

Kids & Family

Kids & Family Notebook

BY MARY-FRANCES DALY

Story Time on the Rocks at the Northeast Library

Three tons of boulders are not the first thing that comes to mind when you think about what your local librarian might add as a way to spice up a library visit. But that's exactly what has happened with the Northeast Branch Library on Maryland Avenue and Seventh Street. As part of a larger renovation and rehabilitation, the library central office has purchased six boulders (combined weight: about 3 or 4 tons) for the front yard of the Northeast branch. These boulders are arranged in a rough semi-circular pattern and make up one side of a patio area that sits in the fenced-in yard right outside the library. They are perfect for sitting on, and it's the hope of the children's librarian staff at the Northeast branch that some reading, singing or other activities may soon be moved outdoors onto the patio area. The boulders are sized so that one grown-up can sit on each, or probably two kids per boulder where they can do their own reading, or listen in while someone else reads to them.

Friends of the Northeast Library is planning to host a reading of "Where the Wild Things Are" once the garden area opens (date to be announced). There's no better place to take in that story than surrounded by trees, bushes, grass and stone – with each child perched on their own big boulder. Visit the Northeast Neighborhood Library online at www.dclibrary.org/northeast or call 202-698-3320 for more information. – submitted by Vince Morris, president of the Friends of the Northeast Library. For more information about the library, to volunteer, or to donate books, please call Vince at 202-302-5346.

Fourth Annual International Children's Festival

Meridian International Center presents the fourth annual International Children's Festival, May 15, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., followed by the Alliance Francaise's Kids World Cinema, from 4-5:30 p.m. This educational fun-fair brings together the DC community and the diplomatic corps of Washington, DC, as embassies host booths highlighting their coun-



The Northeast Library's new patio features outdoor seating atop these six boulders. Photo: Vince Morris

try and culture. The day features a variety of global dance and music performances from local and international artists. Admission includes access to all performances and activities. Past festival participants enjoyed painting Kente cloth (Ghana), creating origami (Japan) and tasting delicious crepes (France). Participating embassies include: Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Brazil, China, El Salvador, Fiji, France, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Senegal, South Africa, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Nations and Zambia. \$10/person; \$25/family; special discounts for DCPS students. 1630 Crescent Place NW. 202-939-5514, www.meridian.org.

Book-of-the-Month Story Time at NBM

The National Building Museum hosts this month's story time for children ages 3 to 5, May 4, 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Children can stop by the museum's "Building Zone" for an interactive reading of Betsy Maestro's "Taxi: A Book of City Words" and take a city tour from the vantage point of a taxi cab. Free, no RSVP required. 401 F St. NW. 202-272-2448, www.nbm.org.

Sprouts Preschoolers Classes

Bring your preschooler (ages 3-5) to the US Botanic Garden for plant-related fun. Sign up for the May session (May 5, 12, 19, 26) and attend four different programs,

10:30-11:30 a.m. Each Wednesday session will vary and may include a story, art activity or walk in the garden. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Classes are in the conservatory classroom. Free, but pre-registration is required. Classes fill up quickly. 245 First St. SW. 202-225-8333, www.usbg.gov.

Celebrate Japanese Children's Day

Celebrate Kodomono Hi, Children's Day, part of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, May 5, 10:15 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., at the Discovery Theater. The event includes the annual performance by the Kodomo Dance Theater, a troupe of young dancers in traditional kimono dress led by director-choreographer Shizumi Shigeto Manale. For ages 5-10. \$5/children; \$6/adults; \$4/resident members. 1100 Jefferson Drive SW. 202-633-8700, discoverytheater.org.

Live Music for Kids at SOVA

Boogie Babes brings more live music to SOVA Espresso (1359 H St. NE) this month. Moms, dads, nannies, grandparents and kids of all ages – typically 6 months to 4 years – are welcome to check out these performances: May 7, Bridgette; May 14, Groovy Nate; May 17, Mr. Skip; and May 28, Mr. Knick Knack. All shows start at 10:30 a.m. \$5/child, cash only. Visit www.boogiebabes.com for more information about the shows and entertainers.

