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# May is for Mom

The responsibilities of being a Mom these days are more complicated than ever. With a preponderance of urban Moms working outside the home, whether having vital careers or seeking that necessary paycheck, it's more intrinsic than ever to be A Super Mom.

Kids seldom go off to their neighborhood school, or rather it's not always the norm. Many schedules have to be worked out, meals have to be established and drop off and pick up arranged. Every one of these women deserves a standing ovation. I know because I have been one of them. This issue presents a number of really good articles, with a few of them celebrating mothers.



Of course it's definitely the time of year when you should be making the summer camp or program decisions for your kids. It's time to decide what they will be doing and where they will be doing it. Lots of good ideas in this issue, from our advertisers to the advice of our columns and articles.

Springtime in New York. Who doesn't love this time of year? The trees are in bloom with blossoms and all the bulbs are up everywhere you look. It's so refreshing to take off the heavy coats and boots and lighten up. The kids are loving it too! I see them in the parks and in the playgrounds and one gets the full sense of new found freedom from watching their play.

I wish every mother a Happy Mothers' Day, whether she's the mother of another mother and now a grandmother or pregnant with her first child and waiting for the birth day. It's an amazing thing to be someone's mother, and for sure has been the most illustrious part of my life. I'm certain that every mother could echo that sentiment.

Have a great month and thanks for reading.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Weiss-Voskidis".

Susan Weiss-Voskidis,  
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# Mom

## *A role to be cherished*

BY GAYLA GRACE

**A**t 38 weeks pregnant, Jenn eagerly awaited the birth of her first child. Her pregnancy had gone well and she looked forward to what lay ahead as she arrived for her routine doctor exam. With little warning, and a racing heart, she was ushered to a nearby hospital for a more extensive ultrasound. The doctor said the baby appeared to have quit growing and needed to be examined further. After several tests, Jenn learned the baby girl she had carried for nine months would arrive with heart complications that would affect her for the rest of her life.

Upon admittance to the hospital for delivery to begin, Jenn was understandably beyond anxious, but she wasn't prepared for the emotions she experienced when the baby arrived. Regardless of the challenges she knew were ahead, she felt an unconditional love that far surpassed any of her expectations. Within the next few years, Jenn and her husband welcomed two more children. And all were — not surprisingly — embraced with an immense love.

Parents so often take the privilege of parenthood for granted, instead of a role to be cherished. (Yes, no one can possibly cherish every moment. Certainly there are many non-magical moments during parenthood.) It's easy to overlook the important role we play, but the influence we have as parents can't be denied. We teach, we nurture, we counsel, we discipline, we taxi, we solve problems, we ease

drama, we nurse wounds, and more. While the preschool years have days that never end, the teenage years have days that take flight. Before we're ready, our babies begin to drive, graduate from high school, start college, and venture out on their own.

Time runs out for those positive parenting moments we intended to have. The daily influences we take for granted to mold our children change to parenting snapshots via text messaging, late-night conversations, and crisis intervention.

Parenthood provides meaning to life we wouldn't otherwise experience. Although

not easy, life without children wouldn't be the same. The lessons we learn while raising children aren't taught in school: how to make it through a long day after enduring a colicky baby all night, how to rid your child of lice without setting her hair on fire, how to stay calm when the school administrator reports your teenager has skipped school, or how to alleviate the intense fear of your new driver getting in an accident. As our kids grow older, we learn how to let go when our 18-year-old leaves for college and how to move on when our young adult announces wedding plans.

Parents offer unending selflessness with little guarantee of what lies ahead. We endure heartache and disappointment; we celebrate victories and accomplishments. We refuse to give up when our child goes astray, or turn our back when our child rebels.

Parenthood never truly ends. Whether your parent lives next door or out-of-state, she's always a phone call away. When my job ended in my young adult years, my mom was the first to know. When my children were born, she celebrated with me. When I endured a difficult divorce, she walked with me. When I struggled as a single parent, she encouraged me. When I celebrated marriage again with a new family, she congratulated me.

Now, as my parents approach their sunset years, I seek to be there for them. Our roles have reversed as I watch the effects of Alzheimer's grip my mother's failing mind, and I take over the driver's seat to help my dad with errands. The caretaker role goes full circle: sacrificial love and devotion without end.

My friend, Jenn, cherishes the joy of raising three babies. All of her children are loved immeasurably and she genuinely has an unending appreciation for a role she'll never take for granted. Plan for the future, while simultaneously living in the moment as you celebrate your extraordinary role. Affirm your value and commit to be a positive influence as you guide and nurture your children. No one else can play the role only you have been granted.

*Gayla Grace is a freelance writer, a wife, and a mom to five children. She considers it a privilege to be called mom.*





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# The bond of motherhood

This Mother's Day, celebrating the connection we share

BY CAROLYN WATERBURY-TIEMAN

As the youngest of four, and considerably younger than her sisters and brother, my mother's early life on the family farm consisted primarily of staying out from under foot. She found refuge in the home of a neighbor lady who had seven children. Apparently with seven of her own, one more hardly made a difference, especially when all this little one wanted to do was help with the babies. My mother learned to cook, sew, clean, churn butter, make soap, plant, harvest, and preserve food from her mother, but she learned patience, tenderness, and affection from a woman named Maude.

Witnessing the pleasure Maude derived from her children had a profound

impact on my mother. She found a model for the kind of mother she longed to have and longed to be. Becoming a mother herself became paramount. She married my father days after graduating from high school and one month shy of her 18th birthday. They were introduced and courted primarily through letters while he was in the Navy with her brother during the Korean War. One year and three months after their wedding, she gave birth to her first child. Her dream of becoming a mother had been realized.

Surprisingly, having children was not the first priority my mother had for her three daughters. We were expected to get "an education." I complied and became a dedicated student. When it came time for college, I didn't realize there was a choice about whether or not to go, only

where to go. Going to school became such a familiar, comfortable way of life that I kept on going. I met my future husband while working on a master's degree and married him while we were both pursuing doctorates.

While I spent years in post-secondary education studying child development and family relationships in preparation for becoming a marriage and family therapist, becoming a mother had never been more than a fleeting notion. There simply wasn't time. But that changed when a little girl named Mallory entered our lives.

Her father was a fellow doctoral student. He needed help transporting some new furniture to his apartment. We had a truck, so we volunteered. We knew he was married, but we didn't realize

they had a baby. She was not quite two months old, with big blue eyes, and curly, strawberry blond hair. The first time I held her, there was something special between us. My husband and I spent the next two years falling in love with this child. For the first time, we found ourselves longing for one of our own.

Nearly three years later, after graduate student health insurance finally offered coverage for pregnancy (coded as a “planned illness,” but that is a whole other article), childbirth, and postnatal care, we discovered we were expecting. Ours was to be the first grandchild on both sides of the family, so to say this news was met with excitement would be a vast understatement.

The morning I went into labor, we called my parents on the way to the hospital. About seven hours later, within minutes of our son being born, while still in the delivery room, my parents arrived. They drove from Beattyville, Ky. to Athens, Ga. in record time. Having raised three children and helped countless others raise theirs, my mother was, once again, in her element. She would be the first to say that the only thing better than being a mother was becoming a grandmother. After 29 years in a parent-child relationship, we shared the bond of

We must support and encourage one another in our efforts to become the best mother we can be — the mother our children need.

motherhood.

With Mother's Day approaching, my thoughts turn to these early days of motherhood and I'm reminded how important it is to:

- Recount our personal “becoming a mother” story.
- Discover models or mentors for becoming the mother we want to be.
- Become a parenting partner with our spouse.
- Learn as much as we can about child development and parenting, not just from parenting books. Some of the greatest lessons I've learned have come from mothers I admire in literature.
- Remember to parent by the child, not by the book, because no matter how much we know or how much experience

we have, every child is unique. Our parenting must be adjusted accordingly.

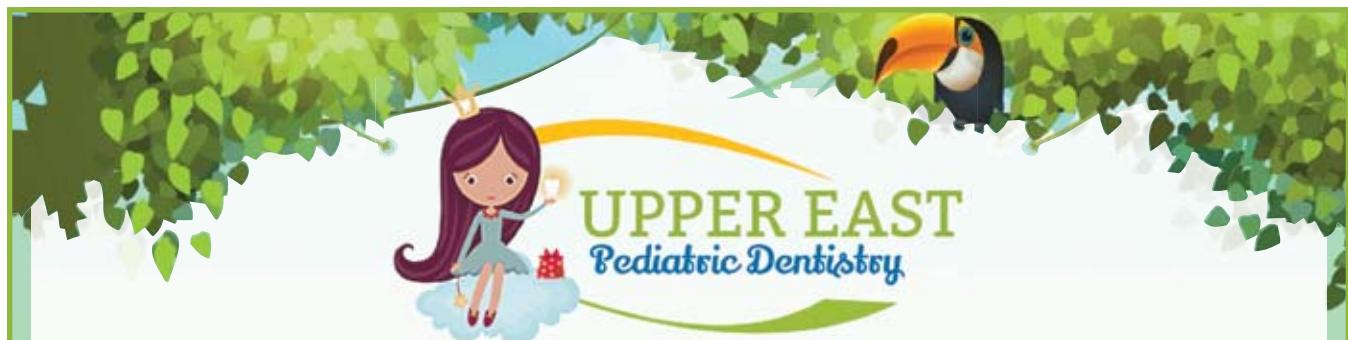
• Celebrate the bond of motherhood. There are as many ways to be an excellent mother as there are mothers. We must support and encourage one another in our efforts to become the best mother we can be — the mother our children need.

One of the most meaningful examples of this last item occurred a few years ago when working at my son's school. I discovered an envelope in my mailbox containing this hand-written message:

“Dear Carolyn, I want to thank you for being such a great mom. You probably barely know who I am, but I have seen you with your boys at various school events and your dedication has at times been inspiring to me. I'm sure you'll get lots of appreciation from your own family, but know that your love for them spreads beyond ... Happy Mother's Day! An Anonymous Parent.”

Such is the nature of all love.

*Carolyn Waterbury-Tieman is a resident of Lexington, Ky. She 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 and has written extensively on the topic of parenting. To contact her, please e-mail parent4life@yahoo.com.*



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# Four things to look for in a summer day camp

BY KATHLEEN DUFFY

With an overwhelming landscape of summer day camp opportunities for kids in New York City, it can feel impossible to select the right one for your child. As a camp director for more than seven years, I have learned what components are key to an engaging, safe, and fun experience. Here are some tips on what to look for when choosing a summer day camp:

## Leadership

You want to be sure the environment is right for your child, and much of that comes down to who is in charge. Ask leaders if the camp has been accredited by the American Camp Association — those with accreditation must meet rigorous guidelines regarding program quality and the health and safety of campers.

