

THE SCOOP

NEWS JUST FOR YOU FROM THE PARENT CIRCLE

INSIDE

President's Pen	2
Book Review	3
UNICEF dinner	4
Drop-In Playgroup	4
Toys for Tots	4
Happenings	5
Party pictures	8
Parents' Night Out	9
Calendar	10

ABC's of preschool

LEARN BASICS AT SEMINAR

BY KATHY MCDERMOTT

Starting to think about preschool or know you will be at some point in your future? Deciding when and where to send your child to preschool is the first of many educational decisions that a parent must make. Come to our Preschool Basics seminar to hear more about the types of different preschools, how to decide when your child is ready for preschool and learn more about the application process for Evanston preschools.

Bring your questions and concerns, and put your mind

at ease. The discussion is Sunday, Nov. 18 from 4-6 p.m. at St. Matthews Episcopal Church, 2120 Lincoln Ave., Evanston. This is a great opportunity to learn about preschools even if your child may not be attending next year. Many Evanston preschools offer parent/tot classes to transition children into going on their own.

Bonnie Silverman, who will present our annual preschool overview, has 20 years of preschool teaching experience and is director of the Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation's Early Childhood Program. Admission is free for The Parent Circle members and \$5 for non-members. For more information or to RSVP, contact Kathy McDermott at (847) 604-0989 or programming@theparentcircle.com. Need babysitting? Please let us know when you RSVP so we can provide appropriate staff.

'TIS THE SEASON TO HELP Care packages for pediatric ward parents

BY KAREN KELLAMS

Many of my best childhood memories are of the winter holidays: Singing "Silent Night" by candlelight on Christmas Eve. Barreling down the stairs with my sisters on Christmas morning to search for our overstuffed stockings. Quiche, coffee cake and sparking orange juice for breakfast.

Before our daughter Lily was born, my husband and I talked excitedly about what our own family traditions would be. Sadly, they were put on hold last year when a stomach bug made Lily violently sick on Christmas Eve. After

hours in the emergency room, she was admitted, and we spent Christmas at Evanston Hospital.

I can't say enough about the incredible care and attention Lily received from her nurses and doctors. But it was still our loneliest Christmas on record. We insisted our families carry on with their plans. And we sat in Lily's dark hospital room, fearing ridiculous things, watching Elmo's World as the i.v. fluids slowly made her stronger.

Before Lily was released the day af-

See **HELP** on page 3



JUST FOR KIDS

Of course, we have to do something for the kids. So, we're also hosting a crayon and coloring book drive. The hospital never has enough, so we'll be taking donations at the Holiday Party. Look for details in December's "Scoop."

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Formal Playgroups
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Drop-in Playgroups
Shawna Myers

Programming
Kathy McDermott

Staying sane

Tonight I found myself in a very familiar place. Water was boiling for pasta, the vegetables still needed to be cooked, the table was a mess with the day's activities, the baby was crying and the older kids were growing more impatient as they were getting hungry. Most often, I find this time of the day to be the biggest challenge. And even though I know this and anticipate it, I still find that I get anxious and irritable, just like the kids. If this doesn't sound familiar to you, consider yourself lucky.

For the rest of us, here are some distraction techniques (and other tidbits) that friends or I have used to get through some of those "moments" when you wish Calgon could take you away. Some may be familiar to you and others may be worth a try. Granted, all kids are different and what works for one may not work for another. I've tried to put them in order from age of child (newborn to preschool).

Swaddling: If a nurse at the hospital didn't show you how to swaddle your newborn and you've never learned how to wrap your baby up like a burrito, this could be one that helps soothe your little one. I took this one for granted until I was talking to a friend shortly after her first baby was born. She was at her wit's end trying to comfort her newborn and I mentioned swaddling in passing. She hadn't been taught to do this. Once she got the hang of it, her daughter calmed down and my friend was a happier mother!

Be realistic: I have heard from so many mothers, "I never knew breastfeeding could be so hard" or "I never thought I wouldn't have enough supply to feed my baby." I know this can be mentally, physically and even emotionally draining when you're in the middle of it, but please try not to be too hard on yourself. If you try breastfeeding and it doesn't work for you and/or your baby, kudos to you for at least trying!