Screen on the Green at Lincoln Park

The National Community Church is hosting a free "Screen on the Green" at Lincoln Park, May 7, 7 p.m. The featured film will be "The Princess & the Frog." NCC will provide free popcorn, drinks and a few little prizes for the kids. Call Ross Middleton at 202-544-0414 for more information.

Third Annual National Train Day at Union Station

Bring the family to Union Station on May 8, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., to celebrate the third annual National Train Day. The event is held to commemorate May 10, 1869, when the "golden spike" was driven into the final tie that joined 1,776 miles of the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railways, creating the nation's first transcontinental railroad. Taye Diggs, star of the television show "Private Practice," will be at Union Station to kick off the National Train Day celebration and will be available for a meet-and-greet with fans during the day. The day's festivities will include model train displays, educational and interactive train exhibits, a "Go-Green Express" eco exhibit, culinary demonstrations with Chef Michel Richard, live performances by Rocknokers and the Ballou High School, giveaways and more. Free. 50 Massachusetts Ave. NE. www.nationaltrainday.com.

National Train Day at the Postal Museum

This annual fun day – May 8, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. – will have children riding the rails with activities, stories and model trains! Kids can toot their own train whistle, sort railway mail, and learn to talk like a Railway Post Office clerk before or after swinging by neighboring Union Station's Train Day event. A local railroad club will run model trains all day long. Free. 2 Massachusetts Ave. NE. 202-633-5555, postalmuseum.si.edu.

Dance Step Festival

The Dance Place Step Team is putting on a dance festival for the whole family, May 8, 8 p.m., at the Dance Place. This festival will showcase the step talent in DC with performances by the step team and other special guests. \$15/general; \$8/children ages 2-17; free/one child under the age of 12 with paying adult. 3225 Eighth St. NE. 202-269-1600, www.danceplace.org.

Mother's Day Tea in the Garden

Celebrate Mother's Day with a traditional early American tea party, May 9, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., or 2 to 3:30 p.m., at the Tudor Place. Children ages 5 and up and adults are invited to sample period teas, finger sandwiches and delicious desserts in Tudor Place's gardens. Costumed interpreters will provide a lesson in tea etiquette. After the tea ceremony, children will make a special period craft for mom to take home. \$20/members; \$25/nonmembers. 1644 31st St. NW. 202-965-0400, www.tudorplace.org.

NSO Family Concert: 'The Composer is Dead'

The National Symphony Orchestra presents a gripping "whodunit" by renowned children's book author Lemony Snicket and composer Nathaniel Stookey, in which every member of the orchestra is a suspect in their composer's untimely finale. The performance is May 9, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., at the Kennedy Center. Young concertgoers are encouraged to come to the musical instrument "petting zoo" an hour before each concert. Following the 3 p.m. performance, audience members can participate in the "Kids Chat," where they can ask questions and hear engaging stories in an up-close-and-personal talk with the concert artists. For ages 5 and up. \$18. 2700 F St. NW. 202-467-4600, www.kennedy-center.org.

Discovery Theater: Tigers, Dragons and Other Wise 'Tails'

On weekdays from May 4-14, Discovery Theater presents a "wacky" play with four mini-plays inside: "The Tiger, the Thief and the Dried Persimmon" (Korea) is a new spin on mistaken identity, babysitting, and dried fruit; "The Boy and the Fly" (Vietnam) is a sweetly silly slapstick romp; "The Wise Mole" (Japan) is an update of an ancient story

of young love, complete with cell phones and iPods; and the mythic "Four Dragon Rivers of China" features beautiful flying dragon puppets. Plays run Monday through Friday, except May 5, at 10:15 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Ideal for children ages 4-10. \$4-\$6. 1100 Jefferson Drive SW. 202-633-8700, www.discoverytheater.org.

Sounds of Africa Concert at the National Museum of African Art

The National Museum of African Art invites children ages 6 and up to a Sounds of Africa concert May 14 & 28, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Young guests will play African instruments and learn about African polyrhythms and syncopation with Ugandan musician Daniel Ssuunaa. Free. 950 Independence Ave. SW. 202-633-4600, africa.si.edu.

