



Arlington Family Connection

supporting children six and under and those who care for them

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Fabulous Secondhand Shopping

By Amy Weitzman

As one of the founders of The Little Fox, you'd expect that my daughters run around in secondhand clothing. What you may not know is that I buy secondhand clothes for myself. Although it's a great way to be environmentally friendly and save money, the real reason I shop secondhand is that the clothes I find in these stores are more "me." They're unique and fun and no one else has them. I've listed my favorite stores below. I hope you'll try them!

Poor Little Rich Girl

Discovering this consignment store in Davis Square changed how I thought about secondhand clothing. The clothes are well-organized and stylish, and the dressing rooms are big, bright, and plentiful. It's the most trendy of the secondhand shops I've listed here and it also has a great selection of vintage clothing and accessories. The store is also stroller friendly. A unique feature of Poor Little Rich Girl is its 20% discount policy when you consign clothes and use your store credit to make a purchase. They also have a great drop-off consignment option; when you bring items in during the 1st to the 15th of the month, no appointment is necessary!

Wardrobe

This great consignment store is right in Arlington, tucked behind the Jefferson Cutter house (which makes for easy parking in the municipal lot). The clothes are high-quality, current, and the prices are very good. The owner is very friendly; make sure to get on her mailing list so you can do some evening shopping with wine & cheese! The store is also stroller-friendly.

April Food Pantry Drive a Success



Arlington Family Connection held its third annual food drive for the Arlington Food Pantry during the month of April. We are pleased to announce it was a huge success. AFC collected canned goods and other food and toiletry items at every AFC event, and rounded out the month with a tour of the Food Pantry and a special sing-along led by Marci Cohen. We also presented the Food Pantry with a \$100 donation from AFC. A special "thank you" to Warren Johnson, longtime volunteer at the Food Pantry, for helping the children understand the importance of giving. The children were all pretty impressed at the large quantities of food on the shelves! We would also like to thank Isis Maternity, Together in Motion, and the Dance Place for joining the food drive by letting us leave donation boxes there all month. And, even though our food drive is over, please continue to make donations to the Arlington Food Pantry. They are located at the Church of Our Savior (21 Marathon St.).

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Raspberry Beret

This store opened recently and offers quality clothes at low prices. The styles include both trendy clothing and more mainstream items. The store is stroller-friendly and, for \$50, they will make a two-hour house call if you have a large number of items to consign.

Second Time Around

This consignment store has two levels and a big selection of quality clothing, plus a high-end designer section full of expensive pieces. The dressing rooms are cramped and it's not stroller friendly.

Goodwill

The Goodwill store in Davis Square has great clothing. It takes time to look through all the clothes, but you can't beat the prices. Unlike the other stores listed here, Goodwill is not a consignment store. It is actually a thrift shop selling donated items.

Consignment Tips

Consignment stores take your clothing, sell it, and share the proceeds with you. Each store works differently, but you need to make an appointment for all of them, with the exception of Poor Little Rich Girl. Clothes must be from the current season or slightly ahead-of-season. Clothes must be clean and folded, in a shopping bag or box.

Poor Little Rich Girl

255 Elm St.
Somerville (Davis Square)
(617) 684-0157
<http://www.shoppoorlittlerichgirl.com/>
Mon-Sat 11am-7pm/Sun 12-6pm

Wardrobe

23 Mystic St.
Arlington (Arlington Center)
(781) 641-3325
<http://www.iloveporch.com/>
M-F 10am-6pm/Sat 10am-5pm/Sun 12-4pm

Raspberry Beret

1704 Mass. Ave.
Cambridge (between Porter and Harvard Squares)
(617) 354-3700
www.raspberryberet.us
W/F 11am-6pm/Th 11am-8pm/Sat 10am-6pm/
Sun 1-6pm

Second Time Around

8 Eliot St.
Cambridge (Harvard Square)
(617) 491-7185
www.secondtimearound.net
M-F 11am-7pm/Sat 10am-7pm/Sun 12-6pm

Goodwill

230 Elm St.
Somerville (Davis Square)
(617) 628-3618
Mon-Sat 10am-7pm/Sun 12-6 pm

Amy Weitzman is a co-founder of The Little Fox, a children's resale shop that benefits the Fox Library in East Arlington. For more information or to volunteer, please visit www.littlefoxshop.com.