Letting go: If someone offers help, accept it! And don't be afraid to ask. If you need a loaf of bread but just can't make it to the store, ask someone you know. Most people are more than happy to help. Unfortunately, I didn't learn this one until my second baby was born, but I'm glad I eventually did. Along the same line, let the cleaning go. This was hard for me in the beginning, but

I've learned to manage my expectations on how clean my house "needs" to be.

Double the love: All three of my kids have taken to a "lovey," a special stuffed animal, to help them fall asleep. It wasn't until the third child that I wised up to getting two of the same lovey. (You never know when one might get lost, which makes bedtime much harder, or even impossible!) It also makes it easier to wash one when your baby has the other; just make sure you wash them similarly so baby can't tell them apart.

Care for yourself: Make sure to take care of yourself. I know this is hard to do when there is a lot of demand for your time, but a happier mommy/daddy makes for a happier kid. Recently, I realized I was on edge every day around the same time. Of course, it was simple: I wasn't eating enough at lunch, if at all. Time had just gotten away from me. This also applies to sleeping: "Sleep when the baby sleeps" helped me get through those tough days with a newborn. And I still try to do this when I can!

Diaper distraction: During the first year, I have found a mobile above the changing table or, once they are old enough, a toy to hold helps distract babies while changing their diaper. Having said this, it rarely works for my 11-month-old any longer. (She is squirmy during diaper changes! So, if you have other ideas, would you mind posting them at Meetup.com or e-mailing me?)

Anytime distraction: It's simple and it's one most babies will like. My sister-in-law taught me a little ditty that goes like this, "Tap, tap, tapping on the table. Tap, tap, tapping on the table... 'til it's time to STOP" Show the baby how to tap on the table/

BOOK REVIEW

BY KAREN KELLAMS



TURN OUT THE LIGHTS WITH 'STARS'

"The Stars Will Still Shine"

[Cynthia Rylant, author
Tiphonie Beeke, illustrator]

I've learned my lesson: Stop buying the keep-my-kid-in-the-cart book while shopping at Target. Inevitably, I'm stuck reading "Dora's Costume Party" every night for three weeks. Sure, Lily can count perfectly in Spanish now. But I'm tired—if not totally sick—of reading it.

But there is nothing sweeter than discovering a story that both parent and child enjoy. We found just that during a recent library trip when we picked "The Stars Will Still Shine" by Cynthia Rylant.

Rylant's lyrical text takes us through the year, reminding us "There will be goodness, there will be grace. There will be light, in every dark place." The story's warm and colorful illustrations show a reassuring look at life, friendship, faith and family. A very calming cold-weather bedtime tale, Lily calls it the "cozy book."

Yes, we're still reading Dora every night. But "Stars" is always last before we turn out the light.

PEN from page 2

highchair (or grocery cart or knees... you get the idea) along with the song. When you get to STOP, throw your arms in the air. Babies love to do this and eventually anticipate it.

Mealtime distraction: Make a placemat by using clear contact paper over artwork or a chosen subject. (No need to laminate.) When my daughter was about 2, we printed the alphabet using bright colors. As I was making dinner, she would sit in her highchair and I would ask her to find, for instance, the "L." As she got older, she used a white sheet of paper over it to trace the letters. We got our mileage out of that placemat!

Pick your battles: When you find yourself in a struggle with your child, determine whether this is a battle important enough to keep fighting. Sometimes it is...sometimes it isn't.

Cleaning up: Teaching a child to clean up can be a real trying task and we certainly have not mastered it, but here are a couple of things that have worked for us.

A little water can go a long way. After the baby is finished eating, I let her play in a bowl with just a little water. It gets her clean and it gives me enough time to finish eating or clean up. She spills it, but it's only water and easy to wipe up. The high chair has a lip around the edges so it is mostly contained.

A simple song can help. Ours is not original and goes something like, "Clean up, clean up, everybody, everywhere..." Having the child sing along

while they are picking up seems to somehow motivate them. As they get the hang of it, see if they can get all the cars cleaned up before you get through the song twice, etc.

Kids love to categorize. "You pick up all the toys with wheels and I'll pick up all the toys that make noise."

Playing with patterns. My daughter loves to play the "sorting" game. She takes the clean laundry from the laundry basket before it's folded and makes patterns. She'll find something of hers, followed by her brother's, then her sister's until the basket is empty and she has a complete pattern. Then she'll go through and pick up just hers, fold what she can and give the rest to me. Then she does the same with her brother's clothes, etc. It's all sorted for me and she's learning to fold!