Splish Splash and Have a Bash at the Guppy Gala

Dive into an ocean of fun at this year's Guppy Gala, May 14, 6-8:30 p.m., at the National Zoo. This annual family-friendly event offers guests exciting animal encounters, yummy food, a variety of spectacular activities, and lots of fun all while raising funds to support animal care, conservation science, education and sustainability at the zoo. Specific activities at this year's event include a mock construction site, rock-climbing walls, obstacle courses, mazes, costumed characters, jugglers, gymnasts, musicians, live entertainment and dinner by Subway. Ticket prices cover all gala activities. \$15/FONZ members; \$25/nonmembers. 202-397-7328, www.fonz.org.

DAR Fun Family Saturdays: Tin Punching

The DAR invites families to create a tin punch design May 15, 10 a.m. to noon, at the museum. Guests will discover what it was like to work as a colonial silver smith. Advance registration is requested, but drop-ins are welcomed. Ideal for ages 7 and older. \$5. 1776 D St. NW. 202-879-3240, www.dar.org/museum.

Afro-Mexican Instruments Demonstration

In a hands-on demonstration, educator Bill Jenkins will discuss the marimba, guiros, and other traditional Mexican musical instruments of African origin that continue to be played in Veracruz and Costa Chica, May 15, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Anacostia Community Museum. Free. 1901 Fort Place SE. 202-633-4866, anacostia.si.edu.

Adult/Child Glass Fusing Workshop

Adults and children are invited to join Laurie Siegel and Kris Swanson at the Corner Store for a glass fusing workshop, May 16, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Space is limited, so pre-register now. \$80/adult-

FREE!

GRATIS!

Kennedy Institute

NOW ENROLLING



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We specialize in working with children with disabilities.

Early Head Start (Home Base) Program for District of Columbia Residents

Kennedy Institute - 801 Buchanan St. NE, DC 20017
Please contact Ms. JoAnne Ransome 202-281-2784

What is Early Head Start?

The EHS program enhances children's physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development and assists pregnant women with prenatal and postpartum care through home visits

Who is Eligible?

- Pregnant women and children ages 0-3 who meet income guidelines or who have special needs. (Example: TANF, WIC, other Supplemental income)

What Services Does The Program Provide?

- Parent/Child Activities/ Parental Education
- Support for children with disabilities
- Access to Occupational/Physical and Speech Therapy
- Child Health and Developmental Screenings
- Referrals for health care and other social services resources
- Social activities "twice per month" with other children and parents in large and small groups

Programa de Early Head Start (inicio base) para personas que viven en Washington (Distrito de Columbia)

Kennedy Institute - 801 Buchanan St. NE, DC 20017
Contacte por favor con Sra. JoAnne Ransome 202-281-2784

¿Qué es Early Head Start (EHS) ?

El Programa Early Head Start enriquece el desarrollo físico, social, emocional e intelectual del niño a través de visitas personalizadas con un Educador de Familia capacitado; ayuda a mujeres embarazadas acceder a cuidado amplio tal como cuidado durante el embarazo como posparto; apoya a los padres en el papel de ser padre y los ayuda a empezar a lograr la autosuficiencia a través de visitas en sus casas.

¿Quién es elegible?

Mujeres embarazadas y niños con edades de 0-3 años quienes cumplan con los límites de ingresos o tengan necesidades especiales; Familias que reciban: WIC, TANF, u otro programa suplementario

¿Cuáles servicios provee el programa?

- Actividades para padres y sus hijos/Educación para padres
- Apoyo para niños con discapacidades acceso
- Acceso a Terapias Físicas/Ocupacionales y Terapia del Habla
- Evaluaciones de salud y desarrollo para el niño
- Referencias para cuidados médicos, servicios sociales y otros recursos comunitarios
- Actividades sociales "dos veces al mes" en grupos grandes y pequeños con otros niños y padres.

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Capitol Hill Arts Workshop June 21 - August 13

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Musical Theater, Rock & Roll Band, Photography, Ceramics and Recreation specialty camps.

Pre-K Jr. Arts Adventure July 12 - 23

Registration opens February 8, 2010.