AFC Directory

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

AFC Playtime - Glendalys Ghandi
playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Book Group - Shannon LeMay-Finn and Michael Schneider
bookgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Clerk - Eileen Coleman

Community Service - Lauren Boyle, Liz Katzman, Mary Wagner, and Amy Yelin
community@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

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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 for bylined articles remains with the individual author. All other materials are ©2009 Arlington Family Connection. 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. Send editorial submissions to: newsletter@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org; calendar listings to calendar@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC in Action

April Highlights



Game Outing



Circus Outing



Codman Farm Outing

May AFC Events

AFC Playtime has closed for the season. We hope to see everyone next year and at the playground this summer!

Play at McClennen Park **Monday, May 4**

3:30–5pm. Come meet and join AFC members while playing at Arlington’s McClennen Park. Located on Summer St. (Rte. 2A), by the Lexington line. Free. Eileen, 617-620-1772, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.com

Drop-in Playgroup **Tuesday, May 5**

3:30-5pm. Fox Library Comm. Rm., E. 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, May 6**

7:30 pm. Location to be determined. All members, feedback, and ideas welcome! Please contact Amy for details. 781-646-5417, info@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Seed Planting at Waldo Park **Tuesday, May 12** **Rain date May 19**

3:30-5 pm. Join us to plant seeds that you can watch grow all summer long, and stay to play afterwards at the playground. Free. Waldo Park, Waldo Street or Teele St., between Mass. Ave. and Broadway. Free. Amy, 781-646-5417, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.com

Dad’s Book Group **Wednesday, May 13**

7:30 pm. Starbucks, Arl. Ctr. Note: the group normally meets the 1st Wednesday of the month, but for this meeting only, it has been moved to the 2nd Wednesday. The book is *Flashforward* by Robert J. Sawyer. Come even if you don't have a chance to read the book, and bring suggestions for the next month’s book. Mike, 781-643-6391, mikesch@alum.mit.edu

Book Group **Wednesday, May 13**

7:30 pm. Kayuga, 444 Massachusetts Avenue, Arl. Ctr. This month’s title is *Tender is the Night* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. Come even if you don't have the chance to read the book. Shannon, 781-777-2636, bookgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Puddlestompers Nature Exploration **Thursday, May 14** **Rain date May 21**

10–11 am. Great Meadow, Arlington. Bring your little naturalist and come explore the wonders of Mother Nature right here in Arlington’s Great Meadow in this class just offered for AFC members. We’ll be talking about - and digging for - worms, as well as doing a worm-related craft. Ages 2+. The cost is \$5 per child, with the AFC picking up the rest. Space is limited, so please RSVP by Monday, May 11 to Karen, 781-643-0773, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.com

Working Moms Group **Wednesday, May 20**

7:30 pm. Isis Maternity, 387 Mass. Ave., Arl. Ctr. 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.com.

Open Volunteer Positions

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

Communications Coordinator

If you are frequently on email, have a reliable email program, are comfortable with light editing, and can give AFC 1-2 hours per week - we need you! The Communications Coordinator is responsible for emailing all AFC notices (all written by other people) -- newsletters, outing reminders, and special announcements.

For more info, contact Ruth at 781-643-2362 or AFC@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org.

Childcare & Preschool Options Committee

Each year, AFC updates its popular “Childcare and Preschool Options in Arlington” booklet and hosts an open house where parents and caregivers meet with representatives from local preschool and daycare facilities. The booklet lists all licensed daycare and preschool providers in Arlington and details how, when, and who to contact for applications or further information.

