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June 2018
FREE

Early Childhood
Choices

Planning for
Preschool

How healthy
are toddler
drinks?

Junot Diaz's
new book
for kids

Repeating
Kindergarten



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This year marks the 75th anniversary of USS *Intrepid's* commissioning. Throughout the year, the Museum will present engaging programs and events to commemorate and celebrate this triumphant ship.



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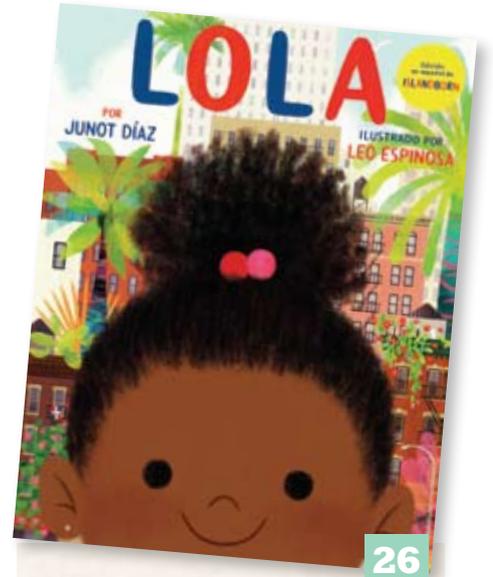
NEW YORK Parenting

Manhattan Family
June 2018

Where every child matters



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Preschools for all

When I went back to work part time and needed childcare, my daughter was a year and a half. Until then her father and I had been juggling her care and she hadn't even had a baby-sitter. Besides some time spent with extended family, she had always been with one or both of us. This new job I had, however, was going to necessitate finding an outside alternative, and it turned out I got lucky. We needed to have odd hours in the middle of the day three days a week, and as my luck would have it, I found the perfect place. Run by two local women who had masters in early childhood education from Bank Street, they offered me the perfect plan.



I had brought Lili with me and she seemed to like it there, although she clung very tightly to me. One of the women who worked with the little ones asked me what

her name was, and when I told her she said "Lilianna, come to Tessie." My daughter put her arms out and she more or less sat on Tessie's lap for the remainder of the year. I felt so relieved and immediately made the decision to sign her up there for those beginning three half-days.

The first day I left her there I found myself overwhelmed with emotion and stood outside at the bus stop holding back tears. Lili was fine. I was a wreck. Both of us adjusted, and the problem of childcare was solved for us. Those years at her preschool were fantastic. She developed social skills, had sweet little friends from multi-cultural backgrounds, and was introduced to new learning materials that, combined with the exposure I was giving her at home, set her off nicely on her education path.

We have a special preschool focus in

this issue, and some of our communities' best programs are represented. This is a great time of year to be considering it for the fall or even the summer, and I hope everyone will take a look at the options we present here. Many of the programs are offering specialized immersion in things like other languages, music and art, early STEAM introduction, and of course Montessori.

We now know the importance of good educational early childcare, and it's rare to find a family that is not signed up for something. With the city's public system offering free Pre K FOR ALL, our city's children will all now be benefitting from programs that will stimulate their learning process and fine tune their social abilities. It's very exciting!

Thanks for reading!

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Short Stuff

New app seeks to reduce infant mortality

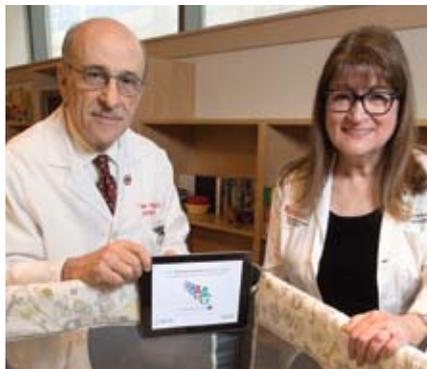
Peter LaMont's second child was born in May, but the last time he put an infant to bed was 16 years ago. So, the father turned to a new app to catch up on safe sleep recommendations for babies.

The SIDS Info app, which provides information on sudden infant death syndrome, was launched this month by the SIDS Center of New Jersey.

"When my teenage daughter was a baby, she slept with blankets and crib bumpers," LaMont said. "Today, the rule is that nothing is placed in the crib. Even though I already have a child, things have changed a lot, and I want to be an informed parent. This app is convenient and allows me to access the most up-to-date guidelines."

The free app, which was developed by Barbara Ostfeld and Thomas Hegyi, the center's program and medical director, respectively, includes the American Academy of Pediatrics' safe sleep guidelines for infants from birth to 12 months. The app also includes links to educational websites, a question-and-answer on safe infant sleep and resources — such as contact information for smoking cessation and the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 3,500 infants under the age of 1 die in the United States due to a sudden unexpected infant



Nick Romanenko / Rutgers University

death, a grouping consisting of sudden infant death syndrome, accidental suffocation or strangulation in bed, or unknown causes.

Although there are a few other apps that include safe infant sleep information, SIDS Info provides the most comprehensive educational material, Ostfeld said.

As parents scroll through the app, they see animations that feature a maternal voice combined with text, which educates the user on topics such as selecting a safe crib, how to dress an infant for sleep, and what not to place in a crib. Parents then can click on the "Baby Talk" component,

which provides additional information in a baby's voice. A Spanish-language, text-only mode is also available.

"While handouts with crucial safe sleep guidelines can get lost or become outdated, the app places educational information literally at people's fingertips — right on their phones," said Ostfeld. "Our goal is to provide hospital nurses who educate new families at discharge with an efficient and standardized tool that parents can download to their phone for continued reference. It also allows practitioners who interact with parents after discharge to reinforce this information."

SIDS Info is available on iPhone and Android and was funded by the center through a grant from the New Jersey Department of Health. The app is being promoted to professionals who interact with families at organizations such as hospitals, the Maternal and Child Health Consortia, the Division of Child Protection and Permanency, and child care programs. The app also serves as a continuing education tool for healthcare providers, who can download courses on safe sleep for free.

Parents are encouraged to share the app with those caring for their infants — such as grandparents, siblings, and babysitters — which is crucial for infant safety, Ostfeld said.



Connect with local moms

Join our Facebook sisterhood to find moms in your neighborhood for advice, community, and commiseration at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/nypmoms>

When do they get a credit card?

Using a credit card requires a great deal of responsibility. It's important to have a conversation with your child to determine if he or she is ready for a credit card. Keep in mind that your child's age isn't as important a factor as her maturity level and willingness to learn.

Here are three key reasons why you might want to get a credit card for your son or daughter:

Establish a credit history: If your child is heading to college in the next few years, establishing a credit history later can help him immensely. For example, private student loan companies typically require a credit check, and having some credit history can help.

Teach kids about smart credit card use: Teach your children about responsible credit card use and they'll be less likely to make mistakes. Talk to your child about

the card's annual percentage rate and how credit cards typically charge higher rates than other loans. Explain how it's important to avoid charging more to the credit card than they can afford to pay off each month.

Setting ground rules: It's wise to create some ground rules for your child's new spending power. Having him pay the bill may encourage more responsibility than if you were to foot the bill each month. If you aren't going to have your child pay off her credit card, agree on when it's appropriate to use the card and when it isn't. If you find that she's breaching these boundaries, follow up and remind her of your agreement.

Learn more about which issuers allow you to get a credit card for a child under 18 at <https://www.experian.com/blogs/ask-experian/when-should-my-child-get-a-credit-card>.

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20
YR

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Jumanji (1995) JUL 27

Paddington 2 AUG 3

Spice World AUG 10

Karate Kid (1984) AUG 17

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FREE

Clinton Cove at W 55 St.
8:30 PM (or dusk)
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Frozen AUG 23

For information on times, locations and more fun events, check hudsonriverpark.org.

*No program Sep 23

KIDS

HUDSON RIVERKIDS

FREE

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Thursdays at Pier 62 at 22 St.

Kid Ace JUN 4 & SEP 6

City Stomp JUN 11 & 14

Alex and the Kaleidoscope
JUN 18 & 21

**Tim Kubart and
The Space Cadets** JUN 25 & 28

Mister G JUL 9

Story Time with Nick Bruel JUL 12

Story Pirates JUL 16 & 19

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Freewheelin' Band** JUL 23 & 26

The Pop-Ups JUL 30 & AUG 2

Suzi Shelton AUG 6 & 9

Joanie Leeds AUG 13 & 16

Mike Messer Trio AUG 20 & 23

Penny Jones Puppets AUG 27 & 30

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HUDSON RIVER PK

Toddler drinks

Reading between the lines

BY SHNIEKA L. JOHNSON

It is an exciting time when your baby begins to develop into a toddler. Crawling to cruising and then walking to running — you now have a busy little person on your hands! Your toddler is becoming more independent, and in some instances, more finicky. Welcome to the fussy eating stage! For the majority of parents, cow's milk is a toddler's main drink. There are great benefits to drinking milk, as it is a source of nutrients, like calcium and vitamins A and D. However, it is not a great source for iron, as it contains only trace amounts, and if your toddler won't eat iron-rich foods, you find yourself in a conundrum.

Many parents will purchase toddler drinks to boost intake of iron. But is this the best alternative for a child's diet that may be lacking in iron-rich foods? Unfortunately, misleading labels on products marketed as "toddler drinks" may confuse parents on whether these products are necessary or doing more harm than good. Often marketed for young children, ages 9 months to 3 years old, the product category of toddler drinks includes transition formulas and toddler milks.

Studies at New York University's College of Global Public Health and the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity at the University of Connecticut have raised red flags about toddler drinks.

"Our study builds on previous research demonstrating that manufacturers' marketing practices may undermine the diets of very young children," said Jennifer L. Pomeranz, assistant professor of public health policy and management at NYU's College of Global Public Health, and the study's lead author.

The study, published in the journal "Preventive Medicine," examined policies and regulations on

the labeling of toddler drinks and proposed regulations to ensure the appropriate labeling of products. Health experts and pediatricians (both in the United States and internationally) do not recommend the products. According to the comprehensive study, most toddler drinks are composed of powdered milk, corn syrup or sweeteners, and vegetable oil. These products contain more sodium and less protein than cow's milk, but labeling implies that they are beneficial for children's nutrition and growth. As advertising for these products increases, so do the concerns regarding their misleading claims.

Many are calling for transparent and truthful labeling that is less confusing for the consumer. This will better enable parents and caregivers of toddlers to make a well-informed decision about the best product for their children.

"All product labels made claims related to nutrition and health, and many made claims about expert recommendations that may lead caregivers to believe these products are necessary and healthy. In fact, they are not recommended by health experts, as there is no evidence that they are nutritionally superior to healthy food and whole milk for toddlers," said Pomeranz.

According to the study's authors, toddler drinks are unnecessary and may undermine a nutritious diet, although they are marketed otherwise.

