



Arlington Family Connection

supporting children six and under and those who care for them

Volume VII, Issue 8 • November, 2008

www.arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Tuesday, Nov. 11 (Veterans Day)
1:30-2:50pm (drop in anytime)
Veterans Memorial Rink
422 Summer St., Arlington

AFC's 4th Annual Tot Ice Skating Party

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

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

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

Rent Tot Skates from AFC for the Winter!

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

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

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

- **End** of AFC Skating Party, Nov. 11, 1:30-2:50pm
- Thursday, Nov. 13, 6-8pm at 118 Ridge St.
- Saturday, Nov. 15, 3-5pm at 118 Ridge St.

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

The Impact of Question 1

by Amy Speare

Though many of us do not yet have children in the public schools, we will soon enough. And we all enjoy—or perhaps even take for granted—the safe community that we live in.

When we go to the polls on November 4, we'll be asked to vote yes or no on Question 1, the measure to eliminate the state income tax. If the initiative passes, state revenues could plunge by more than \$12.7 billion, amounting to a 40 percent cut in state revenue. The actual cut in aid to cities and towns will be even higher—60 percent on average—since the state still needs to pay debt services and other nondiscretionary expenses. A cut of that magnitude would have long-lasting negative impacts in all Massachusetts communities.

Though the exact impact to Arlington is unknown, it is highly likely that schools and public safety (two of the largest expenditure categories) will be hit hardest. And since the vast majority of these budgets are teachers, police, and firefighters, cuts there lead to reduced staffing for these critical resources.

What would happen if Question 1 passes?

- larger class sizes and school closings
- higher property taxes
- fewer emergency service personnel and longer 911 wait times
- unsafe bridges, more potholes, and cuts to public transit

I hope you'll join me in voting NO to preserve our children's quality of education and safety in Arlington.

Amy Speare is an AFC volunteer, mother of two, and a member of STAND for Children. She welcomes your feedback at info@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Preschool and Childcare Booklet for Sale

If you missed Options Night, you can still purchase AFC's 2008 *Preschool and Childcare Options in Arlington* booklet. The book contains a comprehensive list of licensed preschools and childcare facilities in Arlington along with useful information regarding tuition, student/teacher ratios, pickup/drop-off hours, and tips on what to look for, questions to ask when you visit centers, and more.

The book is an excellent resource to help you compare and determine which preschools will suit your schedule, budget, and the needs of your child. The 2008 *Preschool and Childcare Options in Arlington* booklet is on sale for \$8 at Isis Maternity (397 Mass Ave).

Info: options@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Wednesday, November 19, 4:30-6pm Fox Library Community Room 175 Mass Ave, East Arlington Puzzle Swap

Do you need to refresh your puzzle supply for the coming winter? Are your kids bored with their puzzles and ready for new ones? Is your child just beginning to do puzzles and you need to start your collection?

Arlington Family Connection and the Little Fox children's resale shop will be hosting a puzzle swap of children's puzzles on November 19 from 4:30-6:00p.m. to benefit the Fox library.

- Come with any number of puzzles, plus a \$3 donation to the library.
- Leave with any number of puzzles.
- Children's puzzles only please.
- All puzzles should be clean and complete with no missing pieces.
- Drop in anytime from 4:30-6:00pm. This event is open to the public.

Please come and take a few puzzles, even if you don't have puzzles to swap (suggestion: make a slightly larger donation to the library if you don't come with puzzles).

The puzzle swap will be held downstairs in the Fox library community room. The Fox library is open 1-9pm Weds. and the Little Fox resale shop (located at the back of the library) is open 2-8pm. Stop by before or after the puzzle swap to check out a book, or to browse the shop.

Info: outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org or call Carrie at 781-646-4474.

AFC Directory

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

AFC Playtime - Glendalys Ghandi
playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Book Group - Shannon LeMay-Finn
bookgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Clerk - Eileen Coleman

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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

Wednesday, November 12, 7:30 p.m. Starbucks, 327 Broadway, Arlington New AFC Book Group

We're forming a second book group! The first group has reached maximum capacity and is closed to new members. Join our new group on Wednesday, Nov. 12 at the Arlington Center Starbucks for a discussion of *The Emperor's Children*, by Claire Messud.

