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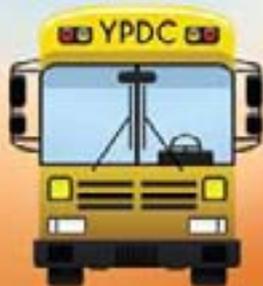
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# Winners again in 2015

**P**arenting Media Association (PMA) gave out 301 Editorial and Design Competition and General Excellence awards to parenting magazines at a banquet on February 28, the climax of the three-day PMA Annual Convention, this year held in Baltimore, MD. There were 630 entries for this year's competition.

PMA's Editorial and Design Awards Competition recognizes excellence in journalism, photography and design achieved by publishers, editors, writers and designers at member publications.

Happily, for yet another year we came home with the GOLD. Our contributing writer and Mom in Queens, Allison Plitt, was honored with a GOLD Award for a series of interesting book reviews. The judges comments: *These reviews are reported in-depth, and they succeed in providing a lot of information about the books in question. The writer uses extensive background details and solid reporting to build up to an authoritative and supported opinion*

*and gives readers good perspective on the books in question. The voice is clear and the reviews are enjoyable and informative.*

Our columnist and Attorney, Alison Arden Besunder won the GOLD for the category Family Matters. The judges comments: *This is a very informative story about parents preparing their wills in case something happens before their children become adults. It is usually something many parents do not think about until their children are near adulthood or have moved out. The writer did a wonderful job of providing expert opinion and useful information to help parents navigate what can be a difficult process.*

Another GOLD went to our columnist Lyss Stern for Family Fun ideas and interest going on around town. The judges comments: *This column is filled with the writer's voice and a connection to her readers. It's got good tips for finding fun, family outings and locations around the city. The examples and stories from the writer make this a fun*

*read for parents.*

A BRONZE went to our much appreciated columnist Danielle Sullivan for Child Development & Parenting Issues. The judges comments: *"Just Write Mom" offers a nice mix of common-sense advice and encouragement mothers will appreciate. The writing is clear and thoughtful, and provides a welcome glimpse into a real mother's experiences.*

A final award went to our front cover stock photo for our October 2014 Teen Issue and congratulations went to our Art Director Leah Mitch. The judge's comments: *The simple background and sweet expression immediately catch attention. The colors are harmonious, and the cover is balanced. The minimal orange draws readers to the lead tease, which is placed next to the girl's face.*

It is such an honor to work with all the fine writers, designers and sales personnel on our team. I've always said it's a labor of love and indeed it is. Love was also personally bestowed



on me as I was give the Distinguished Member of the Year Award at PMA. I was surprised and delighted. Here I am with the sitting President and my good friend Sarah Taylor of Metro Family in Oklahoma City. What a thrill!

It's spring and lovely. Have a great month and a wonderful Mother's Day! I know I will. Being a mom and loving it is what brought me to this work and to the wonderful satisfaction I feel every day in this role.

Thanks for reading!

Susan Weiss-Voskidis,  
Publisher/Executive Editor  
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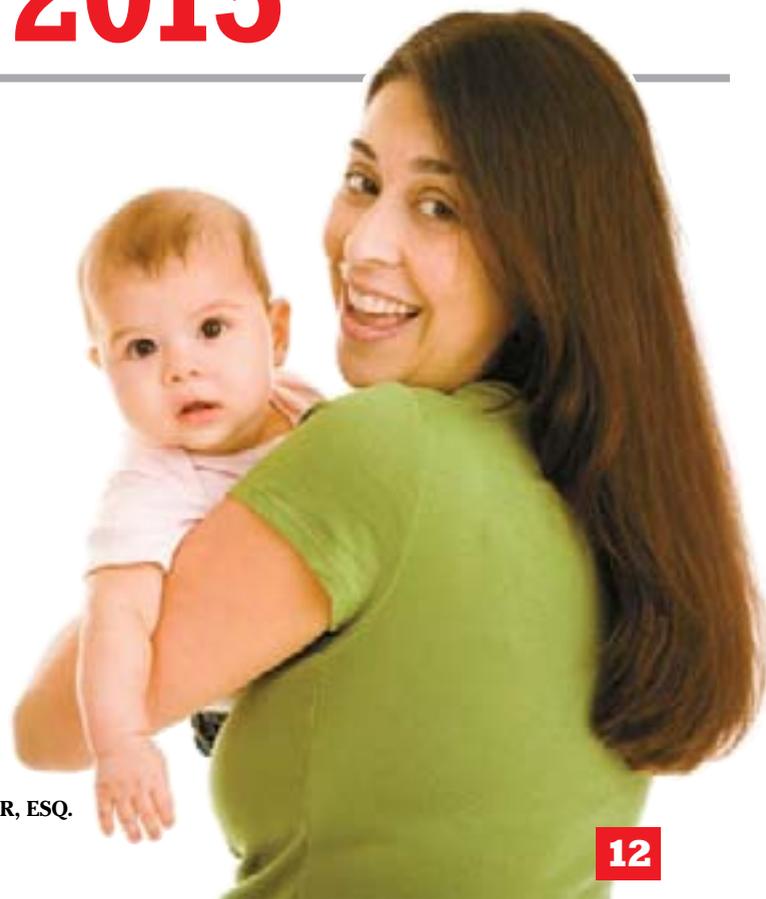
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# Family May 2015



## **FEATURES**

- 6 Team Katz**  
The Queens borough president balances needs of family and community  
BY TAMMY SCILEPPI
- 8 Your time**  
The art of carving personal space out of your own life  
BY CHRISTINA KATZ
- 10 Stepmom on Mother's Day**  
It's okay to take time for yourself  
BY GAYLA GRACE
- 12 Just a mom**  
As we celebrate Mother's Day, taking back the role of mother  
BY CAROLYN WATERBURY-TIEMAN
- 14 Common sense on Charter Schools**  
New Yorkers consider what they have to gain from the movement  
BY TAMMY SCILEPPI
- 22 Montessori's future sense**  
Building 21st-century skills for more than a century  
BY MARTHA HAAKMAT
- 26 Thanks — at 70 words per minute**  
She taught me typing in high school — and I finally got a chance to express my gratitude  
BY PATRICK HEMPFING

## **COLUMNS**

- 16 Ask an Attorney**  
BY ALISON ARDEN BESUNDER, ESQ.
- 18 Just Write Mom**  
BY DANIELLE SULLIVAN
- 20 Divorce & Separation**  
BY LEE CHABIN, ESQ.
- 24 Good Sense Eating**  
BY CHRISTINE M. PALUMBO, RD
- 34 New & Noteworthy**  
BY LISA J. CURTIS

## **CALENDAR**

- 28 May Events**

## **SPECIAL SECTIONS**

- 19 Arts Directory**
- 23 Montessori Directory**
- 33 The Marketplace**



# Team Katz

The Queens  
borough  
president  
balances  
needs of  
family and  
community

BY TAMMY SCILEPPI

**E**ven with her demanding job as Queens borough president, Melinda Katz manages to carve out special quality time with her two sons, Carter, 6, and Hunter, 4. She says family is the best thing you can have in your life.

First-grader Carter attends a public school in Queens and is doing very well and making friends, according to his mom, who says she tries to get him outside more. His brother will be attending pre-K at the same school next year, under Mayor Bill DeBlasio's new universal pre-K policy.

Both boys love basketball and are into karate, guitar lessons, baseball, and soccer.

Katz — who separated from her partner and the father of her two boys, WABC-AM's Curtis Sliwa, 61, last year — took time from her hectic work schedule to talk about what she considers her biggest achievement — being a mom.

**Tammy Scileppi:** How does a borough president handle mommy-hood?

**Melinda Katz:** I am one of the luckiest moms I know. My job allows me to walk my kids to school every morning and go home during the day, even if it's only for a half hour. I do homework with my first-grader. I may be out late at night, but my flexibility allows me to partake in their lives. I feel every mom should be so lucky and every mom is not.

My children are truly my life; family always comes first. We call our family "Team Katz." We are a close bunch, my kids and I. People have been so kind to them when I travel



Queens Borough President Melinda Katz with sons Hunter and Carter.

the borough. I try to bring them with me to senior centers and veterans groups.

**TS:** Are your boys aware that they live in the most diverse area in the world?

**MK:** I try to expand their minds on what goes on in this borough. They are very well aware of the fact that there are 130 languages spoken in the schools; that there are different countries folks come from, and how great that is. They meet new folks, and they're curious, asking things

like, "what kind of cooking goes on at home?"

**TS:** This is the first year Common Core is being taught throughout New York schools. How do you feel about it?

**MK:** Hunter is taking Common Core to learn math. I'm not a big fan. I heard from other parents in the borough how difficult homework is for their children, because the Common Core is not about 5 and 5 equals 10. It's about how to get there. So, if my child knows what 23 plus 2

equals, they still have to mark it, and count it on a graph, and figure out the chart.

From my perspective, math should be the universal language. You should be able to look at a math problem in any language and be able to do that math problem. As I said on NY1 a few weeks ago, sometimes 5 and 5 is really 10.

Common Core is a state requirement. Standards are a good thing; we should have standards for our kids. And it should be national standards; that's the right thing to do. Every time I have a PTA meeting, it's the first issue that comes up.

Homework should be something that every parent should be able to help their children with. (It's only the math that I think is a problem.)

**TS:** What's it like raising your boys in the same house you grew up in?

**MK:** It's pretty wild. You walk into a bedroom, and your son is sitting on the same ledge that you sat on 50 years ago. I think my kids value the history that the house brings. I'll be talking to them in the hallway, and I'll sit down with them and say, "You know, when I grew up, my dad used to walk down this hallway and at eight o'clock, he'd say, 'snack time!'"

And we used to go to the same ice cream shop we go to today — Eddie's Sweet Shop on Metropolitan Avenue.

History is a good thing for kids. When you pass on things from generation to generation, I think it's a very thoughtful thing to do.

**TS:** What were your parents like? Many people aren't aware that your mother founded Queens Council on the Arts.

**MK:** My parents were very cultural, very giving back to the community. My mom [Jeanne] founded Queens Council on the Arts in 1969 ([queenscouncilarts.org](http://queenscouncilarts.org)). So, I grew up in a world that valued education and the experience that children should have with culture — whether it's the instrument you play, and your child listens to, or it's acting or visual arts.

[Katz's father, David, was founder and conductor of the Queens Symphony Orchestra.]

I grew up with three older brothers. My mother died when I was 3, and my father raised us alone. He died when I was 20. My dad was strong and caring; he did his best.

**TS:** What is your perspective on raising kids in New York City?

**MK:** The issues that I'm facing

here in Queens are the same issues every mom is facing throughout New York City. You want your children to grow up in a community that cares; to know that they're safe; that the family structure is strong — whatever their family structure is — they're all different. Families are important.

Single parents all over New York are facing difficult challenges, but everyone overcomes.

The city is a fascinating place to raise a family; it's urban, it's suburban, it's both. I represent 130 languages. Across the board — wherever you live, wherever your parents come from — everyone wants the exact same thing for their kids. Every parent wants a better life for their children than they ever dreamed for themselves, and we all do what's necessary, and we do it out of love to give them that.

I think everybody has different challenges in achieving that goal.

