



Arlington Family Connection

supporting children six and under and those who care for them

Volume VI, Issue 9 • December 2007

www.arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Project Stocking Stuffer

The holidays are here again, and AFC is proud to announce the kickoff of “Project Stocking Stuffer.” Each year during the holiday season, AFC undertakes a project to help less fortunate families and individuals. Project Stocking Stuffer is in support of the young women who reside at Germaine Lawrence in Arlington.

Germaine Lawrence provides residential treatment services for troubled adolescent girls. Located in Arlington Heights, the center provides personalized treatment and helps girls reduce destructive behaviors, develop age-appropriate social skills, and make enough progress to enable them to live at home or in the community safely again.

Stocking Stuffers for Teen Girls

We are reaching out to the young women at Germaine Lawrence and asking you to help make this holiday one to remember. With the assistance of AFC members and friends, our goal is to stuff the holiday stockings of all the young women at Germaine Lawrence with gift cards from local stores. We will also be collecting typical “teen girl” gifts such as pajamas, gloves and hats, make-up, hair accessories, and school supplies. Everything must be new and unwrapped.

We need your help to make Project Stocking Stuffer



a success. Please purchase a \$5 gift card from a local establishment such as: Barnes and Noble, Starbucks, Walgreens, Newbury Comics, Target, and Brighams. Or make a cash or check donation to this worthy cause and we would be happy to purchase the gift cards for you.

Drop-off Locations

We will be collecting items starting Monday, Nov. 26 through Friday, Dec. 14. Please drop your donations off at one of the following 3 locations:

- 28 Hillside Ave. in Arlington Heights
- 118 Ridge Street near Arlington Center
- 73 Dorothy Road in East Arlington

If you have gift cards, donation checks, or any questions with please contact Bobbi Jo Frasca at 781-316-2384, bobbijofrasca@yahoo.com or Lauren Boyle at 781-777-4052, LVarian@aol.com to arrange drop off.

Submitted by: Bobbi Jo Frasca & Lauren Boyle, AFC's “Project Stocking Stuffer” elves.

See page 2 for more local charitable giving opportunities!

Get Ready for Kindergarten!

Arlington Public Schools will present an overview of kindergarten programs:

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Dallin School, 6:45-8:30pm

Reprinted from the Arlington Public Schools website:

Join us as we welcome and introduce you to the Arlington Public Schools for a general overview of our kindergarten programs. We will present information and strategies to assist you in supporting your child's transition to public school education. This evening will provide you the opportunity to meet the principals and some teaching staff, to learn the details regarding the registration process, and to take a glimpse at our kindergarten curriculum. This will be the first step in a series of informational meetings that will prepare you and your child for kindergarten.

www.arlington.k12.ma.us/kindergarten/

Join AFC's New Monthly Book Club!

**Monday, Jan. 21, 2008, 7:30 pm.
Starbucks, Arl. Center (327 Broadway)**

Title: *The Glass Castle: A Memoir*, by Jeanette Walls

Do you like to read (or wish you had time to)? Would you enjoy some adult conversation? Please join us at our new monthly AFC Book Club. We'll choose a new book each month. Feel free to come even if you don't have a chance to read the book. Info: Wendy, 781-777-2706 or bookgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC Volunteers

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

Mimi Wan and **Catherine Hoffman** have volunteered to take AFC's treasurer hat from **Ruth Kirby** and **Cynthia Murray**. Sincere thanks to Ruth and Cynthia for their excellent work as treasurers! Catherine and her husband have lived in Arlington for 6 years and have two daughters, ages 3½ and 1½. Formerly, Catherine was a CPA working on corporate audits. Mimi will be concentrating on the "accounts receivable" (deposits) portion of treasury duties. Mimi, her husband, and daughter Abigail live in East Arlington.

Charitable Giving in Arlington

During the giving season, consider giving within our own community. Whether you can give money (cash, gift certificates), stuff (clothing, toys) or volunteer your time, all help is appreciated and helps to build a stronger community. And also remember—people "in need" are in need 365 days a year, not just around the holidays.

Here are some Arlington charities to consider. Visit www.arlingtonfamilyconnection.org/resources/charities.html for more information.

