



Arlington Family Connection

supporting children six and under and those who care for them

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www.arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Pick Your Own Fruits and Veggies this Summer

By Eileen Coleman

Now that summer is finally upon us I feel an urge to slather sunscreen on the kids and put them to work picking some fruit. Many farms in the area offer the opportunity to pick your own fruit, which is often cheaper than buying from a store, and always fresher. The first fruit to ripen will be luscious strawberries in June.



This begins a summerlong bounty of fruits and vegetables: blueberries and peaches (July to September), raspberries (July and again in September), and apples and pears (August through October). Vegetable varieties will ripen locally from June through September and rounding out the harvest are pumpkins, available in September and October.

Local Pick-Your-Own Farms

If you feel like picking some fresh fruit this summer, here is a list culled from the www.pickyourown.org/massbluerasp.htm website of some of the closest (to Arlington) pick-your-own farms and their produce:

Autumn Hills Orchard in Groton (apples, grapes, pears and raspberries)

Boston Hill in North Andover (strawberries, apples and pumpkins)

Brooksby Farm in Peabody (apples, blueberries, cherries, flowers, nectarines, pears, peaches pumpkins, rhubarb and strawberries)

Carver Hill Orchard in Stow (apples, blueberries, cherries, corn, flowers, pears, peaches, peppers, pumpkins, strawberries, tomatoes, and more)

Drew Farms in Westford (apples and pumpkins)

Hanson's Farm in Framingham (blueberries, strawberries and raspberries)

(Cont. on page 4)

New Arlington Resale Shop Opens!

Reprinted from the Arlington Parents email list. Posted by Susan Dorson and Amy Weitzman

The Little Fox Resale Shop will open on the main level of the Fox Library on June 11th! Proceeds from the shop will go to the Fox Library. In order to open, we need your gently used children's clothes, books, movies, toys, shoes, games, sports equipment, and infant supplies and gear. We also need shelving and kid-themed decorations such as clocks, posters, lamps (floor and desk), wall art, etc.

Between now and our opening date, we will be accepting donations from 1-5 pm on Wednesdays or by appointment. If you would like to make an appointment, please e-mail Susan Dorson at sedorson@yahoo.com or Amy Weitzman at amy@kshanti.com. Starting June 18th, the shop will be open every Wednesday. Exact hours to be determined.

Donation Guidelines

- We will not be able to sell clothing that is ripped, stained or missing buttons.
- Toys & games must work and have all their pieces.
- Infant supplies and gear must meet current safety requirements.

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AFC Playtime on Vacation, from June 16

AFC Playtime will take a break for the summer. The last Playtime will be on Monday, June 16, from 10-11:30 at the Arlington Enrichment Collaborative (1100 Mass. Ave). Thank you to everyone who attended and made this a great year at Playtime, and a special thanks to all our volunteers who stepped up to help host the groups.

Playtime Seeks New Location

The Arlington Enrichment Collaborative space will no longer be available to AFC come September, so Playtime needs a new home to be able to continue in the fall. The current Playtime coordinator, Glendalys Ghandi, is looking for a new space in Arlington where Playtime could be held. In addition, Playtime will need a new volunteer coordinator for the fall (please see below for details).

Open Volunteer Positions

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

Outings Committee

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

- Plan monthly outings (coordinate group discounts, tours, special visits if necessary), with other coordinator
 - Write description of outing for AFC newsletter
 - Submit AFC Events page to newsletter each month
- Coordinating outings is very easy and fun! a) pick a place you would like to visit with your kids; b) invite AFC to come along; c) have fun and meet lots of AFC members.

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

Newsletter Co-Editor

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

Playtime Coordinator

Playtime will need a new host coordinator in September. The coordinator position involves coordinating a

schedule of host volunteers, occasional hosting duties, and organizing occasional other events such as toy cleaning. Contact: Glendalys, 781-316-8676 or playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Monthly Playgroup Co-Leader

AFC's monthly drop-in playgroup at the Fox Library needs a new co-leader. The group meets in the Fox Library Community Room on the first Tuesday of every month. Contact: Sandra, 781-859-5050 or playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Options Night Committee

Several volunteers are needed to help produce the 2008 Childcare and Preschool Options in Arlington booklet and coordinate the open house event on October 2.