**TS:** What are your challenges as a parent?

**MK:** I'm going to be 50 this year. So, it's quite interesting to have a 4-year-old and a 6-year-old. Most of the mothers I come across are much younger than I am. So, I have to work with that dynamic, as well. But I'm young at heart!

I know one thing about children, because I remember my childhood so well: you never remember the good things, but the ones that were missing. My children probably won't remember that I walked them to school every day, but will remember the days I didn't. Everyday stuff, I find, is the most important. It's great to do special things, but the everyday lessons, the everyday togetherness and conversations; the talks I have while walking my kids to school, they remember that.

Every single night for my children, to put them to sleep, I sing "On My Own," a song from "Les Miserables," and "Hush Little Baby." My kids love that so much.

It is critical to have parents be an integral part of the decision-making process to shape and set education policies. As a mom of two young boys, I can attest firsthand to the impact that parental involvement has on our education system. Queens parents are some of the most active, vocal, and effective in the city, and the difference is clear. The nexus of collaboration between families, educators, and surrounding community is the key to the success of our schools.



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# Your time

## The art of carving personal space out of your own life

BY CHRISTINA KATZ

**H**ow come other moms always seem to “have it all” and still have time to work out, read the latest best-sellers, and spend time with their friends while you seem to be scrambling to keep up with the dishes, the laundry, and your daily taxi service?

The truth is, making time for yourself is an art, and like every art, it requires practice. If you don't take time to rest and rejuvenate, eventually you won't have a self to worry about, because that's how busy you will become with everyone else's concerns.

Even if you fear the guilt you imagine will come with making time for yourself, carving out space in your

own life for yourself is a healthy necessity. Best-selling author of “The Artist's Way,” Julia Cameron says, “We lose ourselves because we are afraid of being selfish, but when we turn around and take care of ourselves, we actually become much happier and more generous.”

Here are 12 self-nurturing activities to choose from that blend well with your everyday commitments. Most can be squeezed into a busy week, during naptime, into the mornings or evenings, or while the kids are busy with an activity:

**Heart on paper.** Cameron recommends three pages of longhand writing every day. Can't do three whole pages? Just do what you can. For moms, any kind of journaling can be illuminating and constructive.

**Move it, move it.** Shake your groove thing any time you need a quick attitude change. Shut the blinds. Take off your shoes. Put on your favorite dance music and get down. Dance your heart out for 10 minutes. You'll emerge ready for anything.

**Girl-time.** What could be better than walking and talking with another busy mom? Walking is better than doing lunch because it accomplishes two goals at once: connecting and exercising. Make it a standing date if you possibly can.

**Make a “treasure map.”** According to Shakti Gawain in her book, “Creative Visualization,” “A treasure map is an actual, physical picture of your desired reality. It is valuable because it forms an especially clear, sharp image, which can then attract and focus energy into your goal.”

So, if you really want that new job, flourishing garden, or bigger home, get out your scissors, old magazines, and glue, and create your dream on paper first. Or try Pinterest.com, an online social network where members share images.

**And away you go!** Nothing beats browsing the bookstore or library to get ideas for future family vacations. Instead of a trip to Disney, check out outdoor activities like sailing, climbing, or spelunking. On second thought, check out that trip to Disney, as well. Kids are only kids once.

“Dear Susan.” With the

introduction of e-mail, letter writing is becoming a lost art form. When you write by hand, it's something special. Take your time, speak from your heart, and rediscover forgotten parts of yourself that your faithful friend always remembers. Start your letter with, “Remember that time we...” and enjoy memory lane.

**Get what you need.** Attending a like-minded support group is vital when you need extra help. Whether you are trying to quit a bad habit, grieving the loss of a loved one, or gathering with other busy moms to share strategies, the wide variety of groups available can suit every need. Check your local phone book for a complete listing of resources in your area.

**Your playful side.** While signing your children up for those enriching evening and weekend classes, don't forget to sign yourself up, too. Many programs offer separate classes for children and adults at the same time. Yes, you are allowed to do some things without your kids in tow. In fact, it's good for you.

**Melt into the table.** After you drop the kids off for school or sports, you might head to the local spa for a massage. If you have time, a 10-minute hot tub or steam bath will increase the overall relaxation effect. Treat yourself once in awhile!

**Your very own OM.** In the west, meditation can be walking, writing, or even dancing. Check out the book “Meditation Made Easy” by Lorin Roche. You'll discover that meditation simply means developing your capacity for rich experience. Why not invent your own practice?

**Art appreciation.** Give yourself a full hour to wander a museum or local gallery, soaking in the energy and appreciation of other people's genius. Consider becoming a member and visiting regularly.

**Feel the burn.** Exercise is sound advice for everyone, but especially for stress-weary moms. If you need help getting motivated, enroll in a fun class like kickboxing, tae-bo, or karate. Spinning, Jazzercise, and Bikram yoga are also great for your health.

Most importantly, enjoy yourself. The more you schedule you-time into your hectic schedule, the happier you will become. You deserve it, mom!

*Author and freelance journalist Christina Katz is always on the lookout for new ways to make time for herself. Her latest book is “The Art of Making Time for Yourself, A Collection of Advice for Moms.”*



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# Stepmom on Mother's Day

It's okay to  
take time for  
yourself

BY GAYLA GRACE

**W**hat's a stepmom to do on Mother's Day? Do we insist that honor be bestowed upon us? Do we create expectations of what our stepchildren should do for us? Do we allow the biological mom to get all of the attention for the day?

Mother's Day can be a hard day for stepmoms, because it reminds us of the time and energy we invest in our stepchildren that might include little reward. And if our stepchildren do try to show their appreciation, it can be an awkward and insincere effort, usually prodded by their father.

If you play an active role as a stepmom, you deserve some recognition for your efforts. That doesn't mean you'll get it from your stepchildren. Sometimes children feel it dishonors their mom to show appreciation to their stepmom on Mother's Day. It's okay, however, to ask your spouse to honor and acknowledge you for your efforts with his children.

I've learned to enjoy Mother's Day with no expectations from my stepchildren. If they offer a gift or choose to honor me in some way, I'm thrilled. But even if they don't, I remind myself it's a privilege to take part in shaping another child's life and affirm myself for what I offer. I know my husband appreciates the role I play, and we'll celebrate the day together.

Some stepchildren love to recognize their stepmom on this special day and will make a sincere effort to

let you know how much you mean to them. A host of variables play into how a stepchild reacts on Mother's Day. The length of the marriage, the age of your stepchildren, the biological mom's behavior, and the environment in your home contribute to your stepchild's behavior. If your stepchildren honor you, embrace the offering. But if they choose not to, don't take it personally.

Here are a few suggestions to help you enjoy the day, regardless of what your stepchildren do. Pick one or two, or construct one of your own, to create a day that will leave you feeling special for the valuable role you offer your stepfamily:

- Spend Saturday night at a bed-and-breakfast and wake up Sunday morning to a scrumptious breakfast prepared for you. Re-connect with your spouse as you reminisce and celebrate the good things happening in your stepfamily.

- Find another stepmom who's having a difficult time and spend the afternoon with her. Encourage her efforts and talk through her challenges. Laugh together and affirm one another. Find positive ways to offer your support on an on-going basis.

- Abandon your house and spend the day at a nearby lake, beach, bike path, or hiking trail. Absorb the beauty of nature while you count your blessings in your life. Set goals with your spouse that will help you become more connected in your stepfamily such as regular game nights, stepmom-stepdaughter shopping dates, or movie nights as a family.

- Attend your favorite

place of worship wearing a beautiful corsage, signifying the important role you play as a stepmom. Take pride in participating in your stepchildren's lives as an additional parent.

- Give yourself the gift of relaxation with a good book, time at the movies, or a day at the spa with a girlfriend. Eat at your favorite restaurant, and tell your family you'll be taking the day off from chores. Pamper yourself in whatever way feels special to you.

Mother's Day doesn't have to be a difficult day for stepmoms. If you create expectations of how you want your stepchildren to honor you, it will result in disappointment. But if you choose to create your own special day, you'll make memories that leave you feeling blessed to be a stepmom. So go ahead — plan your own celebration! You deserve it!

*Gayla Grace treasures her role as mom and stepmom to five children, ages 14-30. She loves to encourage stepfamilies through her website and blog at [www.stepparentingwithgrace.com](http://www.stepparentingwithgrace.com).*



## Stepparenting resources

### Books:

The Smart Stepmom by Laura Petherbridge and Ron L. Deal  
Stepmonster by Wednesday Martin

The Courage to be a Stepmom by Sue Patton Thoele

The Smart Stepfamily by Ron L. Deal

### Web:

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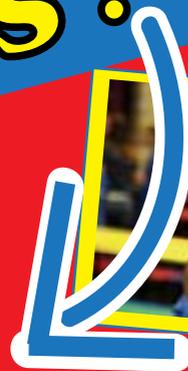
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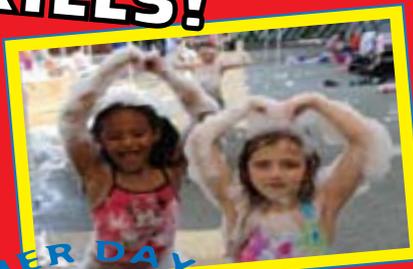


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# Just a mom

As we celebrate Mother's Day, taking back the role of mother

BY CAROLYN WATERBURY-TIEMAN

**T**he time-honored tradition of celebrating Mother's Day has a long and surprisingly varied history. The observance of a special day for mothers can be traced back to the ancient Greeks and Romans, but the American version had its origins in the mid-1800s. The early proponents of Mother's Day were not interested in being honored by their children with candy, cards, and flowers. That practice arose in the early 1900s and resulted in the commercialization of the holiday by companies capitalizing on a popularized variation of the original idea.

Mother's Day was initially intended as a call to action for mothers to unite in promoting optimal child care and preventing the loss of sons and daughters to the carnage of war. There was a vision of an international dedication to peace so that families, worldwide, might raise their children to their fullest in safety. Their motivation was not to bring attention to themselves, but to assert the primacy of the responsibility for nurturing and rearing the next generation.

With Mother's Day upon us, I really wanted to say something profound to commemorate this occasion. I have started and deleted this column so many times, I've nearly made a hole in my screen. You see, the feeling that keeps creeping back is that of disappointment. Yes, I admit it.

I am disappointed with the lot of us mothers. I am disheartened by the number of women I hear respond to the question, "What do you do?" with, "Oh well, I don't work. I'm just a mom." And I am equally discouraged by the number of women employed outside the home, who, when responding to the same question, never mention the fact that they are mothers, as if to do so would be admitting a weakness or flaw in their makeup.

What has happened? What have we done? Somehow we have diminished the value inherent in the realm of responsibilities historically assigned to women — the domain of child rearing.

Somewhere along the way we got equality confused with sameness. We bought into the notion that the only way to be equal, to be valuable in society, was to start doing whatever it was that men happened to be doing. We accepted the misguided belief that our worth is determined by whether or not we get a paycheck and how big it is. We've been so anxious to achieve equality that we've thrown the baby out with the bath water. In our struggle to liberate ourselves from the stifling belief that anatomy is destiny, we liberated ourselves from the most important job we will ever do as humans — rearing children, the next generation of human beings, the ones to whom we will one day be handing over this world.