Find out counselors' experience level and training procedures, and if their goals for the summer align with your own. Research shows that kids with positive adult role models develop better self-esteem, so strong leadership is of the utmost importance.

## Location, location, location!

It's important to consider where your child will spend his time. Think about the commute, and ask if camp buses are available. Visit the campus and assess safety and privacy measures as you walk around. It's a bonus if your camper has the opportunity to meet new friends right in his own neighborhood.

## Developmental opportunities

Strong social-emotional skills have benefits both in the classroom and in life, and

a national study from The American Camp Association demonstrates that camp is a unique setting for this type of development. Camp is a great opportunity for your child to build skills like self-awareness and responsible decision-making, especially if it offers the right mix of activities. Which leads us to...

## Selection of activities

Team sports, dance, cultural activities, creative writing, and gardening offer opportunities for growth and provide children with the chance to shine outside of a formal classroom setting. Group activities also provide kids with a common purpose and a sense of belonging, which helps kids develop resilience — another critical life skill.

Kathleen Duffy has been director at Asphalt Green for seven years. Asphalt Green offers summer day camps for kids at its Upper East Side and Battery Park City campuses.

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can achieve their full potential as young artists. The school celebrates all forms of dance including hip-hop, ballet, musical theater, tap, acro, and more. Parents can also join in on the fun in Baby and Me classes, Pouch Baby Fitness, or Prenatal Yoga!

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Spend an art-filled summer with Children's Museum of the Arts! CMA's week-long Art Colony Camps are technique-based classes led by practicing Teaching Artists. Camps run June 19 - September 1 with over 50 class options at two locations: the museum in SoHo and on historic Governors Island. Your child can dive into photography, explore the arts of ancient times, learn how to animate a film, illustrate their own story, design their own fashions, make a music video, and more! Classes run from 10AM-4PM, with supervised play from 9-10AM and 4-5PM included. Find a full list of offerings at [cmany.org](http://cmany.org).

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*Continued on page 14*



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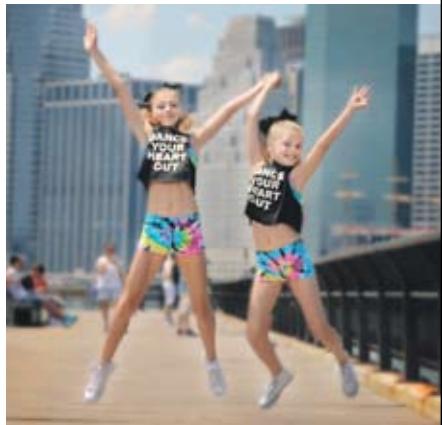
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## Arts for Kids

### DIRECTORY

*Continued from page 12*

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212-731-0668  
[www.gallitheaternyc.com](http://www.gallitheaternyc.com)  
[gallinny@gmail.com](mailto:gallinny@gmail.com)

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[www.nationalacademy.org/  
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# Too old for camp?

## How to get your teen involved in a service project

BY SARA MARCHESSAULT

**I**t's finally happened. The kids are no longer excited about summer camp. They may be complaining that camp is for little kids or that none of their friends are going. We parents may agree, but still want our kids to have a summer with some structure.

Thankfully, there are alternatives. One in particular can be incredibly beneficial to adolescents — that is the summer of service.

You may have heard of "service learning." It's a current buzzword in education. The idea is that students will engage in a service project as part of the regular curriculum and reflect on what they learn as it relates to a class or classes. More and more service learning is popping up in classrooms around the country, particularly at the high school and college level.

Instead of sending your older teen to summer camp, a service project can give her summer structure and engage the mind in an experience that might be different from how she learns during the regular school year.

In addition, your son or daughter starts to develop marketable skills. Even volunteer roles that seem simple — such as selling concessions, emptying trash cans at a local music festival, or sorting donated goods at a food bank — require elements of working on a team, following directions, and using math skills in the real world. Volunteer work can be added to a resume and discussed as examples of experience during job interviews.

Depending on the service project, your child may have the added benefit of moving in new circles and meeting people from different walks of life. You just never know when an experience will lead your child to a career choice he had never thought of, a network connection that someday might result in a great internship or job, or even simply a chance to shine on his own.

So, how can you get started?

### Decide

This seems simple, but sometimes talking to teens feels complicated, right? What if instead of arguing about whether or not he or she heads to camp, you



were able to ask: What would you like to do instead? Engage in a conversation where you each lay several options on the table.

If your teen wants to relax and hang out with friends, you can negotiate how he or she will manage time over the summer as you select a service experience. The first step is initiating the conversation and putting it on the table as an alternative to summer camp.

### Selecting a project

Next comes the exciting part: selecting a project. You can choose an organization that already offers work to volunteers, such as a residential home for the elderly, homeless shelter, or library. Residential communities for the elderly may have volunteers come in to read, help residents use the computer, or share other skill sets. Homeless shelters take volunteers to help sort donations, serve food, or again, help with computer skills. Your public library may be a great place to volunteer. Shelving books, reading to kids, helping patrons locate specific media, or even tutoring for family literacy programs are all possibilities.

Another resource is the United Way ([www.unitedway.org](http://www.unitedway.org)). It can help connect you with projects going on in the summer

in your community.

For students looking for something right before college or during summer breaks, AmeriCorps ([www.nationalservice.gov/programs/american](http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/american)) is an option. This organization is similar to the Peace Corps. Volunteers have an age limit and make a commitment to serve, but instead of international travel, all of the service projects are here in the U.S.

Check out what's going on in your community. Research local online calendars for festivals or concerts that will need volunteers, then visit their websites for more details. Remember that even though an event may be scheduled for just one day, sometimes volunteers are needed weeks in advance.

Finally, one more possibility is to create your own service project. Does your son or daughter have a cause he or she feels passionate about? Encourage research on the presence of a group in your community that supports a cause your child expresses interest in. Then talk about ways to get involved. How can he or she use a current skill set to support a cause? What new skills can be learned?

### Document the service

Once the service work has started, it's important to document the experience.

This can be a written journal, or even an audio or video log. When it's time to refer to these service experiences in an interview or on a college entrance essay, the details will have already been captured. Encourage your teen to record what she does, how she does it, and what she is learning. This will help her recall the service experience in greater detail in the future.

Keeping notes on the service experience can also turn a simple volunteer post into a high-level service learning activity. When we take the time to reflect through writing, we can start to make connections between the experience and our prior knowledge. When a young person has a moment of "Ohhh, this is why it's important to know how to use fractions" something incredible happens, and he just may get excited about learning. And in that case, bravo parents, for encouraging a summer well spent.

*Sara Marchessault is the former owner of a summer camp for middle-school girls and author of "Beyond Pen and Paper: 33 Experiments in Journaling." She has spent many hours getting to know young people, listening to their dreams and their fears, and encouraging them that their parents are on their side. When she isn't playing with her own kids, Marchessault is a writer, publisher, and teacher.*

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Questions: Eddie Mayrose, Director of Sports Camps,  
[emayrose@xaverian.org](mailto:emayrose@xaverian.org) or call 718.836.7100, ext. 118.



# 15 books to help kids understand LGBTQ issues

BY CINDY HUDSON

**S**omeone I know once said, "The beautiful thing about books is that you can find all of humanity in their pages." And yet, until recently, there hasn't been much emphasis on books that have diverse characters, particularly when it comes to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer issues.

Why is it important for kids to read books that have characters representing a wide range of humanity? Donna Gephart, author of "Lily and Dunkin," which tells the story of a transgender girl, says, "Reading about LGBTQ characters allows young readers to walk in someone else's shoes and gain empathy, which naturally leads to understanding, compassion, and kindness — something so needed in today's world."

It's also important for anyone questioning his identity to see characters strug-

gling with issues similar to his. Gephart says a transgender woman once told her that having positive role models could have saved her a lot of suffering when she was younger.

"We all need and deserve mirrors in the books we read to affirm and validate our existence, to let us know we're not alone in this world, and to provide role models, so we can envision a bright future," said Gephart.

Here are 15 titles, ranging in appropriateness from toddlers to teens, where readers can find a variety of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer characters.

## Picture books

Introduce the concept of diversity to children ages 4 to 8 with these titles:

**"My Dad is a Clown"** by José Carlos Andrés and Natalia Hernandez. This bilingual (English and Spanish) story is told

by a boy who has two dads, one of whom works to make people laugh in his job as a clown.

**"Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress"** by Christine Baldacchino and Isabelle Malenfant. Other kids make fun of Morris for donning a tangerine dress. But with support from his mom and an active imagination, he helps them see that outward appearances aren't as important as what's inside.

**"The Great Big Book of Families"** by Mary Hoffman and Ros Asquith. Families come in a variety of types and sizes, and this book celebrates that diversity.

**"It's Okay to Be Different"** by Todd Parr. Bright colors and funny drawings highlight differences of all kinds, including skin color, family makeup, disability, and more, while getting the message across that these differences are all just fine.

**"And Tango Makes Three"** by Justin Richardson, Pete Parnell, and Henry Cole. This tale about two male penguins given the chance to hatch an egg is based on the real-life story of Roy, Silo, and baby Tango, who live at the penguin house in the Central Park Zoo.

## Middle grade

Ages 9 to 13 is a time for kids to begin exploring their individuality and how it fits into the big picture. Try these reads:

**"Lily and Dunkin"** by Donna Gephart. Timothy knows that deep inside he's really Lily, but how does he show his true self to the rest of the world without getting hurt?

JUST READ IT! JENNIFER NIVEN  
Author of All the Bright Places



**"The Best Man"** by Richard Peck. Archer learns a lot from all of the male role models in his life, including his grandpa, his dad, his uncle — who happens to be gay — and his substitute teacher, Mr. McLeod, who dates Uncle Paul.

**"George"** by Alex Gino. A tender story about someone who sees herself as a girl even though the world sees her as a boy. With the help of a friend, and inspiration from "Charlotte's Web," she finds a way to express who she really is.

**"Drama"** by Raina Telgemeier. A graphic novel that highlights the "drama"

that can occur in middle school, when kids are learning how to navigate budding interest in romance and relationships.

**"Lumberjanes"** by Noelle Stevenson and Shannon Watters. This graphic novel series is about the adventures of five female friends who attend summer camp and end up battling monsters and solving a mystery.

#### Young adult

Teens ages 14 and older are ready for edgy content that addresses issues directly:

**"Will Grayson, Will Grayson"** by John Green and David Levithan. A random meeting between two high school boys with the same name, one gay, one straight, changes both their worlds in unexpected ways.