Info: Shannon LeMay-Finn at 781-777-2636 or
bookgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC Playtime Update

We're still finalizing a space for our Monday playgroup. We'll announce specifics via email, so stay tuned! Each week, two volunteers host the group. One as an "opener" (come early to get the toys out), and a second as a "closer" (read a story, put toys away). If you're interested in volunteering, contact Glendalys, 781-316-8676, playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC in Action

October Highlights



Big Bugs Outing



**Childcare and
Preschool
Options Night**

November AFC Events

Drop-in Playgroup

Tuesday, Nov. 4

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

Monthly Planning Meeting

Wednesday, Nov. 5

7:30pm. All members, feedback and ideas welcome! For location, contact Amy, 781-646-5417, info@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

4th Annual Tot Skating Party

Tuesday, Nov. 11

1:30-2:50pm. Veteran's Memorial Skating Ring, 422 Summer St., Arl. Join us at this low-key and fun event for AFC members only. Snacks, drinks and tot skates provided. Ages 2-6. FREE. Amy, 781-646-5417, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

NEW Book Group

Wednesday, Nov. 12

7:30pm. Starbucks (327 Broadway, Arl Ctr.). We're starting a new book group that will meet the second Wednesday of the month. (The first group has reached maximum capacity and is closed to new members.) This month's title is *The Emperor's Children*, by Claire Messud. Come even if you haven't read the book. Shannon, 781-777-2636, bookgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Playground Fun: Waldo Playground

Tuesday, Nov. 18

3:30-5pm. Waldo St., E. Arl. Come meet other AFC families, bring a ball, bike or just yourself! Amy 781-646-5417, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Puzzle Swap

Wednesday, Nov. 19

4:30-6pm. Fox Library Comm. Rm. Drop in anytime. Come refresh your puzzle supply for the winter or start a collection. Bring your puzzles to swap, as well as a \$3 donation for the library. No puzzles to share? Come anyway and please consider a larger donation for the library. Carrie, 781-646-4474, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org.

Working Moms Group

Wednesday, Nov. 19

7:30pm. Panera Bread, Mass. Ave., Arl. Heights. Meets the 3rd Wed. of the month. Over 40% of AFC moms are juggling both careers and families. Get together with other working moms—new and experienced! RSVP to workingmoms@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Local Events & Activities – November

For even more resources refer to www.arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Special Events for Families

Belmont World Film's Family Festival
Sat. Nov. 10, 376 Trapelo Rd. Belmont,
Info: 617-484-3980

Boston Babywearers Family Fun Day

Sat. Nov 15, 1:30-4:30pm at Together in Motion, 1 Broadway, Arl. Celebrate International Babywearing Week! Festivities include playtime for kids, scheduled babywearing demonstrations, refreshments and activities for the whole family. \$5/child, \$10/family (donation), 50% of proceeds go to Cradles To Crayons. Info: www.bostonbabywearers.com

Family Fun Saturdays (and one Sunday)

Nov. 1 – Little Grove
Nov. 8 – Flooky and the Beans
Nov. 9 – Airborne Comedians (juggling)
Nov. 15 – Jackson Gillman
Nov. 28-29 – Sing A long Mary Poppins
For information on the individual shows, show times, ticket prices, and purchase visit: www.regenttheatre.com or call 781-646-4849

MIT Model Train Club Open House

Sat. Nov. 22, MIT Museum Building (Bldg. N52) room 118, 265 Mass. Ave. Cambridge, Come see trains running, signals working, and more. Free, Info: 617-253-3269 or www.tnrc.mit.edu

MIT (F.A.T) Chain Reaction

Fri Nov. 28, 1-4pm, Rockwell Cage Gym, 120 Vassar St, Cambridge. Imagine a ball rolling down a track that lands on a board that tips a book that falls onto a pan and makes a big crashing sound... You get the idea! \$10/adult, \$5/child under 18 (fee includes an additional one-time free entry to the MIT Museum valid for the next 30 days) Info: 617-253-5927

Promised Land

Sat Nov. 8, 3:00pm Robbins Library. A trio of singers/instrumentalists presents a view of the American immigrant experience. Cosponsored by the Friends of the Library and the Russell Fund. Free, tickets available day of the show.

Silhouette Cutting with Jean Comerford

Nov. 7 & 8, 9:30-4pm, Concord Museum, 200 Lexington Rd. Concord, Heirloom-quality art makes a good gift or keepsake, sittings are 10 minutes each, reservation required, Ages: 6 months-adult, \$29/profile with \$10 for additional copies. Info: 978-369-9763 or www.concordmuseum.org.