The irony is that at the same time women are trying to dissociate themselves from the mommy label, men by the thousands are discovering that the role with the greatest potential for providing them with the sense of meaning and significance they seek is their role as fathers.

They are beginning to realize that the way to make the most profound and definitive impact on the future is by the job they do as parents!

As far as I know, Thomas Lickona's conclusion is still accurate: "A child is the only substance from which a responsible adult can be made." Actually, it is the only substance from which any kind of adult can be made. The uniquely complex, comprehensive, dynamic nature of the parent-child relationship is unparalleled. It is the foundation for every other relationship a child establishes. Everything a child comes to believe about him or herself, about the world, about how to relate to others, originates in the parent-child relationship.

Before proceeding, let me clarify my position: I am not suggesting that a woman has to have a child to be complete, fulfilled, or make a meaningful contribution to the future. Neither am I suggesting that rearing children is the only job women are capable of doing or should be allowed to do. Nor am I proposing that the responsibility for rearing children should be limited to

women. What I am suggesting is that those of us who are mothers, in addition to carrying out this role to the best of our ability, have an obligation to ourselves and to our children to make sure that the magnitude of the responsibility of parenting is not minimized! In short, I am asserting that somehow the job of rearing children has been devalued, that we women have contributed to this process, and that it is high time we did something about it!

So how do we go about addressing this dilemma? Where do we begin? Here are a few suggestions:

## **Remember that every mother is a working woman**

Our foremothers made incredible sacrifices to insure that we would have the right to pursue our dreams, whatever those might be. We are not doing anybody, especially our children, any good by dividing ourselves into camps — the working versus the non-working. When I continue to hear that mothers, whether they are working at home or working outside the home, feel guilty for the choice they have made, I can't help but think that with all that guilt there can't be much effective parenting going on. The more comfortable we feel with the choices we have made, the less threatened we are likely to feel by the choices of others. The greater confidence we have, the more effectively we will carry out the responsibilities of our multiple roles.

## **Seek excellence, not perfection**

There is no such thing as a perfect mother. We all make mistakes. We say and do things that we regret. Obsessing over mistakes is rarely productive. The worst mistake is one from which nothing is learned. We can acknowledge our mistakes, offer a sincere apology, including our intentions for correcting the situation, learn how to avoid repeating the mistake, seek to identify and adopt more effective methods, and move on. After all, isn't that what we expect our children to do? An encouraging voice is much



more motivating than a critical one, including the one we use on ourself.

### **Don't depend on the maternal instinct**

Just because we are females does not mean we automatically know everything there is to know about children, especially in the challenging times in which we live. Parenting is learned, so we mustn't hesitate to learn more about it. We are no less of a mother because we happen to find ourself in a situation we don't know how to handle. It is wise, not weak,

to seek advice, suggestions, and information that can help us with this awesome responsibility.

### **Never allow gender to be a limitation**

Just as gender should not limit the choices of our daughters, it should not limit the choices of our sons. Our children will be more complete, effective human beings if they have ample opportunities to learn and master a broad array of skills. We may not all need to know how to do calculus, but we do all need to know

how to nurture and care for another human being, whether we are going to be parents or not.

### **Never allow gender to be an excuse**

The next time I hear, "Boys will be boys," or "That's just the way girls are," I am going to scream! Gender is not, has never been, and will never be an acceptable excuse for being irresponsible, disrespectful, lazy, cruel, violent, or any other undesirable behavior that has been attributed to it. Unacceptable behavior has nothing

to do with gender. It has everything to do with not having been taught how to behave appropriately.

### **Emphasize the commonalities rather than the differences**

We have adopted the habit of separating ourselves into factions based on some singular characteristic — working mothers, stay-at-home mothers, inner-city mothers, urban mothers, rural mothers, African-American mothers, Hispanic mothers, Christian mothers, Muslim mothers, Jewish mothers, children with special needs mothers, conservative mothers, liberal mothers. The list is endless, but the word they all have in common is "mothers." When we focus on the prefixes rather than the suffix, the limited differences blind us to the multiple commonalities. And consequently, we are doing ourselves and our children a tremendous disservice. That which we have in common should bind us together and unite us in our shared objective.

### **We are all engaged in the monumental task of preparing the next generation of human beings**

In addition to assisting them in making the most of the best of themselves, it is imperative to remember that when we improve conditions for other children, we improve them for our own in the long run. Someday your child may be my child's teacher or student, plumber or electrician, emergency room doctor, co-worker, friend, or spouse and vice versa. Someday our children will be making decisions about our future, just as we are making decisions about theirs now.

Nothing we do guarantees that we will leave a mark on the future like the job we do as mothers. As you celebrate this Mother's Day, take time to reflect on what this role means to you, your children, your family, the future. The next time someone asks, "What do you do?," I challenge you to proudly announce, "I'm in futures. I'm a mom!"

*Carolyn Waterbury-Tieman has degrees in Child Development, Family Studies, and Marriage and Family Therapy. Waterbury-Tieman has been married for 29 years and has two sons. She spent 15 years in various agencies and clinics as a family therapist and parent educator. Visit Carolyn at [www.aparent4life.com](http://www.aparent4life.com), follow A Parent for Life on Facebook, or send questions and comments to [parent4life@yahoo.com](mailto:parent4life@yahoo.com).*

# Common sense on Charter Schools



New Yorkers  
consider  
what they  
have to gain  
from the  
movement

BY TAMMY SCILEPPI

**A**s summer approaches, New York City's heated charter school debate seems to be gradually cooling down for now ... until the start of another school year in the fall.

Charters are free public schools open to all children in the state through a random lottery. As an alternative to traditional district schools, charters give parents the opportunity to choose what works best for their child. Since they're usually smaller, charters provide a more personal atmosphere, and many tend to emphasize core subjects (English and math), along with the arts, science, and languages. They have longer school days and school year.

## NY'S CHARTER SCHOOLS PART 2 OF A SERIES

Many parents, teachers and administrators truly believe the larger conversation shouldn't be about "district vs. charter," but rather, common sense solutions.

### Pros and cons

Some folks support the notion that charters exist solely to "privatize" education, drain traditional schools of money and motivated students, and destroy unions, while others strongly disagree.

Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams recently weighed in on the debate.

"Charter schools are part of the educational landscape in Brooklyn, one where a parent has various options of how to educate their child. All of our students need to be equipped with the top-notch education they deserve," he said. "There are some important steps we must take to ensure that our education system as a whole is addressing the overcrowding crisis we have in our borough's schools, including an end to forced co-location. Additionally, every school needs to take their fair share of ELL (English Language Learners) and IEP (Individualized Education Plan) students, to ensure equitable access to education."

### Charters can innovate

New York City Charter School Center CEO James Merriman is one of

the nation's foremost experts on, and a leading voice and advocate for high-quality charter schools. He and his team work at the state and city levels to provide a public policy environment that ensures that charters can continue to grow and succeed for our children, especially those most in need.

With extensive support from Gov. Cuomo and the legislature, the Charter Center is currently working to broaden the public's understanding and appreciation of these hybrid schools, remove the arbitrary cap on charters, and secure parity in funding.

According to Merriman, "Charters are able to innovate in their classroom structures, curriculum, and teaching methods. In return, they're held to higher standards of accountability." And it's working, he said, pointing out that as parents seek out schools that best serve the needs of their children, they're applying to charters, many of which are out-performing their district counter parts in droves, he claims.

He said recent polls indicate that 86 percent of New Yorkers want more school options, while there are more than 50,000 students on waitlists to get into the city's 197 charters, which provide high-performing options within the city's public education system.

### Common Core & Success

According to successacademies.org: On the most recent New York State math and English Language Arts exams, Success Academy scholars responded well to the challenge of the more rigorous standards of the Common Core.

Among the 2,255 scholars who were age-eligible to take the test, 94 percent were proficient in math and 64 percent proficient in language arts. Success Academy schools ranked in the top one percent in math and the top three percent in language arts among all 3,560 schools in the state. In math, our scholars outperformed two of the city's four highly selective gifted and talented schools.

### Queens' charter school movement

"Queens has a very serious problem with student overcrowding in our existing public schools, plus we have the issue of finding enough space to accommodate

all our Universal pre-K students," said Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, adding, "I therefore have concerns about expanding the number of charter schools in our borough because they would be competing with our existing public schools for a limited amount of available classroom space. As Borough President and as the mother of two young boys, my main objective is to make sure all of our borough's children receive a quality education and do not suffer any negative impacts due to overcrowding."

### What's happening in Manhattan?

Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer's stance on this debate seems to confirm that the issue is in some ways, a double-edged sword.

"Done right, charter schools can be a laboratory for innovation and a benefit for communities looking for additional educational options. But all too often, the expansion of charters has come at the expense of kids in our public schools," she said.

According to Brewer, the forced co-locations in public schools, both in Manhattan and elsewhere, have left public school students as second-class citizens in their own buildings.

"Just last month, I was at a meeting with teachers from across the city, who described how their students had been deprived of libraries, computer labs, and even bathrooms because a co-located charter had taken over part of their building and refused to share," she said. "I have seen fabulous charter schools and met fabulous charter operators, but there are others who are wielding the charter school 'movement' like a weapon against our public schools. The emphasis in education policy must be on solutions that raise up all our students."

### There's hope

Department of Education spokesperson Harry Hartfield summed it up best: "It's our goal to invest in all our public schools to make sure parents have great options for their children, regardless of what neighborhood they live in. It doesn't matter whether a child attends a traditional public school or a charter public school — we want every child to get the education they need to succeed."

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## ASK AN ATTORNEY

ALISON ARDEN BESUNDER,  
ESQ.

# Wills and your kids

*My spouse and I have recently had children. If something happens to both of us, we want to leave our money to our children. What are our options since they are still very young?*

**I**n New York, if you pass away while the child is a minor, and you do not have a will, that child will receive his or her entire inheritance once the he reaches the age of 18. However most parents do not want their 18-year-old child to inherit their entire parent or parents' estate at such a young age because the child may not be mature enough to handle what could be a sizeable amount of money. This is particularly true for a child or children who have suffered such an unspeakable loss at a young age. For that reason, it is important to have a will in place and create trusts to best suit your needs.

A Last Will and Testament contains a "Minor's Trust" that is intended to hold any property left to a minor child — defined by you in the will as someone under any age — 18, 25, 30, and so on.

In general there are two types of structures. The first is called a "pot trust" or "sprinkle trust," which means that all the money goes into the "pot" to be used for the benefit of all children who are beneficiaries of the trust.

The pot trust usually grants the trustee full discretion to make distributions for any reason, or imposes an ascertainable standard such as "health, education, maintenance, and support" (sometimes referred to as a "Hems" standard). This type of trust is most appropriate for when you have two or more young children who would live with a guardian. In some respects, a pot trust is more manageable for a trustee and is more appropriate because the majority of the expenses will be attributable to the children as a whole, such as food, or are expenses all children would benefit from, such as summer camp. This type of trust allows the trustee to act much as a



parent would by not requiring the trustee to keep separate records for each child and not requiring distributions to each child are exactly the same. With such a trust it may be most appropriate to make the trustee a different person from who you are appointing the guardian of your children to ensure a check on the trustee's distributions.

