



Arlington Family Connection

supporting children six and under and those who care for them

Volume VI, Issue 12 • March, 2008

www.arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Stand for Children

Upcoming Forum on Arlington Schools

Reprinted from a Stand for Children announcement

Stand for Children presents a parent-to-parent conversation about public education in Arlington...

**Everything you always wanted to know about Arlington schools*
(*but didn't know who to ask)**

Get answers to questions such as:

- WHO runs our public schools?
- WHAT is great about Arlington schools and what threats do we see moving forward?
- HOW are the schools funded?
- WHY parent involvement can make a difference

Date: Monday, March 17, 2008

Time: 6:30-8:30pm

(snacks and childcare provided FREE)

**Place: Pleasant Street Congregational Church,
75 Pleasant St., Arl.**

To help us get a head count for childcare, please RSVP to Ren Johns at ren@stand.org or call 617-417-8141.

Forum Agenda

6:30-7:00pm: Meet with other parents from across Arlington and share your thoughts about what you'd like to see in Arlington's schools.

7:00-8:00pm: Hear from parents as well as people working in our schools and on our School Committee about the nuts and bolts of Arlington Public Schools—how decisions are made, where funding comes from, and why parent involvement makes such a huge difference.

8:00-8:30: Get your questions answered during an open Q&A with speakers.

Saturday, March 8, 2008



10am-1pm

Gibbs Gym, Foster St., Arl.

AFC's Second Annual Winter Beach Party

Get out your sandals and head over to the Gibbs Gym in East Arlington for AFC's sizzling Winter Beach Party. The party will be held from 10am-1pm. Admission (\$5 per person; \$15/family maximum) includes Chilly Cow ice cream, pizza, and coffee, plus beachy crafts, games, and some great beach giveaways for the kids. The party is open to all—members and non-members.

Proceeds to Benefit AFC's Arlington Recreation Scholarship Fund

A portion of proceeds from this year's beach party will go to AFC's Arlington Recreation Scholarship Fund. AFC will use the money to sponsor full-day camp sessions for Arlington families who need financial assistance to pay for summer camp.

The party is open to AFC members and non-members alike, so bring the kids and some friends for a day of "summer" fun to help support this great cause.

Seeking Party Volunteers

We could use several last-minute volunteers to help set up and run events at the party. If you'd like to volunteer to help, please contact Jessie Keating at events@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC Playtime!

Drop in Monday mornings for a playgroup with plenty of toys and friends, and closing circle time.

Mondays, 10-11:30am. Arl.

Enrichment Collaborative,

2nd Fl., 1100 Mass. Ave., Arlington. \$3/family.

Info: Sarah 781-316-8181,

playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org



Solar Panels for

Arlington Schools

If 150 or more Arlington residents sign up for the New England Wind Fund (choosing to power their home with clean electricity and to support renewable energy products), the town of Arlington will earn a 2kW solar/photovoltaic installation. Sign up with a \$100 one-time donation by April 30, 2008, to qualify for this Community Solar Challenge!

For details, visit the New England Wind Fund at www.newenglandwind.org. For more information on what you can do locally to reduce your environmental footprint, visit Sustainable Arlington at www.sustainablearlington.org.

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

Wendy Paramore is volunteering to lead AFC's monthly book club. Wendy moved to Arlington in January, 2007, with her husband and son (almost 3) from Silver Spring, Maryland. Wendy is a stay-at-home mom, and a clinical social worker specializing in grief counseling and families dealing with serious medical illnesses.

Marion Goodwin decided she missed AFC's weekly e-bulletin enough to revive it herself. Thank you, Marion! Marion came to the U.S. from Germany in 1997 to work as an au pair. She moved to Arlington in 2000 with her husband and now has two children, Lucas (2.5) and Lia (9 months) Formerly, Marion worked as a infant, toddler, and preschool teacher at a local daycare and most recently worked for an au pair agency in Cambridge.