Arlington Charities

Arlington Health & Human Services SafetyNet Programs

www.town.arlington.ma.us/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_HServe/safety_net

- Arlington Food Pantry, *food assistance*
- Arlington Assistance Program, *fuel assistance*
- Head Start, *child care*
- Recreation Scholarships, *for Rec Dept, Boys & Girls Club, Fidelity House programs*
- Widow's Trust Fund, *financial assistance for health needs*

The Children's Room, *family bereavement support* - www.childrensroom.org/

Germaine Lawrence, *residence for troubled teen girls* - www.germainelawrence.org/

Housing Corp of Arlington, *low income housing* - www.housingcorparlington.org/

PTO Thrift Shop, *clothing, toys, household donations* - www.ptothriftshop.com/

STAND for Children, *education advocacy* - www.stand.org/NETCOMMUNITY/Page.aspx?pid=235&srcid=234&chid=16

Wayside Youth & Family Support Network, *family social services* - www.waysideyouth.org/

Look around you as well—what does your neighbor do? Your school? Your church? Does your company match donations or provide grants based on your donation of time or money? Watch the Arlington Parents List for folks in need (displaced from a fire, looking for a used desk, etc.).

Amy Speare is an AFC volunteer and mom of two. Thank you Margit Griffith for the inspiration and information on these resources!

AFC Directory

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

AFC Playtime - Sarah Albers
playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Clerk - Margit Griffith

Community Service - Lauren Boyle
community@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

e-Bulletin - Ruth Schmidt
bulletinboard@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Kindergarten Connections - Helene Ragovin
kinderconnect@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Membership - Leah Nelson and Molly Sanford
membership@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

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calendar@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

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

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

Seminars - Jessie Keating
seminars@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

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

Web Site - Seth Maislin
webmaster@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Working Moms - Melanie Cooke, 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

November Highlights

New Member Social



AFC Skating Party



December AFC Events

Parent's Afternoon Out Saturday, Dec. 1

2:30-5:30pm. Arl. Enrichment Collaborative, 2nd Fl., 1100 Mass. Ave., Arl. Drop-off your kid(s) for an afternoon of fun with AEC staff and certified babysitters. Ages 6 mo. & up. \$19 for 1 child, \$30 for 2. **RSVP required by Nov. 27** Amy 781-646-5417, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC Playtime! Mon., Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

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. Sarah 781-316-8181, playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org



AFC Drop-in Playgroup Tuesday, Dec. 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

AFC at Together in Motion Wednesday, Dec. 5

9:30-11am. Together in Motion, 1 Broadway, Arl. Join us for an AFC exclusive visit! AFC discount price \$5/family. Amy, 781-646-5417, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC Steering Committee Mtg. Thursday, Dec. 6

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

AFC Playground Fun: McLennen Playground Tuesday, Dec. 11

10-11:30am (rain date Dec. 13). McLennen Playground, Summer St., Arl. Heights. Come meet and play with other AFC families. Martina 781-316-8433, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org



AFC Craft Time! Tuesday, Dec. 18

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

Working Moms Group Wednesday, Dec. 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

Give the Gift of AFC!

Looking for a unique holiday gift?



An Arlington Family Connection membership makes a great new baby, new neighbor, or new friend gift!

See the back page of this newsletter for a membership form, or visit the AFC website at

www.arlingtonfamilyconnection.org to print out a form.



Local Events & Activities – December

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

Arlington First Lights

Sat. Dec. 1, 1-5pm, Enjoy activities and special promotions occurring along Mass. Ave. Look for: 1000 Jingle Bells, bright red trolleys traveling Mass. Ave. strolling carolers, view a 5 ft. stocking, raffle, caricaturist, Santa and Mrs. Claus on a fire truck, holiday stories, a teddy bear tea, Dreidel games, holiday cartoons, and Oldies 103.3 FM Radio street team, **Town Hall, 5:30pm**, ½ hour of caroling with the lighting of Arlington's holiday lights, 781-643-4600 or www.ShopArlingtonFirst.com

Holiday Fair at the Waldorf School

Sat. Dec. 1, 10-4pm, 739 Mass. Ave. Lex. Mummers play, marionette show, singers & musicians, blacksmithing & pot throwing, children's crafts & games, face painting, candle dipping, lunch and dessert café, Forty artisans will display their wares, Angel Room shopping for little ones, \$5/adult, \$3/child, \$13/family, Info: 781-863-1062 or www.thewaldorfschool.org