The second option is to create a separate trust for each child. This trust is more appropriate for older children or young adults because each child will have different needs and expenses of greater variance and at different times. At your death your estate is divided equally among your children and each child gets his or her own trust. Most likely you will have the same trustee for all the trusts, but the money is kept in separate sub-trusts for each beneficiary. This allows different options and scenarios regarding distributions from the trust by the trustee. Usually the trustee has a standard for discretionary distributions of principal, such as "for health, education, and maintenance."

You may also want to include distributions of income and-or principal (the corpus) at one or more specified ages to the child directly. There are various options. A common methodology is to provide for half at age 25 and the remainder at age 30. You can also make those distributions contingent on graduation from an accredited college, and delay those distributions to ages 30 and 35 (or later) if they do not graduate college.

You can also split it into thirds, or give the trustee discretion to keep the property remaining in trust for tax purposes or creditor protection purposes. If you are drafting your will when your children are young, you may considering implementing a combination of these two trusts.

The specific terms are driven by your own particular objectives and concerns, which are different for every person. It all depends on your family's situation financially and your children's ability to handle money. A good way to work through these decisions is to assess the estimated value of your estate (including life insurance), how much money would be in your net estate (your gross estate less any major liabilities like a mortgage). Consider how many children you have or plan to have, and how much money is estimated to be available for each child.

For a larger trust, you might consider multiple distributions of principal over a longer period of time.

For a smaller trust, one or two distributions is probably more efficient.

As he grows, you may find you have a very responsible child and so you may not need to spread the distributions as far out; or you may find you do not think he could handle a large amount of money at one time so you may want to consider delaying the distributions until a later age.

Regardless of what you select, you, your plan, and your children will all be changing as your children mature. It is critical to review these and other provisions every few years to ensure that your plan continues to be suited to your current situation.

*Alison Arden Besunder is the founding attorney of the law firm of Arden Besunder P.C., where she assists new and not-so-new parents with their estate planning needs. Her firm assists clients in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau, and Suffolk Counties. You can find Besunder on Twitter @estatetrustplan and on her website at [www.besunderlaw.com](http://www.besunderlaw.com).*

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## JUST WRITE MOM

DANIELLE SULLIVAN

# Mother's Day gifts

**B**efore you go wracking your brain and scouring stores for the ideal Mother's Day gift, you might want to consider what mothers really want. While the typical offerings may please some, it's the extra special thought that goes a long way. And every mom is different, so the key is finding what the mom in your life values. Hint: It's not flowers.

Here's a list of five things that mothers want and need, and not just on Mother's Day:

**Sleep.** Ask any mom and depending on the age(s) of her children, she can fill you in on her exact amount of sleep deprivation. Lack of sleep often starts somewhere in pregnancy and it ends — well, I don't know when it ends, or if it actually does. I am still sleep-deprived and all my kids have been out of diapers for years.

**NOT flowers.** I recently read somewhere (can't remember where — see #1) that moms do not want flowers for Mother's Day. The article said it was a useless gift, often a last-minute thought, and an easy purchase to fulfill the obligation of even getting a gift. So unless the mom in your life really, really loves flowers, I'd skip this one. And shout-out to hubby, my allergies are horrendous, so please pay careful attention to this suggestion.

**Something unique.** Meaning something that says mom, and your particular wife, girlfriend, partner, or mother — not what is mass-marketed to stores for the droves of women who are mothers. Sure, an over-the-top frilly pink hat or the newest kitchen gadget might satisfy a lot of moms, but it would honestly tick me off. It's just not me. And every mom wants something that says you know her, you get her taste, you understand her likes and dislikes, and didn't merely settle for a gift at a stand in the mall. For me, a live Dave Matthews Band CD that I don't already have, a new computer gadget, or a great book would do just fine.

**Jewelry almost always works.** But again, know her taste. Does she like silver, gold, or white gold? Does she prefer earrings or a necklace? Try combining a remembrance of



her child, in the form of a locket or charm, in the piece of jewelry. There is nothing sweeter than being given a symbol of your baby that you can keep with you and wear.

**Words.** OK, this might seem too easy, but really it can be more meaningful than you may think. Every mom likes to hear and needs to know that you think she is doing a good job, appreciate everything she does day in and day out, and value her as a partner and a mother. You can write it in a letter or a card. If you are creative, you can pen a poem. You can simply

just say it in a well-planned out time and place (think nice dinner that she didn't have to cook over a bottle of wine).

Being a mother is a gift in itself, but nothing feels better than having the person in your life that you love the most celebrate your unique life as a mom.

*Danielle Sullivan, a mom of three, has worked as a writer and editor in the parenting world for more than 10 years. Sullivan also writes about pets and parenting for Disney's Babble.com. Find Sullivan on her blogs, Just Write Mom and Some Puppy To Love.*

# Arts

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**DIVORCE & SEPARATION**

LEE CHABIN, ESQ.

# Saw it on Facebook

Heard about the ‘Facebook divorce’? Here are the facts

**“D**id you hear? You can get divorced on Facebook now.”

“Yeah, I read the article.”

I overheard this brief (and misleading) exchange recently. Two women were referring to a recently decided New York Supreme Court case, *Baidoo vs. Blood-Dzraku*.

Many of us are on Facebook. If you are reading this column, maybe you’re getting divorced. Will this case affect you?

Probably not.

*Baidoo vs. Blood-Dzraku* involves “service of process.” In other words, notifying someone that an action (here, a divorce action) has been instituted against him, and that he is required to respond to it. The question raised was whether one spouse can inform the other of a divorce action using Facebook. And only Facebook.

Justice Matthew F. Cooper, in his decision, said that the preferred method for serving a summons in a divorce action is personal delivery to the defendant. This reflects the great emphasis that this state places on insuring that a person who is being sued for divorce — a proceeding that can have immeasurable financial and familial consequences — be made aware of and afforded the opportunity to appear in the action.

But personal service isn’t always possible; for instance, when one spouse doesn’t know where the other is. Under such circumstances, alternative service is allowed. With the court’s permission, a summons can be delivered to a person other than the spouse at the spouse’s workplace or home.

Or, the summons can be affixed to a door at one of these places, and a copy mailed to a spouse’s last known address or actual place of business (“nail and mail” service). Then there is publication service, where the summons is printed in a newspaper designated by the court. The idea is that, if the spouse cannot be notified in another way, maybe he will find out about it by reading that newspaper.

The law does allow a court to go beyond these methods and to devise



one “that fits the particular circumstances of the case” — but only if the usual methods are shown to be “impracticable.”

To get permission to use a private Facebook message as her sole method of service, Ellanora Baidoo, the wife in this case, had to offer evidence and persuade the judge that, in her situation, the other methods of service wouldn’t work, and that the social media site was likely to. And, she succeeded.

The judge found that, although the parties married in 2009, they never resided together, and the last address the wife had for him was an apartment he vacated in 2011.

By phone — they spoke occasionally — her husband had told her that “he has no fixed address or place of employment. He has also refused to make himself available to be served with divorce papers,” according to the court.

Further, investigative firms had all been unsuccessful in their efforts: the post office had no forwarding address for him, there was no billing address for his pre-paid cellphone, and the Department of Motor Vehicles had no record of him.

After having convinced the court that the more traditional methods of service were not viable, Baidoo still

had to show that her proposed manner of serving her husband was “reasonably calculated to apprise [her husband] that he is being sued for divorce.”

The court had concerns: could the wife have fabricated the husband’s Facebook account? If the account was legitimate, what if he rarely used it? Baidoo was able to allay these concerns.

Still, the question remained: could service on Facebook really be the only means of service? No court had ever allowed this. Should publication service also be required?

Justice Cooper said, no, publication service can be expensive, “and the chances of it being seen by [the husband], buried in an obscure section of the paper and printed in small type are ... infinitesimal.”

And so, new law was made.

*New York City and Long Island-based divorce mediator and collaborative divorce lawyer Lee Chabin helps clients end their relationships respectfully and without going to court. Contact him at [lee\\_chabin@lc-mediate.com](mailto:lee_chabin@lc-mediate.com), (718) 229-6149, or go to <http://lc-mediate.com/>. Follow him on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/lchabin](http://www.facebook.com/lchabin).*

Disclaimer: All material in this column is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice.

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	Week 3	07/20/07/24	The Great Outdoors	Green Works
	Week 4*	07/27/07/31	Around the World	The Big Journey
Session 2	Week 5	08/03-08/07	Diggin Up Dinosaurs	Time Travelers
	Week 6*	08/10-08/14	Space Exploration	Wacky World of Weather
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# Montessori's future sense

## Building 21st-century skills for more than a century

BY MARTHA HAAKMAT

**I**won't pretend to know what 21st-century education really means. Predicting how to best prepare our students for citizenship and leadership in a quickly changing world is not an exact science.

The task of educational leaders today is to sculpt teaching and learning to best meet demands about which we can only hypothesize. We know at best that our students must be skilled in working both independently and collaboratively. In order to innovate and move us firmly into the future, they must be able to think critically, be comfortable with constructing knowledge as opposed to relying on proscribed ideas, and they need to

be creative and flexible problem solvers who care about making life better for themselves and others.

Montessori schools are ahead of the curve. While other schools are adding components to their programs to meet the demands of being academically excellent and building upon these 21st-century skills, these are inherent parts of what Montessorians already do. Because independent thinking and learning, creativity, collaboration, grace and courtesy, and practical life skill building are all major outcomes of a Montessori education, 21st-century learning is not a far away trend that we need to build into our program.

The Montessori philosophy is transcending founder Maria Montes-



Maria Montessori developed a timeless educational philosophy.

sori's time and is our grounding for much of where we're headed next.

Montessori was a cutting-edge educator in her time. She framed her life's work around observing child development and creating an educational philosophy grounded in the very specific and scientific stages of growth from infancy through adolescence. She did what no others had done before her, and that is to study the child at each stage and come to understand the best way to tap into that child's natural curiosity in order to build not only skills and knowledge, but also a love of learning that would become a necessary skill for life. Montessori discovered that given the right tools, materials, time, space and guidance, children are capable of extraordinary thought and problem solving. She proved that such an educational grounding would prepare the child for a life of learning and great possibility.

Montessori inspired a school of educational thought, and she brought a unique tradition of child-centeredness to education that continues to guide the practices of educators in progressive schools all over the world. Her work is timeless and echoes of her philosophy haunt the chambers of educational movements through the ages, including our recent forays into 21st-century education.

Montessori tenets connect with today's rhetoric about skills necessary to prepare our students for life in this century and beyond. Maria Montessori's ideas from more than 100 years ago still resonate in today's conversations about teaching and learning.