Susan Goetcheus has volunteered to oversee the Kindergarten Connections program for 2008. She will soon be soliciting coordinators for each elementary school. She is doing this job despite being in denial about her daughter Cheryl going to kindergarten this fall (at Peirce). Her younger girl, Audrey (almost two) will start nursery school in September. Susan looks forward to more time to write, knit, bike, organize, volunteer, or maybe just take really long naps.

Volunteering with AFC is a great way to get to know other Arlington families and give back to the community. If you'd like to volunteer on an occasional or regular basis, please contact Amy Speare at aspeare@verizon.net or 781-646-5417.

AFC Directory

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

AFC Playtime - Sarah Albers
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



Save the Date!
Friday, April 11, 2008,
11:00am
City Hall Plaza, Boston
AFC Goes to the Big
Apple Circus!

This one-ring circus is ideal family fun! AFC has a large block of ring-side seats for \$16.50/person (regularly \$26). Children under 3 are free when they sit on an adult's lap (one child per lap).

To order tickets, contact Amy at outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org or 781-646-5417 with the number of tickets you want. Further instructions will be given. **Deadline to order tickets is Fri., March 28.** Tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

AFC Volunteers

Arlington Summer Camp Options



It's not too early to start planning ahead for summer camp. The list below contains information for some options in Arlington for children 6 and under. Visit the AFC website for additional local options.

Arlington Boys and Girls Club

www.abgclub.org

781-648-1617

Offers a variety of programs for pre-school ages.

Arlington Center for the Arts

www.acarts.org

781-648-6220

Week long, half day programs for ages 4 and up.

Arlington Heights Nursery School

781-646-8499.

Programs for currently enrolled or entering children only.

Arlington Recreation Department

arlingtonma.virtualltownhall.net/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_Recreation/index

781-316-3880

Offers a variety of programs for pre-school ages.

Ecole Internationale de Boston (International School of Boston)

www.isbos.org/03_matern/sn_parascolaire/camps_ete_en.aspx

781-646-0510.

Weekly sessions from June 23–July 25. Ages 3 and up.

Fidelity House

www.fidelityhouse.org/camps/preschool.html

781-648-2005.

Weekly sessions or single days for children ages 2.9-5.

Great Expectations

781-648-3627

Five, one-week sessions beginning June 23. Ages 3-6.

Lesley Ellis School

www.lesleyellis.org

781-641-1346

Weekly sessions with 3, 4, or 5-day programs. Ages 2.9 and up.

AHNS Singalong

Arlington Heights Nursery School is sponsoring a children's concert and family sing-a-long "Circle of Songs" with Hugh Hanley on Saturday, March 15 at 10:30am at the Calvary Methodist Church in Arlington. An interactive show, we'll enjoy fingerplays, songs, and musical activities. Advance-purchase tickets are \$9.00 for adults and \$7.00 for children (\$10.00 per person at the door). Concert tickets can be purchased at AHNS, 10 Acton Street, Arlington, or at Henry Bear's Park in Arlington Center.

Spring Has Sprung at Wellesley College

By Carrie Finison

If you're pining for a breath of spring air, a quick trip to the Margaret C. Ferguson Greenhouses at Wellesley College might help cure your winter blues. Daffodils and hyacinths are coming up now in the greenhouses, and tulips are not far behind. Kids will have a ball



wandering through the jungle in the tropical plants room and looking at all the orchids, cacti, and other exotic plants. At the end of a long pathway through several rooms, the water plants room houses a small pond with goldfish that sometimes poke their heads up from the murky depths to say hello.



The greenhouses are never crowded, but walkways can be narrow and the staff prefers that strollers be left in the visitors center. The greenhouses are free and open every day of the year from 8am-4pm. For directions and information, visit www.wellesley.edu/WCBG or call 781-283-3094.

Tuesday, March 18

3:30-4:30pm

Habitat, 10 Juniper Rd., Belmont

Maple Sugaring

Join us for a guided walk through Habitat and learn more about maple trees and maple sugaring. \$3 per person (3 and up) backpack babies are free.

www.massaudubon.org/Nature_Connection/Sanctuaries/Habitat/index.php **RSVP required by Friday**

March 14 Martina, 781 316 8433,
outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC in Action

March AFC Events

AFC Playtime!