Contact: Kristen,

options@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 Molly Sanford
membership@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

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

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

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

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

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

Web Site - Seth Maislin
webmaster@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Working Moms - Su Joun and Mimi Wan
workingmoms@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Editorial policy: The Arlington Family Connection (AFC) newsletter is published monthly and is free with membership. Published articles reflect the views of the respective authors and do not necessarily represent the views of AFC. Childcare, healthcare and legal information is provided for informational purposes only. It is not intended as a substitute for medical or professional advice. Always consult your own healthcare provider for any decisions relating to your child's well being. Copyright remains with the individual author for bylined articles. All other materials are copyright Arlington Family Connection, 2007. Permission is granted to reproduce articles for which copyright is held by AFC provided appropriate credit is given and no fee is charged. The AFC newsletter accepts submissions from AFC members on issues relevant to families with children six and under. The editorial board reserves the right to refuse submissions for any reason. Send editorial submissions to: newsletter@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org; calendar listings to calendar@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC in Action

May Highlights

May 2008 Puddlestompers



June AFC Events

AFC Playtime! Mon., June 2, 9, 16

10-11:30am. Arl. Enrichment Collaborative, 2nd Fl., 1100 Mass. Ave. (across from Jimmy's). Drop-in anytime at our weekly playgroup! Toys, coffee, closing circle time. Ages 0-4 yrs. \$3/family. Glendalys, 781-316-8676, playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Note Playtime will be on vacation after June 16. Playtime is currently looking for a new location and a new volunteer coordinator for September. Please contact Glendalys if you can help out.

AFC Drop-in Playgroup Tuesday, June 3

3:30-5pm. Fox Library Comm. Rm., Arl. First Tues. of month. Drop-in anytime. Perfect for non-mobile babies! A great place for caregivers to get to know each other without having to chase their kids around. Ages 0-4. Free. Sandra 781-859-5050, playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC Steering Committee Mtg. Tuesday, June 3

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

AFC Craft Time Tuesday, June 10

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

Working Moms Group Wednesday, June 18

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

AFC Outing: Strawberry Picking Wednesday, June 25

10am. Lands Sake Farm, 86 Wellesley St., Weston. Come pick delicious strawberries at this local organic farm. www.landssake.org. Eileen, 617-620-1772, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC Book Group Monday, June 30

7:30pm. Starbucks (327 Broadway, Arl Ctr.). This month's book is *My Life in France* by Julia Child. Come even if you don't have the chance to read the book. Wendy, 781-777-2706, bookgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Save the Date! Sunday, July 20

AFC Outing: Circus Smirkus

11am. Elm Bank Horticultural Center, 900 Washington St. (Rt. 16), Wellesley. Join AFC's annual outing to the only touring youth circus in the country. This professional, high energy and entertaining one ring Big Top circus of Smirkus troupers ages 10-18 is not to be missed! (<http://www.circussmirkus.org>) Bring your friends and family. General admission tickets are \$18 each. Free under 2.

Tickets are reserved on a first-come first-served basis. Deadline for reserving tickets is **June 30**. Contact Catherine at 781-643-0530, treasurer@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org.

Kindergarten Connections: June 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. Additional events will be announced in upcoming newsletters and e-bulletins.



Bishop

Sat. June 28, 10am-12pm. Bishop School playground.

Rain date: Sun. June 29, 1-2pm.

Contact: Mary Ellen Aronow (maronow@hnr.com)

781-316-0218, Annette Donnelly

(amdonnelly@verizon.net)

Brackett

Sat. June 21, 10am-12pm. Robbins Farm playground.

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

Dallin

Fri. June 6, 4pm. Dallin School fields. Come at 4pm to meet other incoming kindergartners, then join current Dallin students at the Dallin picnic at 5pm in the fields. We'll be sure to have balloons where we're sitting so you can find us if you can't arrive early.

Fri. June 13, 4-6pm. Dallin School kindergarten playground.

Sun. June 22, 3-5pm. Dallin School playground and fields.

Contact: Jenny Brown (jbrown68@yahoo.com), Deanna

Cook (dee16cook@comcast.net), Janet Wilder

(janetwilder@earthlink.net)

Hardy

Sat. June 21, 3pm. Spy Pond playground. Juice boxes and water bottles will be provided!

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

Peirce

Sat. June 14, 9-11am. Peirce School lower playground.

Contact: Susan Goetcheus

(kinderconnect@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org, 781-

643-0215), June Rutkowski

(june.rutkowski@verizon.net)

Stratton

Sat. June 14, 10am-12pm. Stratton School playground.