Zoolights

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

Free Friday at the Zoo

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

Boston Tree Lighting Ceremony

Dec 4, 6pm, Boston Common, Attend Boston's official tree lighting ceremony during a holiday sing-along. Trees throughout the common and public garden will be lit. A stage show will include carolers, local and international entertainment, Santa, and more! Info: 617-635-4505 or www.cityofboston.gov/parks

Children's Tea at Gore Place

Sat. Dec 6 and 13 at 10:30am, 52 Gore Street, Waltham. Enjoy as the Great Hall of the mansion will be transformed into a 19th century tea room offering a special children's menu, entertainments and a visit from Santa. \$25/person. Reservations required. Info: 781-894-2798 or www.goreplace.org.

BosTix Junior

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

Baby Loves Disco

One Sunday each month, 2-5pm, Revolution Rock Bar, 200 High St. Boston, \$15 (non-walkers, free) Childproof disco/dance party with "real" music by the legendary DJ kon, healthy snacks, bar available for mom and dad. Info: www.babylovesdisco.com

Singalongs & Music

Monday

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

Wednesday

3pm. **Finagle a Bagel**, 91 Middlesex Tpke, Burl. Ed Morgan performs fun original and classic children's songs. Free 781-273-6500, www.finagleabagel.com

Thursday

Cary Library 1874 Mass Ave, Lex. Nov. 6, 13, 20
10:30am 16-24 months and 11am 25-30 months.
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

Saturday

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

Story Times and Library Programs

ROBBINS LIBRARY

Moving and Grooving

Fri Nov. 7, 21 and Dec. 5 and 19 at 10:00am. Join Marina Strauss and enjoy movement and music with your child. For children under age 2. Please sign up for all four sessions. Info: 781-316-3235.

English Story Time

Mon. Nov. 3, 10, 17 (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. Nov. 5, 12, 19, for 3-5 year olds. Longer stories followed by a craft.
Drop in.

Spanish Story Time

Sat. Nov 8 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. Nov. 4, 18, 25 at 10am. Space is limited; tickets are given out the day of the event beginning at 9am.

FOX LIBRARY

Sing Alongs

Thurs, Nov. 6, 10am, (the first Thursday of every month). Join Sulinha for singing dancing and fun.

English Story Time

Tues. Nov. 4, 18
10:00am for ages 2-3
10:30am for ages 4-5
Stories and finger plays followed by a craft. Drop in.

Spanish Story Time

Fri. Nov. 19, 6:00pm
Join Mike Beck

Tuesday

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

Cary Library Lexington

2pm, 1874 Mass Ave, Lex. For ages 4-6 yrs. Info: 781-862-6288 (Nov. 4, 18)

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

Cary Library, 1874 Mass Ave, Lex.

10:30am for age 2.5yrs.

2pm for ages 4-6 yrs.

(Nov. 5, 12, 19)Info: 781-862-6288

Porter Square Books

11am, Porter Sq. Shopping Ctr. Camb.

Free Info: 617-491-2220,

www.portersquarebooks.com

Starbucks

10am, Arlington Center. Free. Info: 781-641-2893.

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.

Cary Library Lexington

2pm, 1874 Mass Ave, Lex. For age 3yrs.

Info: 781-862-6288 (Nov. 7, 14, 21)

Concord Museum Story Hour

Fri. Nov. 14, 1pm. Concord Museum,

200 Lexington Rd., Concord. For ages 3-5

years; adult/child program, \$5/pair,

members, \$8/pair, nonmembers. The story

featured is "On Meadowview Street."

Activity and snack registration required

Info: 978-369-9763.

www.concordmuseum.org

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.
Parent and Child Drop-in Swim (Sept. 9-Nov. 25) Tuesdays at 10:30- 11:15, \$5/child. **Parent-Tot connection**, Fri. 9:30-11am. Drop in playgroup for toddlers and preschoolers with caregiver. Play, crafts, stories, music. Free. 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+ 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, Open gym with different activities 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 Mon. 3:30-4:30 pm, (to 3 yrs) 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. Kitchen area, bouncy house, riding and climbing toys, plus a music program with sing along 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

Veteran's Memorial Skating Rink

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

Indoor Playspaces

Bedford Family Connection Playroom
Mon.-Fri. 9:30-11:30am, First Parish Church, 75 The Great Rd. Bedford (use Elm St. entrance). Members 50 cents/child, non-members \$2/child. Info: contact Niki Curry at currymn@comcast.net or www.kidsplaybedford.com.

