Arlington Family Connection is an all-volunteer organization. From the winter Beach Party to the summer Pizza Party, and every event, activity, and email in between, AFC relies on the energy, creativity, and commitment of its volunteers. Below is a list of people and organizations who volunteered with AFC in ways

large and small over the past year. (Our apologies if anyone was overlooked.) Volunteers, look for a special thank you gift at the Pizza Party on Saturday, August 23 at Parallel Playground (see page 1 for party details). If you can't make it to the party, you'll still be able to collect your gift. Thanks to all our volunteers for making this a great year for AFC!

*Aimee Linker
Alfonso Valesquez
Alison Miller
Amy Gortler
Amy Speare
Amy Yelin
Ann Pirone
Annette Donnelly
Ashley Waring
Ben Zwirn
Bobbi-Jo Frasca
Carolynn Vincent
Carrie Finison
Carrie Murphy
Catherine Hoffman
Colleen Love
Courtney Lauriat
Cristine Garcia Lopez
Cynthia Murray
Dan Bouchard
Dana Ansel
Danielle Sullivan
Dary Boa
Deanna Cook
Debbie Dominguez
Dianna Queheillalt
Eileen Coleman*

*Elena Adamo
Elizabeth Goodsell
Erik Kondo (Together in
Motion)
Erin Smith
Erin Taylor
Glenda Ciampa
Glendalys Gandhi
Helene Ragovin
Janet Wilder
Jayne Bryrne
Jeanne Marie Hobbie
Jennifer and Dave Erbe
Jennifer Cunningham
Jenny Brown
Jessie Keating
June Rutkowski
Kate Kapstad
Kate Nugent
Kathy O'Rourke
Katie Colello
Katy Vives
Kelly Chiu
Kelly McCollum
Kerri Anglin
Kim Holt (Arlington
Enrichment Collaborative)
Kirsty John Blyth*

*Kristen Strechay
Laura Muller
Lauren Boyle
Leah Nelson
Louise Messiqua Friel
Maf Terry
Margit Griffith
Marion Goodwin
Martina Vanha
Mary Ellen Aronow
Maureen Igoe
Melanie Cooke
Mimi Wan
Molly Sanford
Patty Chookhae-Kragh
Rebecca Arnold
Ruth Kirby
Ruth Schmidt
Sandra Mostajo
Sarah Albers
Sarah Hugenberger
Saskia Oosting
Seth Maislin
Su Joun
Sue Bavey
Susan Goetcheus
Wendy Paramore*

Local Events & Activities – August

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_Recration/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

Davis Farmland Weekend Fun

145 Redstone Hill, Sterling

Aug. 2 & 3- Davis Mega Maze Opens

Aug. 9 & 10- Guitar Music, puppets, magic tricks & more, **Aug. 23 & 24-** Rainforest Reptiles Return! **Aug. 30 & 31-** Clowns, balloon twisting, & magic, Farm: 978-422-6666 Maze: 978-422-8888 or www.davisfarmland.com

Kids Summer Music Series

Sun. Aug. 3 & 10, 4:30pm, (preshow activities begin at 4pm) Regattabar at the Charles Hotel, Cambridge, 1 Bennett St. Performances include: Debbie & Friends (3rd) and Michael & Marissa (10th) \$10/advance or \$12/at door, Info: 617-661-5000 or

http://www.regattabarjazz.com/special_events/
Grab supper at Henrietta's Table after the show and kids will receive a free ice-cream sandwich topped with a chocolate music note

Summer in the City

The Cambridge Arts Council presents a lively mix of dance, song, storytelling, theatre, and puppetry for children in Cambridge public parks. Free, All shows are at **11am** Refer to web site for locations. (Rain locations also provided) **Tues. Aug. 5-** Chu Ling Dance Academy, **Thurs. Aug. 7-** Art of Black Dance & Music, **Mon. Aug. 11-** Dan Butterworth Marionettes, **Tues. Aug. 12-** Culture for Kids Performance, Info: 617-349-4380 or http://www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/CAC/community_summer.html

Summer Carnival

Thurs. Aug. 7, 1:30-3pm, Sports Center, 422 Summer St. Arl. Games, prizes, refreshments, & fun! Tickets purchased at the door. Info: 781-316-3880

Animal Ambassadors

Mon. Aug. 11, 10am, Garden in the Woods, 180 Hemenway Rd. Framingham, Learn about and see some live rainforest reptiles up close! \$4/members, \$5/nonmembers, Info: 508-877-7630 or www.newenglandwild.org

Corn and Tomato Festival

Aug. 16 & 17, 12-4pm, Verrill Farm, 11 Wheeler Rd. Concord, Over 30 varieties of these vegetables, Tastings and samples of dishes prepared in the farmland kitchen, Entertainment will include: music by Monadnock Bluegrass, Giddy Up Ponies, Lil Folk farm petting area, & hayrides (\$1), \$8/person, Info: 978-369-4494 or www.verrillfarm.com

Jungle Encounters' Intro. to Wildlife Show Wed. Aug. 20, 11am, Cary Library, 1874 Mass. Ave. Lex. Ages: 3-5 yrs. Come and enjoy this fun and exciting show. Meet in the large meeting room, free tickets available beginning Aug. 11 at 7pm. Info: 781-862-6288 or www.caryllibrary.org

David Polansky in Concert

Thurs. Aug 21, 1:45pm, Winchester Library, 80 Washington St, Winch. 781-721-7171. Tues. Aug 23, 6:30pm Bedford Library, 7 Mudge Way, Bed. Info: 781-275-9440.