Rain date: Sat. June 21.

Contact: Ann Pirone (781-646-2715,

a_pirone@hotmail.com), Saskia Oosting (781.648.4504,

soosting@yahoo.com)

Thompson

Sat. June 28, 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. June 29.

Contact: Alison Miller (alison.r.miller@comcast.net)

For general information, contact Susan Goetcheus,

kinderconnect@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Pick your own Fruits and Veggies This Summer

(Cont. from Page 1)

Honeypot Hill Orchard in Stow (with apples, blueberries and pumpkins)

Land's Sake in Weston (organic blueberries, raspberries and strawberries)

Marino Lookout Farm in Natick (apples, blueberries, raspberries and strawberries)

The Farm in Winchester (organic raspberries in September only)

Happy picking, and remember to call ahead to check if the farm is open and the fruit is not picked out on the day you hope to visit.

Sensational Strawberries

For those of you who can't wait to get out there and pick, here are the closest farms offering PYO strawberries in June (with distances from Arlington):

Landsake Farm, Weston (7 miles)

Marino Lookout Farm, Natick (13 miles)

Brooksby Farm, Peabody (14 miles)

Boston Hill Farm, North Andover (16 miles)

Arlington Farmer's Market Starts June 11

While pick-your-own is fun and a treat for the kids, there are many weeks when you might be happy to let someone else do the picking. If you don't want to venture into the fields yourself the Arlington Farmers Market will have plenty of fresh (and many organic) fruits and veggies from local sources. The market will be held at the Russell Common Parking Lot from 1-6:30pm every Wednesday between June 11 and October 29. The farmers and producers with offerings at this year's market will include:

Kimball Fruit Farm, Pepperell – apples, pears, peaches, vegetables, bread, also heirloom tomatoes

Dick's Market Garden, Lunenburg – seedlings, early tomatoes, vegetables, corn and fruit

Nicewicz Orchard, Bolton – apples, pears, peaches, cider, limited vegetables

Grateful Farm, Franklin – organic vegetables and herbs, seedlings

Great Oak Farm, Berlin – organic vegetables

Busa Farm, Lexington – lettuce, greens, tomatoes and corn are specialties

Hmong Farm, Bolton Flats – south-east Asian produce
Melissa's Flower Farm, Groton – bouquets of flowers, jams

Smith's Country Cheese, Winchendon – gouda and cheddar cheese and spreads, frozen hamburger, eggs

Crystal Brook Farm, Sterling – goat cheese

Chestnut Farms, Hardwick – natural hormone-free grass-fed beef, pastured pork and lamb

Merrimack Valley Apiaries

Moss Hollow Greenhouse, Leominster – plants

Globe Fish, Boston – fish fresh from Boston Fish pier

Danish Pastry House, Medford

Bob Sargent, Flora Restaurant, Arlington – baked goods

Crafts and prepared foods will also be available and, if you're lucky, you might be serenaded by acoustic musicians. For additional information on the Arlington Farmers Market and links to the vendor's websites see www.farmersmarketarlington.com

New Arlington Resale Shop Opens

(Cont. from Page 1)

- Please, no adult clothing or housewares.
- If you bring us things we can't use, it creates more work for us and we are all volunteers so please think carefully about what you donate to us.

Party

Save the date! We will have a mini-opening in conjunction with a Friends of the Fox event on the evening of June 11th. More details to follow.

Help Us

Volunteers will also be a crucial part of our store so if you have time to help (even just a couple of hours a month) please contact us and we will e-mail you when we are ready for help.

Local Events & Activities – June

For even more resources refer to www.arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Arlington Venues

Arlington Boys and Girls Club, 60 Pond Lane, (Pleasant St. to Wellington St.). 781-648-1617. www.abgclub.org

Arlington Rec. Center & Veterans Memorial Rink, 422 Summer St. (Rt. 2A). 781-316-3880.
www.town.arlington.ma.us/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_Recreation/index

Fidelity House, 25 Medford St. 781-648-2005.
www.fidelityhouse.org

Fox branch library, 175 Mass. Ave. (East Arlington, at Cleveland St.). 781-316-3198.
www.robbinslibrary.org/html/fox.htm

Gibbs Gym, 41 Foster St. (also accessible from Tufts St., between Mass. Ave. and Broadway). 781-316-3880.