Belmont Kidspace

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

Gymnastics Academy of Boston

Open gym Mon-Fri & Sun 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.

Lexington PTA Drop in

Fri, 9:30-11:30am, Kennedy Hall in St. Brigid's School at St. Brigid's Church, 2001 Mass Ave, 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: 781-862-6965 or www.lppta.org.

Lexington PTA Winter Fun

Every other Wed, 9:30-11am. 146 Maple St, Lex. Drop-in arts and crafts program for toddlers and preschoolers. \$2/child. Info: 781-674-225 or www.lppta.org/winterfun

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.

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.

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.

Waldorf Park

Fri. 12-1:30pm at Waldorf School, 739 Mass. Ave. Lex. Unstructured playtime. Ages 0-3yrs. Drop-in, donation \$5-10/family. Info: 781-863-1062 or www.thewaldorfschool.org.

Winchester Recreation Playtime

Thurs. 9:30-11 am (through Dec 11), 263 Main St, Win. Unstructured playtime, play options may consist of arts/crafts, sports and games, music, reading and more. Ages 9mths – 4yrs. Drop-in, \$5/family. Info: 781-721-7125 or www.winrec.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 DIY project, Ages 2+ with an adult. 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.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 three-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 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.

Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary

208 S. Great Rd, Lincoln. Open daily 9am-4pm., 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.

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.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, 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 baryard, 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.

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. 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.lesleyellis.org.

Benefit

Little Fox Resale Shop

Open Tues/Thurs 9am-12pm, Wed. 2-8pm, in the Fox Library. Benefiting the Fox Library, the shop includes toys, books, children's gear, maternity clothes, and more. Info: www.littlefoxshop.com.

Support Groups

40-Something Mom's Group

Run by Suzan Wolpov, a licensed therapist with a specialty in women's issues and an older mom herself. The monthly support group for moms of babies/young children meets Mon. 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 info.

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.

Boston Babywearers

2nd Tues. of each month, 10:30am-12:30pm, College Ave. United Methodist Church, 14 Chapel St., Somerville, Rm 24 (ring bell once for entrance). Find the right baby carrier, learn how to use your carrier, and enjoy the carrier lending library too. Info: www.bostonbabywearers.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@jfcbsoston.org.

La Leche League

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

Learn & Play Adoption Group

For parents and adopted children 0-5yrs. Facilitated by First Connections. Comm. Agy bldg., Emerson Hosp., 111 Old Rd. to 9-Acre Crn, Concord. Regist. reqd. \$30. Info: 978-287-0221 or www.jri.org/cfys.

New Babies/New Mom's Group

For first-time mothers with infants up to 6 months. New sessions begin every few months. Info: www.warmlines.org.

New Mothers' Drop-in Group

For moms with children under 1. Fri. 10-11:30am. Calvary United Meth. Church, 300 Mass. Ave. Arl. Free, non-sectarian, facilitated group. Spnsrd 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/support group for first-time moms in their late 30s and 40s, Free, Sgstd \$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/parenting issues. Spstd by Jewish Family & Children's Svcs.

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 Enrichment Collaborative, 1100 Mass. Ave - 2nd floor, (across from Jimmy's Steerhouse). Get together with other working moms! This is for ALL working mothers—new and experienced! RSVP to workingmoms@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Specialty Classes and Playgroups

Les petits amis – French classes

Join instructor Lisa Richtmann for a fun interactive French class for children ages 2-5yrs. Nov. 5 – Dec. 17, Wed. 9:45-10:30am at Fox Library. \$110/session. Contact Lisa at 781-729-6911 or rec dept. 781-316-3886 for more info.

Spanish Playgroup for Ages 3-5

Learn from a native speaker by playing, making crafts and singing. No prior knowledge required. Began in Sept. and meets Tues, 2-4pm. \$16/class. Info: Regina or Letslearnsanish@live.com

Spanish Playgroup for Ages 1-8

Formed by an Arlington-based group of parents, 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.

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.robbsinlibrary.org

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.robbsinlibrary.org

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

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

November, 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