**"The You I've Never Known"** by Ellen Hopkins. Ariel isn't sure if she's more attracted to boys or other girls, and she's afraid to share her conflicted feelings with her dad, who claims Ariel's mom left him for another woman.

**"Ask the Passengers"** by A. S. King. A story that explores the issue of sexual identity and what defining it means not only to the teen, but to the people surrounding her as well.

**"If I Was Your Girl"** by Meredith Russo. Amanda wants to start a new life in a new town by moving in with her estranged dad. But as a transgender female, she finds the issues of having friendships and dating difficult to navigate.

**"Symptoms of Being Human"** by Jeff Garvin. It's hard enough being a teen who's gender fluid, but when your dad is running for Congress, it means everything about your life will eventually end up in the spotlight.

Cindy Hudson writes about books, reading, and family literacy at [MotherDaughterBookClub.com](http://MotherDaughterBookClub.com).

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## Montessori DIRECTORY

### The Caedmon School

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[www.caedmonschool.org](http://www.caedmonschool.org)

A Montessori-inspired preschool & elementary program serving children from 2 years 8 months through fifth grade in a bright, newly renovated schoolhouse. As the first Montessori school in NYC, children discover their passions in a beautiful environment that values kindness, community, empathy, and independence. Graduates go on to the finest independent and public middle schools. Our time-tested approach offers core classes in language arts, math and social studies, as well as specialist classes including Latin, art, science, technology, physical education, violin, Spanish, and more. New programming includes a Magic Planet digital globe and exciting virtual and board game curriculum. Now accepting applications for Fall 2017.

### Metropolitan Montessori School

325 West 85th Street

212-579-5526

[www.mmsny.org](http://www.mmsny.org)

Celebrating over 50 years, our school is a west side gem—the perfect intersection of both a small caring school community and a stimulating, dynamic, academic setting. Serving children 2 years and 8 months old to 6th grade. Our mixed age classrooms encourage younger children to learn from older children and in turn, older children learn to demonstrate respect, competency and leadership to the younger ones. Our school dedicates itself to provide an enriching educational environment where each child is encouraged to grow to his or her fullest potential, develop a strong moral compass, a love of learning and a sense of community. The program offers opportunities for visual performing arts, including violin starting in Kindergarten, multiple trips a year to Black Rock Forest, and an active physical education program. Children as young as 2 years and 8 months old begin the foreign language program in French.

### Morningside Montessori School

251 West 100th St. 6th Fl

212-316-1555

[www.morningsidemontessori.org](http://www.morningsidemontessori.org)

Morningside Montessori is a preschool for children ages 2-5, whose commitment to children and their families has allowed it to withstand the test of time. Guided by the Montessori philosophy and best practices in modern early childhood education, the school community nurtures children to be compassionate, independent, lifelong learners. Children fall in love with learning and develop the necessary life skills

to excel in their academic careers and beyond. The school's diverse team boasts a 15-year average retention rate. The "Summer of Science" program is available to all and runs June through July. For more information, call or visit our website for more information

### Twin Parks Montessori Schools

Central Park Montessori School

1 W. 91st St

212-595-2000

[enroll@twinparks.org](mailto:enroll@twinparks.org)

Park West Montessori School

435 Central Park West

212-678-6072 [pwadmissions@twinparks.org](mailto:pwadmissions@twinparks.org)

Riverside Montessori School

202 Riverside Dr.

212-665-1600 [admissions@twinparks.org](mailto:admissions@twinparks.org)

[www.twinparks.org](http://www.twinparks.org)

Twin Parks Montessori Schools are accredited by the American Montessori Society, the Middle States Commission and are affiliate schools of Columbia University. We provide nurturing, child-centered settings for children ages 3 months-6 years, and are committed to fostering a community of lifelong learners using proven Montessori methodology. Problem solving and creativity are emphasized along with age-appropriate academic subjects. We are among Manhattan's most spacious preschools, offering rich and varied environments—from individual activity tables to open floor areas promoting group interaction to the abundance of the Schools' glorious backyards, Central and Riverside Parks. Each of these environments invites exploration, discovery and fully meets the developmental needs of young children.

### The Washington Market School

55 Hudson Street,

134 Duane Street

212 233 2176

[www.washingtonmarketschool.org](http://www.washingtonmarketschool.org)

The Washington Market School is the only non-profit Montessori school in Lower Manhattan, founded in 1976. Our philosophy of education is based on the principles of Maria Montessori with great appreciation for the early childhood practices of Reggio Emilia. Our curriculum includes traditional areas of Montessori development as well as studio classes of Art, Music, Chess, Woodworking, Library and Movement & Drama. Our teachers and developmental specialists are superb working with our parents to ensure best developmental practices. The school serves children 2 years to 6 years offering full and half day sessions with extended day until 6pm. Applications open in September and financial aid is available.

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## Twin Parks Montessori Schools

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### Central Park

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### Park West

435 Central Park West  
New York, NY 10025  
Phone: (212) 678-6072  
Fax: (212) 678-1998

Twin Parks Montessori Schools are accredited by the American Montessori Society (AMS), the Middle States Commission on Elementary Schools (MSCES), and are members of the New York Association of Independent Schools (NYAIS), the Independent Schools Admissions Association of Greater New York (ISAAGNY), the Parents League, as well as affiliate schools of Columbia University.

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**212-233-2176**

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# Marvelous May!

**W**ith Memorial Day here this month, which means the start of fabuLyssfun family barbecues, I want to introduce you to a new deLyssious healthy snack: New Pop. The world's first skinless popcorn, recently launched, and my kids can't get enough. This non-genetically modified, gluten-free and vegan popcorn is revolutionary to the snack category, and you will thank me after you try my favorite flavor — the sweet cinnamon.

[www.newpop.com](http://www.newpop.com)

• • •

A new #fabuLyssFind is Dr. Kestin, a world-renowned facial rejuvenation expert specializing in non-surgical cosmetic procedures. Dr. Oz calls him the "Wizard of Eyes!" With summertime upon us, a quick visit to Dr. Kestin's office will keep you feeling and looking refreshed. You will love his "magical chair."

(635 Madison Ave. between 59th and 60th streets, [williamkestinmd.com](http://williamkestinmd.com)).  
• • •

A new #divaMustRead is "How to Be Married: What I Learned from Real Women on Five Continents About Surviving My First (Really Hard) Year of Marriage" by Jo Piazza. Written with refreshing candor, elegant prose, astute reporting, and hilarious insight into the human psyche, "How to Be Married" offers an honest portrait of an utterly charming couple. When life throws more at them than they ever expected — a terrifying health diagnosis, sick parents to



Catch "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" on Broadway.

care for, unemployment — they ultimately create a fresh understanding of what it means to be equal partners during the good and bad times. Through their journey, they reveal a framework that will help the rest of us keep our marriages strong, from engagement into the newlywed years and beyond. I could not put this fabuLyss book down.

[www.amazon.com/How-Be-Married-Continents-Surviving/dp/0451495551](http://www.amazon.com/How-Be-Married-Continents-Surviving/dp/0451495551)  
• • •

Another new #fabuLyssFamilyFind: Take your family to see Roald Dahl's "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" — The New



## FABULYSS FINDS

LYSS STERN

Musical." Your kids will agree they all won the Golden Ticket after seeing this Broadway show. My 9-year-old son said that it is "better than Hamilton." It's the best new production for families. He went Oompa-loomadooptydoo for the new, fabuLyssFun musical.

*At the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre (205 W. 46th St. between Eighth Avenue and Broadway, [www.charlieonbroadway.com](http://www.charlieonbroadway.com)).*  
• • •

And on Thursday, May 4, please join the Divamoms for the fifth annual Mom Moguls Breakfast!

*At Lord and Taylor (424 Fifth Ave. between E. 38th and E. 39th streets, [www.divamoms.com](http://www.divamoms.com)) 9–11 am. RSVP@Divamoms.com. Space is limited.*

*Lyss Stern is the founder of DivaLyssious Moms ([www.divamoms.com](http://www.divamoms.com)).*

## Strawberry country cake

### INGREDIENTS:

12 tablespoons (1 1/2 sticks) unsalted butter, at room temperature  
2 cups sugar  
4 extra-large eggs, at room temperature  
3/4 cup sour cream, at room temperature  
1/2 teaspoon grated lemon zest  
1/2 teaspoon grated orange zest  
1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract  
2 cups all-purpose flour  
1/4 cup cornstarch  
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
**For the filling for each cake:**  
1 cup (1/2 pint) heavy cream, chilled  
3 tablespoons sugar

1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract  
1 pint fresh strawberries, hulled and sliced

### DIRECTIONS:

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Butter the bottom of two 8-inch cake pans. Then line them with parchment paper and butter and flour the lined pans.

Cream the butter and sugar on high speed in the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the paddle attachment until light and fluffy. On medium speed, add the eggs, one at a time, then the sour cream, zests, and vanilla, scraping down the bowl as needed. Mix well. Sift together the flour, cornstarch, salt, and baking soda. On low speed, slowly add the flour mixture to the butter mixture and combine just until smooth.

Pour the batter evenly into the pans,

smooth the tops, and bake in the center of the oven for 40 to 45 minutes, until a toothpick comes out clean. Let cool in the pans for 30 minutes, then remove to wire racks and let cool to room temperature. If using one cake, wrap the second well and freeze.

To make the filling for one cake, whip the cream, sugar, and vanilla in a mixer fitted with the whisk attachment until firm. Slice one of the cakes in half with a long, sharp knife. Place the bottom slice of the cake on a serving platter, spread with half the whipped cream and scatter with sliced strawberries. Cover with the top slice of the cake and spread with the remaining cream. Decorate with strawberries.

From Ina Garten, [www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/ina-garten/strawberry-country-cake-recipe](http://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/ina-garten/strawberry-country-cake-recipe).



## Good Shepherd School

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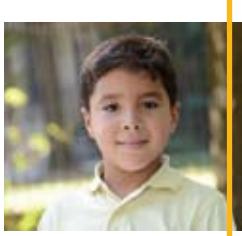
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# Estate tax liabilities for non-U.S. citizens

**S**pring has sprung, and this month we have answers to two questions for you to ponder as you enjoy the warmer weather!

*I am a Canadian citizen living in New York. I have heard that estate taxes for non-US citizens can be much greater. What is my estate tax liability as a Canadian?*

For U.S. citizens or U.S. residents (both of which are referred to in this summary as "U.S. residents"), the current exemption from federal estate tax is \$5.49 million per person for 2017. The federal exemption increases slightly every year for a cost of living adjustment. A resident for estate tax purposes is someone who resides in the United States for the long-term. For estate tax purposes, it is defined as follows: "A person acquires a domicile in a place by living there, for even a brief period of time, with no definite present intention of later removing therefrom. Residence without the requisite intention to remain indefinitely will not suffice to constitute domicile, nor will intention to change domicile effect such a change unless accompanied by actual removal."