Family Trees at the Concord Museum

Dec. 1-Jan. 1, 200 Lexington Rd. Concord, Come see the galleries filled with fanciful trees decorated with original ornaments inspired by acclaimed children's books and contemporary picture book favorites. **Mon.- Sat. 9-5pm, Sun. 12-5pm, Thurs. Dec. 13, 20, & 27** until 8pm, **Jan. 1- 9-5pm**, Nonmembers: \$14/adult, \$10/seniors & students, \$6/children 4yrs-18yrs Members: \$5. suggested donation, (All proceeds fund educational programs) Info: 978-369-9763 or www.concordmuseum.org

Winterlights Festival

Sat/Sun. Dec. 1&2, 12-6pm, Prudential Center, Boston, Activities include: performances by school bands and local dance troupes, pictures with Santa, face painting & more! Info: www.prudentialcenter.com

Holiday Family Concert

Dec. 1, 2pm, Wellesley Hills Congregational Church, 207 Washington St. Wellesley, Join the Back Bay Ringers for holiday carols and a sing-a-long. Free, Info: 617-688-5768

United States Air Force Band of Liberty Holiday Concert

Sun. Dec. 2, 3pm, Framingham Town Hall, (Memorial Bldg.) 150 Concord St.

Framingham, Come enjoy some holiday music, Santa may stop by for some holiday cheer, Free, all ages

Holiday Open House

Thurs. Dec. 6, 6-8pm, Concord Center, Come see a parade with Frosty, Santa & Mrs. Claus, and Louisa May Alcott. Enjoy music in Monument Sq. prior to the **tree lighting at 6:30pm**, See strolling carolers and get special treats in many of the shops along Main and Walden Streets, Free hot cocoa & more! Info: www.concordchamberofcommerce.org

Polar Express/Journey to the North Pole

Sat. Dec. 1, Departs from the Newburyport Commuter Rail Station, Includes a wonderful train ride, a sea of elves, and Santa. Trains depart at **11:25am, 1:15pm, 3:15pm, 5:30pm, & 7:30pm**. \$25 each, under 1yr/free, www.icspolarexpress.com

New England Model Train Expo

Sat. Dec. 1, 10-5pm & Sun. Dec. 2, 10-4pm, Best Western Royal Plaza Trade Center, Marlborough, Enjoy various sized operating layouts, meet Santa (kids under 12 get a free gift) dealer tables, opportunity to sell your old trains, Boy Scout Merit Badge Clinic, manufacturer displays, books, collectibles, door prizes, food, & free parking. 2 Day Admission- \$6/adult, \$5/seniors, \$1/children 6-12yrs. **Wear your Boy/Girl Scout uniform to get in Free and Sun. kids under 12yrs/free** Info: 781-862-0388 or www.hubdiv.org

Christkindlmarkt

Dec. 1, 1-5pm, German International School Boston, 57 Holton St. Allston, Enjoy German fare, baked goods, hot mulled wine, holiday gifts & crafts, children's activities, raffle, choir & theater performances, pictures with Santa, Info: 617-783-2600 or www.gisbos.org

Activities at Barnes & Noble Booksellers

Sat. **Dec. 1, 2pm**, 98 Middlesex Turnpike, Burl. Come to a *Christmas sing-a-long* with Bob McGrath from Sesame Street. FREE, **Fri. Dec. 7, 6:30pm, Polar Express Party**, activities for kids of all ages, hot cocoa & cookies will be served while the tale is read by the conductor. FREE, Info: 781-273-3871

Santa at the Burlington Mall

Dec. 1-24, 75 Middlesex Turnpike (off 128/I-95 exit 32B) Hours: **Dec. 1, 9-9pm, Dec. 2, 9-**

8pm, Dec. 3, 9, 9-9pm, Dec. 10-15, 9-9:30pm, Dec. 16, 9-9pm, Dec. 17-23, 9-9:30pm, Dec. 24, 8-6pm. Info: 781-272-8667

Edaville USA

Dec. 1-Jan. 1, Mon.-Fri. 4-9pm, Sat/Sun. 2-9pm, Carver, Take a train ride and see over 7 million holiday lights & displays; ride the carousel, visit Santa (Mon.-Fri. 4:30-8:30pm, Sat/Sun. 3-8:30pm) \$16, 0-2 yrs. free, Info: 1-877-EDAVILLE or www.edaville.com