"It is stressed that labels should be clear, transparent, and accurate. The [U.S. Food and Drug Administration] and manufacturers should work together to end the inappropriate labeling of toddler drinks and ensure caregivers have reliable information to nutritiously feed their children," said Pomeranz. The researchers encourage the Food and Drug Administration to provide more guidance and recommend manufacturers change their labeling practices and support informed consumer decision-making.

Whether you choose to supplement with toddler drinks or solely stick with cow's milk, remember that toddlers need healthy fats, vitamin D, and calcium, as well as iron-rich foods in their diet. This aids healthy growth, learning, and development. A picky-eating toddler can be given a multivitamin or other calcium-fortified foods, like dairy products, juices, breads, and cereals. Consultation with a pediatrician is encouraged prior to using any new product, which will safeguard your child's health and maximize their intake of truly nutritious foods.

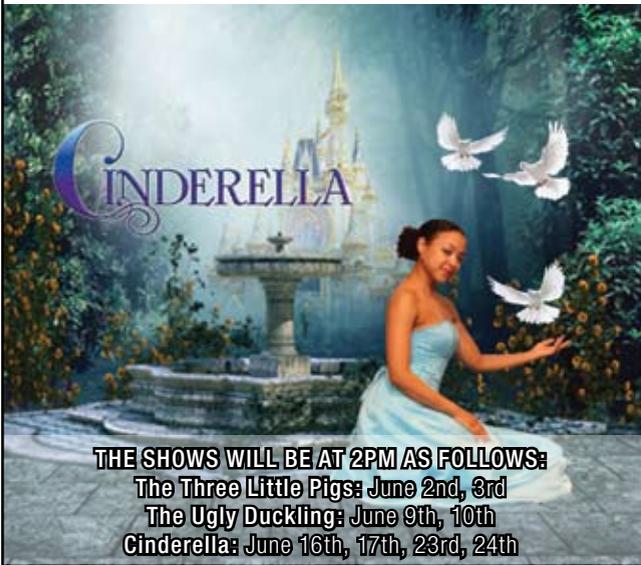
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Planning for preschool

BY LAURA VAROSCAK-DEINNOCENTIIS

Choosing a preschool that fits the needs of your family may seem daunting. There are many programs out there, each offering their own unique style and perspective, all claiming to be “the best.” Do not be swayed by schools that entice parents with unprecedented academic achievement, state-of-the-art equipment, or the latest educational trend. Above all, preschoolers need a safe and comfortable place in which to learn, while also building socialization skills with peers. Knowing your child, and yourself, is the key to successfully navigating your way through the process. Beginning the journey

with an open mind and a clear plan will also help eliminate unnecessary stress and make the search more enjoyable. Here are some tips to keep in mind:

Plan ahead

Start by making a list of local licensed preschool programs. Most New York City preschools begin their application process several months to a year before your child will start school. Call programs that you might be interested in to find out their application deadlines and minimum age requirements. This will shorten your list right off the bat.

Know the basics

Location, cost, and operating hours are

three very important considerations when deciding where to send your child. Some programs offer early drop-off and late pick-up options for parents who work long days. Others are not flexible with their hours. You may find a preschool with a stellar reputation, but if the tuition costs more than you make each month and you and your little one need to travel two hours by bus, train, and ferry to get there, forget it!

Research

After narrowing down programs that are affordable, conveniently located, and accepting applications in your child’s age group, start asking questions. Call the director and request some information about

Popular early childhood educational approaches

Here are some methods of teaching you may want to look for:

Bank Street

Less structured than some other programs, the Bank Street Development Interaction approach lets children make their own choices in the classroom, while interacting with a wide variety of materials, ideas, and people. This helps a child discover things in her own way, at her own pace.

The curriculum is based on the idea that children make sense of the world by studying it. Teachers encourage questioning and exploration as children start to make connections between their ideas and the surrounding environment.

Creative Curriculum

The Creative Curriculum balances both teacher-directed and child-initiated learning, with an emphasis on responding to children’s learning styles and building on their strengths and interests. Play is considered children’s “work,” which prepares them for future academic learning. Teachers support thinking and experimenting as children explore the world.

High Scope

Designed for children who need more individualized attention, the High Scope program uses a cognitive approach to learning and values the relationship between teachers and children. It stresses the idea that children need hands-on experiences with people, materials, ideas and events in order to thrive. The curriculum is built around five content areas: language, literacy and communication, social and emotional growth, physical development, health and well-being, and arts and sciences.

Montessori

The Montessori method encourages child independence and self-direction.

The teacher acts as an observer, preparing the classroom to best suit the individual student’s needs. Children value diversity and practice respect for self, others, and the world around them.

Self-esteem is nurtured as children master skills and move on to the next developmental level in their work. In addition to language arts, mathematics, science, and cultural studies, the Montessori Method emphasizes sensorial

and practical life work.

Reggio Emilia

The Reggio Emilia approach is a collaborative effort, involving teachers, students, parents, and community members. It emphasizes children’s symbolic relationships.

Teachers develop a project-based curricula based on students’ interests, and support learning through observation, dialogue, and documentation of children’s work. Learning is an ongoing process as children build relationships with others while making connections between ideas and their environment.

Waldorf

The Waldorf approach embraces the whole child — body, mind, and soul. Early childhood educators model appropriate behavior, and children are encouraged to imitate what they see. Teachers also support physical, emotional, intellectual, and artistic growth by designing curriculum based on children’s stages of development and offering many opportunities for creative and imaginative play.



the program: Is it accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children? What is the educational philosophy? How many children are in each class? Are the teachers trained and certified? Is there frequent teacher turnover? Talk to other parents about their experiences. Hang around outside the school at dismissal and introduce yourself to others. Observe the children: Do they look like they enjoyed their time at school? Listen with an open mind. If you like what you see and hear, schedule a tour of the school.

Prepare for the tour

Think about your child. Would she benefit from a child-centered program, or

one that is more teacher-directed? Does a large, active classroom seem more conducive to learning than a smaller, more nurturing environment? Do you have specific needs regarding toileting, diet, or napping for your child? Make a list and write down questions to ask while on the tour. Remember, it will be your school community, too. If parental involvement and a strong family-school relationship are important to you (and they should be), inquire about opportunities for parents as well. All preschools should have an open door policy.

Tour

Visiting a school is one of the best indicators of whether the program is a good fit

for your family. From the moment you walk in the door, keep your eyes and ears open. Do you feel welcome? Safety is critical in a preschool setting. Look to see if the children are well supervised. Are they happy and engaged? How are the relationships between teachers and students? Are the children playing together, practicing taking turns, or are they fighting? How does the teacher deal with conflict resolution? Is there an outdoor play space?

Take notes during your observation period to help you remember the details when you're comparing programs later on. During the question-and-answer session, gather as much information as possible — and do not leave with unanswered questions. If the tour is for parents only, be sure to schedule a time for your child to visit so you can observe her in the environment.

Decide

Each school will most likely highlight its philosophy. Do not let names like Montessori, Reggio Emilia and Waldorf confuse or overwhelm you. There are many methods of teaching, and all you need to figure out is which one would best suit your child's personality and learning style. As your child's first teacher, you are an expert at this.

Apply

Depending on where you apply, submitting an application does not mean your child will automatically be accepted. There are often waiting lists based on space availability or uneven gender or age ratios in the class. In this case, apply to a few of your top choice programs and wait patiently. If you strongly prefer one school, you may include a thank you letter, which also expresses your interest in the program.

Relax

As hard as it might be to wait for a decision, admissions directors do not like to be harassed by anxious parents. So take it easy and congratulate yourself on a job well done. If your child was accepted into a program and you have second thoughts, ask yourself why. Are you feeling guilty about sending your baby to preschool (totally normal) or does something not sit right with you? If the latter is true, trust your intuition. In the end, there are many wonderful preschool programs that will provide your child with a safe, fun and engaging learning environment.

Laura Varoschak-DelInnocenti is a teacher and freelance writer. Her articles appear regularly in these Family Magazines and have won editorial awards from The Parenting Media Association. She lives in Bay Ridge and has two sons, Henry and Charlie.

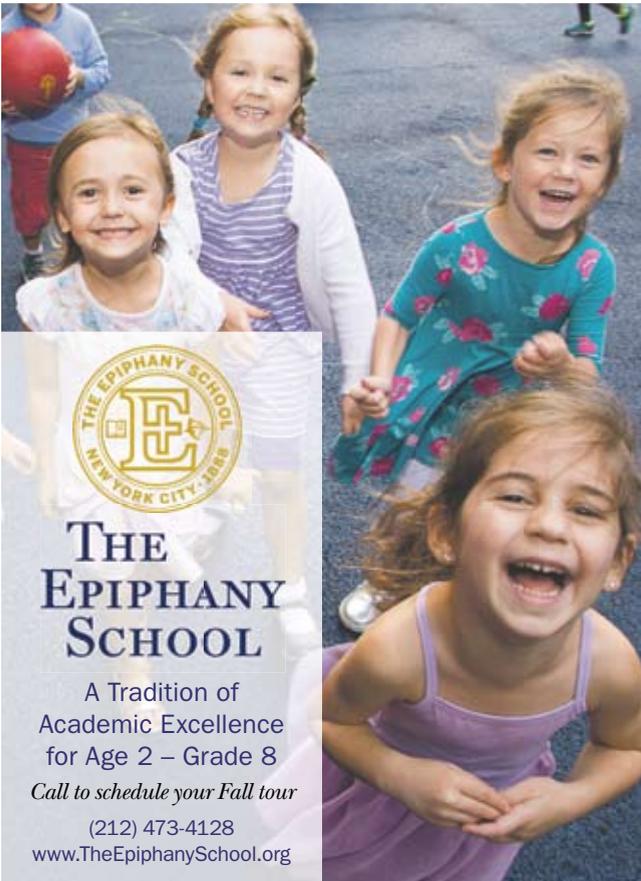


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Continued on page 14

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Early Childhood

CHOICES

Continued from page 12

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Writing the book on repeating a grade

BY REBECCA EISENBERG

Do you have a child that repeated a grade? Are you thinking about having your child repeat a grade? This topic comes up often in the public-school system, specifically around this time of the year, when plans are being made for the following year. When I had to consider this question for my son, the lack of information and help on the subject astounded me. So, I wrote it myself with my book “My Second Year of Kindergarten.”

I went through this process with my son about three years ago. When his teachers recommended he repeat kindergarten, my husband and I felt mixed about it. From one perspective, I felt that giving him an extra year, given his age and delays, would be an optimal opportunity. On the other hand, what would this do for my son socially? How would he feel about repeating a grade?

After searching online for research and resources about repeating a grade — specifically kindergarten — I came up with very little valuable information. As a speech-language pathologist, my instinct is to find research and evidence to make informed decisions, but with this topic, there was little research available. In spite of this, my mother’s gut was telling me that my son repeating kindergarten was the right thing for him. The one thing I have learned as a parent is that I need to listen to my instinct about what is right for my child. This instinct, along with support from my son’s educators, is ultimately what helped my husband and I make the decision.