The open house, or “Options Night,” is one of the most anticipated and well-attended events of the year and the booklet is sold throughout the year as well as on “Options Night.”

We are seeking two to three volunteers to help update the booklet and run the “Options Night” open house. The booklet is published in time for the open house (early October).

Help us make this year’s book and event a success! For details on responsibilities and time required, please contact Eileen Coleman directly at 617-620-1772 or email options@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org to volunteer.

Kindergarten Connections: Hardy School

We need a volunteer to schedule activities (playground outings, potluck dinners, etc.) for June-August for incoming **Hardy** kindergarteners, and to send the info to the Kindergarten Connections coordinator. For info, contact Mary Ellen Maronow at kinderconnect@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Save the Date!

Sunday, June 22, 5pm
LeLacheur Park, Lowell

AFC Outing: Lowell Spinners Baseball

Bring the family to see this Class-A Boston Red Sox affiliate (www.lowellspinners.com). \$6.50/ticket. **RSVP by May 31.** Eileen 617-620-1772, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Give us your opinion!

Most of the time, it feels as if we’re working in a bubble. It’s hard to know if the events and destinations listed are of interest to you.

- What do you think of the **calendar** section?
- Is it a helpful reference for you?
- Is it organized in a meaningful way?
- Do you know of activities we could add?

As you can tell, there are a number of repeated listings every month, and we wonder if that is helpful. Our goal is to make this section one you look forward to every month. We would like to get your feedback on how to make this section more relevant to you.

Please send your comments to calendar@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org.



More from the April Game Outing

Local Events & Activities – May

Arlington Venues

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

Special Events for Families

Special Benefit Events

Yellow Balloon Fair

Sat., May 9, 10am-2pm. Community Nursery School (CNS) is hosting its annual fair at 2325 Mass. Ave, Lex. There will be preschool-oriented games and crafts, face painting, tattoos, raffle prizes, a barbeque lunch, snacks, and much more! \$2/child, adults free. In case of rain, location will be 459 Bedford Street, next to the Boston Sports Club. Info: 781-862-0741.

Lexington Preschool PTA Consignment Sale

Sat. May 9, 8:30am-12:30pm at St. Brigid's Parish, 2001 Mass Ave, Lex. There will be a large selection of children's toys, equipment, and clothing (newborn – size 8) for sale. Proceeds benefit the LPPTA's Scholarship Fund. Be sure not to miss the Bargain Bag Sale from 11:30am – 12:30pm, purchase a shopping bag for \$10 and fill it with all the clothes and toys you can fit. Large equipment and toy items that don't fit in a bag will be discounted 50% off the ticketed price.

Bishop School Spring Fair & Yard Sale

Sat. May 16, 10-3pm, Bishop School, 25 Columbia Rd. Arl. Enjoy moonwalks, mazes, a special mystery ride, tractor rides, games, face painting, raffles, plant sale, bake sale, fair food, and more! Free entry, but games, rides, and food cost extra. **Rain date:** Sun. May 17, 10-3pm, Info: 781-646-1000

Musical, Theater and other Performances

Snow White and the Seven Dwarves

Fri. May 1, 7pm, Sat. and Sun. May 2 and 3 at 2pm, Arlington Children's Theater, 41 Foster St, Arl. \$10/ticket. Info and tickets: act.arlington.ma.us.

Concord Youth Theater Mainstage

Fri. May 1, 8 at 7:30pm & Sat. May 2, 9 at 2:30 and 7pm: **Snow White**. Emerson Umbrella Theater, 40 Stow St., Concord. Tickets \$10-15/person. Info: www.concordyouththeatre.org.

David Polansky Concert

Sat. May 2, 11am, Performing Arts Center of Metrowest, 140 Pearl St., Framingham. \$6/children 12 and under, \$8/adults. Info and tickets: 508-875-5554 or www.pacmetrowest.org.