Isis Maternity, 397 Mass. Ave., at Broadway. 781-429-1598. www.isismaternity.com

Regent Theatre, 7 Medford St. 781-646-4849.
www.regenttheatre.com

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

Special Events for Families

Once Upon a Time with Kidstock

140 Clarendon St. Boston,
June 1, 11am: **Swampelot**
All ages, \$8/person, children under 3yrs. free.
Info: 617-585-5678 or www.lyricstage.com.

Jackson Gilman's Nature in Action

Sat. June 2, 10:00 at Robbins Library.
The wild and crazy side of science mixed with stories and songs. Ages 4 and up. Tickets will be available one hour before the program.

Annual Feast of the East

Sat. June 7, 1-4pm. This celebration will take place along Mass Ave in Arlington from the Capitol Theater block to JN Phillips Auto Glass Company. Activities include sampling of local restaurants, merchant sales and giveaways, live band music and crafts. Children's activities include a moon bounce, carousel, pony rides, clowns, face painting, crafts for kids and much more. Free popcorn and cotton candy. Info:
www.feastoftheeast.com

Peirce School Spring Fair:

Sat, June 7, 10 am-2 pm. (rain date, Sat, June 14). Peirce Elementary School, 85 Park Ave.

Ext. Arl. (intersection with Summer St., Rt. 2A). Activities for all ages, preschool and up. Games, crafts, moonwalk, cake walk, prizes, refreshments! Free admission, charge for some activities.

Arlington Boys and Girls Club Summer Open House

June 12, 6:30-7:30pm. Visit facility and meet staff to discuss all the activities offered.

Jimmy Fund Scooper Bowl

June 10-12, City Hall Plaza in Boston.
Tues, Thurs 11:30am-7pm, Wed 11:30am-8pm. All you can eat ice cream to benefit the Jimmy Fund. Purchase tickets at www.jimmyfund.org

Brackett School Fair

Sat. June 14th, 66 Eastern Ave, Arl. For more info call 781-316-3702.

Playtime Theatre

June 7, **Emperor's New Clothes**
June 14, **Snow White**
All shows at 10:30am, Harvey Wheeler Community Center, 1276 Main St. W. Concord, These classic fairy tales are given a twist when the audience is strongly encouraged to participate. All ages, \$5/person,

no advance ticket sales.

www.concordyouththeatre.org

Let's Learn Spanish

Aprendamos Espanol
For kids ages 3-5 and their parents.
Learn from a native speaker! No prior knowledge required. Tuesdays at 3 pm June 17-July 8, 2008. Please come to our first class - pay only if you decide to enroll! Contact Regina for more info:
letslearnspanish@live.com.

Strawberry Festival

Sat. June 21, 12-4pm. Verrill Farm, 11 Wheeler Road, Concord.
Activities include a folk sing-along for all ages, and two 30-minute shows with Dan Grady and His Marvelous Marionette Medley at 12:30 and 1:45pm, Giddy up ponies and hay rides. Info: 978-369-4494 or www.verrillfarm.com

Arlington Soccer Club Fall Registration

For K-8th grade Arlington residents or Arlington school students. Register between May 19 and June 15 and be guaranteed a spot on a team. Info:
www.arlingtonsoccerclub.com.

Summer scavenger Hunt at Robbins and Fox Libraries

June 23rd until August 29th. Hunt and snoop around the libraries all summer long. Grab a hunt form from the Children's Desk (Robbins) or the Main Desk (Fox) and dig for treasure in books. All ages. Drop in any time.

BosTix Junior

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

Sing-alongs & Music

Monday

5pm. **Finagle a Bagel**, 91 Middlesex Tpke, Burl. Ed Morgan performs fun original and classic children's songs. Free 781-273-6500, www.finagleabagel.com

11am. **Stellabella Toys**, 1967 Mass. Ave., Camb., Porter Sq. Sing-along. Free
For more information call 617-864-6290

Thursday

11am. **Stellabella Toys**, 1967 Mass. Ave., Camb., Porter Sq. Sing-along. Free
For more information call 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, \$1/person, Info: www.dianetaraz.com

Saturday

11am. **Stellabella Toys**, 1360 Cambridge St. Inman Sq.. Camb. Sing songs, play games
Free 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