Once we decided our son would repeat the grade, we collaborated with his team at school and spoke to the principal. The decision just felt right for me. However, this was just the beginning, because we then had to tell our son and go through the process of the transition. As a parent and children’s book reviewer, I find that books tend to help my children and I discuss more difficult topics. But again, I found no books about repeating a grade. So I decided to write “My Second Year of Kindergarten.” Reading the draft to my son helped him understand the reasons why he was staying in kindergarten and the



progress he could look forward to making the following year. My husband and I took the time to tell him about this process in a simple, straightforward, and honest manner with little complex language. We also presented the information in a positive way and left the discussion open ended. The topic of repeating kindergarten is not a one-time conversation, it’s a dialogue that occurs over time.

Once I saw how this story helped my son, I published it so other parents and educators could benefit as well. Since the April release, I have heard from many parents about how much they value a book like this because of the lack of available resources on this topic. I also wanted to make this process a positive experience

that could help other children develop a more flexible mindset about children with varying delays and disabilities.

Would you like to learn more? I discussed this topic with Penny Williams from Parenting ADHD and Autism at <http://parentingadhdandautism.com/2018/04/05/pap-036-repeating-grade-school-becca-eisenberg>. You can also check out my website, www.mysecondyearofkindergarten.com.

Rebecca Eisenberg is a speech-language pathologist, instructor, parent of two children, and author of several games for children with special needs, a story time workbook, and the children’s books “The Monkey Balloon,” “A Tale of The Monkey Balloon,” and “My Second Year of Kindergarten.”

Untold stories

Book shines light on challenges of raising special-needs kids

BY TAMMY SCILEPPI

It's about time someone wrote a humorous novel that shines a light on the plight of parents who are coping with unbearable stress and impossible challenges while raising their amazing, special-needs kids.

Washington Heights-based author Maxine Rosaler's just released, must-read book — "Queen for a Day: A Novel in Stories" (Delphinium Books) — does just that.

In the book, Rosaler's own experience and her quest for answers as the mother of an autistic son are told from the perspective of her novel's heroine, New York City parent Mimi Slavitt, and her circle of funny but frustrated friends who are conflicted, complex characters all trying to stay emotionally afloat while raising children with special needs.

It "crackles with insight, energy, and New York City wit," according to Eliza Factor, author of "Strange Beauty," who says Rosaler is "compassionate and wonderfully unsentimental in her portrayal of [Mimi and her friends'] fear and fury, longing and isolation." Factor says the author is "really good at capturing the random bursts of connection so endemic to New York City street life, and her take on the Kafkaesque bureaucracy, otherwise known as the Department of Education, is hilarious."

Factor says she "loved this book and recommend it highly, not only to parents dealing with autism, but to anyone who enjoys gritty, funny, heartbreaking, and ultimately affirming stories of modern family life."

Surprising inspiration

In one episode of the strange 1950s game show "Queen for a Day," host Jack Bailey asks the all-female audience: "Would you like to be queen for a day?"

As the women applaud and cheer loudly, a super long, top-of-the-line Chrysler Imperial appears onstage, waiting to whisk one lucky lady away for a day in movie land if she's crowned queen. The winning contestant enjoys additional perks, as well, like an entire wardrobe fit for a queen ... and a deluxe vacuum cleaner! But the super-duper prizes are the ones that these worn-

out housewives were really hoping for in the event they were chosen to sit on the throne. They were modest requests by today's standards. Washers were a popular choice.

A mother of seven asked for a diaper service for her triplets, and another, a haggard-looking former waitress, only wished for a wheelchair and special exercise bike for her disabled son. But the smartest one of all told the host she could really use some time away. After all, she had been a caretaker her entire life. In the end, the mom with the special-needs boy won.

While all of these wives, mothers, and caretakers had devoted their entire lives to their families and sacrificed their own happiness and dreams for domestic bliss, there were perhaps some who dreamed of the day they could just walk away from it all.

After all, they never asked for this. Never expected that their lives would be so hard. It had all been thrust upon them and nobody asked.

There were times when Rosaler's heroine, Mimi, felt that way.

And it was that vintage TV show from a naïve, bygone era of societally enforced domesticity, coupled with quiet discontent, that had been the surprising inspiration for the author's new novel. Rosaler's authentic stories examine imperfect women (not martyrs or saints) living mostly unfulfilled lives laced with overwhelming misery, fear, and isolation; parents who yearn for fun and freedom but can only enjoy fleeting moments of triumph and normalcy.

You can't blame those women from the '50s, for they neither had the insight nor self-awareness to understand how to change their lives for the better — had they been able to. Therefore, they accepted the cards they were dealt with what seems like a form of graciousness born of an unselfish nature. During that time, options for women were limited, and "finding happiness" wasn't considered a priority until the Women's Lib movement and the "me" generation expanded the list of acceptable personal desires and goals. That's when people — both women and men — wanted more out of life.

"But now I told myself: 'Wake up, Mimi!

Is this how you want to be? Seeing misery in every grain of sand?'" Rosaler writes.

Drawing from real life

Mimi was in denial when she found out her young son, Danny, had autism.

The author says getting support as her child was growing up was challenging as well.

"There were years when all I did from the moment I woke up to the moment I went to sleep, was work to get Benjy the help to which the Individuals with Disabilities Act supposedly entitled him," she recalled.

So, how do moms and dads raising special-needs kids learn how to accept things as they are? And if they can't, what's the alternative? And, should parents put aside their happiness for the sake of their children?

The author, whose son Benjy is now 26, opened up about her life and her family. She says "Queen for a Day" is the most important story she has ever told.

Tammy Scileppi: Why did you write this unique novel?

Maxine Rosaler: I was a writer before I became a mother, but for a long time after my son's diagnosis with autism, all I wrote were letters begging the Board of Education to help Benjy, and various treatises and documents I created to support my efforts. When the air started to clear a little bit, I went back to writing fiction. Eventually, I decided to map out a collection of short stories based on my experiences being the mother of a child with autism.

TS: Tell NY Parenting readers about your son, his interests, and what he's been up to.

MR: Benjy is, to a remarkable degree, the same person he has always been. Incredibly cheerful and inquisitive and a delight to be around. Of course, there have always been the things we wanted to "fix" about him — his impulsiveness, his lack of social awareness, his problems with organization — the list goes on. But I'm happy to say that as much as Phil and I have been trying so hard to fix Benjy, we have never damaged his spirit. He remains indomitably himself.

Benjy is a junior at City College, where he is majoring in chemistry. Through New York State's Self-Direction program, I am

able to hire people to go to school with my son, to make sure he pays attention and doesn't call out in class.

He has a ton of interests and hobbies, including rocks and minerals, musical instruments (how they are constructed), botany, birds, biology, chemistry, physics, orchestrating video music, playing piano, playing violin (which he has been studying seriously for the past eight years), geology, geography, entomology, etymology, and so much more.

I can't say that Benjy has ever really had a friend — the closest he has ever come to having friends are the mentors who work with him. But obviously, it's not the same. That's always been on my list: to find Benjy a friend who shares one of his many interests.

As far as goals are concerned, Benjy does not have a realistic understanding of what it means to have goals, nor what it takes to achieve one's goals. This is one of many things that are on our list of things we need to work on with him.

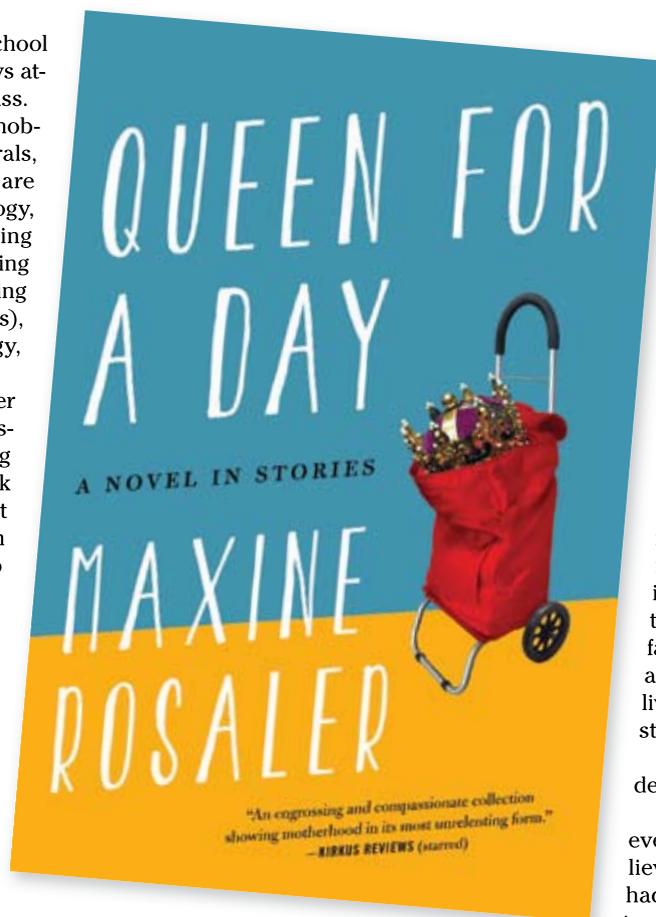
TS: Describe what raising your special child has been like?

MR: Benjy was a joyful baby, and a joyful child. He is still full of joy, although there are signs of anxiety that I am beginning to recognize that I never realized were there. He doesn't have a mean bone in his body. He is without vanity, pride, jealousy, envy, or any of the usual vices. His unquenchable thirst for knowledge and the agility with which he is able to absorb and assimilate all sorts of information amazes everyone who knows him.

We have had to teach — and continue to teach — Benjy the things that other children seem to pick up automatically. In terms of challenges, there are too many to enumerate here. I would say that his impulsiveness is one of the biggest challenges we have to deal with — for one thing, it put him in danger.

TS: How do your novel's stories speak to the loneliness and isolation that can be an inherent part of raising a child with a disability?

MR: I think the themes of loneliness and isolation inform every story in the collection. Mimi's dependence on Amy in the story "Queen for a Day" stands out in my mind as the most cogent manifestation of those feelings. "The Bike Path" is the story that most baldly expresses the misery and loneliness and fear that being the mother of a child with a disability entails: Mimi's irrational fear of something happening to her husband. Her incapacitating depres-



sion. Her overwhelming worry about what will become of her son. The guilt she suffers because of her growing impatience with him.

TS: How did you and your family deal with everything?

MR: I didn't "deal" with it at all. I just went ahead and threw the full force of myself into everything — no matter how big or how small. Which was a mistake.