*Martha Haakmat is the new head of school at Brooklyn Heights Montessori School. You can reach her at mhaakmat@bhmsny.org.*

21st-century skill	Maria Montessori's teachings	Examples
Critical thinking and problem solving	Unencumbered by standard patterns of thought, children are free to rejoice in trial and error and to innately innovate.	Higher-level thinking skills promoted by extended work periods with time to conceptualize, evaluate, and analyze.
Creativity and curiosity	Children are innately creative and curious — schools must be designed to allow time and space for both.	The uninterrupted work cycle and encouragement for intellectual risk taking and experimentation.
Independence and executive function	Given the right environment, carefully prepared to allow freedom within limits to discover and construct understanding, children thrive as independent learners.	Weekly goal setting with advisors promotes independence, time management, and organization. Prepared environment with tools and materials within reach to foster independent choices and decisions.
Collaboration	Children naturally seek to explore and share what they learn with their peers — learning spaces must be designed to facilitate this communication.	Team-based learning in mixed-age programs with suites and common areas. Service learning.
Leadership	Given the opportunity to interact with younger and older peers, children learn to play roles as leaders and followers, and understand their responsibilities for each.	Three-year cycle provides distinct markers for personal, social, and emotional growth. Leadership and social responsibility through service learning.
Cross-cultural competence	Children must see themselves as connected to others within and across cultures — the study of cultures then becomes an exploration of humans across similarities and differences.	Culture studies and global studies. Linked social studies and science units.
Social Responsibility	Through articulated practical life, grace and courtesy, and service learning curricula, children learn to care for themselves, others and their environment.	Stewardship through service learning. Community service. Overnight trips.

**Resources:** Gardner, H. (2008). "5 Minds for the Future." Boston, MA: Harvard Business Press.  
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 Pink, D.H. (2005). "A Whole New Mind: Moving from the Information Age to the Conceptual Age." New York: Riverhead Books.

# Montessori

## DIRECTORY

### Countryside Montessori School

354 Lakeville Road Great Neck, NY 11020

516-406-3623 or [www.Cmsgn.com](http://www.Cmsgn.com)

Countryside Montessori offers children, ages 18 months to six years, a well-balanced and enriched curriculum, which includes traditional subjects, art and music.

Our school is located on an estate-like setting which includes an outdoor playground and nature walks. All classrooms are fully equipped and spacious.

The Montessori philosophy is that children become responsible for their own behavior.

Everything in the school is designed to encourage and aid the child's natural curiosity. They learn to respect themselves and others, and they develop inner discipline.

### Montessori Kids of LIC

5 Court Square  
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347-746-5542 or [www.mklic.com](http://www.mklic.com)  
or [info@mklic.com](mailto:info@mklic.com)

Montessori Kids of LIC strives to build a solid educational foundation through the principles and explorative approach of the Montessori method through the early years which help prepare children for the newly adopted Common Core Standards as they enter elementary school.

We use Montessori methods in our classroom environments. Our school focuses on children as individuals and provides them the critical thinking tools to solve problems.

We offer Preschool and Pre-K programs.

Our school is open year-round and we offer half day, full day and extended day schedules.

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## GOOD SENSE EATING

CHRISTINE M. PALUMBO, RD

# Raw foods for children

**E**ating fresh, whole foods is appealing, especially at this time of year. Some people take this fresh concept a step further by consuming all of their foods uncooked. In other words, raw.

Supporters of the Raw Foods Diet argue that once food is cooked, its enzymes — which they claim are essential for optimal digestion — are gone. But in reality, it's the body and not the food that supplies the enzymes needed for digestion.

A raw diet essentially excludes entire food groups such as cooked meat, poultry, fish, beans, and legumes. Nutrients that are hard to come by include protein, vitamin D, iron, calcium, zinc, and B vitamins. Anemia is a real possibility.

Anecdotal reports suggest that children who have raw diets are constantly hungry and can be underdeveloped for their age.

Another concern is that a child's

digestive tract may not be able to extract nutrients out of raw foods as well as an adult's tract.

"Raw fruits and veggies require a bit more digestion," says Skylar Griggs, a pediatric dietitian at Boston Children's Hospital. "Think of chewing a cooked carrot versus a baby carrot."

Some nutrients, such as the carotenoids found in carrots, sweet potato, and kale, are actually enhanced by the cooking process. The heat that softens the vegetables is breaking down the cell walls, making the nutrients more available.

Some raw diets include raw meat or fish, as well as unpasteurized milk, yogurt, and cheese.

"Uncooked fare, especially raw meat, poultry, and raw dairy products, come with a myriad of health risks which include food-borne illness," Griggs says. "My views are in line with the American Academy of



Pediatrics, which discourages the use of raw or unpasteurized milk and milk products as the health claims related to drinking raw milk have not been verified by scientific evidence."

It can be a challenge to follow this diet over the long run. What about birthday parties, sleepovers, and other social events? Will your child be left out of the fun? Keep in mind, a child who has been fed only raw foods may struggle with appropriate eating behaviors as he gains more independence.

Eating raw takes a lot of work, creativity, and careful planning.

"Parents should speak with their pediatric care provider before their child starts on a raw diet," cautions Griggs. "The child's growth should be measured closely and micro and macro nutrient deficiencies should be monitored."

*Christine Palumbo is a Naperville-registered dietitian nutritionist who is a new Fellow of the American Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Follow her on Twitter @PalumboRD, Facebook at Christine Palumbo Nutrition, or Chris@ChristinePalumbo.com.*

## Seedy date balls

### INGREDIENTS:

8 x 8-inch sheet of parchment paper  
6 Medjool dates, pitted and halved  
6 dried plums (aka prunes), pitted and cut into 1/2-inch pieces  
1/2 cup raw sunflower seeds  
1/2 cup raw pumpkin seeds  
1/4 cup chocolate chips  
1/4 cup fresh or frozen (and thawed) blueberries  
1 teaspoon cacao powder  
1/4 teaspoon fine sea salt  
3 tablespoons water  
1/4 cup chia seeds

**DIRECTIONS:** Line an 8 x 8-inch-square baking pan with parchment paper. Combine the dates, plums, sunflower seeds, pumpkin seeds, chocolate chips, blueberries, cacao powder, salt, and water in a food processor or blender and process until almost smooth.

Take about 1 tablespoon of the date plum mixture, and with wet hands,



shape it into a ball. Place the ball on the prepared pan. Repeat until you have used up all the date-plum mixture.

Pour the chia seeds into a small bowl. Roll each ball in the chia seeds and place it back on the prepared pan. Place the balls in the freezer to chill for 2 hours. Wrap each ball individually in parchment paper or bakery tissue paper, place in a seal-

able plastic bag and keep frozen until ready to pack or eat.

### NUTRITION FACTS: (1 date ball):

80 calories, 12 g carbohydrates (7 g sugar), 2 g protein, 3 g fat, 0 cholesterol, 20 mg sodium, 3 g fiber.

Used with permission from Sweet Debbie's Organic Treats: Allergy-Free & Vegan Recipes by Debbie Adler.



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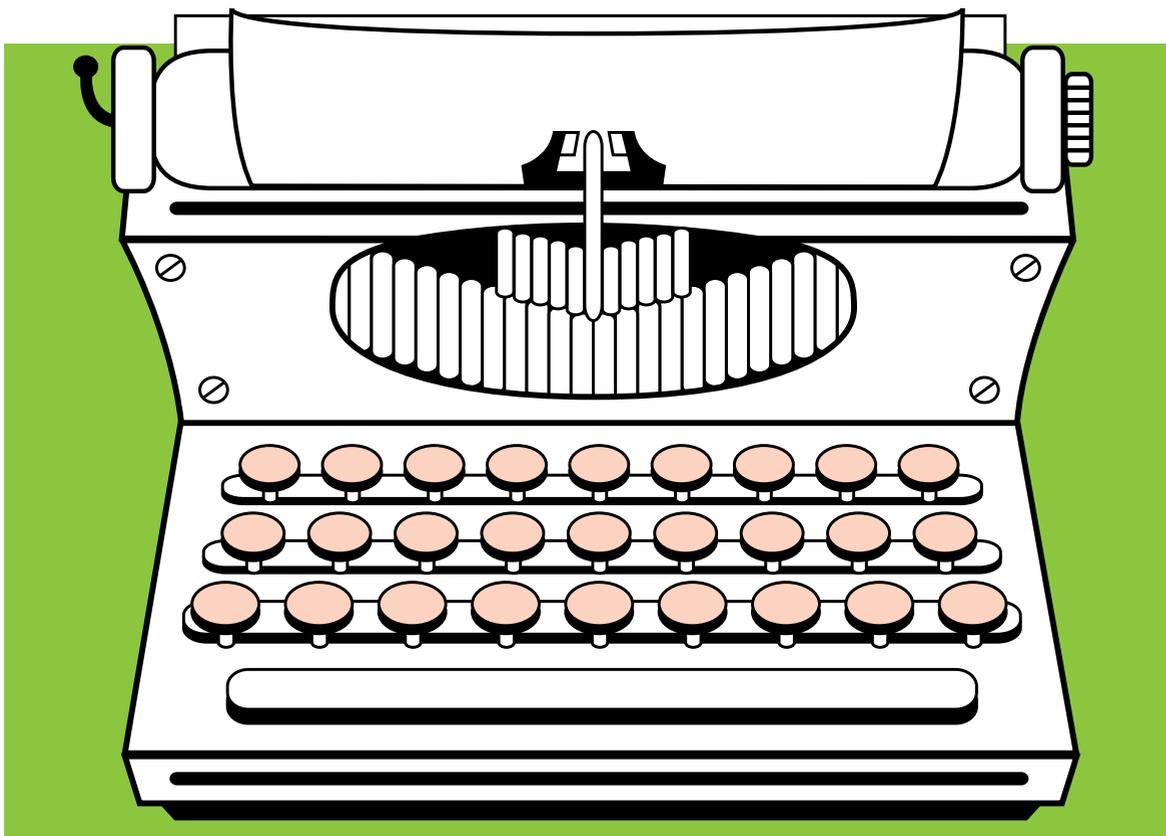
**MAY 4, 2015**

### Making a Social Story for Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Presenter: Betsy Knafo • Time: 9:45 a.m. – Noon  
Location: 144-61 Roosevelt Avenue, Flushing, NY, 10453

If you interested in attending this workshop, please contact Natalie Vargas at **718-939-8700 Ext. 1167**

*These workshops are made available by a grant provided by the New York City Council, Department of Mental Health and Hygiene.*



# Thank you — at 70 words per minute

She taught me typing in high school — and I finally got a chance to express my gratitude

## CHERISH THE MOMENTS

BY PATRICK HEMPFING

**T**hank you: two words, only eight letters. “Thanks” could cut it to a single word. Heck, sometimes words aren’t even needed — a warm embrace, held hand, or gentle forehead kiss are effective nonverbal ways to show appreciation. Of course, it is even more special when “thanks” is followed by “I love you.”

Last July, I drove 15 hours to Pennsylvania for my mother’s serious operation. It hasn’t seemed that long since Mom combed my hair to get me ready for school. Luckily since she drove the school bus (for 42 years), my chances of missing it were miniscule. Somehow, those school days had long passed and now my tough, energetic mother was frail.

The words “stressed, fatigued, and

worried” summed up my emotional week. I pondered the role reversal from my younger years as I brushed Mom’s hair and fed her ice chips, broth, and Jell-O. Mom just peeled and cut bananas for my morning cereal. Now, I had to excite her about the tray of clear liquids delivered to her hospital room. All the times she held a tissue to my nose and said, “blow,” pinching, in my opinion, too hard, came to mind when I became the holder of the tissue and issued the command.

The “Fall Risk” sign posted outside her hospital room took me back to the days when I held my outstretched arms for my daughter, Jessie, to prevent my toddler from falling. Now my ailing mom needed the assistance. How did the years go so fast?