If you are in the US on a contract basis with a specific and planned end-date to return to your country, you are not considered a U.S. resident. People who are non-U.S. citizens and non-U.S. residents are subject to estate taxes for any assets in the U.S. that exceed \$60,000. "U.S. assets" include any real property within the U.S., any U.S. bank accounts and U.S.-based stocks and securities, whether the account is held in or outside of the U.S. Life insurance policies are not considered U.S. assets.

Also, non-U.S. residents cannot take advantage of a marital deduction and the whole of any joint asset is included in the predeceased spouse's estate (as opposed to only 50 percent inclusion for a U.S. resident).

However, the U.S. has tax treaties with many countries that override these rules, including with Canada. The U.S.-Canada

tax treaty allows Canadian residents to take advantage of the federal exclusion amount (\$5.49 million for 2017). If, like many people, you are a Canadian citizen and non-U.S. resident at the time of your death, the Executor of your estate will need to file a specific form to take advantage of this (IRS Forms 706-NA and 8833).

For New York State, under a change in the law effective April 1, 2017, the exemption is \$5.25 million per person and will increase each year until it matches the federal exemption in 2019. If you are a New York resident, an estate tax return must be filed if you are over the exclusion amount. You receive a deduction for any assets that are not New York assets. If you are not a New York resident but have assets in New York, you will only need to file a New York estate tax return if the assets in New York are over the exclusion amount.

If you are concerned about estate taxes, you should consult an attorney and accountant to better understand your estate tax liability based on your assets and the tax laws affecting you.

*I opened an Uniform Transfer to Minors Act account for my child when she was young and now she is about to turn 18 years old, and I am concerned about turning over the account to her, which now has more than \$50,000.*

Many parents open bank accounts pursuant to the Uniform Transfer to Minors Act when their children are young in order to save monetary gifts from grandparents, or to save for the children's future college expenses. However, many parents do not realize that when the child turns 18, he or she is entitled to possession and control over that money, and can use it in whatever way he or she desires. The law does not require that the child use that money for college, but requires that it must be turned over to the child when that child turns 18 years old. In some cases, the account does not turn over to the child until he is 21 years old. The title of the account



## ASK AN ATTORNEY

**ALISON ARDEN BESUNDER, ESQ.**

should indicate whether the account is held until age 18 or 21.

New York law provides that a transfer made pursuant to the act is irrevocable and the custodial property is vested in the minor child at the time of transfer. As custodian of the account, you are obligated to inform the minor of those assets at the time the account completely vests in the minor. The statute does, however, state that the custodian "shall transfer in an appropriate manner the custodial property to the minor," which provides some options for steps you may take if you are concerned about turning over a large account to your child:

### Use the funds for the minor's benefit

Until the minor is 18, you can use the funds for his benefit. If you are also the parent of the minor, you may not use funds for items that are part of your existing support obligations to your child (such as food, clothing and shelter), but you may use the account to pay for "luxuries" such as private school, extracurricular activities, camp, or a new computer.

### Transfer the assets to the minor

When the minor is 18, you can retitle the account into an account in his name. You can, with the minor's permission, be named a co-signer or receive duplicate statements to see how the minor spends the money.

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You may incentivize your child to use the funds responsibly by stating that you will pay for college with other funds if she keeps the funds for graduate school (as one example) or you may even use “strong-arm” tactics to state that you will reduce her inheritance if she uses the funds irresponsibly.

### Purchase an income-producing asset

You can use your discretion under “appropriate manner” to use the funds to purchase an asset that the minor would not be able to easily liquidate once she receives it at age 18, such as income-producing real property or an annuity. This is not recommended because it could be later reviewed as a breach of fiduciary duty. Fiduciary obligations include that a fiduciary must transfer assets to a beneficiary upon the termination of a fiduciary duty in a manner that is easily converted to cash. If, however, the minor consents in writing, this may help protect against a later claim.

### 529 Plan

You may transfer the account proceeds into a newly created 529 Plan for the minor’s benefit. This will require liquidating any stocks or securities in the account because a 529 Plan can only be funded with cash. This may trigger capital gains

taxes if the assets have increased in value significantly.

However, transferring the funds to a 529 Plan will allow you to continue to be the custodian of the funds until the funds are completely withdrawn, thereby allowing you to withhold it to pay for college. But, if your child requests the funds at any time for any purpose, you will need to release the funds or she may petition the court to receive the funds pursuant to your obligation as fiduciary of the account since you used those assets to fund the 529 Plan.

### 2503(c) Trust

If you want to continue to hold the funds, you could create a living trust for the minor’s benefit under Internal Revenue Code § 2503(c). The terms of the trust can be drafted to allow you, as Trustee, to make discretionary distributions and forced distributions at set ages, so the funds stay under your control until you believe your child is able to handle the account on her own.

In order to deter future claims of breach of fiduciary duty, the trust should allow the minor a one-time withdrawal right, where she is afforded the opportunity to withdraw the funds up to the full amount when she turns 18 years old. Your child will have a 30- or 60-day window to do so.

If she does not exercise her withdrawal right, the funds stay in trust pursuant to the trust agreement. If your child does not exercise her right of withdrawal, the trust would then be considered a “self-settled” trust and any creditor of your child could potentially reach the funds to satisfy a judgment. If instead of setting up a new trust you keep the funds in the account after your child becomes 18, she could demand the funds at any time. As discussed above, you can try to incentivize your child to not exercise her right of withdrawal in your discussions with her.

• • •

Each situation is different and fact specific, and whether a particular option is right for you depends on your particular situation. If you have or are considering an account and are concerned about turning over the account to your child when she turns 18 or 21, you should speak to an attorney to discuss your options and which option is best for your 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 Alison Besunder on Twitter @estatetrustplan and on her website at www.besunderlaw.com.*

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# 12 quick tips to teach toddlers to share

BY DENISE YEARIAN

**W**hen toddlers have play dates, territorial battles are bound to ensue. To foster sharing skills in young children, consider these 12 tips:

**1. Start early.** Children can't cognitively grasp the concept of sharing until they reach the developmental age of 3 or 4, but parents should set the expectation and foster learning opportunities early on.

**2. Show and tell.** Children often imitate what they see others doing. When you have opportunities to share food, a toy, or another activity with your child, talk about how you are sharing, so he begins to associate the word with the action.

**3. Pretend play.** Imaginative play can provide powerful lessons in sharing. Place a puppet in each hand and have them discuss and act out sharing scenes. Then invite your child to join in. Tea parties and play kitchens are good platforms, too.

**4. Read books.** Read children's stories about sharing, then talk about past ex-

periences: "Do you remember when you shared your toy with Eli yesterday? That's what the children are doing in the book."

**5. Talk it up.** Before play dates, remind your child how much fun it is to play with his friends and tell him he will need to share his toys.

**6. Stash special items.** Have a designated basket to place special toys that don't come out during play dates. For some children, it will be helpful to be part of the process; other kids won't understand.

**7. Have duplicates on hand.** Having more than one of a given toy will allow children to play alongside of and imitate one another. It may also avoid an altercation.

**8. Build in cooperative activities.** Group activities such as drawing, finger painting, Play-Doh, or blowing bubbles can be used to teach sharing skills. As the children participate in these activities, talk about sharing and how well they are playing together.

**9. Include adult interaction.** From time to time, it may be helpful if you participate in your child's group play so you

can support him in being kind and sharing. It may even stop a squabble.

**10. Promote with praise.** When you see your child sharing, bring it to his attention. Kids want to please their parents, so be sure to offer plenty of praise.

**11. Set up sharing situations.** Create opportunities for your child to develop empathy and sharing skills. Have him help you make a batch of cookies, and then hand them out to his friends. Or, encourage him to draw a picture or make a card for a friend.

**12. Address major misdemeanors.** If your child grabs a toy while playing with a friend, tell him he must give it back and wait for his turn to play with it. Offer an alternative toy as a distraction. If it turns into a tantrum, remove your child from the situation and sit next to him until he calms down. If one child hurts another over a toy, remove it from the play area.

*Denise Morrison Yearian is the former editor of two parenting magazines and the mother of three children and four grandchildren.*



# Raising a peaceful child

**P**arenting happy kids in a world that is so often fraught with unhappiness and chaos is an uphill battle. And while it is certainly a challenge to remain positive and hopeful, it can be done. In fact, you might say, it needs to be done first and foremost. Otherwise, how will our kids ever be optimistic, hopeful, and filled with peace?

Parenting is so much more about taking care of the physical day-to-day demands, like good nutrition and health, homework, and after-school activities. Those things are quite important, but sometimes the psychological needs are greater, because without a healthy and mindful outlook, the other things won't be possible.

Kathy Walsh, parenting expert, educator, and author of the award-winning "Joyohboy" book series says intention is everything. Walsh is the founder of Peace Place for Kids, and has been teaching mindfulness to schools and workshops throughout the country for more than 20 years.

"Intention is a force that sets everything in motion. How often do we think about and write down our intention for raising our children? What could be more important? When you are clear about your intention for raising your children, other decisions become easier to make," she says.

If you want your kids to be stable and peaceful people, it all starts with your behavior and attitudes. Read on for Walsh's

tips for raising peaceful kids:

## 1. Be aware of your actions

Model the behaviors that you want them to copy. Children mirror you. Be aware of your actions when you are in front of them, and model the behavior that you want them to mirror.

## 2. Encourage them to look at things in a not-so-negative way

Always start and end your day with gratitude. Gratitude is not just a habit; make your bed, brush your teeth, and be grateful every day. Gratitude is the gift that keeps on growing. It is the key to a joyful life. It is hard to complain and feel grateful at the same time.

## 3. Acknowledge their feelings

We have to acknowledge them, not bury them. This is how behavioral problems happen. Things happen in life and a healthy response is how we grow emotionally. Teach your children that when we show love, it comes back to us. It is the gift that keeps on giving. It's just that simple.

## 4. Be mindful

Life is 10 percent what happens to you and 90 percent how you react. This captures the essence of mindful parenting. Teach your children that how they see



## HEALTHY LIVING

DANIELLE SULLIVAN

things is more than half the battle. They have a choice whether to look at life in a positive way or not. The more positive they are, the better their life will be. Life will be a reflection of their thoughts and what they put out they get back.

## 5. Practice non-judgment

When you are showing gratitude, you are not judging others. People can feel that, and it is contagious. When you are grateful for them, they in turn become more grateful for your presence. Choose your words carefully.