Family Fun at the Regent

May 3 – **The Three Musketeers**
11am, \$8/kids and seniors, \$10/adults. Info: 781-646-4849 or www.regenttheatre.com.

Big Apple Circus

Apr. 4–May 10. Boston City Hall Plaza, Boston. Tickets & info at www.bigapplecircus.org.

Playtime Theatre

Sat. May 2, **The Cat in the Hat**
Sat. May 9, **Peter Pan**
Sat. May 14, **Sleeping Beauty**
Shows are at 10:30am, Harvey Wheeler Community Center, 1276 Main St., W. Concord, This classic fairy tale is given a twist when the audience is strongly encouraged to participate. All ages, \$5/person. No advance ticket sales. Info: www.concordyouththeatre.org.

Once Upon a Time with Kidstock

140 Clarendon St., Boston,
May 16, 17, 11am
The Princess and the Peanut Butter Sandwich

All ages, \$10/person. Children under 3 yrs. free, 617-585-567, 8 or www.lyricstage.com

Puppet Showplace and Theater

Wed. & Thurs. at 10:30am and Sat. and Sun. at 1 & 3pm. 32 Station St, Brookline (across from Brookline Village T.) New shows each week and weekend, last 45min. to 1hr., and are for ages 3+. \$10/person. Tickets and info: 617-791-6400 or www.puppetshowplace.org.

BosTix Junior

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

Other Events

May Fair

Sun. May 3, 12-6pm, Harvard Square, Cambridge, Vendors selling food, artwork, jewelry, clothing, etc. chalk on the walk, and more! Info: www.harvardsquare.com

Ducklings Day Parade

Sun. May 10, 12pm, Boston Common (base of Shaw Memorial, below State House) Boston. Retrace the steps of Mr. & Mrs. Mallard (from Make Way for Ducklings) and their eight ducklings dressed as one of your favorite characters from the book. Pre-register online or beginning at 10am at the site that day, \$25/family includes snacks, entertainment, and a toy for each child. Info: www.friendsofthepublicgarden.org

Earthfest

Sat. May 30, Hatch Shell, Boston, 92.9 FM hosts an afternoon of music & entertainment that also serves as a showcase for environment-friendly activities & products. Free. Time and other info: www.earthfest.com

Programs at Drumlin Farm

May 6– **Trucks, Tractors and Tools**. Join us as we go on a search for trucks, tractors, and tools. We'll meet Drumlin's own farmer and others as we get a behind-the-scenes look at some of these mega-machines. 1-2:30pm, all ages.

May 8 or May 19 – **Buzzy Bees**. Investigate the busy lives of honeybees. Visit the hives and taste a sweet snack. 3:30-5pm, all ages.

May 27– **Afternoon Chores**. Discover and use some of the farmer's tools while helping with farm chores. We'll finish with a delicious farm snack. 4:-5:30pm, ages 4-6.

Prices vary , pre-registration is required. Info: 781-259-2206 or

www.massaudubon.org/drumlin

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 by Wild Oats, and bar available for mom and dad. Info:

www.babylovesdisco.com

Sing-alongs & Music

Monday

11am, **Stellabella Toys**, 1967 Mass. Ave., Porter Sq., Camb., Free. Info: 617-864-6290.

Wednesday

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

Thursday

Cary Library 1874 Mass Ave, Lex.

May 7

9:30am 0-15months

10:30am 16-24 months

11:15am 25-30 months.

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

1st & 3rd Friday of the month

10am, **Calvary Church**, 300 Mass. Ave.

Join Diane Taraz for a fun sing-along,

\$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

Origamido and Origami

Sat. May 9, 3-4pm. Multigenerational Young kids, old kids, parents, grandparents join Origamido to make SPACE mural from Origami. Pick up ticket 1 hr. before (2:00)

Baby Bruhaha

Sat. May 16, 2-3pm. For babies and caregivers where we welcome new babies up to 6 mos! Come eat and talk, learn about library resources, and leave with a free book! Please call 781-316-3234 to sign up.