Going first: For siblings fighting over who goes first or who gets to choose what to do next, try this. Every odd day is X's turn to go first/make decisions (within reason) and every even day is Y's turn.

And last but not least, just HAVE FUN! Make sure you reserve time to have fun with your kids every day, even if it's only for a short while.

A friend of mine once told me that "these can be the longest days, but the shortest years." I hope you find one or two ideas that help get you through the "longest days." Happy parenting and Happy Thanksgiving!

HELP from page 1

ter Christmas, the nurses brought in a bundle of presents for her—a handmade blanket, a puzzle, a book and a baby doll that quickly became her favorite. We were so grateful to finally see a smile on her little face. The gifts were all donated, designed to cheer up a child after such a scary and painful experience. And they did just that.

So, we were inspired to start a new family tradition: We'd make care packages for the parents of children

who spend their holidays in the hospital. After sharing the idea with some Parent Circle board members, they decided to make it our winter charity project! We'll be donating gift bags to Evanston Hospital this winter, and you can help.

Join us on to assemble the care packages on Saturday, Dec. 8 at 10 a.m. at Karen Kellams' house, 1616 Main St., Evanston. Please RSVP to karenkellams@comcast.net.

Fall into fun for UNICEF

BY STEPHANIE CASEY

W

ant to have a fun night out with the family AND help raise money for UNICEF? Then attend the UNICEF Fall Carnival on Friday, Nov. 2 from 5:30-8 p.m. It will be held at First United Methodist Church of Evanston, located at 516 Church St. There will be lots of games

appropriate for preschool-aged children, including a cakewalk and a fishing derby.

A catered dinner with food from many favorite Evanston restaurants will be in the dining room. Cost is \$30 per family, which includes an unlimited number of games and dinner for the whole family.

Tickets can be purchased only at the door. Come have a feel-good night with the family!

DROP-IN PLAYGROUP

Explore The Family Room's new location

BY SHAWNA MYERS

This month Drop-In Playgroup will venture outside the comforts of Ridgeville Community House and start exploring other places in Evanston. We check out The Family Room in their new location on Central Street. The Family Room is staffed by professionals in the field of child development. Not only do you find an exciting, safe, nurturing, creative space for children ages birth to 4 years, but you can also pick up some child development tips, too! The drop-in class includes art project opportunities and a group circle time led by the staff. When you arrive, look for Shawna Myers with the yellow Parent Circle Buck-et so we know you are there!

We will meet at Ridgeville Community House the week after Thanksgiving.

DATES

Wednesday, Nov. 14

9:30-11:30 a.m.

The Family Room, 3009 Central St.

<http://www.famroom.org>

Cost: \$12 per family

Wednesday, Nov. 28

9:30-11:30 a.m.

Ridgeville Community House,

908 Seward St., Evanston

Cost: free

Ridgeville provides a fun, safe space for kids of all ages to play and caregivers to connect! If you have questions about either date, contact Shawna Myers at dropins@theparentcircle.com or (773) 551-3154.

TOYS FOR TOTS!

Just in time for the holidays, The Parent Circle has some suggestions for toys that are durable and provide years of enjoyment:

- >> Dump truck (like Little Tikes Handle Haulers Haul and Ride)
- >> Little People toys from Fisher-Price
- >> Musical instruments
- >> Roller coaster bead maze (like in doctors' offices)
- >> Ride-on toys
- >> Train table
- >> LeapStart by LeapFrog Learning Table
- >> Kitchen set
- >> LEGO sets



There's more to November than turkeys! Changing leaves and cooler weather mean fall festivals and more indoor activities. Nov. 11-17 is Children's Book Week so celebrate at one of the local libraries or by curling up with your little one and reading. It's also almost time for the holidays, and holiday events start to happen at the end of the month. Be sure to check back next month to get a full listing of holiday happenings around town. As always, remember to check the listings before heading out the door!

Evanston, Wilmette, Skokie

Thursday & Saturday, Nov. 1 & 3, noon-5 p.m.: South Branch 90th Birthday Celebration, Evanston Public Library South Branch, 949 Chicago Ave. Celebrate the South Branch's 90th birthday! Come in and sign the birthday book and have a cupcake. Story time at 2 p.m. on Saturday. (847) 866-0333. <http://www.epl.org>.