*Danielle Sullivan, a mom of three, is a writer and editor living in New York City.*

# Join the fight against Williams Syndrome

## Family Fun Day and Carnival raise funds to solve disorder

BY SHNIEKA L. JOHNSON

**A** New York mom's passion for helping her daughter (who was diagnosed with a rare disorder) and others like her has created an event on May 7 that has evolved over the years from a modest walk to a full-blown carnival at the 79th Street Boat Basin.

Melissa Felsher's daughter, Josie, has Williams Syndrome, a developmental disorder that affects many parts of the body. It is caused by the deletion of genetic material from a specific chromosome region (short arm of chromosome 7), resulting in the loss of 26 to 28 genes. Although this is a small percentage of genes in the human genome, this small loss can affect physical, behavioral, and cognitive makeup. The loss of these genes is the assumed cause of characteristic features of individuals with Williams Syndrome. The severity of symptoms varies case by case, but some of the difficulties affecting those with Williams Syndrome include (but are not limited to):

- Developmental delay
- Mild to moderate learning disability
- Unique personality
- Cardiovascular problems

This rare disease affects one in 10,000 individuals worldwide, with no predominance in one gender or culture. There are approximately 20,000 cases in the United States alone. Children diagnosed with Williams Syndrome endure costly, ongoing medical care because of the numerous hurdles they face throughout their physical and cognitive development. However, socially, children with Williams Syndrome are often quite verbal, friendly, and endearing.

The Williams Syndrome Association is an organization that has sprouted to provide essential resources for parents of children diagnosed with Williams Syndrome, including connecting all the families affected by the disease.

"Our family and all those directly impacted by a diagnosis of Williams Syndrome don't know where we would be without this invaluable organization,"



Melissa Felsher and her daughter Josie.

said Felsher. "Josie was diagnosed in November 2007 at 3 months old. In July 2008, my family and I flew to California to attend our first national Williams Syndrome Association convention. I was hooked, and that Fall, I was nominated by someone I had met there to serve on the Board of Trustees. I served two consecutive three-year terms which is the maximum."

The association manages a registry of individuals with Williams Syndrome to spur research, and it lists local services and community events. It relies on awareness events, and Felsher's yearly

New York event has been particularly successful.

"In 2010, the WSA started the first-ever Williams Syndrome Awareness month to be held each May. The goal was to get volunteers across the country to hold an awareness and fund-raising event. I volunteered to run and organize the New York City event. I have continued each year since," Felsher said.

Her Family Fun Day allows families and their friends to enjoy each other, learn more about the disorder, and raise money for the Williams Syndrome Association.

"It started with a Walk For Williams, which was held in Battery Park along the esplanade. It was a wonderful venue, but after five years, we outgrew the space, so I searched for a new location for the 2015 event.

"I came across the 79th Street Boat Basin, which is a gorgeous spot and can hold up to 1,000 people. Because of the layout of the space, I came up with the idea of a Family Fun Day and Carnival," said Felsher, who has lined up carnival games, a DJ, a magician, and more for the May 7 event.

"We get a lot of children — about 200 or so — so it seemed like a perfect fit," said Felsher.

And the carnival is a hit that keeps on growing.

"[The New York City] event has steadily grown over seven years. The people at [the 79th Street Boat Basin] are incredible to work with. At my first event in 2010, we had around 125 attendees, and it has steadily grown to over 600 people in recent years," stated Felsher. "We also have grown in terms of fund-raising from about \$50,000 the first year to over \$100,000!" she added.

"Josie loves 'her carnival' and before that 'her walk!' She knows, though, that we do it for Williams Syndrome and many



Josie and her friends at the event.

other 'Williams Syndrome families' attend. Josie looks forward to seeing her many friends, who we only see a few times a year, either at our event, another held on Long Island, or the national conventions held every other summer in a different part of the country.

"Josie loves to see our friend Carolyn who has generously volunteered each year to do face painting and our friends from the Craft Studio who volunteer staff and a craft each year. The support is incredible!" said Felsher.

There are numerous research projects

that the Williams Syndrome Association helps to fund. The research is critical in order to understand more about individuals affected by the disease. Key cognitive research is happening at the University of Louisville and has been underway for more than 20 years. Dr. Carolyn B. Mervis and her research is just one valuable resource for Williams Syndrome families. Unfortunately, there is a lack of federal funding, so this critical research is substantially supported by private fund-raising.

Because the association relies on awareness events like the Family Fun Day and Carnival organized by Felsher — and a team of 20 volunteers — the association is always excited to see new faces at the events. There are few hours as fun and enriching as time spent at the Boat Basin playing games, enjoying food, and raising awareness and funds for the Williams Syndrome Association.

*Shnieka Johnson is an education consultant and freelance writer. She is based in Manhattan where she resides with her husband and son. Contact her via her website: [www.shnieka-johnson.com](http://www.shnieka-johnson.com).*

For more, visit:

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## DIVORCE & SEPARATION

LEE CHABIN, ESQ.

# Understanding your rights as a client

**R**ecently, I was invited by a therapist to join her and one of her patients during a session (with the patient's consent, of course). My role was to be that of a consultant who would provide information and answer questions. I gladly accepted the opportunity, on the condition that it was clear to the patient that she would not be hiring me as her attorney to represent her.

I met with the therapist and "Mary" (not her real name) the next day, having learned that Mary had a case involving custody and child-support. One issue concerning Mary was her lawyer; she had one, but had doubts about how the attorney was handling her case.

One question I asked was whether he had provided Mary with the Statement of Client's Rights and Responsibilities. Mary said, "No," unaware that such a thing existed.

What is this document, and does it matter if a lawyer gives it to clients?

According to the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations's Procedure for Attorneys in Domestic Relations Matters, "This Part shall apply to all attorneys who, on or after Nov. 30, 1993, undertake to represent a client in a claim, action or proceeding, or preliminary to the filing of a claim, action or proceeding, in either Supreme Court or Family Court, or in any court of appellate juris-

diction, for divorce, separation, annulment, custody, visitation, maintenance, child support, or alimony, or to enforce or modify a judgment or order in connection with any such claims, actions or proceedings."

Courts have held that attorneys cannot collect their fees if they have failed to follow the rules regarding the statement or provide a written retainer agreement that includes certain information. Lawyers may even have to return fees that clients have paid.

You can read the statement in full at <http://www.nycourts.gov/divorce/part1400.shtml>. Here is some of what you will find:

- You are entitled to a written retainer agreement which must set forth, in plain language, the nature of the relationship and the details of the fee arrangement. At your request, and before you sign the agreement, you are entitled to have your attorney clarify in writing any of its terms, or include additional provisions.

- You may refuse to enter into any fee arrangement that you find unsatisfactory.

- Your attorney may not request a fee that is contingent on the securing of a divorce or on the amount of money or property that may be obtained.

- Your attorney may not request a retainer fee that is nonrefundable. That is, should you discharge your attorney, or

should your attorney withdraw from the case, before the retainer is used up, he or she is entitled to be paid commensurate with the work performed on your case and any expenses, but must return the balance of the retainer to you. However, your attorney may enter into a minimum fee arrangement with you that provides for the payment of a specific amount below which the fee will not fall based upon the handling of the case to its conclusion.

- You are entitled to receive a written, itemized bill on a regular basis, at least every 60 days.

- You are expected to review the itemized bills sent by counsel, and to raise any objections or errors in a timely manner. Time spent in discussion or explanation of bills will not be charged to you.

- You are entitled to be kept informed of the status of your case, and to be provided with copies of correspondence and documents prepared on your behalf or received from the court or your adversary.

- You are entitled to make the ultimate decision on the objectives to be pursued in your case, and to make the final decision regarding the settlement of your case.

As a client, you have rights. You should wonder about a lawyer who doesn't share them with you.

*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.

# Saving for college

**S**tudy hard, get good grades, go to college. My parents said this to me, and their parents said it to them. Historically, a college education has been the path to upward mobility and a better life. This still remains true, but with the cost of college increasing so rapidly, many worry that the dream may drift out of reach. Think about it: According to The College Board, tuition, room and board, and fees for one academic year at a four-year public college have grown from \$8,439 in 2000–2001 to more than \$20,000 this year. For private institutions, that total has nearly doubled to \$46,000 per year.

I have seen families go to extremes to send their children to college. Some have taken out loans so large that it will be years before they are repaid. Others have borrowed from their retirement savings. While at first it appears easy to borrow against one's 401(K), it is important to remember that these funds must be paid back, and not doing so can have serious consequences for your own retirement plans. Some families hope to rely on loans taken out by the child, but this can saddle a young college graduate with an immense debt burden when he is just starting out on his own. Astonishingly, the New York Federal Reserve reported student loan balances were \$1.31 trillion as of Dec. 31, 2016 — a record high level.

Planning ahead can keep you from raiding your retirement funds or over-borrowing to pay for college when the time comes. Borrowing too much can have an effect on your retirement plans and your child's life goals. Fortunately, there are options available to parents to help them prepare for the cost of college before that happens. Here is a brief overview of some of the education funding options available:

## 529 Plans

529 plans are state-sponsored education savings accounts. Parents, grandparents, and others can contribute to these accounts regardless of how much they earn. The maximum that can be contributed is relatively high, currently \$375,000 in New York.

These accounts allow your money to grow tax-deferred (meaning you won't pay taxes on growth in the account). Withdrawals from the account also won't be subject to federal tax, and in most cases, state tax, as long as withdrawals are used



for qualified education expenses, such as tuition, and room and board. These accounts can be used to pay for college, vocational school, or graduate school.

If you withdraw the money for any reason besides qualified education expenses, you'll be taxed at your current income tax rate plus incur a 10-percent penalty. If plans change, and your child doesn't need the money for her education, you can change the beneficiary at any time to a sibling or other family member. Depending on where you live, some states, including New York, give residents a state tax deduction for contributing to the account.

## UTMA, UGMA, or custodial accounts

Money contributed to a Uniform Gift to Minor's Act or Uniform Transfer to Minor's Act by anyone is for the benefit of your child. You can contribute to these accounts regardless of how much you earn and there is no maximum contribution limit.

When your child becomes an adult, at either 18 or 21 years old depending on each state's law, these funds will automatically become hers and can be used for any purpose she wishes — not just for college. Earnings in these accounts are not tax deferred like 529 plans, but subject to taxes like an ordinary investment account.

However, because these accounts are owned by your child, earnings are generally taxed at the child's (usually) lower tax rate rather than the parents' rate.