Storytimes and Library Programs

Sing-a-long at Robbins

Tuesdays, 10am, June 10, 17 & 24
Ages: 0-36 months, Space is limited so numbers are given out the day of the program beginning at 9am. Info: 781-316-3234 or www.robbslibrary.org

1st Thursday of the Month Sing along at Fox

June 5 at 10am, Fox Library, Join Sulinha for singing, dancing, and fun! Info: 781-316-3198

Spanish Story Time

Sat. June 14, 9:15am, Robbins Library, Sing songs, listen to stories, learn new words & make new friends. Songs in Spanish with translation, All ages, Drop-in, Info: 781-316-3234 or www.robbslibrary.org

Tuesday

Barnes & Noble

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

Harvard Coop

11am, 1400Mass. Ave. Camb. Preschool story hour with snack & craft, Free, Info: 617-499-2000 or <http://harvardbkstore.com>

Pottery Barn Kids

10am, Burlington Mall, Free, 781-221-5833

Wednesday

Porter Square Books

11am, Porter Sq. Shopping Ctr. Camb. Free

617-491-2220, www.portersquarebooks.com
Starbucks, Arlington Center
10am, 327 Broadway, Free, 781-641-2893

Thursday

Mornings at the Museum

Thurs. June 12, 10:30am-12pm, National Heritage Museum, 33 Marrett Rd. Lex. Enjoy a story and a related craft. \$3/child (members) \$5/child (nonmembers) Info: 781-861-6559 or www.monh.org

11am, Henry Bear's Park

685 Mass. Ave. Arl. 781-646-9400 and 361 Huron Ave, Camb. 617-547-8424, Ages: 3-6yrs. Free, Info: www.henrybear.com.

Friday

Barefoot Books

10:30am, 1771 Mass. Ave. Camb. A fun hour of age- appropriate stories, coloring and refreshments, Free, Ages 1yr.+ Info: 617-349-1610 or www.barefootbooks.com.

Barnes & Noble

98 Middlesex Tpke. Burlington, Pajamarama: 7pm, Free. 781-273-3871

Concord Museum Story Hour

June 13, 1pm, 200 Lexington Rd., Concord. For ages 3-5 years: adult/child program, \$5/pair, members, \$8/pair, nonmembers. This month's story: "Workshop" by Andrew Clements. Activity and snack, registration required Info: 978-369-9763. www.concordmuseum.org.

Saturday

Barefoot Books

10:30am. 1771 Mass. Ave. Camb. A fun hour of age- appropriate stories, coloring and refreshments, Free, Ages 1yr.+ Info: 617-349-1610, www.barefootbooks.com.

Harvard Coop

11am, 1400 Mass. Ave. Camb. Preschool story hour with snack and craft, Free, 617-499-2000 or <http://harvardbkstore.com>.

Other Arlington Fun Stuff

Batting Cages Open

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

Adoptive Family Gym Mixer

Mon, 9:30-11am. Together in Motion, 1 Broadway, Arl. \$5/child. For families with children 0-6.years. Call 781-643-1377. www.togetherinmotion.com

Drop in Tot Doodle

June 12-July 29 at the Arlington Boys and Girls Club. Outdoor parent/child activities for children 15-36 months, including art, games, water play more. Tues 10-10.45am, no class July 1, \$3 per child. Info: www.abgclub.org

Arlington Center for the Arts

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

Arlington Recreation Dept.

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

Artbeat Weekend Workshops

Saturdays, 3-6pm, 212A Mass. Ave, Arl. Free instruction, pay for materials, Ages 4yrs+
June 14, **Paint a tie for Dad**
May 15, **Dads paint for FREE**
June 21, **Lucky Bamboo**

May 28, Beaded Votive

Info: 781-646-2200, www.artbeatonline.com.

Capitol Theater Movies for Caregivers with Babies

Mondays. 204 Mass. Ave. Arl. Begin between 1-2pm. New movies chosen weekly. \$5/adult Nursing, bottle feeding, fussing, changing diapers are never frowned upon. Info: 781-648-6022, www.somervilletheatreonline.com.