Special Storytime with Terry Golson

Wed. May 20 at 10:30am. Read stories, meet chickens, and learn interesting chicken facts.

English Story Time

Mon. May 4, 11, 18 (drop in)

10:30 am for ages 18-30 months.

Stories, rhymes, and fingerplays for the first 15 min., followed by a simple craft

11am for ages 2½+

Longer stories followed by a craft.

Wed. May 6, 13, 20, 27 at **10:30am**, 3-5 yrs.

Longer stories followed by a craft. Drop in.

Spanish story time

Sat. May 9 at 9:30am. Stories, songs, books and poems. All ages. Drop in

Sing-alongs for Infants & Toddlers

Tues. May 5, 12, 19, 26 at 10am. Space is limited; tickets given out one hr. before program begins.

FOX LIBRARY:

Wind in the Willows

Wed. May 20 at 6:30pm. Watch the film adaptation of this much-loved classic about Mole, Ratty, Badger and, of course, Toad. All Ages. Drop-In.

Amazing Adaptations from Animal World Experience

Wed. May 27, 3-4pm. Come see animals that climb like spider-man, survive sub-zero temperatures, use their tongues as fishing lures and more! Ages 2+. Pick up ticket 1 hr. before.

Sing alongs

Thurs, May 7, 14, 21, 28 at 10am (1st Thursday of every month). For infants and toddlers. Join Sulinha for singing, dancing, and fun.

English story time

Tues. May 5, 12, 19, 26

10:00am 2-3 yrs.

10:30am 4-5 yrs.

Stories and finger plays, followed by a craft. Drop in.

Storytimes

Monday

Starbucks

10:15am, Arlington Center. Free. Info: 781-641-2893.

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 (May 5)

Harvard Coop for ages 2-4

11am, 1400 Mass. Ave. Camb. Free, Info:

617-499-2000.

Pottery Barn Kids

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

Wednesday

Cary Library,

10:30am - 2.5 yrs.

2pm - 4-6 yrs.

(May 6) Info: 781-862-6288

Porter Square Books

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

Info: 617-491-2220,

www.portersquarebooks.com

Thursday

Henry Bear's Park for ages 3-6

11am, 685 Mass. Ave., Arl. Free. Info: 781-646-9400 or www.henrybear.com

11am (call to confirm) 361 Huron Ave, Camb.

Free. Info: 617-547-8424 or

www.henrybear.com.

Friday

Barefoot Books for ages 1yr +

10:30am, 1771 Mass. Ave., Camb. A fun hour of age-appropriate stories, coloring, and refreshments, Free. Info: 617-349-1610 or

www.barefootbooks.com.

Cary Library, Lexington

10:30am. For age 3 yrs. Info: 781-862-6288 (May1, 8)

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 & craft. Free, 617-499-2000 or <http://store.thecoop.com>

In Arlington – Indoor Playspaces

Arlington Boys & Girls Club

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

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 & social skills (parent remains w/child), \$5 drop-in fee (space permitting). 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**: Thurs. 1:45-2:45pm non-mobile babies, Mon. 3:30-4:30 pm mobile babies (up to 3 yrs) Free for members, \$5 for non-members. Info: www.isismaternity.com.

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 11:15am-12:45pm 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

In Arlington – Other Activities

Arlington Boys & Girls Club

Offers many fun summer classes for children and a **Parent & Child Drop-in Swim** (until June 2) Tuesdays, 10:30- 11:15am, \$4/child, Info: www.abgclub.org

Arlington Center for the Arts

Offers many fun 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+ offered as well. Info and registration at 781-316-8090 or act.arlington.ma.us.

Arlington Recreation Dept.

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

Artbeat Tot Art

Tues. & Wed., 10:30-11:30am, offering a special art project for ages 18mos to 4yrs. Adult supervision required, \$6/child.