Saturday, Nov. 3, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.: Fall Flea Market, Robert Crown Center, 1701 Main St., Evanston. There's something for everyone at this popular market: games, clothes, toys, jewelry and household items. (847) 448-8258.

Saturday, Nov. 3, 10:30 a.m.: Boom, Bam, Tap and Swoosh, Northwestern University Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. Discover an exciting feast of rhythm and motion combining lively percussion

with eye-catching dance. And you can join our rhythmic dance ensemble by bringing your own homemade percussion instruments! \$5 adults, \$3 children. Tickets, (847) 467-4000; info, (847) 491-5441. <http://www.pickstaiger.org>.

Saturday & Sunday, Nov. 3 & 4: American Girl Fashion Show, Michigan Shores Club, 911 Michigan Ave., Wilmette. The Junior League of Evanston-North Shore presents this fun, engaging program showcasing historical and contemporary fashions for girls and their dolls. The event—which includes refreshments, party favors, a raffle and door prizes—will benefit our League's outreach programs for community children. Saturday shows are at 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. and Sunday at noon and 3:30 p.m. Tickets are \$45 each (\$15 is tax-deductible) or tables of 10 for \$400 (\$100 is tax-deduct-

ible). Not recommended for children under 5 years. For tickets, call (847) 441-0995 or visit <http://www.jle-ns.org>.

Saturday, Nov. 10, 1:30-3 p.m.: Worms Eat What?!, Evanston Ecology Center, 2024 McCormick Blvd., Evanston. Learn how those wiggly worms will turn food scraps into wonderful compost to add to your garden or houseplants, keeping it out of landfills. We'll touch on some wormy facts by meeting them face-to-face and get our hands dirty setting up a mini worm bin to take home. Recommended for children aged 5 and older. \$20 per family. (847) 448-8256. <http://www.laddarboretum.org>.

Saturday, Nov. 10, 2 p.m.: Read! Read! It's Magic! Wilmette Public Library auditorium, 1242 Wilmette Ave. Kick off Children's Book Week with Dr. Bob, professor of Reading Education, as he juggles, tells stories, and does magic tricks, all to share his love of books. (847) 256-5025. <http://www.wilmette.lib.il.us>.

Sunday, Nov. 11, 2:30 p.m.: EISMA Free Concert, Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Join EISMA (Evanston In School Music

Continued on page 6



JAMMIE TIME

Evanston Main Library

Nov. 15

Continued from page 5

Association) in celebration of 35 years of service to the Evanston schools with performances by Reginald Robinson, Ragtime pianist and MacArthur "genius," and the Orquestra de Samba (Brazilian music). (847) 905-1500. <http://eismaconcerts.org>.

Sunday, Nov. 11, 3-4:30 p.m.: Celebrate the Best in Jewish Children's Books, Mary Radmacher Meeting Room, Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. Three Chicago-area recipients of the Sydney Taylor Book Award—Esme Codell, Brenda Ferber, and Esther Hershenthorn—and National Jewish Book Award winner Ilene Cooper will participate in a lively presentation ideal for school-aged children and adults. Purchase a book

by a featured author and get it autographed. Registration begins Nov. 1. (847) 673-7774. <http://www.skokielibrary.info>.

Monday, Nov. 12, 2 p.m.: Rockette High Kicks at the Evanston Main Library, 1703 Orrington Ave. The Rockettes share holiday stories and teach families and children how to perform Rockette high kicks. No registration required. (847) 448-8610. <http://www.epl.org>.

Thursday, Nov. 15, 6:30 p.m.: Family Reading Night, Wilmette Public Library, Youth Program Room, 1242 Wilmette Ave. Families are invited to visit the library to find a good book and spend some time reading together. There will be giveaways for kids, and milk and cookies will be served. (847)

256-5025. <http://www.wilmette.lib.il.us>.

Thursday, Nov. 15, 7-7:30 p.m.: Jammie Time, Evanston Main Library, 1703 Orrington Ave. Put on your pajamas, bring your favorite blanket and teddy bear, and join us for a drop-in story time! For children aged 2 to 9 with parent or caregiver. No registration required. (847) 448-8610. <http://www.epl.org>.