Mon., March 3, 10, 17, 24

10-11:30am. Arl. Enrichment Collaborative, 2nd Fl., 1100 Mass. Ave. (across from Jimmy's). Drop-in anytime at our weekly playgroup! Toys, friends, closing circle time. Ages 0-4 yrs. \$3/family. Sarah 781-316-8181, playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org



AFC Drop-in Playgroup

Tuesday, March 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 without having to chase their kids around! Ages 0-4. Free. Sandra 781-859-5050, playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Sizzlin' Winter Beach Party!

Saturday, March 8

10am-1pm. Gibbs Gym, Foster St., Arl. Get out your sandals and head over to the Gibbs Gym in East Arlington for AFC's sizzling Winter Beach Party. (\$5 per person; \$15/family maximum) includes Chilly Cow ice cream, pizza, and coffee, plus beachy crafts, games, and some great beach giveaways for the kids. The party is open to all—members and non-members.



AFC Craft Time!

Tuesday, March 11

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

AFC Outing: Maple Sugaring

Tuesday, March 18

3:30-4:30pm. Habitat, 10 Juniper Road, Belmont 02478. Join us for a guided walk through Habitat and learn more about maple trees and maple sugaring. \$3 per person (3 and up) backpack babies are free. www.massaudubon.org/Nature_Connection/Sanctuaries/Habitat/index.php **RSVP required by Friday March 14**, Martina, 781 316 8433, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org



Working Moms Group

Wednesday, March 19

7:30pm. Arl. Enrichment Collaborative, 2 Fl., 1100 Mass. Ave. Whether you work full-time, part-time, telecommute, or run own your business, come meet other working moms to connect, share solutions, and gain a sense of community. RSVP to workingmoms@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC Outing: Drumlin Farm

Friday, March 21

9:30am. Drumlin Farm, 208 S. Great Rd., Lincoln. Come explore this unique wildlife sanctuary and real working farm. \$6/adult, \$4/child 3+, free under 3 or with Mass Audubon membership (www.massaudubon.org/Nature_Connection/Sanctuaries/Drumlin_Farm). Eileen 617-620-1772, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org.



AFC Book Group

Monday, March 31

7:30pm. Starbucks (327 Broadway, Arl Ctr.). Join AFC's new book group! Contact Wendy for this month's title. . Come even if you don't have the chance to read the book. Wendy, 781-777-2706, bookgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC Playground Fun

TBA

Note: We'll set the date based on weather - watch your email! Come meet other AFC families in this ongoing series of monthly playground fun. Martina, 781-316-8433, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org



Save the Date:

Friday, April 11

AFC Goes to Big Apple Circus!

11am. City Hall Plaza, Boston. This one-ring circus is ideal family fun! AFC has a large block of ring side seats for \$16.50/person (regularly \$26). Children under 3 are free when they sit on an adult's lap (one child per lap).

To order tickets, contact Amy at outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org 781-646-5417 with the number of tickets you want. Further instructions will be given. **Deadline to order tickets is Fri., March 28.** Tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-serve basis.



AFC in Action – February

AFC Outing to Perpetual Motion in Lowell



Local Events & Activities – March

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

Snowman Contest

Whenever it snows this winter make a snowman or snow sculpture with your family & friends. Take a picture of you with your creation and send it to the Arl. Rec. Dept. The winner will be on the cover of the 2009 Winter Recreation Brochure. All other pictures will be displayed in the office. Arlington residents only. Submit as many pictures as you want. Deadline is March 31. Send to: Arl. Rec. Snowman Contest, c/o Dan McGrath, 422 Summer St. Info: 781-316-3880 or RecOffice@town.arlington.ma.us

Once Upon a Time with Kidstock

140 Clarendon St. Boston,
Sat/Sun. March 1 & 2, 11am, **Rumplestiltskin**
All ages, \$8/person, children under 3yrs. Free,
617-585-5678 or www.lyricstage.com.