One day, after Mom had finished her unappetizing lunch, I headed to the hospital cafeteria. As I walked down the hallway, I saw an elderly man with a cane who looked familiar. I stopped and hesitantly asked, “Mr. Furhman?”

“Yes,” he answered.

“I thought that was you. You haven’t changed a bit. Patrick Hempfing, class of 1978. I had you for typing in high school,” I volunteered.

After I exchanged pleasantries with the teacher I hadn’t seen for 36 years, I asked, “Guess what I do for a living?” Before he could answer I blurted out, “I’m a writer. I can still type 70 words a minute.” To be honest, this may have been a slight overstatement, though I am proficient with the keyboard.

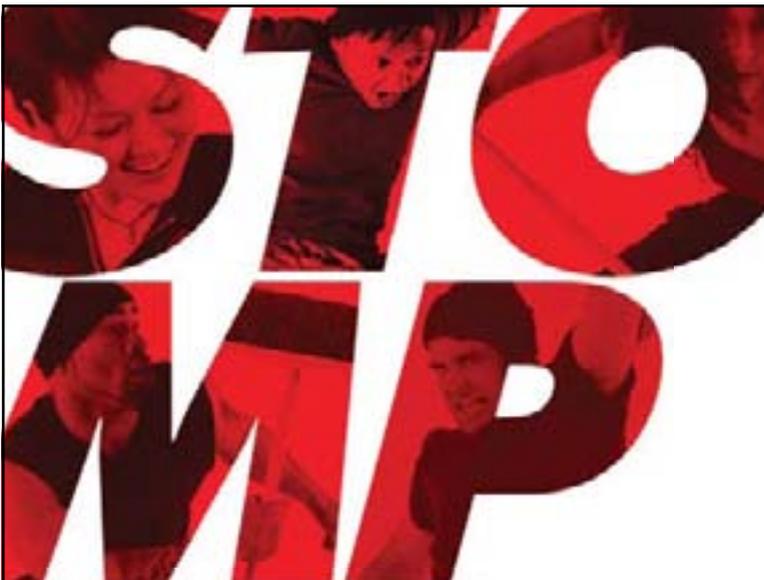
I filled Mr. Furhman in on all the jobs I’ve performed since I took his class. He smiled when I told him that, a few weeks earlier, I thought about him when I instructed my daughter to “place her fingers on the home row keys.” I’ve been trying to teach her to type instead of peck. As our meeting concluded, I thanked him for making a difference in my life. I’m not sure which of us enjoyed our chance meeting in the hospital more, but I know we both cherished the moment.

Months have passed since that week-long visit to the hospital, and I am thankful that Mom is doing better. She turned 80 in November and is as feisty as ever. After her hospital stint, she spent three weeks in rehab. Much to her dismay, she had to re-take her driver’s test before she could drive again. She set a goal, took the test, and passed. Thank you, Mom, for the great lesson on perseverance.

Jessie, the next time you’re faced with a challenge and feel like saying, “I can’t,” think of your Mom Maw and her driver’s test. You can do it. I also want you to always keep a thankful heart and express your gratitude with warm hugs and kind words, spoken, written in cursive, or typed, regardless of how fast you can press the keys. We can’t all have Mr. Furhman as our typing teacher.

Happy Mother’s Day, mom. I’m grateful you’ve been here for 80 years. Thank you for the lessons you taught me, and drive safely. Maybe one day, you’ll bump into your road test examiner, not with your car, I hope, and have a chance to thank her for putting you at ease as you took your first driving test in decades. Until next month, remember to cherish the moments.

*Patrick Hempfing had a 20-year professional career in banking, accounting, and auditing before he became a father at age 44. He is now a full-time husband, stay-at-home dad, and writer. Follow him at [www.facebook.com/patricklhempfung](http://www.facebook.com/patricklhempfung) and on Twitter @PatrickHempfung.*



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# Calendar

MAY



## History lesson

Check out the Hands-on-History at King Manor Museum on May 16.

This fun drop-off event provides children with the opportunity to learn all about Rufus King and his love of books. He owned more than 3,000. Take a tour of the museum,

then create a book and decorate it with the 19th-century technique of paper marbling.

*Hands-on History at the King Manor Museum [150-03 Jamaica Ave. in Jamaica; (718) 206-0545, ext. 13; [www.kingmanor.org](http://www.kingmanor.org)] Noon-3 pm. Free.*

## Submit a listing

This calendar is dedicated to bringing our readers the most comprehensive list of events in your area. But to do so, we need your help!

Send your listing request to [queenscalendar@cnglocal.com](mailto:queenscalendar@cnglocal.com) — and we'll take care of the rest. Please e-mail requests more than three weeks prior to the event to ensure we have enough time to get it in. And best of all, it's FREE!

## SAT, MAY 2

### IN QUEENS

**Ospreys:** Fort Totten Visitor's Center, Ordinance Rd. at Shore Road; (718) 352-1769; [www.nycgovparks.org](http://www.nycgovparks.org); 10 am; Free.

Rangers take you to the best place to view wildlife. Bring a pair of binoculars.

**Storytime:** Barnes and Noble, 23-80 Bell Blvd.; (718) 224-1083; [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com); 11 am; Free.

"What do you do with an Idea" is the selection.

**Earth Day:** Playground, Beach 59th St. and the Boardwalk; (718) 318-4000; [nycgovparks.org](http://nycgovparks.org); Noon-4 pm; Free.

Celebrate Mother Earth at this 9th annual event.

### The Calpulli Mexican Dance

**Company:** Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Boulevard; (718) 463-7700; [www.flushingtownhall.org](http://www.flushingtownhall.org); 1 pm; \$7 (\$4 children) Free for members with tickets to the show.

This workshop allows children 10 and up to show off their dancing skills.

### The Calpulli Mexican Dance

**Company:** Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Boulevard; (718) 463-7700; [www.flushingtownhall.org](http://www.flushingtownhall.org); 2:15 pm; \$13 (\$10 members) \$8 children (\$6 child member).

Celebrate Mexico's diverse cultural history with a performance by the Calpulli Mexican Dance Company.

## SUN, MAY 3

### IN QUEENS

**Spring Sheep Shearing:** Queens County Farm Museum, 73-50 Little Neck Pkwy.; (718) 347-3276; [www.queensfarm.org](http://www.queensfarm.org); 11 am - 4 pm; \$5 (Free for members).

Have you ever seen a sheep sheared? Join in with staffers and



## Woolly good time

Come to the annual Sheep Shearing at the Queens County Farm Museum on May 3.

There, families learn all about sheep shearing at the annual event where staffers give the sheep their yearly shave and demonstrate how to spin wool.

Moms and dads pick up flower

and veggie seeds, children get crafty, and then take a hayride through the farm.

*Sheep Shearing at Queens County Farm Museum [73-50 Little Neck Pkwy. in Floral Park, (718) 347-3276; [www.queensfarm.org](http://www.queensfarm.org)]. May 3 from 11 am to 4 pm. Admission is \$5, free for members.*

learn how it's done. then watch wool spinning demos, pick up flower and vegetable seeds, get craft, take a hayride and enjoy great food.

**Family Day:** Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave.; (718) 777-6888; [www.movingimage.us](http://www.movingimage.us); 11:30 am to 4 pm; Free for children under 12.

Visit for a day of fun and educational experiences for all ages.

**Pets and Paws Walk:** Springfield Park (Alley Pond Park), 79th Ave. and Springfield Blvd.; (718) 352-4793 X302; Noon-3 pm; Free.

Games, rides, crafts, and pet adoptions.

### Korean Traditional Folk Art:

Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Boulevard; (718) 463-7700; [www.flushingtownhall.org](http://www.flushingtownhall.org); 1 pm; \$10 (\$8 children) materials included.

Children 12 and older learn how to make Da Po, a handkerchief used to teach drinking.

**Craft table:** Skyview Center, 40-24 College Point Blvd.; (718) 886-3800; [www.nycgovparks.org](http://www.nycgovparks.org); 2-4 pm; Free.

Children make Mother's Day cards. Hosted by the Queens Botanical Gardens.

### Family Storytime & Craft @

**QBG:** Queens Botanical Garden, 43-50 Main Street; (718) 539-5296; [rforlenza@queensbotanical.org](mailto:rforlenza@queensbotanical.org); [www.queensbotanical.org](http://www.queensbotanical.org); 2-3:30 pm; Free with Garden Admission (\$4 adults, \$3 seniors, \$2 students w/ID and children 3-12).

Bring your little gardeners and nature lovers to QBG for a relaxing afternoon featuring nature-inspired stories, followed by a botanically-themed craft activity (limited to first 30 children; while supplies last). Schools and groups: contact school-programs@queensbotanical.org.

### Chazz Palminteri in A Bronx

**Tale:** Queensborough Performing Arts Center, 222-05 56th Ave.; (718) 631-6311; [www.visitqpac.org](http://www.visitqpac.org); 3 pm; \$45.

The actor stars in a one-man show about his childhood.

## MON, MAY 4

### IN QUEENS

**Storytime:** Barnes and Noble, 23-80 Bell Blvd.; (718) 224-1083; [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com); 11 am; Free.

Read a new book.

## FRI, MAY 8

### IN QUEENS

**"The Queen Bees":** Queens Theater, 14 United Nations Ave. South; (718) 760-0064; [www.queenstheatre.org](http://www.queenstheatre.org); 2 pm and 8 pm; \$25-\$42 (\$20 student tickets).

The musical story about three teen girls coming of age in the '60s and singing their way to stardom. Recommended for older teens.

## SAT, MAY 9

### IN QUEENS

**Storytime:** Barnes and Noble, 23-80 Bell Blvd.; (718) 224-1083; [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com); 11 am; Free.

Mother's day storytime featuring Mom School and how to Babysit a Grandma.

**"The Queen Bees":** 2 pm and 8 pm. Queens Theater. See Friday, May 8.

**"Ondine":** Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Boulevard; (718) 463-7700; [www.flushingtownhall.org](http://www.flushingtownhall.org); 2:15 pm; \$13 (\$10 members) \$8 children (\$6 child members).

An aquatic tale that moves between ancient myths and modern era. Great for toddlers on up.

**"Ondine" workshop:** Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Boulevard; (718) 463-7700; [www.flushingtownhall.org](http://www.flushingtownhall.org); 3 pm; \$7 (\$4 children) Free for members with performance tickets.

Young ones learn all about the puppets used in the performance.

### FURTHER AFIELD

**Mother's Day brunch:** New York Botanical Garden, 200th St. and Kazimiroff Blvd., The Bronx; (718) 817-8700; [www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org); 10 am-6 pm; \$30 (\$27 student and seniors; \$15 children 2-12).

Celebrate mom with live entertainment, games and outdoor fun.

**Craft Fair:** Chelsea, West 21st St. between Eighth and Ninth avenues, Manhattan; (917) 589-8893; [www.twofairladies.com](http://www.twofairladies.com); 11 am-4 pm; Free.

Two Fair Ladies present over 60 handmade artisans featuring hand-made jewelry, clothing, accessories for kids and adults, art, ceramics and

*Continued on page 30*

# Calendar

Our online calendar is updated daily at [www.NYParenting.com/calendar](http://www.NYParenting.com/calendar)

Continued from page 29

more. Seventh annual event benefits PS 11.