Friday, Nov. 16, 6:30-7:30 p.m.: Hibernation Hoe-Down, Evanston Ecology Center, 2024 McCormick Blvd., Evanston. Have a hootin' and hollerin' good time as we say good night to Evanston's hibernators! Celebrate the end of autumn with music, dancing and refreshments. You'll even learn a little about hibernation and dormant animals. For all ages; \$3.50 per person. Pre-registration required. (847) 448-8256. <http://www.laddarboretum.org>.

Friday, Nov. 16, 7 p.m.: Family Night at the Evanston Main Library, 1703 Orrington Ave. The Evanston Library Friends present free fun-filled entertainment with all three floors of the library dedicated to fun with words, music and amusing entertainment. Fall Family Night is suitable for preschool- to middle school-aged children. Each child must bring an adult; each adult must bring at least one child! (847) 448-8610. <http://www.epl.org>.

Saturday, Nov. 17, 10-11:30 a.m.: Northwestern University Dolphin Show, Evanston Main Library, 1703 Orrington Ave. Meet in the Children's Room to see the Northwestern University Dolphin Show performers share circus and carnival stories and paint faces. No registration required. (847) 448-8610. <http://www.epl.org>.

Saturday, Nov. 17, 10 a.m.: A Carousel of Songs, Northwestern University Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. The joy of singing comes alive in this excitingly diverse cornucopia of beautiful and entertaining song styles. Warm up your vocal cords and sing along! \$5 adults, \$3 children. For tickets, (847) 467-4000;

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

for info, (847) 491-5441. <http://www.pickstaiger.org>.

Saturday, Nov. 17, 10 a.m.-noon:

Teddy Bear Injury Prevention Clinic, Youth Services department, Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. Bring a favorite stuffed animal or doll to this interactive workshop on the ABC's of emergency care. Talk with doctors and nurses from Rush North Shore Medical Center, tour an ambulance, have your teddy bear's injury treated by emergency staff, learn how to avoid injuries, and how to get help if you do get hurt. Registration begins Nov. 1. (847) 673-7774. <http://www.skokieliibrary.info>.

Saturday, Nov. 17, 11-11:30 a.m.:

Classic Children's Stories with the Storybook Mom, Youth Program Room, Wilmette Library, 1242 Wilmette Ave. Nili Yelin, the Storybook Mom, is a Northwestern Theater graduate who performs frequently at area bookstores and libraries. Recommended for ages 3 and older. <http://www.wilmette.lib.il.us/calendar>.

Sunday, Nov. 20, 5:30 p.m.: Evanston Holiday Tree Lighting in Fountain Square.

Sunday, Nov. 20, 7 p.m.: Family Films at the Evanston Main Library, 1703 Orrington Ave. Spend time together watching family films. This month's film will be "Meet the Robinsons," a lively, computer-animated Disney film that follows the time-traveling adventures of Lewis, a young orphaned inventor who is determined to find his birth mother by using a "memory scanner," a device of his own creation. (847) 448-8610. <http://www.epl.org>.

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 6:15-7 p.m.:

Playtime with Theraplay, Mary Radmacher Meeting Room, Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. Staff from the Theraplay® Institute will lead group games that foster closeness, trust, joy, and connection between parents and children. For families with children aged 3 to 8. Sponsored by Metropolitan Family Services-Project Thrive. Free; registration required beginning Nov. 1. (847) 673-7774. <http://www.skokieliibrary.info>.



**MEET
CURIOUS
GEORGE**

Chicago
Children's
Museum
Nov. 9-11

Chicago

Friday-Sunday, Nov. 9-11 & 23-25:

Meet Curious George, Chicago Children's Museum, 700 East Grand Ave at Navy Pier. Explore your curiosity when Curious George: Let's Get Curious pays a visit! This exhibit will lead young visitors on a fun, interactive science, math and engineering-based adventure. Regular admission and parking rates apply. (312) 527-1000. <http://www.chicagochildrensmuseum.org>.