Seussical

Sun. March 2, 1 & 3pm, Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center, 333 Nahanton St. Newton Center, Ages: 3yrs.+ , \$12/member or \$14 general admission, Info: 617-558-6522 or www.lsjcc.org/home/cultural_magic.html

Playtime Theatre

Sat. March 1, **Little Red Riding Hood**
Sat. March 8, **Stone Soup**
Sat. March 15, **Chicken Little**
Sat. March 29, **Aladdin**
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

Saturday Stories with Joey Talbert

March 8, 10:30am, 358 Baker Ave. W. Concord, Enjoy heart-warming stories of the season while introducing your children to the magic of live storytelling. Ages: 3yrs.+ , \$6/advance, \$8/at the door,
www.concordyouththeatre.org

SteveSongs in Concert

Sat. March 15, 10am, 1 & 3pm, 1154 Great Plain Ave. Needham, \$10/advance, \$12/door, Info: 1-800-937-3397 (10-6pm, Mon.-Fri.)

Big Apple Circus

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

Family Concert

Sun. March 30, 2pm-3:30pm, National Heritage Museum, 33 Marrett Rd. Lex. Family Folk Chorale celebrates the music of Cat Stevens, member price: \$8/adult & \$6/child, non-member price: \$10/adult & \$8/child, Info: 781-861-6559 or www.monh.org

BosTix Junior

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

Baby Loves Disco

Last Sunday of each month, 2-5pm, Revolution Rock Bar, 200 High St. Boston, \$12 (non-walkers, free) Childproof disco/dance party with “real” music by the legendary DJ kon, healthy snacks by Wild Oats, bar available for mom and dad. Info: www.babylovesdisco.com

Sing-alongs & Music

Monday

Finagle a Bagel

5pm, 91 Middlesex Tpke, Burl. Ed Morgan performs fun original and classic children’s songs. Free, Info: 781-273-6500 or www.finagleabagel.com

Stellabella Toys

11am, 1967 Mass. Ave., Camb., Porter Sq. Sing-along, play games. Free, Info: 617-864-6290

Wednesday

Bear Rock Café

10am, 350 Cambridge St., Woburn (near Whole Foods), Info: 781-938-6100 or www.bearrockcafe.com.

1st and 3rd Friday of the month Calvary Church

10am, 300 Mass. Ave.
Join Diane Taraz for a fun sing-a-long,
\$1/person, Info: www.dianetaraz.com

Saturday

Stellabella Toys

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

Storytimes and Library Programs

Spanish Story Time

Sat. March 8, 9:15am, Robbins Library, Sing songs, listen to stories, learn new words & make new friends. Songs in Spanish with translation. Info: 781-316-3234 or www.robbinslibrary.org

Pixie Sticks in Concert

Sat. March 29, 11am, Robbins Library, Join in the fun with traditional favorites, bi-lingual songs, & dancing. Space is limited so tickets will be available beginning at 9am the day of the performance. Info: 781-316-3234 or www.robbinslibrary.org

Moving & Growing

Fridays, March 21-April 11, 10:30am, Robbins Library, This music and movement class is for babies up to 1 year old. Sign up for all four classes beginning March 7. Info: 781-316-3234 or www.robbinslibrary.org

Book Sale

Sat. March 15, 9am-2pm, Robbins Library, Sale of children’s and young adult books, activities and crafts for children occurring during the sale, donations accepted at different locations, Info: 781-316-3234 or www.robbinslibrary.org

Drop-in Storytime at Robbins

Toddlers (18 months-2.5 yrs.)
Mondays, 10:30am, March 3, 17, 24, & 31
Stories, rhymes, fingerplays and a simple craft

Preschoolers (2.5 yrs. and up)