Christmas Tree Sale

Begins Dec. 1, 9-8pm daily, Clubhouse at 60 Pond Lane, A large selection of beautiful trees will be on display as well as an assortment of plain & decorated wreaths are available. Info: 781-648-1617 or www.abgclub.org

Tomie dePaola at the Concord Museum

Sat. Dec. 8, 11-1pm, 200 Lexington Rd. Concord, Join this children's author for a reading and book signing of his *Big Book of Favorite Legends*. Open to the public by reservation only due to space. Info: 978-369-9763 or www.concordmuseum.org

Verrill Farm Activities

Dec. 8, 2-5pm, 11 Wheeler Rd. Concord, Children's crafts for the first hour, followed by Santa's arrival, holiday music and carols. *Gingerbread House Workshops* Sat. Dec. 1, & 9, 9:30am, 11:30am, or 1:30pm, \$35/house (includes assembled house, frosting, & candy) reservations & pre-payment required 978-369-4494 or www.verrillfarm.com

Peter and the Wolf

Sun. Dec. 9, 2pm, Longy School of Music, 1 Follen St. Cambridge, The musical and narrative magic of this popular folk tale entertains children of all ages while exposing them to the inner workings of the woodwind quintet. Instrument demonstrations after the concert with Q&A and sharing. \$10/adult, 45/child 3-17yrs, free/under 2yrs. Tickets: www.MKTix.com Info: 617-876-0956 or www.longy.edu

A Polar Bear's Journey

Sat. & Sun. Dec. 8, 9, 15, & 16, Ecotarium, 222 Harrington Way, Worcester, Listen as Santa reads *The Polar Express*. He then sends you to ride the Explorer Express Train to the Ecotarium's North Pole to meet Kenda the polar bear. Have cocoa and cookies while you ride! **Trains at 12:30pm, 1:30pm, & 2:30pm.**

\$6 + museum admission or \$5/member, Info: 508-929-2700 or www.ecotarium.org

Once Upon a Time with Kidstock

140 Clarendon St. Boston, Dec. 8, 9, 15, & 16, 11am, **The Snow Queen** All ages, \$8/person, children under 3yrs. Free, 617-585-5678 or www.lyricstage.com.

Tot Holiday Party

Fri. Dec. 14, 10:30am, Arl. Boys & Girls Club, 60 Pond Lane, includes a sing-a-long & age appropriate crafts. Santa will be available for pictures, but you must bring your own camera. Info: 781-648-1617 or www.abgclub.org

Saturday Stories with Joey Talbert

Dec. 15, 10:30am, Concord Youth Theatre, 358 Baker Ave. W. Concord, Hear heart-warming stories of the season while introducing your child to the magic of live storytelling. Ages 3yrs.+ , \$6 in advance, \$8 at the door, limited space, Info: 978-371-1482 or www.concordyouththeatre.org

Music Island

Fri. Dec. 14, 7pm, & Sat. Dec. 15, 2pm, Arl. Town Hall, 730 Mass. Ave. This play is written by Liz Buchanan and performed by the Arlington Children's Theater. Appropriate for ages 4yrs.+ , \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door, Info: act.arlington.ma.us

Model Trains

Sat. Dec. 15, 10-5pm, & Sun. Dec. 16, 12-5pm National Heritage Museum, 33 Marrett Rd. Lex. See lots of moving trains on display. Members: \$5/family, non-members: \$7/family, Info: 781-861-6559 or www.monh.org

Out on a Limb

Dec. 27&28, 10-11:30am, Concord Museum, 200 Lexington Rd. Concord, Join us for fun, hands- on activities related to the Family Trees Exhibit, **Thursday's** book is *Mama's Saris* by Pooja Makhijani & Elena Gomez **Friday's** book is *Calendar* by Myra Cohen Livingston & Will Hillenbrand, \$2/participant + *Family Trees* admission, Info: 978-369-9763 or www.concordmuseum.org

Zoolights

Thanksgiving- Dec. 30, 5-9pm, Stone Zoo, 149 Pond St. Stoneham, Visit Santa (through Dec.23) and a magical holiday world filled with fairy tale characters and dancing plush animals. Walk tree lined paths lit by thousands of twinkling lights. \$4/person, under 2yrs/free, Santa photos and carousel rides cost extra, 781-438-5100 or www.zoonewengland.com.