Artbeat Weekend Workshops

Sat., 3-6pm, 212A Mass. Ave, Arl. A different project each week, free instruction, pay for materials. Ages 4yrs+. Info: 781-646-2200, www.artbeatonline.com.

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

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.

Music Together

Explore what music sounds, looks, and feels like. Now enrolling for 2009 sessions. Call 781-648-4084 or visit www.musictogetherofarlington.com

Les Petits Amis – French classes NEW SESSION

Join instructor Lisa Richtmann for a fun, interactive French class for children 2-5yrs. Wed. Jun. 10-Jul. 29 OR Thurs. Jun. 11-Jul. 30, 10-10:45am at Fox Library. \$150/session. Register online at the Arlington recreation department website or call the department at 781-316-3880.

SUMMER FUN!

Reservoir Tags on Sale Now

Beach tags can be purchased in person at the Arlington Recreation office, Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm, located at 422 Summer St., or at the beach when it opens on Jun 22. Various swim programs offered. Contact the recreation department at 781-316-3881 or www.arlingtonma.gov.

Beyond Arlington – 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. **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

Energized Athletics

100 Parker St, Watertown. Open gym Tues.-Thurs. 10am-12pm, Tues. & Thurs. 1-3pm. Ages 5mos-5yrs. There are ride-on toys, soft climbing structures, a "tumble track," and an enormous moonwalk that is used when there are enough kids. \$5/hour. Info: 617-393-9714 or www.energizedathletics.com.

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 play space, tubes and tunnels, mini golf. Info: 781-935-2300, www.kidsplayground.com.

The Klubhouse

Play on a two-story pirate ship or in a castle, ride on a toy race track or giant bouncies, or play in the craft room. Separate toddler room as well. Mon-Fri: 9am-4pm, Sat-Sun: 9am-2pm. \$7-9/child, adults free. 90 Cummings Park, Woburn. Info: 781-937-KLUB or www.theklubhouse.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 play space 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

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.

Beyond Arlington – Other Activities

Family Fun night at Uno Chicago Grill, Porter Square

Let the kids make their own pizza and enjoy a balloon artist and an arts and craft station. Meals for kids are about \$5, entertainment is free. Wednesdays, 5:30-8:30pm, 820 Somerville Ave, Camb. Info: 617-864-1916.

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

Music Stay and Play Classes

Register for Wed. Jun. 3-Jul. 17 am class. Children 3 mos to 3.5 years along with caregiver gather for music and movement followed by play time for informal fun with friends! WarmLines, 225 Nevada St., Newtonville. Register on line at www.warmlines.org or call 617-244-INFO.

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

Register NOW for Lesley Ellis Summer 2009!

Exciting programs for early childhood (ages 2.9 -5) and elementary-age children (6-11). Weekly Sessions begin June 15. Visit www.lesleyellis.org for a brochure and registration information.

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. \$10/adult, \$7/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 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.

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.com.

Codman Community Farm

58 Codman Rd, Lincoln. Open Tues-Sun 9am-6pm. \$1.50/person. Non-profit, historic 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 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.

NEW! 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, \$.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+, 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 story times 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-5 pm. Animals & birds, shows, kiddie rides, animal rides (ponies, camels, elephants). \$18.75/adults; \$12.75/ages 3-12; 2 and under free. WGBH & AAA discounts. Info: 800-258-9182 or www.southwickszoo.com.

Stone Zoo

149 Pond St. Stoneham. Open daily 10am-4pm, Small zoo, with a petting barnyard, playground and many animal exhibits. \$9/Adult, \$6/Ages 2-12, under 2yrs. free, Info: 781-438-5100 or www.zoonewengland.com.

Swan Boat Rides

Boston Public Garden, Open Weekdays 10am-4pm until June 20. 10am-5pm weekdays and 10am-4pm weekends, June 21- Labor Day. Weekdays 10am-4pm Sept. 8-Sept. 20. \$2.75/adults, ages2-15yrs/\$1.50, seniors \$2. Info: 617-522-1966 or www.swanboats.com.