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

Puddlestompers 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

Opens June 16, 10am-8pm daily. Lowell St, Arl. To purchase summer tags or daily passes contact 781-316-3880 or visit www.arlingtonma.gov

Spray Pool

Opens June 12, 10am-7pm daily, free. At the Lussiano Park next to the Thompson School on North Union Street. Info: 781-316-3880 or visit www.arlingtonma.gov

Together in Motion

1 Broadway, E. Arl. Drop-in play space with 3 areas for: crawlers, open play; organized games. Ages 0-6. Mon-Fri 1:30-5pm; Mon, 11am-12:30pm; Wed, 9:30am-12:30pm; Sat&Sun, 9-11am. \$7/ages 1-6; \$5, 6-12 mos; under 6 mos, free with playing sibling. Fall classes include: Martial Arts Sampler, Creative Movement, Creative Art Class (2-3yrs. & 3-5yrs.) and Movin' & Groovin', Info: 781-643-1377 or www.togetherinmotion.com

Indoor Playspaces

Bedford Family Connection Playroom

Mon.-Fri. 9:30-11:30am, First Parish Church 75 The Great Rd. Bedford (use Elm St. entrance) Info: contact Amy Pearson at alm.pearson@verizon.net or www.kidsplaybedford.com.

LPPTA Drop-In Center

Fridays, 9:30-11:30am, **LAST DAY June 13th**, Kennedy Hall in St. Brigid's School at St. Brigid's Church in Lex. (use Worthen Rd. entrance) This indoor playspace is for 0-5yr olds and their parents/caregivers to play, relax, and socialize. \$1/child. Info: www.lppta.org

Winchester Recreation Playtime

Thurs. 9:30-11 am, 263 Main St. Winchester, Drop-in, \$5/family, Ages: 9 months-4yrs. Info: 781-721-7125

Gymnastics Academy of Boston

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

TumbleKids Open Gym

38 River St., Winchester- **Thurs. 10:30am-12 & Fri. 12:30-2pm.** (781-721-1144) or 201 Arl. St., Watertown- **Fri. 12:30-2pm.** (617-926-2640) \$10/child. Classes offered for an additional fee. Info: www.tumblekidsusa.com.

Kids Playground

15 Normac Rd., Woburn Indoor playground with playspace, tubes and tunnels, mini golf. Info: 781-935-2300, www.kidsplayground.com.

Perpetual Motion

345 Chelmsford St., Lowell (off Rt. 3) Indoor playground for kids 0-6yrs. **New separate play area for 5yrs+** Info: 978-452-0777 www.perpetualmotioninc.com.

MyGym

1065 Comm. Ave. (behind Shaw's) Boston, New indoor playspace for babies and toddlers. Open gym: Mondays at 4pm and Thursdays at 2:15pm, Info: 617-789-3669

Beyond Arlington

Puppet Showplace Theatre

Sat. & Sun. 1 & 3pm shows, Weds. & Thurs. 10:30am show. 32 Station St., Brookline. Ages 3 and up. Age appropriateness varies per show. \$7.50/members, \$9.50/non-members. Info: 617-731-6400, www.puppetshowplace.org.

Home Depot Kid's Workshop

1st Sat. of the month, 10am-noon, 10 1st Ave., Waltham. Drop-in build-it-yourself project, Ages 2+ with an adult. Call 781-672-0900

Play Academy

25 Riverside Ave. Medford. Offers classes for infants-age 5yrs; Drop-off program. Info: 781-738-PLAY, www.play-academy.com.

Pre-school Movies

Tues. 10:30am. Cary Mem. Library 1874 Mass. Ave., Lex. Drop-in movies for ages 2-6. Free. Info: 781-862-6288, www.carylrary.org

Local Attractions

Boston Children's Museum

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

Butterfly Place

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

Children's Discovery Museum

177 Main St., Acton. Open daily, 9am-4:30pm. Victorian house with transformed into 10 hands-on exhibit areas. Ages 6 & under. Check website for special programs. \$8, free under 1. Info: 978-264-4200 or www.discoverymuseums.org.

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

Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary

208 S. Great Rd., Lincoln. Explore the fields, forest and farmyard. Weekly programs for kids. 9am-5pm, closed non-holiday Mondays. \$6/non-member adults, \$4/non-member ages 3-18. Info: 781-259-2200 or www.massaudubon.org.

Ecotarium

222 Harrington Way, Worcester. Open Tues-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 12-5pm. Monthly family preschool programs. Members free, \$8/Non-member adult, \$6/Non-member ages 3-18. Explorer Express Train ride, \$2.50/person. Info: 508-929-2700 or www.ecotarium.org.