## FAMILY FINANCIAL PLANNING

ANTHONY N. CORRAO

### Coverdell Education Savings Accounts

Tax treatment of Education Savings Accounts is similar to 529 accounts. Money inside this account grows tax deferred and withdrawals are not subject to tax if used for qualified education expense. The definition of qualified education expenses for these accounts includes primary and secondary schooling, not just college.

Parents who earn too much money won't be able to contribute to these accounts. If you have a modified adjusted gross income more than \$110,000 for a single person and \$220,000 for a married couple, you aren't eligible to invest in these accounts. And the maximum annual contribution amount is fairly low, only \$2,000 per year for each beneficiary.

• • •

An important issue to consider is what assets you own and what assets are owned by your child. Ownership of assets is important because it can affect your family's ability to receive financial aid. I'll address these issues in my next column. Before buying a 529 plan or any investment, you should inquire about the particular plan and its fees and expenses. Always consult your own tax advisor when considering investing in any of these plans.

*Anthony N. Corrao is an independent advisor with Corrao Wealth Management. For more than 25 years he has helped families with their financial goals by developing financial, educational, and retirement planning strategies.*

*Securities offered through First Allied Securities Inc., a registered broker dealer. Member FINRA/SIPC. Advisory services offered through First Allied Advisory Services, a registered investment adviser.*

# Calendar

MAY



## Drones: Is the Sky the Limit?

Drones: Is the Sky the Limit? the new exhibit opens on May 10 at the Intrepid Sea, Air, & Space Museum.

The exhibit explores pilotless aircraft and the history of drone technology, from its modern-day origins in World War I and its military development to its current applications in solving complex humanitarian and commercial challenges.

Visitors will be able to fly actual drones and watch the first-person viewpoint of a drone racing, and get up-close and personal with Volantis, the world's first "flying dress," designed by global superstar Lady Gaga in collaboration with Tech-Haus. Also on display is a prototype of an Amazon cargo vehicle designed for home delivery of online shopping orders.

Explore the use of drones in police and fire departments, and see how tech-

nology creates new perspectives for photographers, artists, filmmakers and stage productions. Plus, learn about its contributions to conservation and humanitarian efforts, and consider what the future holds — from the possibility of personal flying cars to space exploration.

Drones: Is the Sky the Limit? beginning May 10 on weekdays, 10 am to 5 pm; Saturdays and Sundays, 10 am to 6 pm. General admission \$33 adults, \$31 seniors, \$24 children 5 to 12 years old, and free for children under 5. Retired and active-duty military members free. New York City residents, (must show valid ID) \$19 adult and seniors, \$17 for children ages 5 to 12, and free for children 4 and younger.

*Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum (Pier 86 at 46th Street and 12th Avenue, [www.intrepidmuseum.org](http://www.intrepidmuseum.org)).*

## Never miss a great event!

Sign up for our FREE newsletter and get twice-a-week ideas for you and your family right in your mailbox. [NYParenting.com](#)

# Calendar

### 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 [mmanhattancalendar@cnglocal.com](mailto:mmanhattancalendar@cnglocal.com) — and we'll take care of the rest. Please email 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!

### SUN, APRIL 30

#### In Manhattan

**Just Drop In:** Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, 1071 Fifth Ave. at 89th Street; (212) 423-3500; [www.guggenheim.org](http://www.guggenheim.org); 1 pm; Free with museum admission.

For families with children ages 3 and up. Drop in to participate in creative, interactive projects located in one of our family-friendly galleries.

### WED, MAY 3

#### IN MANHATTAN

**Little Guggs:** Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, 1071 Fifth Ave. at 89th Street; (212) 423-3500; [strollertours@guggenheim.org](mailto:strollertours@guggenheim.org); [www.guggenheim.org](http://www.guggenheim.org); 11 am to noon; \$30 includes museum admission and snacks (\$15 members).

This program is designed for little art lovers and their parents and guardians who will explore one or two works of art in the galleries and then make a work of art in our studio. The hour includes a short story, trips to the galleries, and art-making activities. Designed for children ages 2–4 years old. Registration required.

### THURS, MAY 4

#### IN MANHATTAN

**Cross-Stitch Circle:** New-York Historical Society, 170 Central Park West at 77th Street; (212) 873-3400; [nyhistory.org](http://nyhistory.org); 3:30 pm; Free with museum admission of \$19 adults, \$6 children ages 5–12.

Beginning cross stitchers and younger children will learn the basic stitch and create a bookmark with their new skill. More seasoned stitchers and older children and adults make a handcrafted gift for someone. Ages 7 and up.

### FRI, MAY 5

#### IN MANHATTAN

**Shababa Fridays:** 92nd Street Y Art Center, 135 Lexington Ave.; (212) 415-5562; 9:30 am; \$8.

Children, parents, grandparents, and nannies are all part of our Shababa Friday family. Join us for this playful and soulful experience of singing, dancing, jumping, and celebrating as a community!



Nir Ayal

## City's dance festival

"FootPrints 2017" dances into the Marjorie S. Deane Little Theater at the West Side YMCA from May 18 to May 20.

The third annual dance festival celebrates innovative works of contemporary dance from diverse new and established voices in the city's dance scene. It offers dance selections from "Grimm," "In Transit," "Movers," "Looking Glass," "Infinite Reflection," "Refuge," "The Rise of Otherness," and "The Empowered Women."

Presented by the Amanda Selwyn Dance Theatre and The West Side

YMCA Community Arts Department, the three-day event features the works of Danielle Kipnis of Nazmo Dance Collective, Ashley McQueen of Smashworks Dance Collective, Megan Paradowski and Lil Arnonoff of The Mill, and more.

FootPrints 2017 on May 18, 19, 20, at 7 pm. Tickets are \$17, and \$12 for students, children and members of the West Side YMCA.

*Marjorie S. Deane Little Theater at the West Side YMCA [5 W. 63rd St. on the Upper West Side, (212) 912-2635; [www.ovationtix.com/trs/pr/970348](http://www.ovationtix.com/trs/pr/970348)].*

**Afterschool pop-up program:** Anne Loftus Playground, Dyckman Street and Riverside Drive; (212) 795-1388; [info@forttryonparktrust.org](mailto:info@forttryonparktrust.org); [www.nycgovparks.org](http://www.nycgovparks.org); 3 pm to 5 pm; Free.

Explore the natural world around you with Dr. A! Learn how to identify different trees and insects. Test and play with various science tools through interactive games for children during this two-hour exploration session.

### SAT, MAY 6

#### IN MANHATTAN

**Beginning Birders:** Chess & Checkers House (near zoo), Center Drive at West Drive; (212) 310-6600; [nycgovparks.org](http://nycgovparks.org); 10 am to 11:30 am; Free.

Bring your family for a guided walk and discover why Central Park is a sanctuary for plants, animals, and humans alike. Learn about the architecture, landscapes, and ecosystems of the park through hands-on exploration using Discovery Kits — rugged backpacks filled with kid-friendly binoculars, field guides, and hand lenses.

**Saturday Sketching:** Solomon R. Guggen-

heim Museum, 1071 Fifth Ave. at 89th Street; (212) 423-3500; [www.guggenheim.org](http://www.guggenheim.org); 10 am; Free with museum admission.

Prepared materials with drawing prompts allow visitors to explore Frank Lloyd Wright's architectural shapes and spaces, and record their perspectives through drawing. Art materials, including a drawing board, paper, a variety of pencils, and erasers, are available for loan at the Family Activity Kiosk. This program is geared towards teens, though families with children of all ages are welcome. No registration required.

**"Cinderella Samba":** Highbridge Park, Edgecombe Avenue and 166th Street; [www.cityparksfoundation.org/event/cityparks-puppetmobile-presents-cinderella-samba-2](http://www.cityparksfoundation.org/event/cityparks-puppetmobile-presents-cinderella-samba-2); 11 am to noon; Free.

This contemporary twist on the classic "Cinderella" fairy tale is presented by The CityParks PuppetMobile and sets the timeless tale in the lush landscape of Brazil, where, thanks to the help of her fairy godmother, Cinderella attends Rio de Janeiro's biggest Carnaval gala and dances the samba with Prince Paulo.

**Urban Wildlife Festival:** Highbridge Park,

# Calendar

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

W. 172nd Street and Amsterdam Avenue; [www.cityparksfoundation.org/event/cityparks-puppetmobile-presents-cinderella-samba-2](http://www.cityparksfoundation.org/event/cityparks-puppetmobile-presents-cinderella-samba-2); Noon to 3 pm; Free.

Join NYC Parks, the Urban Park Rangers, and the Fort Tryon Park Trust at the Urban Wildlife Festival to get up close and personal with owls, hawks, porcupines, tortoises, and more at this free festival in Highbridge Park. Learn about their traits and behaviors from New York State licensed rehabilitators and the Urban Park Rangers.

**Cherry Blossom Festival:** Field 62-63 Randall's Island Park, Randall's Island; [www.nycgovparks.org](http://www.nycgovparks.org); Noon to 4 pm; Free.

Each spring Randall's Island Park Alliance's annual Cherry Blossom Festival ushers in the warmer months, and gives visitors the opportunity to appreciate the park's spring beauty. Set along the backdrop of the Hell Gate Bridge and the Urban Farm, the festival welcomes the park's cherry blossoms with live music, performances, games, exhibitions, face painting, and more, inspired by Japanese culture.

**Discovery walks – Living Laboratory:** Chess & Checkers House (near zoo), Center Drive at West Drive; (212) 310-6600; [www.nycgovparks.org](http://www.nycgovparks.org); 1 pm to 2:30 pm; Free.

Bring your family for a guided walk and discover why Central Park is a sanctuary for plants, animals, and humans alike.

## SUN, MAY 7

### IN MANHATTAN

**Woodland Fairy House Walk:** Payson Avenue Park, Payson Avenue and Dyckman Street; (212) 628-2345; [www.nycgovparks.org](http://www.nycgovparks.org); 11 am to 12:30 pm; Free.

In folklore, the woodland fairies awaken the forest and bring about spring. We'll observe the fanciful plants and animals which inhabit the forest floor.

**Cinderella Samba:** Anibal Aviles Playground, 111 W. 108th St. and Amsterdam Avenue; [www.cityparksfoundation.org/event/cityparks-puppetmobile-presents-cinderella-samba-2](http://www.cityparksfoundation.org/event/cityparks-puppetmobile-presents-cinderella-samba-2); 11 am to noon; Free.

**Urban Farm Exploration Day:** Randall's Island Park, Randall's Island; [www.nycgovparks.org](http://www.nycgovparks.org); 11 am to 5 pm; Free.

Explore and learn about the great variety of colorful fruits and vegetables, chickens, and even rice paddies at our Urban Farm. Ask our Urban Farmers about all that's growing!