Take a Walk at Gore Place

52 Gore St., Waltham, Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm; Sat 11-3pm. Visit llamas, sheep, goats, chickens, rabbits. Rent an "activity pack" with activities appropriate for children ages 3-9yrs. Backpack rental, \$5. Special Concert Sept. 14. Info: 781-894-2798 or www.goreplace.org.

Seminars and Open Houses

Child Studies

Have you ever wondered what your infant is thinking when they meet a new person or play with a new toy? The Tufts University Emotion, Brain, and Behavior Lab is seeking subjects for studies whose goal is to gain new knowledge that will ultimately contribute to the healthy development of children of all ages. The lab is currently conducting research studies with infants 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.

Benefit

Little Fox Resale Shop

Open Tues. & Thurs. 9am-12pm, Wed. 2:30-8pm, on the upper level of the Fox Library. Benefiting the Fox Library, the shop includes toys, books, children's gear, the shop as well as maternity clothes, kids shoes, games, and sports equipment. Info: www.littlefoxshop.com.

Support Groups

40-something Mom's Group

Suzan Wolpov, 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 1st Thurs. of the month 9:30-11am in northwest Cambridge. Registration required, \$25/meeting. Info: 617-441-0758 or www.yourclearvoice@msn.com

ADHD Support Group for Women

New session begins every few months. Meets Tues. 6-7:30pm twice a month in Lexington, cost is approx. \$50. Contact Heidi Lack, Ph.D., A.T.R.-BC, at 781-863-8696 for more info.

Adoptive Families Chat & Play

First Sat. of each month, 3:30-4:30pm, ISIS Maternity, Arl. A collaboration between Isis and ACONE, join us for an hour of playtime, support and networking. Children 0-3 welcome. PLEASE RSVP by contacting Becky Moyer at (617) 721-6783 or beckym678@yahoo.com.

Boston Babywearers

3rd Wed. of each month, 10:30am-12:30pm, College Avenue United Methodist Church, 14 Chapel Street, Somerville. Find the right baby carrier for you and/or learn how to use the carrier you own. Enjoy their free 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

2nd Tues. of the month, 12-1:30pm. For grandparents who are primary caretakers of their grandchildren. Free. Info: 781-316-3410.

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://www.lleus.org/web/ArlingtonCambridgeMa.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. 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. 10:30am-12pm, Temple Isiah, 55 Lincoln St, Lexington, Sponsored by the Parent Connection of BIDMC. Free 8 week sessions, Registration required. Info: 617-667-2229.

NEW LISTING!

New Mommy Group

Wed. 10-11:30am, 191 Highland Ave, Somerville. \$150 for 6-week session which begins May 6. For newborns to pre-crawlers & their mommies. Each session will begin with a warm-up using the arts, and lead into a discussion where moms will have the opportunity to connect to one another and share thoughts and concerns. Through the use of visual art, music and movement, massage, and relaxation techniques, we will explore how we can continue to grow personally while caring for a new baby. No art training required! The group will be lead by two Expressive Art Therapists/Licensed Mental Health Counselors who are both mothers and very interested in the use of the arts for personal growth and communication. Register and info: 617-645-9158 or www.movingcelebrations.com.

Older First-Time Moms

3rd Wed. of each month, 7pm Fox Library. Social and support group for first-time moms in their late 30's and 40's, Free, Suggested \$1 donation. Info: 781-674-2029.

Postpartum Adjustment Support Group

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

Postpartum Support Hotline

The Postpartum Support International of MA telephone WARMLINE provides toll-free and confidential information, support and listings of local resources such as PPD groups and clinicians. A therapist volunteer covers the email of phone line and returns messages to individuals, family or friends, and professionals looking for mental health resources: 1-866-472-1897 or <http://postpartum.net/local-support/?state=MA>

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/.

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

May 2009

AFC Membership/Renewal Form

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 emails?

(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

Pierce Stratton Thompson Out-of-Town

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