Mondays, 11am, March 3, 17, 24, & 31

Longer stories followed by a craft

3-5 Year Olds

Wednesdays, 10:30am, March 5, 19, & 26

Stories, rhymes, games, fingerplays, & a craft

Info: 781-316-3234 or www.robbsinlibrary.org**Sing-a-long at Robbins**

Tuesdays, 10am, March 4, 18, & 25

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.robbsinlibrary.org**1st Thursday of the Month****Singalong at Fox**

March 6, 10am, Fox Library, Join Sulinha for

singing, dancing, and fun! Info: 781-316-3198

Drop-In Storytime at Fox

Tuesdays, March 4, 11, 18, & 25

Ages 2-3yr. 10am**Ages 4-5yrs.** 10:30am

Stories and fingerplays followed by a craft

Info: 781-316-3198 or www.robbsinlibrary.org**Tuesday****Barnes & Noble**

98 Middlesex Tpke., Burlington

Preschoolers, 10:30am, Free, Info: 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, Info: 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. March 13, 10:30am, National Heritage

Museum, 33 Marrett Rd. Lex. Come listen to

"Remember Me: Stories about Childhood" and

make your own scrapbook. \$3/child

(members) \$5/child (nonmembers) Info: 781-

861-6559 or www.monh.org**Henry Bear's Park**

11am, 685 Mass. Ave. Arl. 781-646-9400 and

361 Huron Ave, Camb. 617-547-8424, Ages:

3-6yrs. Free, Info: www.henrybear.com.**Friday****Barefoot Books**

10:30am, 1771 Mass. Ave. Camb. A fun hour

of age- appropriate stories, coloring and

refreshments, Free, Ages 1yr.+ Info: 617-349-

1610 or www.barefootbooks.com.**Barnes & Noble**

98 Middlesex Tpke. Burlington,

Pajamarama: 7pm, Free. Info: 781-273-3871

Concord Museum Story Hour

March 7, 1pm, 200 Lexington Rd., Concord.

For ages 3-5 years; adult/child program,

\$5/pair, members, \$8/pair, nonmembers. This

month's story: "Hammer Soup" by the

Schuberts. 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 or 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****Adoptive Family Gym Mixer**

Mon, 9:30-11am. Together in Motion, 1

Broadway, Arl. \$5/child. For families with

children 0-6.years. Info: 781-643-1377 or

www.togetherinmotion.com**Arlington Boys and Girls Club**

Offers many fun, spring classes for children

and a **Parent and Child Drop-in Swim** (until

June 3) Tuesdays, 10:30- 11:15am, \$4/child,

Info: www.abgclub.org**Arlington Center for the Arts**

Offers many fun, spring classes for children

Info: 781-648-6220 or www.acarts.org.**Arlington Recreation Dept.**

Offers many fun, spring classes for children.

Info: 781-316-3880 or www.arlingtonma.gov.**Artbeat Weekend Workshops**

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

Free instruction, pay for materials, Ages 4yrs+

March 1, **Painted Egg Candles**March 8, **Funny Bunnies**March 15, **Decoupaged Eggs**March 22, **Egg Ornaments**March 29, **Fuzzy Books**

Info: 781-646-2200 or

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 or

www.somervilletheatreonline.com.**Family Fun Saturdays**

10:30am, Regent Theatre, 7 Medford St. Arl.

March 1, Alice in Wonderland, \$10/adults,\$8/kids & seniors, **March 8**, The Cat'sPajamas, \$10/adults, \$8/kids & seniors, **Bonus****Show! Sun. March 9, 11am**, Justin Roberts,\$10/adults, \$8/kids & seniors, **March 15**, Yo-

Yo People, \$8/adults, \$6/kids & seniors,

March 22, The Bridies, \$10/adults, \$8/kids &seniors, **March 29**, Debbie & Friends,

\$8/adults, \$6/kids & seniors, Info: 781-646-

4849 or www.regenttheatre.com.**Fidelity House**

25 Medford St. Arl. Offers classes for

preschoolers that also have a drop-in option

Tot Time, Fridays, 9:30am or 10:30am, 1 hr.