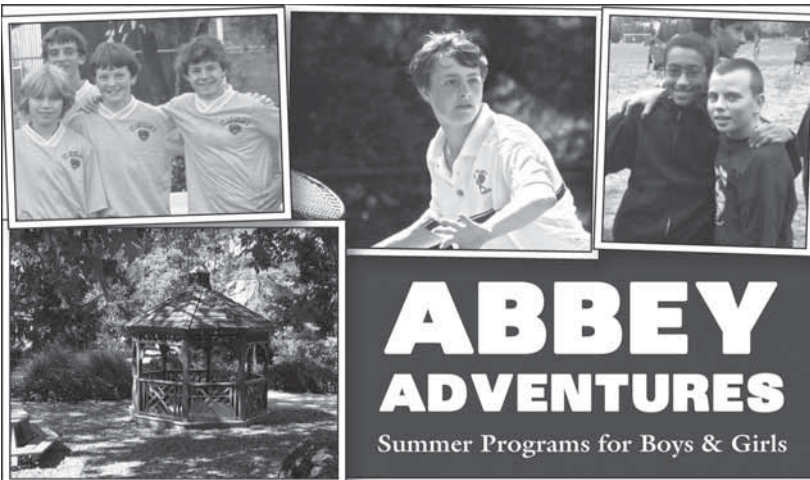
Visit www.chaw.org or call 202-547-6839

for information and registration.



Capitol Hill Arts Workshop

545 7th St, SE (2 blocks south of the Eastern Market metro)



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child team. 900 South Carolina Ave. SE. 202-544-5807, www.cornerstorearts.org.

VAS Young Artists Recital

The Capitol Hill Arts Workshop (CHAW) presents a voice recital featuring the winners of the Vocal Arts Society's Young Artist Competition on May 17 at 7 p.m. The recital features soprano Jennifer Edwards and soprano Aundie Marie Moore, with piano accompaniment by R. Timothy McReynolds. For more information about the Vocal Arts Society's Art Song Discovery Series or Young Artists Competition, visit www.vocalarts-dc.org. Free, but reservations are recommended. CHAW is located at 545 Seventh St. SE. Call 202-547-6839 or visit www.chaw.org for more information.

Piñata Workshop

The Anacostia Community Museum is hosting a piñata-making workshop May 22, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Colorful piñatas are a favorite feature of the holiday season and enjoyed by children throughout Mexico. Made to be broken at parties, piñatas come in a wide variety of forms. Workshop participants – recommended for children ages 6 and up – will make a star piñata to bring home. Free. 1901 Fort Place SE. 202-633-4844, anacostia.si.edu.

Decorative Tile Workshop

Children ages 7 and up are invited to the Anacostia Community Museum for a decorative tile workshop May 30, 1-3 p.m. Artist Wanda Aikens will lead the workshop and show participants how to create special painted tiles following the Mexican decorative tradition. Free, but please RSVP. 1901 Fort Place SE. 202-633-4844, anacostia.si.edu.

'Hok-noth-da?' Reading Program

The National Museum of the American Indian hosts a special reading program for children ages 5 to 9, every Saturday, 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. "Hok-noth-da?" means "Did you hear?" in the Shaw-

nee language. This 20-minute story time features books by or about Native American people. Free. Fourth St. and Independence Avenue SW. 202-633-6644, www.nmai.si.edu.

DC Neighborhood

Library Schedule

Northeast Library

Story time, ages 3-7, May 3, 10, 17 & 24, 4 p.m. Cinco de Mayo with craft, May 5, 4-4:45 p.m. Children's book week celebration, May 12, 4-4:45 p.m. Teen movie night, ages 12-19, May 12, 5:30-6:30 p.m. French story time and craft, May 15, 10:30 a.m. Teen gaming night, ages 12-19, May 19, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Origami club, ages 12-19, May 20, 4-5 p.m. Sign language story time, May 22, 10:30 a.m. Baby/toddler story times, ages birth to 3, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:15 a.m. 330 Seventh St. NE. 202-698-3320, www.dclibrary.org.