Saturday, Nov. 10, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.:

MCA Family Day: When I Grow Up, Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 East Chicago Ave. The MCA and Children's Humanities Festival team up to bring you hands-on art making, performances and more. Enjoy sketch comedy group Barrel of Monkeys as they perform funny and inspiring poetry written by students from Words@Play program, and use your imagination to create the Chicago of the future. Be sure to catch our family tours, scavenger hunt and raffle. Activities are appropriate for all ages unless otherwise noted. Admission to family day is free for families with children 12 and under. (312) 280-2660. <http://www.mcachicago.org>.

Saturday, Nov. 17, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.:

Family Field Days, Field Museum, 1400 S. Lake Shore Dr. In the Spotlight: Animal Crackers! Using the Crown Family Play Lab as a gateway to The Field Museum, we'll explore animals, plants and cultures around the world through dramatic play and storytelling. Dress up with your family as your favorite Illinois woodland forest animal. Crawl, hop and fly around the museum and visit other animals and their natural habitats. Find out why

and how animals pick their homes. Regular admission rates apply. (312) 922-9410. <http://www.fieldmuseum.org>.

Suburbs

Friday, Nov. 16, 7-8:30 p.m.: Family Owl Prowl, The Grove, 1421 Milwaukee Ave., Glenview. Sharp talons, strong beaks and keen vision all help to make owls the "tigers of the air." Learn why owl flight is silent and use some detective work to discover what these birds eat. Meet The Grove's owls up close, then hit the trails to search for these magnificent creatures in the wild. For ages 5 and up. \$7 per person. Pre-registration required. (847) 299-6096. <http://www.glenviewparks.org>.

Sunday, Nov. 18, 1-2:30 p.m.: Menorah Workshop, Park Center, 2400 Chestnut Ave., Glenview. Join ceramics instructor Brenda Ewing to glaze and fire your very own one-of-a-kind 9-inch ceramic menorah to display and use this Hanukkah. An adult must accompany children under 7. Info: (847) 724-5670; register: (847) 724-5670. <http://www.glenviewparks.org>.

Wednesday, Nov. 21, 10-11 a.m.:

Turkey Tales, Lake County Discovery Museum, Route 176, west of Fairfield Road, Wauconda. Hear Thanksgiving stories, make arts and crafts, and explore the Discovery Museum. Ages 5 and under free with museum admission. Admission \$6/adult, \$2.50/children over 3 years. (847) 968-3400. http://www.lcfdp.org/discovery_museum.

Friday, Nov. 23-Jan. 6: Wonderland Express, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe. Take a magical trip through 750,000 twinkling white lights that sparkle and welcome you and your family to the Garden's wonderland. Inside the Regenstein Center, a 10,000-square-foot exhibition of miniature trains winds over bridges, under trestles, past waterfalls and through dozens of Chicago's favorite landmarks. Free on Tuesdays. Admission and parking rates apply. (847) 835-5440. <http://www.chicagobotanic.org>.



HALLOWEEN PARTY TIME!

Thank you to all who attended and helped make our annual Halloween Party a huge success!



LARSA'S FOR HUMMUS, GOOD CONVERSATION



In November, we'll gather at Larsa's Mediterranean Restaurant for Parents' Night Out at 7 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 15. Larsa's is located at 3724 W. Dempster in Skokie. The restaurant's phone number is (847) 679-3663. The restaurant is BYOB and they have a parking lot. Contact Wendy Burgess at socials@theparentcircle.com or (773) 266-0211 to RSVP (it's encouraged but not required).

DON'T MISS "THE SCOOP"

The newsletter has a new name and an updated look, but it still has all the same great content.

Do you receive "The Scoop" via e-mail but can never find it when you need to look up an event? Or do you wish you could get your newsletter without waiting for the postman?

It's your newsletter and your delivery choice—receive an electronic pdf or a mailed print copy to experience all the newsletter has to offer! If you'd like to change your delivery method, send an e-mail with your delivery preference, name, home address or e-mail address to newsletter@theparentcircle.com.

STILL HAVEN'T JOINED MEETUP?

A new year is approaching; start it off right by getting to know the new members online!

Go to Meetup.com and click on register in the upper right corner.

Fill out the form and wait for the confirmation e-mail.

Once your registration is confirmed and you sign in for the first time, find our Meetup by putting "The Parent Circle" into the search field.

Click on the link to go to our home page (Only Parent Circle members can see our logo and information. No need to worry about who can see your

postings.)

Fill in the information under the "Join Us" box.