**Macy's story time:** 11:30 am. New-York Historical Society. See Sunday, April 30.

**Asian-American Heritage Festival:** Ellis Island National Park, New York Harbor; [www.statuecruises.com](http://www.statuecruises.com); Noon; Free — but must purchase ferry ticket.

The National Park Service in partnership with Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company presents the festival with ceremony and performances in The Great Hall of Immigration at Ellis Island. The event showcases traditional and contemporary Asian-American music and dance.

**Irish Arts Dance Festival:** Pier 1 Riverside



## Puppet show in the parks

"Cinderella Samba" comes to Manhattan parks throughout May.

This contemporary twist on the classic "Cinderella" fairy tale is presented by The CityParks PuppetMobile and sets the timeless tale in the lush landscape of Brazil, where, thanks to the help of her fairy godmother, Cinderella attends Rio de Janeiro's biggest Carnaval gala and dances the samba with Prince Paulo. After Cinderella is forced to flee the gala just before midnight, the prince sets out to find the mystery woman who stole his heart, in hopes of marrying her.

The production features an original commissioned musical soundtrack that brings samba center stage, handcrafted Carnaval festival floats on parade, and one-of-a-kind marionettes donning their most vibrant Carnaval costumes,

created by the expert puppeteers from the Swedish Cottage Marionette Theatre in Central Park.

"Cinderella Samba" free and open to all ages. [www.cityparksfoundation.org/event/cityparks-puppetmobile-presents-cinderella-samba-2](http://www.cityparksfoundation.org/event/cityparks-puppetmobile-presents-cinderella-samba-2).

*Highbridge Park [Edgecombe Avenue and 166th Street] May 9, 11 am to noon.*

*Anibal Aviles Playground [111 W. 108th St. and Amsterdam Avenue] May 7, 11 am to noon.*

*Asser Levy Recreation Center [392 E. 23rd St. between First Avenue and Avenue C] May 18, 10 to 11 am.*

*Anne Loftus Playground [Dyckman Avenue and Broadway] May 20, 11 am to noon.*

*Seward Park [Canal Street and Essex Street] May 21, 11 am to noon.*

Park South, W. 70th Street and Riverside; 311; [www.nycgovparks.org](http://www.nycgovparks.org); 1 pm to 7 pm; Free.

Irish Arts Center kicks off summer on the Hudson with its annual day-long Irish Dance Festival featuring performances by hundreds of the best Irish dancers and opportunities for the whole family to join in.

**Just Drop In:** 1 pm. Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. See Sunday, April 30.

**Jazz for Kids:** 1 to 3 pm. Jazz Standard. See Sunday, April 30.

## THURS, MAY 11

### IN MANHATTAN

**Cross-Stitch Circle:** 3:30 pm. New-York Historical Society. See Thursday, May 4.

**Fireworks:** The Kaye Playhouse at Hunter College, 695 Park Ave. at E. 68th Street; (212) 772-4448; [www.kayepalhouse.primetix.com/tickets](http://www.kayepalhouse.primetix.com/tickets); 7:30 pm; \$15.

Hunter Opera Theater presents this family-friendly American opera buffa. This one-act performance is a comedy on why we have fireworks as seen through the eyes of an intergalactic alien de Toqueville.

## FRI, MAY 12

### IN MANHATTAN

**Shababa Fridays:** 9:30 am. 92nd Street Y Art Center. See Friday, May 5.

**Fireworks:** 7:30 pm. The Kaye Playhouse at Hunter College. See Thursday, May 11.

# Calendar

## SAT, MAY 13

### IN MANHATTAN

**Saturday Sketching:** 10 am. Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. See Saturday, May 6.

**Urban Farm Exploration Day:** 11 am to 5 pm. Randall's Island Park. See Sunday, May 7.

**Family discovery day:** East Pinetum, Arthur Ross Pinetum at 84th and 85th streets; (212) 310-6600; [www.nycgovparks.org](http://www.nycgovparks.org); Noon to 3 pm; Free.

Join us for a day of discovery and learn first-hand about the people, plants, and wildlife that make Central Park thrive! Families can make their way through a series of stations, each with an interactive activity designed to teach you more about the ecology and management of Central Park. Complete all the activities to receive a free Discovery Journal! RSVP required.

**Play Dates – Summer on the Hudson:**

West Harlem Piers, 125th Street and Marginal Street; 311; [www.nycgovparks.org](http://www.nycgovparks.org); 1 pm to 4 pm; Free.

Enjoy monthly outdoor parties featuring children's entertainers, arts and crafts, and neighborhood fun!

## SUN, MAY 14

### IN MANHATTAN

**Urban Farm Exploration Day:** 11 am to 5 pm. Randall's Island Park. See Sunday, May 7.

**Macy's story time:** 11:30 am. New-York Historical Society. See Sunday, April 30.

**Just Drop In:** 1 pm. Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. See Sunday, April 30.

**Jazz for Kids:** 1 to 3 pm. Jazz Standard. See Sunday, April 30.

## THURS, MAY 18

### IN MANHATTAN

**"Cinderella Samba":** Asper Levy Recreation Center, 392 E. 23rd St. [www.cityparksfoundation.org/event/cityparks-puppetmobile-presents-cinderella-samba-2](http://www.cityparksfoundation.org/event/cityparks-puppetmobile-presents-cinderella-samba-2); 10 am to 11 am; Free.

**Cross-Stitch Circle:** 3:30 pm. New-York Historical Society. See Thursday, May 4.

**"FootPrints" dance festival:** Marjorie S. Deane Little Theater at the West Side YMCA, 5 W. 63rd St. (212) 912-2635; <https://web.ovationtix.com/trs/pr/970348>; 7 pm; \$17 (\$12 student/children; Y members).

This annual event celebrates innovative works of contemporary dance from diverse new and established voices in the city's dance scene.

## FRI, MAY 19

### IN MANHATTAN

**Shababa Fridays:** 9:30 am. 92nd Street Y Art Center. See Friday, May 5.

**"FootPrints" dance festival:** 7 pm. Marjorie S. Deane Little Theater at the West Side YMCA. See Thursday, May 18.



Matt Eickman

## Learn how to beatbox

Get down to the beat at the Beatbox Bonanza with Rahzel at Symphony Space on May 20.

As part of a Fuse Project residency at Symphony Space, Rahzel, formerly of the Roots, lets kids in close to witness his legendary beatboxing technique.

Rahzel M. Brown, also known as simply Rahzel, is an influential American musician, beatboxer, and rapper. He's known for an ability to sing or rap while simultaneously beatboxing, as evidenced on dozens of albums, including his performances of "Iron Man" and his signature song "If Your

Mother Only Knew," a hidden track on Make the Music 2000. Rahzel will lead a workshop for the next generation of beatboxers, helping kids learn how to make a wild and rhythmic array of percussive sounds using only their mouth and vocal chords.

Beatbox Bonanza with Rahzel, May 20 at 11 am. Tickets are \$14, and \$17 for non-members.

*Symphony Space [2537 Broadway at W. 94th Street on the Upper West Side, (212) 864-5400; [www.symphonyspace.org/event/9394/Family-Music/just-kidding-beatbox-bonanza](http://www.symphonyspace.org/event/9394/Family-Music/just-kidding-beatbox-bonanza)].*

## SAT, MAY 20

### IN MANHATTAN

**Beginning Birders:** Belvedere Castle Central Park, mid-park about 79th Street; (212) 310-6600; [www.nycgovparks.org](http://www.nycgovparks.org); 10 am to 11:30 am; Free.

Bring your family for a guided walk and discover why Central Park is a sanctuary for plants, animals, and humans alike. Learn about the architecture, landscapes, and ecosystems of the park through hands-on exploration using Discovery Kits.

**Saturday Sketching:** 10 am. Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. See Saturday, May 6.

**Beatbox Extravaganza with Rahzel:** Symphony Space, 2537 Broadway at W. 94th Street; (212) 864-5400; [www.symphonyspace.org/event/9394/Family-Music/just-kidding-beatbox-bonanza](http://www.symphonyspace.org/event/9394/Family-Music/just-kidding-beatbox-bonanza); 11 am; \$14 (\$17 non-members).

As part of a Fuse Project residency at Sym-

phony Space, Rahzel, formerly of the Roots, lets kids in close to witness his legendary beatboxing technique.

**"Cinderella Samba":** Ann Loftus Playground, Dyckman Avenue and Broadway; [www.cityparksfoundation.org/event/cityparks-puppetmobile-presents-cinderella-samba-2](http://www.cityparksfoundation.org/event/cityparks-puppetmobile-presents-cinderella-samba-2); 11 am to noon; Free.

**Woodland Wonderland:** Belvedere Castle Central Park, mid-park about 79th Street; (212) 310-6600; [www.nycgovparks.org](http://www.nycgovparks.org); 1 pm to 2:30 pm; Free.

Bring your family for a guided walk and discover why Central Park is a sanctuary for plants, animals, and humans alike.

**Sweet Spot Festival:** West Harlem Piers, 125th Street and Marginal Street; 311; [www.nycgovparks.org](http://www.nycgovparks.org); 3 pm to 9 pm; Free.

Summer on the Hudson and Kindred Arts create a family-friendly gathering of community, cultures, and music lovers of all ages. Vibe to sounds spun by a collection of North

# Calendar

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

America's renowned sound architects. (Rain date May 21).

**"FootPrints" dance festival:** 7 pm. Marjorie S. Deane Little Theater at the West Side YMCA. See Thursday, May 18.

## SUN, MAY 21

### IN MANHATTAN

**New Families—New Traditions:** Museum of Jewish Heritage, 36 Battery Pl. at First Place; (646) 437-4202; [www.mjhnyc.org](http://www.mjhnyc.org); 10:30 am to 11:30 am; \$10 (free for children and grandchildren of members).

Join the musical group Yellow Sneaker and puppet pals for programs that nurture family bonds and bridge connections to Jewish life and traditions. Every concert will focus on a different Jewish holiday or value. Everyone is welcome. Yellow Sneaker features the Brooklyn-based performers and teaching artists Ora and Yoshie Fruchter.

**"Cinderella Samba":** Seward Park, Canal Street and Essex Street; [www.cityparksfoundation.org/event/cityparks-puppetmobile-pres-ents-cinderella-samba-2](http://www.cityparksfoundation.org/event/cityparks-puppetmobile-pres-ents-cinderella-samba-2); 11 am to noon; Free.

**Urban Farm Exploration Day:** 11 am to 5 pm. Randall's Island Park. See Sunday, May 7.

**Macy's story time:** 11:30 am. New-York Historical Society. See Sunday, April 30.

**Kids 'N Comedy:** Gotham Comedy Club, 208 W. 23rd St.; (212) 877-6115; [www.kidsn-comedy.com](http://www.kidsn-comedy.com); 1 pm; \$18 plus one item minimum (food or drink).