Although [my husband] Phil grieved a lot at the beginning, as I pointed out in "Route 94," he accepted Benjy for who he was a lot sooner and a lot more easily than I did. Also, Phil, unlike me, has always been gifted with an ability to escape (a distinctly male trait, I think). As far as [my daughter] Sammy is concerned, I am just beginning to realize that all this affected her in ways I had never imagined it did.

TS: There must have been some good times?

MR: I can't think of any specific "good times" to cite as examples here. I can only say that, setting all my worries and anxieties about him aside for a moment, Benjy's entire way of being — his loving nature, his innocence, his happiness, his endless curiosity, his gifts — is a wonder.

TS: Describe your parenting styles.

MR: Phil knows how to have fun with our children. He knows how to talk to

Benjy in ways I do not. Phil, like Benjy, has all sorts of interests and he knows a lot about a lot of things. He also knows how to relax. So, he knows how to have fun. I'm always so busy doing all the behind-the-scenes work that I don't have time for fun. This is one of my biggest regrets.

TS: How have your son's issues impacted your marriage?

MR: I think our marriage has been both positively and negatively affected by having a child with a disability. As far as the positive part is concerned, Phil and I just naturally assumed different roles in Benjy's care. As far as the negative aspects are concerned, living in a constant state of emergency is very stressful, and this is bound to affect a marriage. Since I am by far the biggest worrier, and the more anxious of the two of us, Phil has to live with a woman who is often in a state of high anxiety.

TS: What do you do as a couple to de-stress?

MR: I wouldn't say that Phil and I ever consciously do anything to relieve the stress. But we have always had fun together, and so just being together is in and of itself a source of comfort and fun to us both. We hardly ever go out, although this is something we know we should do. We're both too lazy to do it. And aside from the time we spend writing (Phillip Margulies is also a fiction writer), our favorite time is at the end of the day, when all the work is done, and it's time to go to bed and watch television.

TS: Why should parents of special-needs kids read "Queen for a Day?"

MR: For one thing, when it comes to the books that have been written about autism, I don't think that the subject of being the mother of a child with autism (or any other disability, for that matter) has been dealt with through fiction or non-fiction the way I deal with it in "Queen for a Day." My book is both a work of literary fiction and also a kind of expose of the underworld that the parents of children with disabilities inhabit. It portrays a range of mothers (none of whom are anointed with the sainthood that is often automatically conferred on us unfortunate women).

• • •

Look for part two of this interview with Maxine Rosaler, author of "Queen for a Day: A Novel in Stories" (Amazon.com), in next month's issue.

Tammy Scileppi is a Queens-based freelance writer, parent, and regular contributor to New York Parenting.

A mother's intuition

Autistic son improves with mom's own therapeutic approach

BY ALLISON PLITT

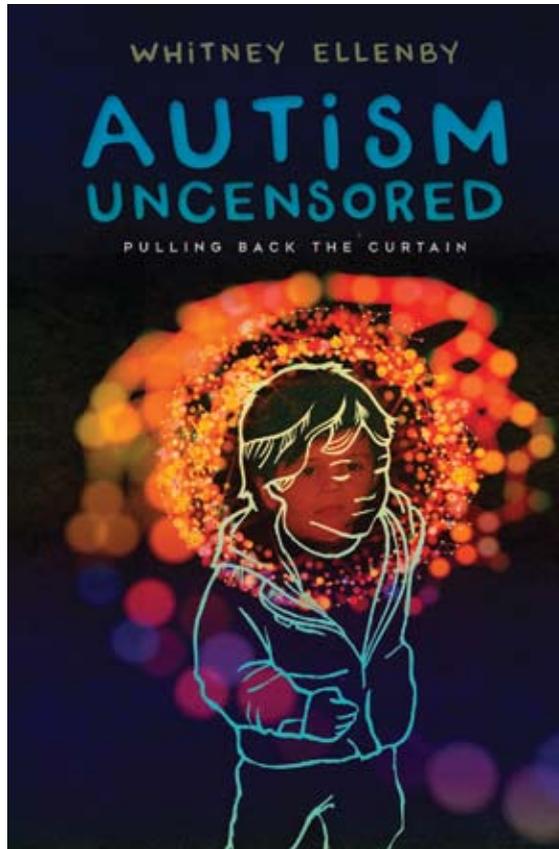
This is the second half of a story about Whitney Ellenby's compelling autobiography, "Autism Uncensored: Pulling Back the Curtain" (Koehler Books), in which she describes her life with her autistic son, Zack.

Whitney Ellenby learned her son Zack had autism when he was 19 months old. At the recommendation of a pediatric neurology team at Georgetown University Hospital, she enrolled him in Applied Behavioral Analysis therapy.

Applied Behavioral Analysis therapy required her son to be in an isolated room with a therapist for at least 40 hours a week reviewing "emotions, objects, people, or colors via flashcards and manipulative objects." According to Ellenby, the psychologist who developed the therapy in the 1950s, Dr. O. Ivar Lovaas, predicted that if a child receives less than 40 hours of instruction per week, he would fail. Zack showed progress during his first six months of therapy, but his development plateaued after another six months, and both Ellenby and her son fell into a state of disappointment and depression.

As many autistic children use "perseverative" behavior (such as repetitive hand flapping or staring at spinning objects) to calm themselves down, the Lovaas Model of Applied Behavioral Analysis therapy tries to suppress these natural instincts — a method which Ellenby finds "authoritative." She claims that many pediatric neurologists also believe that by denying a child his natural tendencies to cope with fear or anxiety, Applied Behavioral Analysis takes away a child's individuality and innate personality.

Although Zack could not verbalize his anger to his family, he rebelled against the rigid structure of therapy in his own ways. Unable to sleep, Zack kept his parents up all night with tantrums. When Ellenby or her husband went to soothe him, they found Zack had scratched off the paper on the walls of his bedroom and had destroyed all of his books and toys.



Venturing into the real world

Many families with autistic children usually isolate themselves in their homes, because their children can impulsively fly into fits of rage over any perceived fears or obstacles.

As Ellenby had decided to scale back on the number of hours Zack was receiving Applied Behavioral Analysis therapy, she chose a different approach with her son, who threw temper tantrums every time the family left the home.

In one scenario, Ellenby's family attempted to attend a birthday party, but the moment they got into an elevator, Zack began screaming, biting himself, and banging his head against the door to get out. After this incident, Ellenby figured out what triggered her son's temper tantrums: "His fear of the unknown, because he could not decode the world outside of his immediate view in those indoor spaces."

Unlike other kids with autism, Zack was not overly sensitive to noise and crowds.

In the most defining moment of the book, Ellenby decided to take her son into an auditorium to see a show about Elmo. As she expected, Zack threw a tantrum as soon as they entered the public indoor space. While Ellenby spent more than half an hour trying to calm him down, she was able to prevent her son from fleeing the scene.

The moment Zack saw Elmo on stage, he calmed down and stopped struggling. His eyes were riveted to the stage in deep concentration until the end of the show. As Zack smiled at his mother after the performance ended, Ellenby decided that her "experiment" was a success.

Ellenby took Zack to other public events where she found he learned more by experiential learning than by sitting in an isolated room trying to imitate Applied Behavioral Analysis concepts. Choosing to take Zack to a movie theater, she first informed the audience that her son was autistic and would probably struggle with her before the movie. With the public's approval, Ellenby tried to subdue Zack, who once again became calm when the movie began.

Similar to his behavior at the Elmo performance, Zack was fixated by the movie on the screen and said nothing until the show ended. Realizing that Zack was finally making a breakthrough, Ellenby accompanied him on more outings — including a visit to a water park, where a gang of tough teens helped her son descend a scary water slide.

Ellenby was surprised by the amount of support she received from the public when she explained that her son was autistic and may behave in an unusual manner. Zack wet himself on a subway, and as Ellenby explained her situation to the passengers, they gave her their own tissues and wipes to help her clean her son.

Ellenby gave birth to her daughter, Cassie, when Zack was 5. As Zack realized he was no longer the center of his mother's attention, he began to misbehave. Crying because he believed his mother favored the baby over him, he was finally able to articulate his feelings by saying, "Baby is Mommy favorite. Baby is love of Mommy life."

When Ellenby responded to Zack that

he was “the first love of her life,” she had a realization: “We have never had a true conversation, and never an exchange about anything as important as this. And I realize at this moment that there are still many crucial truths about Zack that I have yet to uncover. Does he feel love deeply, and does he feel it for me? ... He is capable of experiencing jealousy and loss as much as any other person, maybe even more?”

After his initial resentment, Zack learned to love and protect his sister. In one instance, Ellenby baked the children brownies and decided to hide them in the kitchen so she could share them at a later time. When she later checked in on her kids, she discovered Zack had found the brownies and was sharing them with 1-year-old Cassie.

Zack learns to conquer his fears

As Zack became less fearful interacting in the real world, he had less frequent tantrums. Consequently, Ellenby decided to abandon Applied Behavioral Analysis therapy. On a family trip to Disney World, where Ellenby had to provide the hotel with medical documentation of her son’s autism, Zack was a different boy — laughing in the amusement park and finally pointing out to his parents something funny that he saw.

When Zack turned 7, Ellenby enrolled

Ellenby figured out what triggered her son’s temper tantrums: “His fear of the unknown, because he could not decode the world outside of his immediate view in those indoor spaces.”

him in the neighborhood public elementary school, where he would be fully mainstreamed with his peers in the first grade. While Zack would be with his classmates for the majority of the day, he would also be pulled out of class for special-needs instruction.

The therapist had told Ellenby never to disclose Zack’s condition, but she thought differently when preparing a presentation for her son’s class about his autism. “Concealment of Zack’s diagnosis suggests shame, and my purpose is to educate, not obfuscate.”

During the presentation to the class, Ellenby explained to the children, “Zack has a disability called autism, and it’s a condition

that affects his brain. His brain isn’t better or worse than yours, it’s just different.”

She also told the class that Zack learns from repetition, so he would be watching his classmates’ behavior as an example of what to do.

Ellenby’s story ends happily as Zack was “assaulted by peers, not with cruelty, but exaggerated expressions of kindness and instruction.” When his mother dropped him off at school, Zack told his mother “goodbye,” literally cutting the cord between them.

When Zack stopped having temper tantrums, he learned that he had overcome his phobias. Reflecting on the experience of helping her son, Ellenby recounts, “I’m not just a better parent, I’m a better person because of what Zack has unearthed in me.”

Ellenby founded a charitable foundation more than 10 years ago called Autism Ambassadors for people with autism and their families. To help these families leave the isolation of their homes, Ellenby established monthly outings at various venues (such as movie theaters and water parks) where people can meet and not be shocked when others “erupt into unconventional behavior.” So far, Ellenby has recruited more than 600 families to join her organization.

Allison Plitt lives in Queens with her 12-year-old daughter.



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www.theidealschool.org

For further information, contact us at admissions@theidealschool.org or **212-769-1699**.