Habitat Wildlife Sanctuary

10 Juniper Rd, Belmont. Trails wind through forests, across meadows, around 2 ponds, wetlands. Programs for kids. Members free, \$4/non-memb. adult, \$3/non-memb. child. Info: 617-489-5050 or www.massaudubon.org.

Harvard Museum of Natural History

26 Oxford St, Cambridge. Open daily 9am-5pm. Wide array of stuffed animals in the mammal exhibit. 40ft dinosaur replica. \$7.50/adult, \$5/ages 3-18. Free every Sun. 9am-noon. Info: 617-495-3045 or www.hmnh.harvard.edu.

Institute of Contemporary Art

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

Museum of Fine Arts

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

Museum of Science

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

National Heritage Museum

33 Marrett Rd., Rt. 2A, Lexington. Open daily 10am-5pm, Sun 12-5pm. 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. Info: 800-258-9182 or www.southwickszoo.com.

Stone Zoo

149 Pond St. Stoneham. Open weekdays 10am-5pm & weekends 10am-6pm. Small zoo, with a petting barnyard, playground and many animal exhibits. \$8/Adult, \$5/Ages 2-12, under 2yrs. free, Info: 781-438-5100 or www.zoonewengland.com.

Swan Boat Rides

Boston Public Garden, Open Weekdays 10-4pm until June 20, June 21- Labor Day 10-5pm, after Labor Day 12-4pm, Weekend Hours 10-4pm, \$2.75/adults, ages2-15yrs/\$1.50, seniors \$2. INFO: 617-522-1966

Take a Walk at Gore Place

52 Gore St., Waltham, Mon-Fri, 9am- 3pm; Sat & Sun. 12-3pm. Visit llama, sheep, goats, chickens, rabbits. Rent an "activity pack" with activities appropriate for children ages 4-9. Backpack rental, \$5. Info: 781-894-2798 or www.goreplace.org.

Seminars and Open Houses

Transitions for Children by Dr. Debbie Weinstock-Savoy

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

Register NOW for Lesley Ellis Summer 2008!

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

Benefits

PTO Thrift Shop

Benefits Arlington Public Schools Basement of the Fox Library, **Closing Permanently in Mid-June** Hours: Weds. 4-8pm, Thurs. 9:30am- 1pm. **Last Day June 14, 12:30—5pm**, Gently-used clothing for all ages, toys, books, housewares, and more, Info: 781-483-3433 or www.ptothriftshop.com.

Groups

40-something Mom's Group

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

Arlington Area Adoption Moms

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

Belmont Food Allergy &

Asthma Support Group

Parents group meets monthly to discuss and advocate for children living with food allergies and asthma. 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@jfcscoston.org.

La Leche League

Dedicated to providing education, information, and support to breastfeeding women .

Meetings in the basement of Fox Library on the 3rd Tues. of each month at 7:30pm, or 2nd

Thurs. of the month at 10am in Cambridge

(175 Harvey St.). Free For info contact

Heather 781-648-2988 or

<http://home.comcast.net/~jrsladkey/lll/index.html>.

Learn & Play Adoption Group

For parents and adopted children ages 0-5yrs. Facilitated by First Connections. Community Agencies bldg., Emerson Hospital, 111 Old Rd. to 9-Acre Corner, Concord. Registration required \$30. Info: 978-287-0221 or www.jri.org/cfys/.

New Babies/New Mom's Group

First time mothers bring infants up to 6 months old to meet with other mothers and a leader for support and discussion. Session begins Sept 18. Info: www.warmlines.org.

New Mothers' Drop-in Group

For mothers with children under 1yr. Fri. 10-11:30am. Calvary United Methodist Church, 300 Mass. Ave. Arl. Free, non-sectarian, facilitated group. Sponsored by Jewish Family & Children's Svcs. Info: 617-558-1278.

New Mother's Group

Tues. 11:30am-1pm, Temple 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 Weds. of each month , 7pm Fox Library. Social and support group for first-time moms in their late 30's and 40's, Free, Suggested \$1 donation. Info: 781-674-2029.

Postpartum Adjustment Support Group

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

Spanish Playgroup

Formed by an Arlington-based group of parents, the age range is 1-8 yrs old. Spanish skill ranges from beginner to bilingual. Most 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 Weds. 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 - both new and experienced! Please RSVP to workingmoms@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Arlington Family Connection

P.O. Box 150

Arlington, MA 02476

June, 2008