BosTix Junior

Bring your child to the theater to see family friendly plays and musical productions. Shows like, **The Nutcracker, Holiday Pops, and Cabaret Noel: Sing-Along Secession** are all coming soon to theaters around Boston. 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

First Night, Boston

Mon. Dec. 31, 1pm-midnight, See music, dance, theater, visual arts, film & more at over 40 indoor & outdoor venues throughout downtown Boston, Attractions include: a

family festival featuring interactive activities for all ages, giant ice sculptures, fireworks, and a Mardi-Gras style parade through the streets. Buttons are \$15/person, under 4yrs/free Info: 617-542-1399 or www.firstnight.org

Sing-alongs & Music

Mondays

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, play games Free For more information call 617-864--6290

Tuesdays

Tim Seston Songs and Stories

Dec. 11, 9- 9:45am, Main Streets Market and Café, 42 Main St. Concord, Infant and toddler sing-a-long & playtime, Free, every other Tues. Info: 978-396-4149

Wednesdays

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

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

Saturdays

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

Storytimes and Library Programs

Activities at Robbins Library

**Celebrate Winter with the Snowflake Fairy*
Sat. Dec. 1, 10:30-11:15am, Enjoy an interactive concert with Su Eaton using guitar, drum, songs, movement, & stories. Ages 3-8yrs. Space is limited so tickets are given out that day beginning at 9am.

**Drop-in Spanish Story Time*

Sat. Dec. 8, 9:15am, Sing, listen to stories, learn some Spanish words (some translation)

**Games from the Middle East*

Tues. Dec. 18, 6pm, Enjoy games, songs, & dancing, Drop-in, all ages,

**Drop-in Snow Craft*

Sat. Dec. 22, 2-4pm, all ages

**Games of Strategy*

Dec.27 & 28, 2-4pm, Come play Checkers, Chess, Rush Hour, Mancala, Battleship, or bring your favorite. Ages 4yrs.+ ,

**Sing-a-long*

Tuesdays, 10am, Dec. 4, 11, & 18

Infants and toddlers, space is limited so tickets are given out that day beginning at 9am.

For information on any of these events: 781-316-3234 or www.robbinslibrary.org.

Activities at Fox Library

1st Thursday of the Month Singalong at Fox
Dec. 6, 10am, Fox Library, Join Sulinha for singing, dancing, and fun! Info: 781-316-3198

Drop-In Storytime at Fox

Tuesdays, Dec. 4, & 11

Ages 2-3yr. 10am

Ages 4-5yrs. 10:30am

Stories and fingerplays followed by a craft
Info: 781-316-3198 or www.robbinslibrary.org

Other Storytimes

Tuesdays

Barnes & Noble

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

Harvard Coop

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

Pottery Barn Kids

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

Wednesdays

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

Thursdays

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.

Fridays

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

Dec. 7, 1pm, 200 Lexington Rd., Concord. For ages 3-5 years; adult/child program. \$5/pair, members, \$8/pair, nonmembers. This month's story: "Where the Wild Things Are" by Maurice Sendak. Activity and snack registration required Info: 978-369-9763. www.concordmuseum.org.

Saturdays

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 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. Call 781-643-1377. www.togetherinmotion.com

Arlington Boys and Girls Club

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

Arlington Center for the Arts

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

Arlington Recreation Dept.

Offers many fun, winter 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+ **Dec. 1: 1-5pm**, Help Mrs. Claus and the elves make glittery tree and window ornaments,

FREE as part of Arl. First Lights Celebration
Dec. 8: Mirrored Mosaics
Dec. 15: Starry Candle
Dec. 22: 10-4pm, Last Minute Gifts
Dec. 29: Snowflake Greeting Cards
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.