Invitation code is "TheParentCircle08" (case-sensitive, one word).

Click on the account in the upper right corner to control how much e-mail you get.

Thanks to everyone who joined The Parent Circle Meetup in August. Your name was entered into a drawing for a \$35 Clean Plate Club gift card, and Ellen Ratchye-Foster was the lucky winner. Congratulations to Ellen (and her lucky dinner companion)!

DISCLAIMER The Parent Circle is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing educational opportunities and support to its members. The Parent Circle newsletter and lectures are not intended to replace or substitute for legal, medical, and/or other professional care. Every reasonable effort has been made to make The Parent Circle newsletter complete, accurate, and reliable. No members of The Parent Circle organization shall be held liable for information provided or its use. Paid advertisements are accepted to support the activities of the organization and are not endorsements by The Parent Circle's membership, board, or newsletter editors.

NOTICES

Board Meetings: Board meetings usually take place on the fourth Tuesday of each month, except for holidays. Social time begins at 7 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m. See calendar. Meetings open to all members.

Playgroups: Interested in joining/forming a playgroup? Or, is your playgroup looking for new members? Contact Betty Sheikh at (847) 869-2565 or playgroups@theparentcircle.com. Parents of children of all ages are welcome.

Mom's Night Out: Join us each month for good food and great conversation. See calendar. Suggestions or questions? Contact Wendy Burgess at (773) 266-0211 or socials@theparentcircle.com.

New Arrivals: New baby? Share the good news! Contact our member-at-large, Svetlana Bekman, at (847) 491-1358 or mealsformoms@theparentcircle.com. We deliver home-cooked meals and post birth announcements in the newsletter.

Drop-in Playgroup: We meet every other week from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Ridgerville Community House. See calendar. Questions? Contact Shawna Myers at (847) 424-1373 or dropins@theparentcircle.com.

Newsletter submissions: Share an anecdote, tip, recipe, book or kid-friendly restaurant review. Items must be received by the 15th for the next newsletter. Contact Jennifer Botchway at (847) 425-1511 or newsletter@theparentcircle.com.

NEWS & NOTES

Welcome new members

- Amy and Scott Kellogg, Thomas (08/23/05) and Ginevra (01/18/07)
- Jeanie Chung and Chris Hawke, Mina (01/29/07)
- Amanda and Michael Czemiuk, Mason (07/04/05) and Hazel (06/21/07)
- Robyn Gold-Kessler and Dan Kessler, Isaac (02/17/06)
- Stacy and Adam Levine, Aidan (04/28/07)
- Susan Pearson and Michael Kramer, baby due 11/08/07
- Rebecca Worley and Jeffrey Apa, Sofia (01/31/07)

Welcome new arrival

Congratulations to Thomas Ahleman and Belinda Chen on the birth of their daughter Maija Chen Ahleman on Aug. 28. Big sister June (2) welcomes her baby sister.

CALENDAR

Wednesday, Nov. 14: Drop-in playgroup, 9:30-11:30 a.m., The Family Room, 3009 Central St., Evanston. Cost is \$12 per family. See page 4 for details. Contact Shawna Myers at (773) 551-3154 or dropins@theparentcircle.com.

Thursday, Nov. 15: Parents' Night Out, 7 p.m.-? Meet at Larsa's Mediterranean Restaurant, 3724 W. Dempster, Skokie. See page 9 for details. For more information or to RSVP, contact Wendy Burgess at (773) 266-0211 or socials@theparentcircle.com.

Sunday, Nov. 18: Preschool Basics seminar, 4-6 p.m., St. Matthews Episcopal Church, 2120 Lincoln Ave., Evanston. See page 1 for details. For more information or to RSVP, contact Kathy McDermott at (847) 604-0989 or programming@theparentcircle.com.

Tuesday, Nov. 27: Board meeting, 7:30 p.m., home of Julie O'Hare, 1141 Noyes St., Evanston (west of Ridge, east of Green Bay). Social time begins at 7 p.m. Contact Julie O'Hare with questions at (847) 733-1102 or president@theparentcircle.com.

Wednesday, Nov. 28: Drop-in playgroup, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Ridgeville Community House, 908 Seward St., Evanston. See page 4 for details. Contact Shawna Myers at (773) 551-3154 or dropins@theparentcircle.com.

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