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Special Needs

PROVIDERS

Continued from page 20
comes from learning together within a diverse and nurturing educational community. Every aspect of the K-12 experience reflects a research-based commitment to inclusion education as a means for academic excellence. Inclusion is the full acceptance of all students in order to create a sense of belonging in the community and to prepare students for productive lives as full members of a diverse and global society. Rather than a one-size-fits-all curriculum, differentiated instruction allows students to pursue the same subjects at multiple levels of complexity.

Jack & Shirley Silver Center for Special Needs

Marlene Meyerson JCC
Manhattan
Upper West Side
646-505-5708

jccmanhattan.org/special-needs/

Our programs provide children with rich and engaging experiences in a caring environment with a high staff-to-student ratio. The Boost! summer program is a small activity-based afterschool group for children ages 4-10 on the autism spectrum or with other social, learning and communication differences. Boost! provides a fun environment for children to interact with peers. Through typical afterschool activities (board games, arts & crafts, cooking, music and movement) they initiate interactions with others, take turns, sustain conversation and employ self-regulation skills in a group setting. This and other engaging programs are also offered throughout the school year, including gymnastics for children ages 4-7, swimming programs for ages 5-29, and social programs for tweens, teens and young adults.



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The 'summer slide'

Summer break is almost here, and there is a lot of talk about the dreaded "summer slide." Is there anything I can do to help my kids keep up with their learning over the summer?

Summer is the perfect time to give your kids authentic learning experiences! Are you going to be traveling this summer within the 50 states? National parks are an exciting way to explore and learn as a family, and thanks to the Every Kid in a Park initiative, every fourth grader can get a pass for himself and his family to visit any national park for free!

Headed to the beach this summer? Remember to pack books along with the sunscreen. Summer is a great time to model for your kids the pleasure of reading for fun.

If your child will be away at camp, write her letters that include a lot of questions for her to respond to. Correspondence is the perfect way for kids to review their grammar and spelling skills in a meaningful way.

If you plan on staying close to home this



summer, don't forget that New York City is filled with museums and landmarks that you can take family "field trips" to. There, kids can learn and get hands-on experiences that can build their background



TIPS FROM A TEACHER

LAUREN ROSEN

knowledge about topics that will be covered during the school year.

Also, check in with your local library about any educational programs it might be hosting this summer. The programs are usually free, plus they are a great place to cool down with a new book on those scorching summer days.

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Expand your child's summer reading options with Book Bumbles.

Things I'm loving this summer

Summer is finally here with its barbecues and beach fun, late summer nights, and sand in our hair.

Speaking of fabULySS hair, I want to introduce you to the awesome Arsen Gurgov Salon, located in the heart of New York City. It's your best bet for a hair makeover: haircut, coloring, and styling. Make an appointment to learn how to wear beach waves naturally and get the color you have always wanted — kissed-by-the-sun tresses.

Arsen Gurgov Salon [30 E. 60th St. between Madison and Park avenues, (212) 401-2222].

I have been loving the fabULySS Drunk Elephant C-Tango™ Multivitamin Eye Cream.

It's a rich and restorative mixture, featuring a brightening combination of eight peptides, five forms of vitamin C, and cucumber extract for firmer, stronger-looking skin around the peepers. I've been seeing less fine lines around my tired mom eyes after using this product for some time.

Find it at Sephora.com.

Take the kids out to a ball game. The Yankees versus Mets games are so much fun. Unplug the phones, and enjoy the Subway Series amidst fellow fans cheering on their favorite teams.

A new #fabULySSfind I recently came across — and your kids will love — is Book Bumbles. It's a monthly kids' book-club subscription, delivering quality children's titles to your little readers! My 4-year-old daughter and 16-month-old niece love unwrapping their Book Bumbles. Choose from a choice of four subscriptions: ages 0-2 board books; ages 3-7 picture books; ages 0-7 mixed books; and ages 8-12 books.

Check out <https://bookbumble.com>

Speaking of fabULySS diva mom book-club reads, "The Lost Vintage" by Ann Mah (HarperCollins) is going to be one of the most-read novels this summer. It's a novel about family, history, and wine, and it's starting to get a lot of great reviews.

Visit <https://www.HarperCollins.com/9780062823311/the-lost-vintage/> for



FABULYSS FINDS

LYSS STERN

the juicy details.

Have a #fabULySS start to summer, and don't forget to reapply your sunblock!

Lyss Stern is the founder of DivaLyss.com Moms (DivaMoms.com).



Happy mealtimes create better eaters

Would you like to encourage a healthier diet for your kids? Create a more pleasant dinner time experience for them. A positive atmosphere not only makes mealtime more enjoyable for everyone around the table, it leads to young children eating more veggies, fruits, and other healthful foods.

A recent research study backs this up: last year, University of Illinois researchers found mealtimes where family members are engaging and enjoying themselves are more conducive to preschool kids approaching and consuming more nourishing foods.

The study found that happy preschool diners ate, on average, one serving more of fruit, veggie, or soy protein product compared to those children having a less pleasant dining experience. These healthful eating behaviors generally continue into later childhood and beyond.

Value of the family table

The benefits of the family meal are well established. Improved school performance and long-term physical and mental health benefits are among them. Try to eat together as a family as often as possible, even if the family is only two. Encourage pleasant conversation, with phones and other screens securely tucked away. Avoid

scolding, nagging, or arguing at the table.

For school-age children or teens, ask open-ended questions about their school day or discuss current events such as sports. For preschoolers or toddlers, discuss age-appropriate topics. Reward your child with attention, affection, and smiles. Talk time at the table enhances language development and school performance for any age.

Another way to keep family mealtime positive is to allow enough time and not eat in a rush.

Of course, be a good role model for your child. Take the time to sit down to eat. Enjoy a variety of nourishing foods. Acknowledge “thanks” prior to the meal.

Is your child making less than stellar food choices today? Don’t worry much about it. Consider what he or she eats over a longer period of time. It’s what children eat over several days that counts, not what’s eaten for one meal or in one day. It’s all right if your child occasionally skips some nourishing foods or even doesn’t eat a full meal.

A colleague of mine relates a story of her own experiences. When her son was young, he ate from sectioned plates. The mom would include a small piece of chocolate or a small cookie on his plate along with the protein, grain, vegetable,



GOOD SENSE EATING

CHRISTINE M. PALUMBO, RD

and glass of milk. Sometimes, the small boy would choose to eat the treat first! The mother kept quiet. And the boy went on to eat everything else, too. Other times, he would save the treat for the end of the meal.

He learned this lesson: “Mom is letting me have this dessert whenever I want it. It’s no big deal.” He generally made balanced choices at this tender age and continued to do so as he matured.

Here are some more tips for a smoother mealtime:

- Kids usually eat better when they feel in control of their food choices.
- Eat at roughly the same time in the same room, every night. Kids thrive on routine.
- Give the kids jobs. Children as young as age 2 can help set the table. Older ones can help with simple preparation tasks, pour beverages, and clear the table.
- Encourage — but don’t force — trying unfamiliar foods. If the child says he doesn’t like it after trying it several times, don’t push it. Wait a few weeks (or months), then try again.
- If your child refuses a vegetable, double up on the fruit.
- Adults can try breathing techniques to help them keep their emotions in check.

Childhood is a time to establish patterns of healthy eating that lead to lifelong health and wellness. Raising healthy eaters can begin with a positive atmosphere at the table.

Christine Palumbo is a Naperville-registered dietitian nutritionist and Fellow of the American Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Follow her on Twitter @PalumboRD and Facebook at Christine Palumbo Nutrition.

'Island' dream

Celebrated novelist Junot Díaz debuts first children's book

BY SHNIEKA L. JOHNSON

Author Junot Díaz has won prestigious prizes and accolades for his works, including "Drown," "The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao," and "This Is How You Lose Her." But it may have surprised some when the literary lion, who attended Rutgers University and went on to earn a Masters degree from Cornell University, decided to write a children's book. Díaz was born in the Dominican Republic, immigrated to the United States with his family when he was 6, and he spent the bulk of his childhood growing up in New Jersey. Traces of his childhood parallel that of the protagonist in his debut picture book.

Díaz's "Islandborn" (Dial Books) explores the topics of culture, identity, and belonging through the eyes of the main character, Lola. His colorful picture book relates Lola's experience as she discovers her heritage and celebrates imagination. The artistry is the work of illustrator Leo Espinosa.

"First time and I got so lucky to work with Leo. He's so brilliant, and he brought a magnificent Caribbean sensibility to the project — vibrant, playful, and soulful. I'm hoping we work together again very soon," Díaz told our publication. The text and illustrations of this well-crafted children's book will resonate with young readers around the country and will lead to wonderful conversation in the classroom and at home. Díaz believes exercising imagination is especially important for immigrants, because they often need to make homes for themselves where previously there were none.

In this book, Lola's teacher asks her diverse class to draw a picture of the places where their families emigrated from. Lola struggled to remember her island. Just a baby when she immigrated with her clan, she seeks the help of her family and friends to uncover her

extraordinary journey. Her imagination takes her on a trip back to her island.

Díaz hopes that his work will encourage more multicultural representation in children's books. (He is also the co-founder of the Voices of Our Nation Arts Foundation, which provides emerging writers of color with workshops and mentoring.)

"Every little bit helps. Diverse books for a diverse world. Nothing else will do. Otherwise, we cheat ourselves of what is so sublime about humanity — our splendid, endless variety," Díaz noted.

When asked how he became inspired

to write a children's book, Díaz said, "I kept having to explain to the young people in my life why, if I'm a writer, had I not written any books for them? And I didn't have any good answers for them. So I ended up writing the book as part of my answer." Like his fiction for adults, "Islandborn" has earned rave reviews, including from the School Library Journal as well as Publisher's Weekly.

The process of writing content for a children's book is quite different than writing for adults, which was a distinction not lost on Díaz.



“Diverse books for a diverse world. Nothing else will do. Otherwise, we cheat ourselves of what is so sublime about humanity — our splendid, endless variety.” — Junot Díaz

“I’ve never thrown out so much work in my life,” he said. “The demands of the form are cruel. You don’t have a lot of space for anything.”

Despite the limited space, Díaz included a lot of content within the pages of “Islandborn,” touching on themes of immigration, culture, and identity.

“It is in childhood where we create paradigms about ourselves and others which will guide us for many years to come. If you are not exposed to these fundamental questions early — how can you live healthily in a world that is a world in which immigration, culture, and identity play a central, if not determinative, role?” He added, “Books like this



are first and foremost an opportunity for adults and children to connect over stories, which is always a beautiful thing. This is a story about how it often takes a whole community to face a monster and how each generation has to face that monster anew, if only so that they can

keep alive the story of all that courage it took to do so.”