structured activity time designed to develop

fine/gross motor and social skills, parent

remains w/child, \$5 drop-in fee (space

permitting), or \$20 for 5 wks. Info: 781-648-

2005 or www.FidelityHouse.org.**Isis Maternity**

Programs & products for expecting & new

parents. *AFC member discount-1st month free*,**Drop-in Playgroups:**

Non-mobile babies Thurs. 1:45pm,

Mobile babies Fri. 3:30 pm,

Free for members, \$5 for non-members. Info:

www.isismaternity.com.**Music Together**

Explore what music sounds like, looks like,

and feels like. Info: 781-648-4084 or

www.musictogetherofarlington.com**Parent and Tot Connection**

Fridays, 9:30-11am, Arl. Boys & Girls Club,

Drop-in playgroup for toddlers and

preschoolers with caregiver, Play, crafts,

stories, music, Free, Info: www.abgclub.org.**Puddlestompers Playgroup**

Wednesdays, 10am-11:30am, local

playgrounds (free) or the Fox Library

Community Room (\$1), This drop-in

playgroup is for toddlers, preschoolers,

siblings and their caregivers. Come make

friends and have fun! Meeting locations are

emailed on Tues. nights. To be added to the

group email list contact Sarah at 781-648-3342

or siendo@verizon.net.**Toddlers and Twos**

Every Weds. & Fri. 9:30-11am, Gibbs Gym,

Foster St. Indoor play program for tots (15-36

months) and parents, structured for the

development of gross and fine motor skills,

\$45/10 visit pass or \$5 drop-in/child, Info:

781-316-3880 or www.arlingtonma.gov.**Together in Motion**

1 Broadway, E. Arl. Drop-in play space with 3

areas for: crawlers, open play; organized

games. Ages 0-6. Mon-Fri 1:30-5pm; Mon,

11am-12:30pm; Wed, 9:30am-12:30pm;

Sat&Sun, 9-11am. \$7/ages 1-6; \$5, 6-12 mos;

under 6 mos, free with playing sibling. Fall

classes include: **Itsy, Bitsy Yoga, Matial****Arts Sampler, Creative Movement, Creative****Art Class (2-3yrs. & 3-5yrs.) and Movin' &****Groovin'**, Info: 781-643-1377 orwww.togetherinmotion.com**Veteran's Memorial Skating Rink**

422 Summer St. \$3/children under 16, \$6/adult

Open until March 23rd! 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) Info: Amy Pearson at
alm.pearson@verizon.net or
www.kidsplaybedford.com.

Belmont Kidspace

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

LPPTA Drop-In Center

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

Winchester Recreation Playtime

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

Winterfun

Weds. Dec. 12, 9:30-11am, Bowman
Elementary School Cafeteria (enter front door,
turn left) 9 Philip Rd. Lex. This drop-in arts &
crafts program for toddlers & preschoolers
meets every other Weds. during the school
year. \$2/child, Info: Jackie Lupone 781-538-
5648 or Susan Morin 781-676-2041 or
www.lppta.org

Winter Park

Fridays, 1-2:30pm, Waldorf School, 739 Mass.
Ave. Lex. (check in at the office for new room
location) Drop-in, indoor playspace for
toddlers and preschoolers, Requested donation
of \$5. or \$10/family. Info: 781-863-1062 or
www.thewaldorfschool.org

Gymnastics Academy of Boston

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

TumbleKids Open Gym

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

Kids Playground

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

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.

Concord Museum

200 Lexington Rd, Concord. Open daily,
Winter hours (until March31) Mon-Sat 11-
4pm, Sun 1-4pm. 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.

Ecotarium

222 Harrington Way, Worcester. Open Tues-
Sat 1am-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.

The Frog pond offers concessions, skate rentals,
rest rooms, and a warming area. **Closes for the
season in mid-March**, Info: 617-635-2120 or
www.bostoncommonfrogpond.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.