Family Fun Saturdays

10:30am, Regent Theatre, 7 Medford St. Arl.
Dec. 1: Legacy Dancers: "A Stockingful of Stories," **Dec. 8:** Ben Rudnick and Friends 6th Annual Holiday Extravaganza, 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.(Oct. 5-Nov.2 or Nov. 9- Dec. 14) 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

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-12, 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, and Movin' & Groovin'**, Info: 781-643-1377 or www.togetherinmotion.com

Veteran's Memorial Skating Rink

422 Summer St. \$3/children under 16, \$6/adult
NO public skating on Dec. 8 or Dec. 23-31
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: contact 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 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 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, Contact 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, www.kidsplayground.com.

Perpetual Motion

345 Chelmsford St., Lowell (off Rt. 3) Indoor playground for kids 0-6yrs. 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

Mom and Me Pilates

Thurs. 9:15am. Atelier Pilates, Union Sq., Som. 5-class cards for \$75, 6th class free. Drop-in for \$19. Registration required, Call Megan Berry 617-718-0237 or visit megan@mommamet.com.

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.carylibrary.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, Mon-Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 12-5pm. Historical, literary, artistic treasures of the area. Monthly storytime (Sept 14) 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.

Frog Pond, Boston Common

The Frog pond offers concessions, skate rentals, rest rooms, and a warming area. 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

Effective Parenting
Groups forming now. Workshop designed for parents of children 0-3yrs. Explore different parenting topics each week. \$140/person, \$180/couple. For info contact Melissa Lucius 781-641-4284, parenting@rcn.com or www.effective-parenting.org.

Raising Healthy Children in the Media Culture
Thurs. Dec. 6, 7-8:30pm, Lesley Ellis School Wing, 41 Foster St. Diane Levin, PhD, discusses how T.V. videos, computer games, & movies affect children's development, learning, behavior, & play. Learn how parents can help children deal with these powerful influences and counteract their harmful effects. Info: 781-641-1346 or www.lesleyellis.org

Getting Ready for Kindergarten
Weds. Dec. 12, 6:45-8:30pm, (another brochure has 7-9pm listed) Dallin School, 185 Florence Ave. This discussion will cover: issues families face as their children enter kindergarten for the first time, strategies to assist parents in supporting their child's transition from the home to the school setting, registration information, explore classrooms, hear the philosophy of the school system, Q&A. (rain date: Dec. 13) Info: 781-316-3730

Benefits

Highrock Church Christmas Concert
Fri. Dec. 7, 8pm or Sat/Sun. Dec. 8 & 9, 5pm, 735 Mass. Ave. Come listen to uplifting choral music and enjoy a Christmas celebration. 100% of the proceeds from this concert will be given to the Arlington Food Pantry. \$10/adult, \$5/seniors & children under 12, Info: www.christmas.highrock.org

Folk Music Concert
Sat. Dec. 8, 7:30pm, Calvary Church, 300 Mass. Ave. Enjoy original folk music in English & Spanish. Proceeds go to the Arlington Teosinte Scholarship Fund. Teosinte is Arlington's sister city in El Salvador. Also visit the artisans bazaar offering various crafts. \$15/adults, \$10/seniors, \$5/children, (all tickets include a piece of homemade apple crisp w/ whipped cream) Info: contact Beth at 781-648-1445 or bethss@comcast.net

PTO Thrift Shop
Benefits Arlington Public Schools
Basement of the Fox Library,
Regular hours: Weds. 4-8pm, Thurs. 9:30am-1pm, 2nd Sat. of the month 12:30-5pm. **Open two Saturdays in December: Dec. 1 and Dec. 8. The Thrift Shop will be closed after December 13 for the remainder of December and most of January.** 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 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 Mondays from 9:30-11am in North Cambridge \$25/meeting. Info: 617-441-0758 or www.yourclearvoice@msn.com

Arlington Area Adoption Moms
Dec. 12, 7:30pm, Contact Rachel Silverman for 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. Begins Sept 25. Meets Tues 10-11:30am at 1430 Main St, Waltham. Info: 781-693-5677 or eberne@jfcscboston.org.

La Leche League
Dedicated to providing education, information, and support to breastfeeding women. Meetings in the basement of Fox Library on the 3rd Tues. of each month at 7:30pm, or 2nd Thurs. of the month at 10am in Cambridge (175 Harvey St.). Free For info contact Heather 781-648-2988 or 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.

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 Mom's Group
Dec. 19, 7:30pm at Arlington Enrichment Collaborative (1100 Mass Ave, Arl, across from Jimmy's). Info: workingmoms@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

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

December, 2007

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