Northwest One Library

Get Crafty! Mother's Day felt flower crafts and cards, May 8, 1 p.m. Get Crafty! Spring crafts May 29, 1 p.m. Game night for all ages, every Tuesday, 5 p.m. Story times for children on Wednesday mornings: baby/toddler lap time, 10 a.m.; tales for 2's and 3's, 10:30 a.m.; preschool story time, 11 a.m. 155 L St. NW. 202-939-5946, www.dclibrary.org/northwest.

Southeast Library

Preschool story time, ages 3-5, Wednesdays, 10-10:30 a.m. Baby/toddler story time, ages 3 and under, Wednesdays, 11-11:30 a.m. Tales for 2's and 3's Fridays, 10-10:30 a.m. Teen night, Thursdays, 6 p.m. 403 Seventh St. SE. 202-698-3377, www.dclibrary.org/southeast.

Southwest Library

Preschool story time, ages 2-5, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. Pajama story time, Wednesdays, 6 p.m. 900 Wesley Place SW. 202-724-4752, www.dclibrary.org/southwest.

The Family Room Schedule for May

The Family Room, located at 411 Eighth St. SE, has the following schedule for May. The calendar is subject to change, so please call to confirm dates. Visit the website for detailed class descriptions.

- Spanish story time, Tuesdays, 2:30-2:45 p.m.;
- French story time, Thursdays, 2-2:15 p.m.
- Music for infants, Tuesdays, noon-12:30 p.m.; music for 1's and 2's, Wednesdays, 10-10:30 a.m.

Please call 202-640-2855 for the most up-to-date information. Check out www.the-familyroomdc.com for pricing and more details.

Still Time to Sign up for Boy Scout Summer Camp

If your son is currently in fifth (or higher) grade, he is eligible to join Boy Scouting. Please consider Troop 380, sponsored by St. Peter's Catholic Church, providing leadership and character development for boys of all faiths and backgrounds on Capitol Hill and beyond. The troop meets Wednesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. and has monthly outdoor outings including camping, hiking, rafting, rock climbing and skiing. Troop 380 will go to summer camp at Goshen Scout Reservation in southwestern Virginia, Saturday to Saturday, June 26 to July 3. A week of room and board and outdoor fun costs only \$325. Deadline is June 4. For more information, contact Hank Brothers, scoutmaster, at 202-457-7081 or hank.brothers@hklaw.com.

Have a listing for the Kids & Family Notebook? E-mail kids-notebook@hillrag.com by the 20th of the month prior to publication. Submissions may be edited. Publication is not guaranteed. ★

FREE!

Summer Family Fun

EVENTS

SATURDAY, MAY 8, 2010 • 11 A.M. - 5 P.M.

NATIONAL TRAIN DAY

This fun day will have you riding the rails with activities, stories, and model trains! Toot your own train whistle, sort railway mail, and learn to talk like a Railway Post Office clerk before swinging by neighboring Union Station. A local railroad club will run model trains during this annual event.



SATURDAY, MAY 29, 2010 • 11 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.

PENS & THE POST: COLLECT, CORRESPOND, CELEBRATE!

Pens, postage, and mail go hand-in-hand. Join the Postal Museum and the Pen Collectors of America for a day of fun activities exploring the history of pens and the mail. Create a beautiful card to mail to a friend, join the hands-on "Pens for Kids" workshop, try out a variety of pens, and learn about letter writing in America.

FRIDAY, JULY 9 & SATURDAY, JULY 10, 2010 • 11 A.M. - 5 P.M.

PONY EXPRESS FAMILY FESTIVAL

This two-day festival has something for everyone, including a trivia relay race, tall tales, and your chance to star in an adventure puppet show. Join us as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Pony Express.



FRIDAY, AUGUST 6 & SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 2010 • 11 A.M. - 5 P.M.

OWNEY DAY

Owney the dog traveled on the Railway Mail Service, having adventures around the country. Now Owney invites you to hop onboard and join him for rail-riding fun, including story time, hands-on activities, and plenty of adventure!

DON'T MISS THESE FREE EVENTS—CUT OUT AND SAVE THE CALENDAR!

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