## SUN, MAY 10

### IN QUEENS

**Birding:** Willow Lake (Albert H. Mauro Playground, Park Drive East and 73rd Avenue; (718) 352-1769; [www.nycgovparks.org](http://www.nycgovparks.org); 9 am; Free.

Rangers take children to the best place to view the wildlife, bring a pair of binoculars if you have them.

**Mother's Day Brunch:** Queens Botanical Garden, 43-50 Main Street; (718) 539-5296; [www.queensbotanical.org](http://www.queensbotanical.org); 10 am to 3 pm; Free with garden admission.

Put on a smile on Mom's face with a visit to the gardens, have a light brunch and enjoy the craft table where you can make botanical treats.

**Little Makers:** New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St.; (718) 699-0005 X353; [www.nyscience.org](http://www.nyscience.org); 10:30 am to 12:30 pm; \$8 per family plus museum admission (\$5 for member families).

Sew Fun allows children and their parents to explore real tools and materials while practicing sewing, weaving and playing with textiles. They'll make some cool wearable art to take home. For children ages 18 months and older.

**"The Queen Bees":** 3 pm. Queens Theater. See Friday, May 8.

### FURTHER AFIELD

**Mother's Day brunch:** 10 am-6 pm. New York Botanical Garden. See Saturday, May 9.

## MON, MAY 11

### IN QUEENS

**Storytime:** Barnes and Noble, 23-80 Bell Blvd.; (718) 224-1083; [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com); 11 am; Free.

New story every week.

## FRI, MAY 15

### IN QUEENS

**"The Queen Bees":** 2 pm and 8 pm. Queens Theater. See Friday, May 8.

## SAT, MAY 16

### IN QUEENS

**"Ballet Cat":** Barnes and Noble, 23-80 Bell Blvd.; (718) 224-1083; [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com); 11 am; Free.

Children enjoy this fun book featuring Ballet Cat.



## Fun at the museum

Take a trip to Far, Far, Away at the Children's Museum of the Arts on May 14.

The new exhibit is open through Sept. 6, with opening day activities including art-making workshops and much more. Children of all ages will enjoy exploring the possibility of alternate worlds,

dreamscapes, and imagined lands, places where adventures occur and fantasy takes over.

*Far, Far Away on May 14 from 10 am to 4 pm. Children's Museum of the Arts [103 Charlton St. at Hudson Street in SoHo; (212) 274-0986; [www.cmany.org](http://www.cmany.org)]. Free with museum admission.*

**Owl Pellets:** Alley Pond Park Adventure Center (APPAC), Alley Pond Park; (718) 217-6034; [www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers](http://www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers); 11 am - 4 pm; Free.

Use the park as the laboratory and have an opportunity to dissect a real pellet while learning all about the owl.

**Hands-on History - Rufus' Library:** King Manor Museum, 150-03 Jamaica Ave.; (718) 206-0545, ext. 13; [www.kingmanor.org](http://www.kingmanor.org); Noon-3 pm; Free.

Rufus King loved to read and owned over 3000 books. Take a tour of the museum, then create a book decorating it using a popular 19th century technique called paper marbling and design your own bookplate.

**"The Queen Bees":** 2 pm and 8 pm. Queens Theater. See Friday, May 8.

## SUN, MAY 17

### IN QUEENS

**Little Makers:** New York Hall of

Science, 47-01 111th St.; (718) 699-0005 X353; [www.nyscience.org](http://www.nyscience.org); 10:30 am to 12:30 pm; \$8 per family plus museum admission (\$5 for member families).

Animal Inventions is a fun way to discover how animals use innovative ways to get food, make homes, and protect themselves from other creatures. They'll design and create their own inventions inspired by animals. Recommended for children ages 18 months and older.

**Freshwater Fishing:** Baisley Pond Park, Baisley Blvd. and 155th Street; (718) 352-1769; [nycgovparks.org](http://nycgovparks.org); 1 pm; Free.

Catch and release fishing is a great way to get outdoors and discover nature without disturbing the balance of nature. Rangers teach the ethics of responsible fishing and lead a mandatory safety review course before tackling the rod and reel.

**Sounds for Unusual Creatures:** New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St.; (718) 699-0005 X353; [www.nyscience.org](http://www.nyscience.org); 2 pm; Free.

The concert by author and com-

poser Michael Hearst and his bandmates takes the audience on a fun, interactive investigation through the kingdom of weird animals. Limited capacity; advance registration required.

### Family Storytime & Craft @

**QBG:** Queens Botanical Garden, 43-50 Main Street; (718) 539-5296; [rforlenza@queensbotanical.org](mailto:rforlenza@queensbotanical.org); [www.queensbotanical.org](http://www.queensbotanical.org); 2-3:30 pm; Free with Garden Admission (\$4 adults, \$3 seniors, \$2 students w/ID and children 3-12).

Bring your little gardeners and nature lovers to QBG for a relaxing afternoon featuring nature-inspired stories, followed by a botanically-themed craft activity (limited to first 30 children; while supplies last). Schools and groups: contact [school-programs@queensbotanical.org](mailto:school-programs@queensbotanical.org).

**"The Queen Bees":** 3 pm. Queens Theater. See Friday, May 8.

## MON, MAY 18

### IN QUEENS

**Monday storytime:** Barnes and Noble, 23-80 Bell Blvd.; (718) 224-1083; [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com); 11 am; Free.

Join in with staffers and read a new book.

## TUES, MAY 19

### IN QUEENS

**Summer reading destination:** Barnes and Noble, 23-80 Bell Blvd.; (718) 224-1083; [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com); 9 am; Free.

Children in grades 1 through 6 take up the summer reading challenge.

## FRI, MAY 22

### IN QUEENS

**Career Night:** New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St.; (718) 699-0005 X353; [www.nyscience.org](http://www.nyscience.org); 5 pm to 8 pm; Free.

High school and college students hear from a moderated panel of experts from the naval industry about their work and career journeys. This event is part of a series of free evening events exploring careers in science and technology. Free. Advance registration required.

## SAT, MAY 23

### IN QUEENS

**Bird Watching:** Forest Park Visitors Center, Woodhaven Blvd. and Forest Park Drive; (718) 235-4462; [www.nycgovparks.org](http://www.nycgovparks.org); 8 am; Free.

# Calendar

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Start your day with a morning bird watch and learn all about our fine feathered friends. Bring binoculars.

**"Dragons Love Tacos":** Barnes and Noble, 23-80 Bell Blvd.; (718) 224-1083; [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com); 9 am; Free.

How does a dragon eat? Find out in this fun book.

**World's Fair Train Show:** Queens Botanical Garden, 43-50 Main Street; (718) 539-5296; [www.queensbotanical.org](http://www.queensbotanical.org); 10 am-5 pm; Free with garden admission.

All aboard for adventure and watch working G scale model trains make a circuit through the park. Plus you can hop aboard for an express motorized ride through parts of the garden (\$5 per person).

**Music in the Garden:** Queens Botanical Garden, 43-50 Main Street; (718) 539-5296; [www.queensbotanical.org](http://www.queensbotanical.org); 3 to 5 pm; Free with Garden admission.

Join in for a doo-wop fun time with music from the 50s, 60s, and 70's The New York Exceptions will have you dancing in the aisles.

## SUN, MAY 24

### IN QUEENS

**World's Fair Train Show:** Queens Botanical Garden, 43-50 Main Street; (718) 539-5296; [www.queensbotanical.org](http://www.queensbotanical.org); 10 am - 5 pm; Free with garden admission.

All aboard for adventure and watch working G scale model trains make a circuit through the park. Plus you can hop aboard for an express motorized ride through parts of the garden (\$5 per person).

**Little Makers:** New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St.; (718) 699-0005 X353; [www.nyscience.org](http://www.nyscience.org); 10:30 am to 12:30 pm; \$8 per family plus museum admission (\$5 for member families).

Children ages 18 months and older explore different parts of a rocket as they build and launch their own high-flying rockets.

**Basic Canoeing:** Golden Pond in Crocheron Park, 35th Ave and Cross Island Parkway; (718) 352-1769; [www.nycgovparks.org](http://www.nycgovparks.org); 1 pm; Free.

Rangers lead you on a canoe adventure through gentle waters in protected lakes. Recommended for children 8 years and older.

## MON, MAY 25

### IN QUEENS

**World's Fair Train Show:** 10 am-5 pm. Queens Botanical Garden. See



## Time to clown around

Send in the clowns!

For a performance of Jack and the Beanstalk, now through May 17 at the Vanderbilt Mansion Museum and Theater

The Arena Players Children's Theater, presents this hilarious story of the classic fairy tale through the eyes of clowns.

Sunday, May 24.

## SAT, MAY 30

### IN QUEENS

**"Peanut Butter & Cupcake Storytime":** Barnes and Noble, 23-80 Bell Blvd.; (718) 224-1083; [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com); 9 am; Free.

What's a piece of bread to do when he's lonely? Find a friend of course.

**Hawk watch:** Unisphere - Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Perimeter Road and Grand Central Parkway; (718) 352-1769; <http://www.nycgovparks.org>; 10 am; Free.

The rangers lead you to the best place to view the raptors.

**"Los Tres Creditos":** Flushing Meadows Park, 111th Street and 53rd Avenue; [www.nycgovparks.org](http://www.nycgovparks.org); Noon-1 pm; Free.

Mammy Piggy narrates this bilingual adaptation of the Three Little Pigs with a vegetarian wolf.

**Strawberry Festival:** Highland

"The Clowns' Jack and the Beanstalk," Saturday and Sundays, now through May 17.

Showtimes are at 1 pm on both days. Tickets are \$10; \$8 for children.

*Vanderbilt Mansion Museum [180 Little Neck Rd. in Centerport; (516) 293-0674; [www.arenaplayers.org](http://www.arenaplayers.org).]*

Park, Jamaica Ave. and Elton Street; (718) 235-4100; [www.nycgovparks.org](http://www.nycgovparks.org); Noon-3 pm; Free.

Join in for the seventh annual event. Entertainment, crafts, games, inflatables, music, face painting and a strawberry eating contest.

**Penny Projects:** New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St.; (718) 699-0005 X353; [www.nyscience.org](http://www.nyscience.org); 1:30-3pm and 3:30-5 pm; Free with museum admission.

Kids and parents turn the humble penny into a beautiful pendant or piece of jewelry in this drop-in workshop. They'll also create fun cardboard penny mazes. Activity takes approximately 15 - 30 minutes. Recommended for ages 6 and older. Participants should provide their own penny.

## SUN, MAY 31

### IN QUEENS

**Little Makers:** New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St.; (718) 699-0005 X353; [www.nyscience.org](http://www.nyscience.org);

10:30 am to 12:30 pm; \$8 per family plus museum admission (\$5 for member families).

Kids explore light and color while experimenting with prisms, flashlights and filters. Then, they create their own sun catchers to take home. Recommended for children ages 18 months and older.

**Seining and the Shore:** American Ballfield, Cross Bay Parkway and 20th Road; (718) 352-1769; 11 am - 4 pm; Free.

This marine ecology course is perfect for children to learn about the great outdoors and responsible fishing ethics.

**"Click, Clack, Moo":** Queens Theatre, Flushing Meadows Corona Park; Box Office 718-760-0064; Administration 718-760-0686; [www.queens-theatre.org](http://www.queens-theatre.org); 1 and 3 pm; \$14 (\$12.60 members).