In his own act of courageousness, Díaz most recently made waves with the publishing of a very personal essay in *The New Yorker*, revealing that he had experienced sexual abuse as a child. In it, he explained the toll that this trauma had on his behaviors during his adolescence, young adulthood, and in adult relationships. From depression to uncontrollable rage, Díaz faced many challenges as a male victim of sexual assault. He maintained his silence until, as an adult, he finally sought help.

Many are anticipating what will come next for the influential author, who has been named a *New York Times*-bestselling author, MacArthur and Guggenheim Fellow, Pulitzer Prize-winner, and is currently professor of writing at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. It seems, though, that Díaz has embraced the title of “children’s book author.”

“[I] already handed in my second picture book. We’ll see what comes next,” said Díaz.

Shnieka L. 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.shniekajohnson.com.

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Calendar

JUNE



An inspiring dance troupe

Philadanco takes the stage at the Joyce Theater from June 12 through June 17.

The dance troupe returns for another season of athleticism and dance featuring new movements including “Folded Prism,” “A Movement of Five,” “New Fruit and With(in) Verse.”

Known as a company that often champions African-American traditions in dance as well as using the art form to tackle social issues which impact African-Americans, Philadanco has curated a program that shines light on the current social climate that affects all people of color.

Philadanco, June 12, 13, 16, and 17 at 7:30 pm; June 14 and 15 at 8 pm; June 17 and 16 at 2 pm (June 16 show is a family matinee). Tickets range from \$20 to \$40.

The Joyce Theater [175 Eighth Ave. at 19th Street in Chelsea, (212) 242-0800; www.Joyce.org].

Julianne Harris

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Calendar

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

SAT, JUNE 2

IN MANHATTAN

Central Park Discovery Walk for Families – Gardens: Vanderbilt Gate in Central Park, Fifth Avenue and E. 105th Street; (212) 310-6600; 10 am to 11 am; Free.

Kid-friendly guided walk through thousands of blooms in Central Park's Conservatory Garden. Discover the difference between the various flowers and landscapes that make up the park's only formal garden. Learn about its history, design, and what it takes to maintain a healthy and beautiful garden through hands-on exploration and guided activities in your complementary Discovery Journal. Terrain includes some stairs, for wheelchair access, enter the park at 106th Street and Fifth Avenue, and enter the Garden at the north gate.

Watson Adventures' Wizard School Scavenger Hunt for Harry Potter Fans: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1000 Fifth Ave. at E. 82nd Street; (212) 570-7710; rsvp@watsonadventures.com; www.metmuseum.org; 10:30 am to 12:30 pm; \$31 to \$42 (includes museum admission).

Join Watson Adventures on a unique scavenger hunt for Harry Potter fans ages 10 and up! Follow in the footsteps of young wizards on a field trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in search of art that echoes characters, places, and enchanted objects in the famed Harry Potter books and movies. Keep your trusty wand handy as you track down a powerful sorceress, a Snape-like potions master, Hagrid-like giants, and cloaked and masked figures as scary as any Death Eater or Dementor. Kids must be accompanied by an adult, but all-adult teams can compete separately. Advance purchase is required.

"Grass": Lincoln Center Clark Studio Center, 165 W. 65th St.; (212) 875-5375; www.lincolncenter.org/venue/clark-studio-theater; 11 am and 2 pm; \$25 (\$18 members).

LMC Kids presents this production. Explore the ground and all of its wriggly



Duct tape creations for dad

Don't know what to do for dad for Father's Day? Come to the Children's Museum of Manhattan on June 16 and 17 and make him a duct tape creation.

Children can design an unusual gift for someone special in their life using an unlikely art material — duct tape! Create ties, picture frames, and wallets out of a variety of wacky patterns and

awesome colors.

Father's Day Duct Tape Creation on June 16 from 10:30 am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 6 pm; June 17 from 10:30 am to 1 pm, and 2 pm to 4:30 pm. Free with museum admission. All ages.

Children's Museum of Manhattan [212 W. 83rd St. between Amsterdam and Broadway, on the Upper East Side, (212) 721-1223; www.cmom.org].

inhabitants in this quirky dance show for young children. Featuring worms, slugs, snails, and spontaneous outbreaks of ant dancing, "Grass" uses performance, puppetry, and projections to inspire children to look closely at the world around them, get mucky, and play!

Central Park Tour Discovery Walk for Families – Towering Trees:

Charles A Dana Discovery Center, 110th Street between Fifth and Lenox avenues; (212) 310-6600; www.nycgovparks.org/events/2018/05/05/central-park-tour-discovery-walk-for-families-towering-trees; 1 pm to 2:30 pm; Free.

Take a hike through the North Woods and learn how to tell a maple from an oak! Discover how trees — from seeds and leaves to logs — contribute to the health of an urban park woodland community. Space is limited, registration required. Families with children ages 5 and up only; no groups, please. Please arrive at walk

location 15 minutes before the start to allow time for check in and to pick up Discovery Kits.

Summer on the Hudson – New York City Fish Count: Fort Washington Park, 172nd Street Beech and Riverside Blvd.; <https://www.nycgovparks.org/events/2018/06/02/summer-on-the-hudson-new-york-city-fish-count>; 2 pm to 4 pm; Free.

As part of the annual World Science Festival, we will wade into the Hudson River to collect and count what species of fish we find. Join us for this fun waterside event!

"The Three Little Pigs": Galli Theater, 357 W. 36th St. #202; (212) 731-0668; www.gallitheaternyc.com/shows; 2 pm; \$20 (\$15 children; \$35 parent/child).

Gordy, Perkey and Snoozy pigs must build houses of their own. But only one takes the time to make a house that stands

Calendar

Our online calendar is updated daily at www.NYParenting.com/calendar

up to the persistence of a certain wolf. For children 3 and up.

"Lion and the Mouse": Audubon Playground, 550 W. 170th Street; 311; www.wondersparkpuppets.com/free-summer-shows; 3 pm; Free.

This Aesop Fable teaches and entertains. Presented by WonderSpark Puppets.

Dance Away the Night with the City Stompers: Asser Levy Recreation Center, 392 Asser Levy Place; (212) 447-2023; www.nycgovparks.org/events/2018/06/02/arts-culture-fun-dance-away-the-night-with-the-city-stompers; 6 pm to 7:30 pm; Free.

NYC Parks and the City Stompers invite you to get on your feet and move to the sounds of live American fiddle music.

Summer on the Hudson – Stargaze Sundays: Pier 1 at Riverside Park South, W. 70th Street; 311; 8 pm to 11 pm; Free.

The Amateur Astronomers Association and stargazing return to Riverside Park South! A summer evening in Manhattan is made complete with a great skyline and the stars, planets, and moon in full view. Manhattan provides a great backdrop as we peer heavenward to see celestial wonders.

Golden Key Music Festival 2018: Carnegie Hall, 881 Seventh Ave. at W. 57th Street; (212) 903-9752; <https://www.carnegiehall.org/Calendar/2018/05/12/CARNEGIE-HALL-FAMILY-CONCERT-MY-CITY-MY-SONG-1200PM>; 11:30 and 3:30 pm; \$50.

Yanzuo Liu, piano, performs selections from Schumann, and works by Chopin, Scriabin, and Rachmaninoff.

SUN, JUNE 3

IN MANHATTAN

16th Annual Drums Along the Hudson: Inwood Hill Park, 218th Street and Indian Road; (212) 795-1388; <https://www.nycgovparks.org/events/2018/06/03/16th-annual-drums-along-the-hudson>; 11 am to 6 pm; Free.

Join NYC Parks and Lotus Music and Dance for this annual Multicultural Celebration and Native American Festival. The event features Native American, Japanese, Brazilian, Flamenco, and Korean dancers and drummers from around the world! Activities include a Tree of Peace planting, international cuisine, Native American storytelling, a Pow Wow, crafts, and visits from Captain Planet. This year features the iForest, an immersive sound installation composed by Pete M. Wyer.

"Grass": 11 am and 2 pm. Lincoln Center - Clark Studio Center. See Saturday, June 2.

"The Quest for the Seven Teeth": Near Belvedere Castle, 79th Street



Groundbreaking divas

The Little Opera Theatre of NY shines a light on opera legends in "This Little Light of Mine" at the Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Music Center on June 6.

The New York premiere of Adrienne Danrich's one-woman show is a musical tribute to Marian Anderson and Leontyne Price, two ground-breaking African-American opera legends who overcame many racial barriers from the Jim Crow era through the Civil Rights Movement to become international opera stars.

Featuring live singing, storytelling,

recorded excerpts, and documentary images, the performance shines a light on African-American singers who walk in the footsteps of Anderson and Price and features arias and songs associated with these two operatic legends.

"This Little Light of Mine," June 6 at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$20, \$12 for students at the box office. Suitable for all ages.

Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Music Center [129 W. 67th Street on the Upper West Side, www.kaufmanmusiccenter.org/mch/event/little-opera-theater-of-ny-this-little-light-of-mine].

and the Transverse; (347) 559-6223; info@AccompliceTheShow.com; www.accomplicetheshow.com; Noon and 1 pm; \$65 per child (Free for one accompanying adult).

Children are tasked with navigating their way through Central Park, encountering obstacles along the way as they strive to help a friend in need. Age-appropriate puzzles and games help children locate each new character. Gingerbread cookies for each child.

"The Three Little Pigs": 2 pm. Galli Theater. See Saturday, June 2.

WED, JUNE 6

IN MANHATTAN

Bryant Park Dance Party: Family Terrace at Bryant Park, Sixth Avenue and 41st Street; <https://www.nycgovparks.org/events/2018/06/06/bryant-park-dance-party>; 6 pm to 8 pm; Free.

Dance Party, hosted and produced by Talia Castro-Pozo, includes superb bands and expert dance instruction for extraordinary dancing experiences each Wednesday evening. All ages are welcome to explore a different dance genre each week, including salsa, bhangra, swing, and more.

Our online calendar is updated daily at www.NYParenting.com/calendar

“This Little Light of Mine”: Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Music Center, 129 W. 67th St.; www.kaufmanmusiccenter.org/mch/event/little-opera-theater-of-ny-this-little-light-of-mine; 7:30 pm; \$20 (\$12 students at the box office).

The Little Opera Theatre of New York presents the New York premiere of Adrienne Danrich’s one-woman show — an inventive one-woman musical tribute honoring the ground-breaking careers of two African-American opera legends who overcame many racial barriers from the Jim Crow era through the Civil Rights Movement to become international opera stars.

THURS, JUNE 7

IN MANHATTAN

Summer on the Hudson – Locomotive Lawn Live: Locomotive Lawn at Riverside Park South, W. 62nd Street and Riverside Boulevard; <https://www.nycgovparks.org/events/2018/05/10/summer-on-the-hudson-locomotive-lawn-live>; 10:30 am to 11:30 am; Free.

Moosiki Kids Musical Storytime fosters a love of reading at a young age with musical stories and sing-along encouragement on our comfy and danceable turf lawn by the big locomotive. This event is great for kids aged 5 years and under! Wear sunscreen or bring shade.