SteveSongs in Concert

Sat. Aug. 23, 10:30am, Regent Theatre, Come have fun with Steve & the Sensational Sillies! \$12.50/advance, \$15/door, Info: 781-646-4849 or www.regenttheatre.com

Cambridge Carnival

Sun. Aug. 24, Kendall Sq. Cambridge, A Caribbean-style carnival that includes wire-bending, costumes, masks, music, steelpan, street parades, dancing, food, & craft exhibits. Info: www.cambridgecarnival.org

Family Ice-Cream Social

Mon. Aug. 25, 3-4pm, on the lawn across Clarke St. Lex. **Rain location:** Cary Library meeting room, Info: 781-862-6288 or www.caryllibrary.org

BosTix Junior

Bring your child to the theater to see family friendly plays and musical productions. Info: www.BosTix.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.

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:

Family Picnic Concert Series

Bring a blanket and picnic and enjoy music on Robbins House Lawn behind Library.

Thurs. Aug. 7, 6-7:30pm, **Ben Rudnick and Friends** (rain date Aug. 14)

Tues. Aug. 12, 10am, **Liz Buchanan** (indoors if it rains)

Kidstock Presents:

The Emperor's New Kangaroo

Fri. Aug. 1, 2:30pm

Surfing Beauty

Fri. Aug 15, 2:30pm

Community Room. Experience the joy of live theater! Ages 3 and up. Tickets will be available one hour before the program.

Craft Time

Wed. Aug. 6, 13, 20 & 27 at 2-4pm, Children of all ages are invited to drop in at any time between 2:00 and 4:00 to make an animal craft.

3 Apples Storytelling Festival Preview

Thurs. Aug. 21, 6:00pm. Come and enjoy Jim LaChapelle's folk and fairy tales from around the world. For children PreK and up. Tickets are free and available one hour before program.

FOX LIBRARY:

Spanish Storytime

Wed. Aug. 6, 6pm. For all ages.

Family Movie Nights - Movies for all ages

Wed. Aug. 13, 6:30pm

Creature Teachers presents:

If I Ran the Rainforest with Richard Roth and live animals

Thurs. Aug 14, 10am

For ages 4 and up. Tickets available beginning at 9 am.

Family Game Nights

Wed. Aug. 20, 6:30pm. Drop in to play board games

Tuesday

Barnes & Noble for preschoolers

10:30am, 98 Middlesex Tpke., Burlington.

Free. Info: 781-273-3871.

Harvard Coop for ages 2-4

11am, 1400 Mass. 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

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 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

Sat., 3-6pm, 212A Mass. Ave, Arl.

Free instruction, pay for materials, Ages 4yrs+

Aug 2, **Metal Fish Mobile**

Aug 9, **Beaded CD Clock**

Aug 16, **Tabletop Castle**

Aug 23, **Monet Candle Holder**

Aug 30, **Seashell Mosaics** (bring your own seashells)

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. 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

Puddletompers Playgroup

This drop-in playgroup is for toddlers,

preschoolers, siblings and their caregivers.

Come make friends and have fun! Meeting

days, times, & locations are emailed to

participants. To be added to the group email

list contact Susan at 781-641-3792 or

sedorson@yahoo.com

Reservoir Beach until Aug 22

Lowell St, Arl. 10am-8pm daily (closing time

may change, call to confirm). Purchase

summer tags or daily passes on site. Info: 781-

316-3880 or visit www.arlingtonma.gov

Spray Pool

Lussiano park, Arl. next to the Thompson

School on North Union Street. 10am-7pm

daily, free. Info: 781-316-3880 or visit

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.

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 2-4pm and Fridays 4:30-

5:30pm at 2:15pm, Info: 617-789-3669 or

www.mygymboston.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

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 or

www.caryllibrary.org

Local Attractions

Boston Children's Museum

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

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.

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.

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 9-5pm, 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.

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.hmn.harvard.edu.

Institute of Contemporary Art

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

Museum of Fine Arts

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

Museum of Science

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

National Heritage Museum

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

New England Aquarium

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

Southwicks Zoo

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

Take a Walk at Gore Place

52 Gore St., Waltham, Mon-Fri, 10am- 3pm; Sat 11-3pm. Visit llama, sheep, goats, chickens, rabbits. Rent an "activity pack" with activities appropriate for children ages 3-9yrs. Backpack rental, \$5. Info: 781-894-2798 or www.goreplace.org.

Swan Boat Rides

Boston Public Garden, Open through Labor Day 10-5pm, after Labor Day 12-4pm and weekend hours 10-4pm. \$2.75/adults, ages 2-15yrs/\$1.50, seniors \$2. Info: 617-522-1966.

Verrill Farm

11 Wheeler Rd. Concord, 9am- 7pm daily, Info: 978-369-4494 or www.verrillfarm.com.

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. To participate call 617-627-3478 or email babylab@tufts.edu.

Benefit

Little Fox Resale Shop

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. Open Wed. 2-8pm on the upper level of the Fox Library.

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

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. 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@jfcscboston.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

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/.

Join Arlington Family Connection!

Arlington Family Connection is an organization whose mission is to support and enrich the lives of families in Arlington with children age 6 and under. With over 400 member families, AFC is an active, all-volunteer group that provides many benefits to families with young children including frequent outings, family parties, community service opportunities, and frequent updates via weekly emails and monthly newsletters about happenings in and around Arlington.

Membership is \$20 per year. All memberships renew in August. If you join at another time during the year, the membership fee is prorated. Please visit www.arlingtonfamilyconnection.org/membership to print out a membership form. For more information, email Leah Nelson at membership@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org or call 781-316-2848.

Arlington Family Connection**P.O. Box 150****Arlington, MA 02476****August, 2008**