Moms and dads don't always understand, but these teen comics help you over the humps and hard stuff. Appropriate for children 9 to 18 years old.

**Just Drop In:** 1 pm. Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. See Sunday, April 30.

**Jazz for Kids:** 1 to 3 pm. Jazz Standard. See Sunday, April 30.

## THURS, MAY 25

### IN MANHATTAN

**Afterschool pop-up program:** 3 pm to 5



## Asian-American culture

Celebrate Asian-American heritage at Ellis Island on May 7.

The National Park Service in partnership with Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company presents the festival with a ceremony and performances in the island's Great Hall of Immigration.

The event showcases traditional and contemporary Asian-American music and dance, with performing artists from the community, including the Nai-

Ni Chen Dance Company, the Chinese American Chorus of New York, the New Asia Chamber Music Society, the Chinese American Music Ensemble, and the Children's Orchestra Society.

Suitable for all ages.

Asian-American Heritage Festival, May 7 at noon. Admission is free, but must purchase ferry ticket.

*Ellis Island National Park (New York Harbor; [www.statuecruises.com](http://www.statuecruises.com)).*

pm. Anne Loftus Playground. See Friday, May 5.

**Cross-Stitch Circle:** 3:30 pm. New-York Historical Society. See Thursday, May 4.

## FRI, MAY 26

### IN MANHATTAN

**Shababa Fridays:** 9:30 am. 92nd Street Y Art Center. See Friday, May 5.

## SAT, MAY 27

### IN MANHATTAN

**Learn to Ride:** Bike Path at 135th Street, 135th Street and Riverside Drive; 311; [www.nycgovparks.org](http://www.nycgovparks.org); 10 am to 4 pm; Free.

New riders ages 5 and older learn to bal-

ance, ride, and enjoy life on two wheels. Reservations are required, please visit [bike.nyc/education/classes](http://bike.nyc/education/classes) to register.

**Saturday Sketching:** 10 am. Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. See Saturday, May 6.

**Urban Farm Exploration Day:** 11 am to 5 pm. Randall's Island Park. See Sunday, May 7.

## SUN, MAY 28

### IN MANHATTAN

**Urban Farm Exploration Day:** 11 am to 5 pm. Randall's Island Park. See Sunday, May 7.

**Mamapalooza – Sing Out Sister:** Pier 1 at Riverside Park South, W. 70th Street and Riverside Drive; 311; [www.nycgovparks.org](http://www.nycgovparks.org); Noon to 5 pm; Free.

Celebrate all families at our annual festival featuring music, wellness activities, art, activism, and fierce feminist vendors. Get inspired to sing out a message of peace, acceptance, and equality.

**Summer on the Hudson – Sun Gaze:** Pier 1 at Riverside Park South, W. 70th Street and Riverside Drive; 311; [www.nycgovparks.org](http://www.nycgovparks.org); Noon to 4 pm; Free.

Gaze at the central star of our solar system using special safe scopes with the Amateur Astronomers Association!

**Just Drop In:** 1 pm. Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. See Sunday, April 30.

## Secret history of fireworks

Why are there fireworks on the Fourth of July? Find out when an intergalactic alien comes to visit Earth in "Fireworks," May 11 and 12 at the Kaye Playhouse at Hunter College.

This family-friendly American opera buffa — part of the Family Opera Initiative — is a one-act play that comically looks at why we have fireworks through the eyes of an intergalactic alien de Toqueville.

On landing the alien meets with a geeky high-schooler, a rebellious teenage girl, and a host of other characters for a zany explanation of the holiday and the wonders of democracy.

Fireworks, May 11 and 12, 7:30 pm; tickets are \$15.

*The Kaye Playhouse at Hunter College / 695 Park Ave. at E. 68th Street on the Upper East Side; (212) 772-4448; [www.kayeplahouse.primetix.com/tickets](http://www.kayeplahouse.primetix.com/tickets).*

# Calendar

## LONG-RUNNING

### IN MANHATTAN

**"The Princess, The Emperor, and the Duck."** Swedish Cottage Marionette Theater, W. 79th Street and West Drive; (212) 988-9093; Tuesdays – Sundays, 10:30 am and 2 pm, \$12 (\$8 for children under 12).

The Swedish Cottage Marionette Theatre presents three classic tales from Hans Christian Andersen "The Princess and the Pea," "The Emperor's New Clothes" and "The Ugly Duckling." For children ages 3 to 9.

**Youth Wheelchair Basketball:** Gertrude Ederle Recreation Center, 232 W. 60th St.; (212) 360-3341; [www.nycgovparks.org](http://www.nycgovparks.org); Sundays, 1 pm to 3 pm, Free with Recreation membership.

Hosted by the New York Rolling Fury, this is for children to learn how to play, how to scrimmage against other wheelchair players, and learn from the best.

**"New York, New Year:"** TADA! Youth Theater, 15 W. 28th St. between Broadway and Fifth Avenue; (212) 252-1619 X 4; [www.tadatheater.com](http://www.tadatheater.com); Saturday, May 6, 2 pm; Sunday, May 7, 2 pm; Friday, May 12, 7 pm; Saturday, May 13, 2 pm; Friday, May 19, 7 pm; Saturday, May 20, 2 pm; Sunday, May 21, 2 pm; \$15 (\$25 adults).

## Girl's life in the big city

In "New York, New Year," the crew at TADA Youth Theatre for a brand new musical, tells the tale of teenager Tess, who travels to the big city from Missouri to see if she can make it after all. Will Tess find her place in this new world?

Find out with your 3-year-old or older now through May 21. For kids 5 and up, check out special interactive performances on May 7 and May 20

which — for five dollars more — offer a song and dance lesson with members of the cast.

New York New Year, now through May 21. Performances: May 6, 7, 13, 20 and 21, 2 pm and 4 pm; May 12, and 19, 7 pm. Tickets are \$15; \$25 adults.

*TADA! Youth Theater [15 West 28th St. between Broadway and Fifth Avenue in Chelsea; (212) 252-1619 X4; [www.tadatheater.com](http://www.tadatheater.com)].*

Tess isn't in Missouri anymore, will she find her place in the city? Suggested for children ages 3 years and older. The May 7 and May 20 performances are audience interactive and offer a song and dance lesson with members of the cast for children 5 and older. Requires extra admission of \$5 per participant.

**Little New-Yorkers:** New-York Historical

Society, 170 Central Park West at 77th Street; (212) 873-3400; [nyhistory.org](http://nyhistory.org); Tuesdays and Fridays, 3:30 pm, Until Tues, May 30; Free with museum admission.

Held in the cozy Barbara K. Lipman Children's History Library, this program introduces New York and American history to the littlest New Yorkers with age-appropriate readings and engaging hands-on activities. Ages 3 to 5.

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# New & Noteworthy

BY LISA J. CURTIS

## Go cubbing

Whether you're treating yourself to a casually cool mommy-and-me top for Mother's Day, or you're looking for a gift for a special mom, the Mama Bear and Baby Bear shirts from The Oyster's Pearl shop on Etsy have got you covered.

The Ohio-based, husband-and-wife design team of Emily and Brad Weckesser screen-print Mom's shirt by hand with the silhouette of a bear emblazoned with "Mama." This version is available in sizes XXS to XXL and offers a choice of V-neck or crew neck. The tee's fabric is a blend of polyester, rayon, and cotton.

The Baby Bear onesie is made of gray or white ring-spun cotton, and it's available for cubs newborn to 18 months. The soft unisex, short-sleeve bodysuit has snap closures.

It's a gift certain to earn you a bear hug.

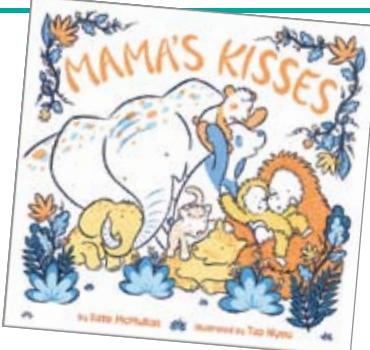
*Mama Bear T-shirt by The Oyster's Pearl, \$32, Baby Bear onesie, \$24, [www.etsy.com](http://www.etsy.com).*



## Snoring stories

Two new picture books that Mom will love reading again and again are "Mama's Kisses" by Kate McMullan and "If I Were a Kangaroo" by Mylisa Larsen — instant classics that will be cherished gifts.

McMullan's "Mama Kisses" is a dive into a lush rain forest where four different animal moms search for their children to put them to bed. The Manhattanite's sweet, cuddly, rhyming tale is a departure from her bestselling "I Stink!" series. Tao Nyeu's stunning illustrations, rendered in a unique, cool palette, depict playtime and bedtime with a quiet charm that reminds us of Babar and Pooh.



Larsen's "If I Were a Kangaroo" is a roundup of the endearing details of how animal moms care for their kids. Larsen's text is also illustrated with a muted palette, this time with aww-inducing ink washes and pencil by Brooklynite Anna Raff.

"Mama's Kisses" book by Kate McMullan, \$16.99. "If I Were a Kangaroo" book by Mylisa Larsen, \$17.99, [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com).

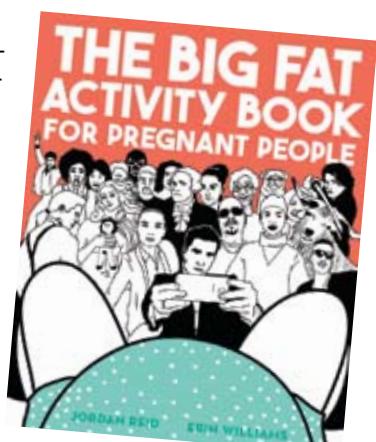
## Belly laughs

"The Big Fat Activity Book for Pregnant People" is a hilariously irreverent Mother's Day gift for expectant moms who are in an inarguably stressful situation.

The concept of Jordan Reid and Erin Williams's workbook is cheerfully ludicrous: it's intended to distract future moms from their many worries. The duo's advice: "Step away from The Google" — at least long enough to do a word search titled "Sorry, Nope" featuring items you can no longer eat or activities that are off limits now that you've got a passenger. It's hard not to laugh out loud when faced with the comic genius of the "Where You Were The Moment Your Life Changed Forever" connect-the-dots page that clearly reveals ... a toilet!

This book is strictly for lifting moms up when pregnancy has got them feeling down.

"The Big Fat Activity Book for Pregnant People" by Jordan Reid and Erin Williams, \$16, [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).





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