Cross-Stitch Circle: New-York Historical Society, 170 Central Park West at W. 77th Street; (212) 873-3400; www.nyhistory.org/childrens-museum/families; 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm; Free with museum admission.

Drop in to try your skills at one of the oldest forms of embroidery in the world. Beginning cross-stitchers will learn the basic stitch and create a bookmark with their new skill. More seasoned stitchers can continue working on their bookmark or branch into more complicated designs — make a handcrafted gift for someone! Younger kids may also enjoy coming along and contributing to our community weaving using recycled fabrics and ribbons. Please contact familyprograms@nyhistory.org for more information and pricing.

Chamber Orchestra of New York: Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall, Seventh Avenue and W. 57th Street; (212) 247-7800; www.carnegiehall.org/calendar/2018/06/07/chamber-orchestra-of-new-york-0730pm; 7:30 pm; \$45 and \$50 (Senior and student tickets sold only at box office and must show proper ID).

The ensemble opens its 10th anniversary season with Schubert’s “Symphony No. 5,” and Mozart’s “Concerto for Flute and Harp.”



“The Lion and the Mouse”

“The Lion and the Mouse” roars into Le Carrousel at Bryant Park on June 23.

This fun, interactive puppet show presented by WonderSpark Puppets is one of Aesop’s Fables that teaches and

entertains.

“The Lion and the Mouse,” June 23 at 2 pm. Free. For all ages.

Le Carrousel at Bryant Park (85 W. 40th St. at Fifth Avenue in Midtown, www.bryantpark.org).

SAT, JUNE 9

IN MANHATTAN

Watson Adventures’ Whodunnit at the Met Family Scavenger Hunt: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1000 Fifth Ave. at E. 82nd Street; (212) 570-7710; rsvp@watsonadventures.com; www.metmuseum.org; 10:30 am to 12:30 pm; \$31.00–\$42.00 (includes museum admission).

Join Watson Adventures on a unique murder mystery scavenger hunt for kids 10 and up! A crazed killer is on the loose at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and it’s up to you to stop him! The killer has created a scavenger hunt that, when completed, reveals his name, the weapon he used, and where he hid the body in the museum. Can you figure out whodunnit? No knowledge of the museum or art is necessary, but good reading skills are helpful. Kids must be accompanied by an adult. Price includes museum admission. Advance purchase is required.

Sou Sou: Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute, 120 E. 125th St.; cccadi.org/sousou; Noon to 4 pm; Free.

The family-oriented program is inspired by the savings clubs tradition of the African Diaspora with a twist — a culture savings

club for the entire family. Attendees get to enjoy art, dance, music workshops, and many more activities that elevate the history and traditions of the African diaspora. This month is Baba Sousou, Celebrate Our Fathers — It’s Baba-and-me time with a presentation from Callaloo Kids theater.

Family Day: John Jay Park, FDR Drive and E. 77th Street; (212) 408-0243; Noon to 3 pm; Free.

Join NYC Parks and Councilman Ben Kallos in a fun afternoon of crafts, games, inflatables, transformation face painting with Agostino Arts, an obstacle course, carnival booths, sports, a photo booth, and more!

Print-making workshops:

International Print Center New York, 508 W. 26th St.; (212) 989-5090; www.ipcny.org; 1 pm to 4 pm; Free.

Participants explore print-making techniques, such as woodblock, etching, engraving, and silkscreen, with a presentation of print-making tools; kid friendly print-making activity tailored to the current show.

Summer on the Hudson – Play

Dates: West Harlem Piers, 125th Street and Marginal Street; www.nycgovparks.org.

An adventure with 'Teeth'

Take a magical adventure in Central Park and go on "The Quest for the Seven Teeth" on June 3.

Franklin was given the task of collecting seven teeth to help his cousin, the Tooth Fairy, and he accidentally lost them. He has an idea of where to get seven more, but he can't do it alone. He needs your help!

Children are tasked with navigating their way through Central Park, encountering obstacles along the way as they strive to help a friend in need. Along the way, they'll face age-appropriate puzzles and games, and six hidden fairy tale characters interact and entertain the

children when discovered.

The route wends its way through Central Park on a meticulously crafted trail with a dedicated stage manager traveling with each group from start to finish.

"The Quest for the Seven Teeth," June 3, noon and 1 pm. \$65 per child and free for one accompanying adult. Reservations required for June 3 event. Appropriate for children 6 to 9 years old. Private bookings are also available.

Meet near Belvedere Castle [79th Street and the Transverse in Central Park; (347) 559-6223; info@AccompliceTheShow.com; www.accomplicetheshow.com].



org/events/2018/05/12/summer-on-the-hudson-play-dates; 1 pm to 4:30 pm; Free.

It's interactive singing plus funny, handmade animal puppets. Join this fun family-friendly outdoor party featuring a children's entertainer, arts and crafts, and neighborhood fun! Stop by the Billion Oyster Project on the Baylander to see the latest effort to restore our harbor!

"Fox Fables": Le Carrousel at Bryant Park, 85 W. 40th St. at Fifth Avenue; events@urbanmgt.com; bryantpark.org; 2 pm; Free.

Three classic stories about a clever fox who must outwit much bigger animals. A highly interactive puppet show with lots of silliness! Based on Mishle Shualim ("Fox Fables") by 12th-century Rabbi Berechiah ha-Nakdan. Performed by Wonderspark Puppets.

"The Ugly Duckling": Galli Theater, 357 W. 36th St. #202; (212) 731-0668; www.gallitheaternyc.com/shows; 2 pm; \$20 (\$15 children; \$35 parent/child).

On its long journey to itself the little duckling meets many animals and finally realizes that it is not ugly at all, only different. In the end, the ugly duckling becomes a beautiful swan. For children 3 and up.

Family camping: Inwood Hill Park, Dyckman Street entrance; (212) 360-1444; <https://www.nycgovparks.org/events/2018/06/09/family-camping>; 7 pm to 7 am; Free.

We camp to create lasting memories, connect with the natural world, and bond with our families. Camping affords us the opportunity to unplug from the diversions of everyday life and to laugh and play with our families. Camp overnight in Inwood Hill Park, home of the last remaining natural

forest in Manhattan. Space is limited and families are chosen by lottery. To enter your family in the lottery, visit nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register. Tents are supplied.

FURTHER AFIELD

The Great Randall's Island Treasure Hunt: Randall's Island Park, 20 Randall's Island Park, The Bronx; (212) 830-7722; Jennifer.wainwright@randallsisland.org; <https://randallsisland.org/events/great-randalls-island-treasure-hunt-2>; 10 am; Free.

Join us for an adventure as we unlock island secrets, search for treasure, and explore Randall's Island Park. This free event teaches you how to use a map and compass (materials provided) to navigate a fun course. Suitable for ages 5 and up (with an adult).

SUN, JUNE 10

IN MANHATTAN

Morgan Explorers: Morgan Library & Museum, 225 Madison Ave. at 36th St., (212) 685-0008; 1:30-3pm; Free with museum admission. \$20 adults, children 12 and under free.

On the second Sunday of each month, families can enjoy an interactive experience in Mr. Morgan's 1906 library. Discover art activities, touch objects, and get your questions answered by a Morgan educator. Learn more about the myths and stories on the famous ceilings, roll a sample cylinder seal, and get up close and personal with medieval bookmaking materials.

Summer 2018 Scandinavian Music Festival Concert Series: Billings Lawn at Fort Tryon Park, Margaret Corbin Drive; (212) 795-1388; <https://www.nycgovparks.org/events/2018/06/10/summer-2018-scandinavian-music-festival-concert-songs-of-scandinavia>

[scandinavian-music-festival-concert-songs-of-scandinavia](https://www.nycgovparks.org/events/2018/06/10/summer-2018-scandinavian-music-festival-concert-songs-of-scandinavia); 2 pm to 3:30 pm; Free.

The Scandia Brass Quintet will perform its popular repertoire of contemporary and traditional compositions and arrangements, representing music from each of the five Scandinavian countries, including five national anthems. Bring a blanket and enjoy this free performance with backdrop views of the Hudson River.

"The Ugly Duckling": 2 pm. Galli Theater. See Saturday, June 9.

THURS, JUNE 14

IN MANHATTAN

Summer on the Hudson – Locomotive Lawn Live: 10:30 am to 11:30 am. Locomotive Lawn at Riverside Park South. See Thursday, June 7.

Cross-Stitch Circle: 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm. New-York Historical Society. See Thursday, June 7.

FRI, JUNE 15

IN MANHATTAN

Boating Storytime: Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden, 421 E. 61st St. and York Avenue; (212) 838-6878; p.wadsley@mvhm.org; www.mvhm.org; 10:30 am; Free with museum admission.

Join us for our monthly storytime with a nautical theme. Listen to stories about different kinds of boats, and find replicas of some of them on our topographical map. Afterward use shapes to create a boating picture to take home.

Central Park Discovery Walk for Families – Statues and Monuments: Samuel F. B. Morse Statue, Central Park

Our online calendar is updated daily at www.NYParenting.com/calendar

at E. 72nd Street and Fifth Avenue; (212) 310-6600; 1 pm to 2:30 pm; Free.

Join us on a kid-friendly adventure as we discover the secrets and mysteries of Central Park's most beloved children's sculptures! Central Park Conservancy Guides will lead this wintery exploration, featuring some of the Park's most popular statues for children. Highlights of this guided walk include Balto, Alice in Wonderland, and Hans Christian Andersen.

SAT, JUNE 16

IN MANHATTAN

Father's Day Duct Tape Creations:

Children's Museum of Manhattan, 212 W. 83rd St. between Amsterdam and Broadway; (212) 721-1223; www.cmom.org; 10:30 am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 6 pm; Free with museum admission.

Design an unusual Father's Day gift for someone special in your life using an unlikely art material — duct tape! Create ties, picture frames, and wallets out of a variety of wacky patterns and awesome colors.

Meet Summer of Magic's Opening

Act Harry Houdini!: New-York Historical Society, 170 Central Park West at W. 77th Street; (212) 873-3400; www.nyhistory.org/childrens-museum/families; 11 am to 4 pm; Free with museum admission.

Come celebrate the start of our Summer of Magic by shaking hands with Harry Houdini — that is, if his arms aren't stuck in a straitjacket or handcuffs! Portrayed by Duffy Hudson, Houdini shares his incredible life story, performs illusions with playing cards, and manages to swallow — gulp — sharp needles!

Ice Cream Garden Social: Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden, 421 E. 61st St.; (212) 838-6878; p.wadsley@mvhm.org; www.mvhm.org; 1-3pm; \$15 adults, \$10 children under 12.

Step back in time and discover one of the last 18th-century buildings in Manhattan! Gather in the garden for a Path Through History Weekend afternoon of ice cream making, period toys and games, and historical tunes.