Cows that type and Hens on strike - Farmer Brown declares his farm a Tech-Free zone when Jenny comes to visit.

## LONG-RUNNING

### IN QUEENS

**Science Playground:** New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St.; (718) 699-0005 X353; [www.nyscience.org](http://www.nyscience.org); Weekdays, 9:30 am-5 pm, Saturdays and Sundays, 10 am-6 pm; \$5plus museum admission.

Children are encouraged to explore science through slides, seesaws, climbing webs, a water play area, sand boxes, and more, weather permitting.

**Women Artists in Place:** Jamaica Center for the Arts & Learning, 153rd St. and Jamaica Ave.; (718) 658-7400; [www.jcal.org](http://www.jcal.org); Daily, 10 am-4 pm; Now - Thurs, May 28; Free.

is an exciting exhibit featuring the works of ten women.

**Galapagos:** Nature's Wonderland in 3D: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St.; (718) 699-0005 X353; [www.nyscience.org](http://www.nyscience.org); Weekdays, 11 am & 2 pm, Saturdays and Sundays, 1 & 3 pm, Now - Tues, June 30; \$6 adults; \$5 children.

In this 3D movie, travel to the Galapagos archipelago to meet giant half-ton tortoises and marine iguanas that spit sea-salt from their noses, hunt fishes with the colorful blue-footed boobies, and swim with tiny penguins.

**Digital Media workshop:** Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave.; (718) 777-6888; [www.movingimage.us](http://www.movingimage.us); Friday, May 1, 4

*Continued on page 32*

**Continued from page 31**

pm; Free.

Teens hang out and experiment with different media making activities. For children 14 years and older only.

**“Othello”:** Queens Theatre, 14 United Nations Ave. South; (347) 738-5602; [www.queens theatre.org](http://www.queens theatre.org); Friday, May 1, 7:30 pm; Saturday, May 2, 7:30 pm; \$18.

Shakespeare’s classic tragedy with a modern twist of an all female cast.

**“Merrily We roll Along”:** Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, 30-44 Crescent St. at 30th Rd.; (888) 596-1027; [www.apacny.org](http://www.apacny.org); Thursdays and Fridays, 8 pm, Saturdays, 2 pm and 8 pm, Now – Sat, May 23; \$18 (\$12 students and seniors).

The songs of Stephen Sondheim. Presented by the Astoria Performing Arts Center.

**HSBC Children’s Garden**

**Spring Session:** Queens Botanical Garden, 43-50 Main Street; (718) 539-5296; [education@queensbotanical.org](mailto:education@queensbotanical.org); [www.queensbotanical.org](http://www.queensbotanical.org); Saturdays, 9:30 am–12 pm, Now – Sat, June 20; \$166 members, \$185 nonmembers.

HSBC Children’s Garden Spring Session Saturdays, April 11 through June 20 (except for Memorial Day weekend) 9:30am-12 noon Fee:\$185 non-members/\$166 members (discount applies to Family member level and above) Registration required-email [education@queensbotanical.org](mailto:education@queensbotanical.org) The HSBC Children’s Garden at Queens Botanical Garden offers hands-on discovery for ages 5-12. Children’s imaginations and knowledge blossom as they plant and harvest vegetables and flowers, visit the Bee garden, and more.

**Rocket Park Mini Golf:** New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St.; (718) 699-0005 X353; [www.nyscience.org](http://www.nyscience.org); Saturdays and Sundays, 10 am–6 pm.; \$6 (adults,) \$5 (children and seniors,) plus museum admission.

Golfers of all ages can learn about key science concepts such as propulsion, gravity, escape velocity, launch window, gravitational assist, and more!

**Drop In Drawing:** Queens Museum, NYC Building - Flushing Meadows Corona Park; (718) 592-9700; [info@queensmuseum.org](mailto:info@queensmuseum.org); Sundays, 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm, Now – Sun, July 26; Free.

Families with children 5 to 12 years old are invited to explore the drawings from the exhibits and use



Whitney Museum of Art

## Block party for the new Whitney

Opening Day and Block Party at the Whitney Museum of Art takes place on May 2.

The Whitney Museum is celebrating its move to a new location with a fantabulous block party chock full of fun activities,

including map making, karaoke, a performance workshop, and a new exhibit, “America is Hard to See,” which includes the work of Robert Bechtle (pictured). Best of all, everyone is invited to attend!

Opening Day and Block Party on

May 2 from 10:30 am to 10 pm. Free. Reservations strongly suggested.

*Whitney Museum of Art [99 Gansevoort St. between West and Washington streets in the Meatpacking District; (212) 570-3633; [www.whitney.org](http://www.whitney.org)]*

as inspiration for their own works of art. Children with special needs are welcome.

**One Block challenge:** New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St.; (718) 699-0005 X353; [www.nyscience.org](http://www.nyscience.org); Sunday, May 3, 1:30 pm; Saturday, May 9, 1:30 pm; Sunday, May 10, 1:30 pm; Saturday, May 16, 1:30 pm; Sunday, May 17, 1:30 pm; Saturday, May 23, 1:30 pm; Sunday, May 24, 1:30 pm; Saturday, May 30, 2:30 pm; \$3 per pair plus admission; (\$1 for members).

Kids and parents explore what they can make with a 3-inch block of wood and a few simple hand tools. At the end of the workshop, projects will be photographed and turned into an animated gif for display on the Maker Space website. Workshop lasts approximately 1 ½ hours. For ages 6 and older. Limited

capacity.

**Alley Pond Park Adventure Course:** Alley Pond Park, Cross Island Pkwy & Grand Central Pkwy; (718) 217-4685; [www.nycgovparks.org](http://www.nycgovparks.org); Sundays, 9:30 am to noon, beginning Sun, May 10; Free.

Test your mettle against the two-hour course, zip lines, low and high elements and obstacles. Minors must be accompanied by an adult.

**Little Makers:** New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St.; (718) 699-0005 X353; [www.nyscience.org](http://www.nyscience.org); Sunday, April 26, 10:30 am; Sunday, May 10, 10:30 am; Sunday, May 17, 10:30 am; Sunday, May 24, 10:30 am; Sunday, May 31, 10:30 am; \$8 per family plus museum admission(\$5 members).

Fun craft events for children.

**FURTHER AFIELD**

**“The Clowns’ Jack and the Beanstalk”:** Vanderbilt Mansion Museum, 180 Little Neck Road, Long Island; (516) 293-0674; [www.arenaplayers.org](http://www.arenaplayers.org); Saturdays and Sundays, 1 pm, Now – Sun, May 17; \$10 (\$8 children).

Presented by the Arena Players Children’s Theater, this hilarious story of the classic fairy tale is told through the eyes of a group of clowns.

**Needlework and games:** Leferts Historic Homestead, 452 Flatbush Ave. between Empire Boulevard and Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn; (718) 789-2822; [www.prospectpark.org](http://www.prospectpark.org); Saturdays and Sundays, 1–3 pm.; \$3.

Join in with staff and make a small sampler and play board games.

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# New & Noteworthy

BY LISA J. CURTIS

## Knotty corner

We have found the answer to your question, “What do we get for [insert: Mom, Grandma, My Mother-in-law, or The Special Aunt] for Mother’s Day this year?”

And the answer is: A Macrame Terrarium, from Faber-Castell’s Creativity for Kids line. With this kit, kids, ages 7-97, can make a wonderful, handcrafted present. They’ll learn the awesomely ’70s pastime of macrame (pronounced mah-krah-may) which entails tying knots in the included turquoise cord to transform it into a plant hanger. Then, the child creates the terrarium, using the plastic spoon to layer the included chia and wheat grass seeds, potting mix, colored sand, and gravel inside the plastic, globe-shaped terrarium (which is 5-inches in diameter). Just add water to the garden mister, and they’re ready to grow! The young landscape designer can insert the kit’s teensy-weensy, resin deer and mushroom figurines, or they can use materials from home to create their own figurine or a sign that reads “I love you, Mom.”



Finally, place the terrarium into the plant hanger, and voila! — a handcrafted gift for that “deer” lady.

*Macrame Terrarium kit by Faber-Castell Creativity for Kids, \$20, faber-castell.com/creativity-for-kids.*

## Miller’s ‘Glory’ days

When I was a kid, it was actually a fun change of pace when my parents shut off ’80s pop radio and put in a Johnny Horton cassette. Through that historical balladeer’s rollicking 1960 hit, “Sink the Bismarck,” I learned about the British navy taking on the mighty German battleship during World War II.

With his new CD, “Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!,” Lloyd H.

Miller brings a similar level of excitement to aspects of the American Civil War. The album combines songs from the 1800s with Miller’s original tunes — like “Weeksville,” about the area of Brooklyn which became one of the United States’ first free black communities.

The listener learns of the courageous, painful journey of a Virginia slave who escaped to the North by mailing himself in a crate in “Henry Box Brown,” a ballad that will spark a passion for learning more about America’s heroes.

A wonderful way to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War, the CD also includes the Gettysburg Address, read by contemporary voices.

*“Sing-a-long History Vol. 1: Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!” CD by Lloyd H. Miller, \$9.99, cdbaby.com.*



## Sink to their level

With Little Tikes’ new Splish Splash Sink and Stove, kids ages 3 and older will be absorbed for long stretches of time as they cook and clean dishes in the “working” sink.

The drain and pump-action faucet elevates this toy above its peers. The tidy toy holds all of the accessories (frying pan, spatula,

tongs, plates, forks, knives, spoons, and cups) for easy portability. The gender-neutral kitchen is a great gift for preschoolers, and can be used indoors or outdoors. The only drawback of this engrossing toy is the potential for tiny dishpan hands!

*Splish Splash Sink and Stove by Little Tikes, \$19.99, www.littletikes.com.*



## Im-pressive

With the Botanist Case from Moulin Roty, wee naturalists can use the included flower press to preserve natural specimens — and later transform them into a thoughtful gift for Mother’s Day, Grandparents Day, or just mount them into a scrapbook as keepsakes of a visit to a park on a sunny day.

After the blooms and leaves have been dried in the case’s

press, the flowers can be laminated and turned into bookmarks, or preserved in resin and transformed into pendants for necklaces, or even arranged into framed collages with additional materials from a craft store.

Recommended for crafters ages 6 and up, the cardboard Botanist Case also includes a magnifying glass, scissors, notebook, and three boxes for storing treasures.

*Botanist Case by Moulin Roty, \$72, bonjourpetit.com.*



## Fall for nature

Drought continues to beleaguer California, making it a good time to remind kids about our precious natural resources. In the beautifully illustrated “Pitter and Patter,” a new picture book by Martha Sullivan, readers — ages 4–10 — will quench their thirst for adventure as they marvel at the journey of two. While Pitter falls from a leaf to a stream and ocean, Patter travels through soil to an underground cave and finally reunites with Pitter at sea.

The friendly raindrops say “hello” to many insects and animals on the land and sea, all gloriously illustrated by Cathy Morrison. After the story ends, additional text explains

how all of those April showers beget May flowers and other ways parents can bring the scientific concepts behind “Pitter and Patter” to life for their budding conservationists.

*“Pitter and Patter” book by Martha Sullivan, \$8.95 paperback, \$16.95 hardcover, www.dawnpub.com.*





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