Stone Zoo

149 Pond St. Stoneham. Open daily 10am-
4pm, Small zoo, with a petting barnyard,
playground and many animal exhibits.
\$8/Adult, \$5/Ages 2-12, under 2yrs. free, Info:
781-438-5100 or www.zoonewengland.com.

Take a Walk at Gore Place

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

Seminars and Open Houses

Frog Pond, Boston Common

Covenant School Open House

March 7, 9-10am, 9 Westminster Ave.
Arlington. Info: 781-613-5511 or
www.covmin.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.lesleyellis.org for a brochure and registration information.

Benefits

Circle of Songs

Sat. March 15, 10:30am, Calvary Methodist Church, 300 Mass. Ave. Come enjoy this fundraising concert for the Arlington Heights Nursery School. Fingerplays, songs, and musical activities will be part of this interactive show. \$9/adults or \$7/child in advance, \$10/at the door, Purchase tickets at AHNS, 10 Acton St. or at Henry Bear's Park in Arl. Center.

PTO Thrift Shop

Benefits Arlington Public Schools
Basement of the Fox Library,
Hours: Weds. 4-8pm, Thurs. 9:30am- 1pm, 2nd Sat. of the month 12:30—5pm, Gently-used clothing for all ages, toys, books, housewares, and more, Info: 781-483-3433 or
www.ptothriftshop.com.

Groups

40-something Mom's Group

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

Arlington Area Adoption Moms

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

Belmont Food Allergy & Asthma Support Group

Parents group meets monthly to discuss and advocate for children living with food allergies and asthma. Info: Theresa Normile 617-489-6668 or Tnormile@foodallergyfacts.com.

Breastfeeding Drop-in Group

Thurs. 3pm, Isis Maternity,
For nursing moms and babies, Free,
Staffed by certified lactation consultants, Info:
www.isismaternity.com.

Grandparents' Support Group

Second Tues. of the month, 12-1:30pm. For grandparents who are primary caretakers of their grandchildren. Free. Info: 781-316-3410.

International Adoptions

Free 8 week support and education group for

parents accompanied by their children. Meets Tues 10-11:30am at 1430 Main St, Waltham. Info: 781-693-5677 or eberne@jfcoston.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, Info: 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. Info: Deb Savage
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 Mom's Group

Did you know that over 40% of AFC mom's are juggling both careers and families? Get together with other working moms! Every 3rd Wed of the month at 7:30 pm at Arlington Enrichment Collaborative (1100 Mass. Ave - 2nd floor, across from Jimmy's Steerhouse). 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**

March, 2008

AFC Membership/Renewal Form

New member **Renewal** Date: _____

Gift membership from: _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email Address(es): _____

All AFC correspondence (announcements and newsletters) are sent out via email by default.

Please check below if you would rather:

Printed newsletter mailed to me, in addition to email.

Printed newsletter only, not the email version.

I prefer not to receive any email from AFC. (Printed newsletter will be mailed to you.)

Please list your child(ren): (if applicable)

Name Gender Date of Birth (mo/year)

School District: (circle one for geographic location)

Bishop Brackett Dallin Hardy

Peirce Stratton Thompson Out-of-Town

Would you like to be contacted about volunteering?

Yes No

Volunteer Interests

(check all that apply)

Events/Parties New Parent Outreach

Newsletter Outings with Kids Playgroups

Outings without Kids Seminars Web Site

Email Bulletin Childcare & Preschool Options

Publicity Membership Working Moms

Community Service Kindergarten Connections

Treasurer/Clerk Other _____

Membership Fees: All memberships renew in August, 2008, and begin September 1st for a flat \$20/yr.

Sponsor Member (\$25). Enjoy the usual benefits of membership plus make a \$5 donation to help support new AFC programs.

Standard Member. Circle the month you are joining:

\$20 (August/September/October)

\$15 (November/December/January)

\$10 (February/March/April)

\$5 (May/June/July)

Please mail membership form and check to:

Arlington Family Connection

P.O. Box 150

Arlington, MA 02476