Central Park Tour Discovery Walk

for Families: Towering Trees: 1 pm to 2:30 pm. Charles A Dana Discovery Center. See Saturday, June 2.

"Goldilocks and the Three Bears":

Le Carrousel at Bryant Park, 85 W. 40th St. at Fifth Avenue; events@urbanmgt.com; bryantpark.org; 2 pm; Free.

An old tale with a new twist, presented by WonderSpark Puppets.

Neighborhood Concert – Johnny

Colon: El Museo del Barrio, 1230 Fifth Ave. at 104th Street; <http://www>.



A hoedown in the city

Families grab a partner and dance to the music of City Stompers on June 2.

NYC Parks and the City Stompers invite you to get on your feet and move to the sounds of live American fiddle music. Swing your partner, corner and do-si-do, join hands for a Virginia Reel, and step right up and holler "yeehoo"!

Join us outdoors in the plaza in front

of Asser Levy Recreation Center for a fun time!

City Stompers, June 2 from 6 pm to 7:30 pm. Free. Suitable for all ages.

Asser Levy Recreation Center [392 Asser Levy Pl. in Alphabet City; (212) 447-2023; www.nycgovparks.org/events/2018/06/02/arts-culture-fun-dance-away-the-night-with-the-city-stompers].

carnegiehall.org/Calendar/2018/06/16/neighborhood-concert-johnny-colon-0400pm; 4 pm; Free.

Leader of the legendary Johnny Colon Orchestra and founder of the East Harlem Music School, Johnny will perform selections from his most recent album, *Keeping It Real*. Hosted by Carnegie Hall Neighborhood Concert series.

SUN, JUNE 17

IN MANHATTAN

Father's Day Duct Tape Creations:

10:30 am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 4:30 pm. Children's Museum of Manhattan. See Saturday, June 16.

Saltwater Fishing: John V Lindsay Park - Pier, E. 10th St. and the FDR Drive; (212) 360-1444; <https://www.nycgovparks.org/events/2018/06/17/saltwater-fishing>; Noon to 1:30 pm; Free.

Catch-and-release fishing is a great way to get outdoors and discover nature just a few blocks from home. Our experienced Rangers teach the ethics of fishing and the ecology of our waterways on every fishing program. Whether you choose to grab a

simple bamboo pole at a quiet lake or join more advanced saltwater programs, we have a program that fits your skill level. All equipment is provided; this program is recommended for ages 8 years and older. Participation is first-come, first-served.

We Make the Future Block Party:

Rubin Museum of Art, 150 W. 17th Street, between Sixth and Seventh avenues; (212) 620-5000 X 344; www.rmanyc.org; 1-4pm; Free and admission to the museum is free all day.

Celebrate the spirit of the community at the Rubin Museum's annual Block Party. Join thousands of other New Yorkers at this outdoor event on Father's Day, featuring art and activities inspired by the Rubin's yearlong exploration of the future.

Summer 2018 Scandinavian Music Festival Concert Series:

Billings Lawn at Fort Tryon Park, Margaret Corbin Drive; (212) 795-1388; <https://www.nycgovparks.org/events/2018/06/10/summer-2018-scandinavian-music-festival-concert-songs-of-scandinavia>; 2 pm to 3:30 pm; Free.

In this special program, created to captivate the imagination of children and the young at heart, Scandia Ensemble

Calendar

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and narrator Sandra Billingslea will take participants on a musical journey in which they are actively engaged, learning and interacting with the artists. Text by Hans Christian Andersen and music by Poul Schierbeck and Frank Foerster. Bring a blanket and enjoy this free performance with backdrop views of the Hudson River.

MON, JUNE 18

IN MANHATTAN

NYC Autism Charter Schools

Board Meetings: NYC Autism Charter Schools, 433 E. 100th St. Manhattan; 977 Fox St. Bronx; (212) 860-2580; csecharan@nycacharterschool.org; www.nycautismcharterschool.org; 5 pm; Free.

The NYCA Charter Schools Board Meetings are open to parents, staff and any other members of the public.

THURS, JUNE 21

IN MANHATTAN

Summer on the Hudson –

Locomotive Lawn Live: 10:30 am to 11:30 am. Locomotive Lawn - Riverside Park South. See Thursday, June 7.

Cross-Stitch Circle: 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm. New-York Historical Society. See Thursday, June 7.

LGBTQ Pride Night: Children's Museum of Manhattan, 212 W. 83rd St. between Amsterdam and Broadway; (212) 721-1223; www.cmom.org; 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm; Free.

The Children's Museum of Manhattan invites you to a special after-hours event in celebration of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer families, as well as LGBTQ adults with children in their lives. Enjoy an evening of family programming and explore all five floors of the museum. Space is limited! RSVP to ensure entry.

FRI, JUNE 22

IN MANHATTAN

Skate Night on the Upper East

Side!: Stanley Isaacs Playground, E. 95th Street and E. 96th Street on First Avenue; (212) 408-0243; www.nycgovparks.org/events/2018/06/22/skate-night-on-the-upper-east-side; 5 pm to 9 pm; Free.

Join NYC Parks and Councilman Ben Kallos in a fun skate night at the park. Dance and enjoy an outdoor roller skating night with a live DJ and more! Skates will be provided. Feel free to bring your own skates. Family Session is 5 to 6:45 pm, and Adult Session 7 to 9 pm. Please register for only one of the two sessions. If you register for both sessions, you will be randomly dropped from one of the sessions.

Family camping: Central Park –

Student art on display

Learning Through Art's exhibit A Year with Children 2018 is currently on display at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum through June 13.

The annual presentation, now in its 47th year, showcases select artworks by students in grades two through six who participated in Learning Through Art during the 2017–18 school year. More than 100 creative and imaginative works — including collages, drawings, found objects, installations, paintings, sculpture — and prints will be on display.

Participating schools include PS 86 (Kingsbridge Heights); PS 8 (Brooklyn Heights) and PS 9 (Prospect Heights); PS 28 (Washington Heights), PS 38 and PS 375/Mosaic Preparatory Academy (East Harlem); PS 88 (Ridgewood), PS 130 (Bayside), PS 144 (Rego Park), and PS 317 (Rockaway Park); and PS 48 (Grasmere).

Thirteen teaching artists facilitated 16 residencies in 11 New York City public schools, working closely with classroom teachers to develop projects that promote visual literacy while exploring and making connections with ideas



and themes related to the school's curriculum.

The program immerses students in the creative process and studied modernist artworks on view from the Thannhauser Collection and an exhibition of sculptures by Constantin Brancusi.

Learning Through Art's A Year with Children 2018, daily, 10 am to 5 pm. Free with general admission, no reservations required. Suitable for all ages.

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum [1071 Fifth Ave. at 89th Street on the Upper East Side, (212) 423-3500, www.guggenheim.org].

Belvedere Castle, 79th Street Transverse; (212) 360-1444; <https://www.nycgovparks.org/events/2018/06/22/family-camping-manchattan>; 7 pm to 7 am; Free.

The Urban Park Rangers celebrate the tradition of camping and we look forward to welcoming your family. Space is limited and families are chosen by lottery. To enter your family in the lottery, visit nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register. Registration opens on Wednesday, June 13. Tents supplied.

SAT, JUNE 23

IN MANHATTAN

Central Park Discovery Walk for Families – Statues and Monuments:

10 am to 11:30 am. Samuel F. B. Morse Statue. See Friday, June 15.

Summer on the Hudson – Baylander Billion Oyster Project Presentation:

Noon to 2 pm. On the Pier - West Harlem Pier. See Saturday, June 9.

Meet an Escape Artist: New-York Historical Society, 170 Central Park West

at W. 77th Street; (212) 873-3400; www.nyhistory.org/childrens-museum/families; 1 pm to 4 pm; Free with museum admission.

Be amazed by Adam RealMan, sideshow and variety performer, and his special tribute to Houdini's escape acts. Practice how escape artists warm-up, take a look behind the curtain to see how magicians free themselves from restraints, and marvel as Adam escapes a straitjacket, rope, and handcuffs!

“Lion and Mouse”:

Le Carrousel at Bryant Park, 85 W. 40th St. at Fifth Avenue; events@urbanmgt.com; bryantpark.org; 2 pm; Free.

An Aesop Fable that teaches and entertains, presented by WonderSpark Puppets.

SUN, JUNE 24

IN MANHATTAN

Summer on the Hudson – Sun Gaze

Sundays: Pier 1 at Riverside Park South, W. 70th Street; 311; Noon to 4 pm; Free.

The Amateur Astronomers Association

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and solargazing return with solar telescopes specifically designed to safely look at the sun and see sunspots and prominences under a summer sky.

Meet an Escape Artist: 1 pm to 4 pm. New-York Historical Society. See Saturday, June 23.

Summer 2018 Scandinavian Music Festival Concert Series: Billings Lawn at Fort Tryon Park, Margaret Corbin Drive; (212) 795-1388; <https://www.nycgovparks.org/events/2018/06/10/summer-2018-scandinavian-music-festival-concert-songs-of-scandinavia>; 2 pm to 3:30 pm; Free.

The String Orchestra will perform works by Frank Foerster, Jean Sibelius, Ture Rangstrom and Knudage Riisager. Soloist: Mayuki Fukuhara, violin. Music director/conductor: Dorrit Matson. Bring a blanket and enjoy this free performance with backdrop views of the Hudson River.

TUES, JUNE 26

IN MANHATTAN

Monstrous Masterpiece: The Morgan Library & Museum, 226 Madison Ave. at 36th Street; (212) 685-0008; <http://www.themorgan.org/programs/monstrous-masterpiece>; www.themorgan.org; 11 am; \$20; \$15 for members. Each ticket is valid for one child and up to two adults.

Discover the frighteningly strange beauty of monsters and why they still fascinate us today. Participants will join New York City-based artist Max Greis to create monstrous creatures with beastly painted paper and their favorite real and make-believe elements. Program consists of a 30-minute gallery experience followed by a 90-minute art-making activity. Materials included. Appropriate for ages 6-14.

THURS, JUNE 28

IN MANHATTAN

Summer on the Hudson – Locomotive Lawn Live: 10:30 am to 11:30 am. Locomotive Lawn - Riverside Park South. See Thursday, June 7.

Cross-Stitch Circle: 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm. New-York Historical Society. See Thursday, June 7.

SAT, JUNE 30

IN MANHATTAN

Central Park Discovery Walk for Families – Gardens: 10 am to 11 am. Vanderbilt Gate in Central Park. See Saturday, June 2.

Visit with Vaudeville Magic: New-York Historical Society, 170 Central Park West at W. 77th Street; (212) 873-3400; www.nyhistory.org/childrens-museum/



Alexa Hoyer

Celebration in the park

Come one, come all to the Sunset Seville celebration at Harbor View Lawn in Brooklyn Bridge Park's Pier 1 on June 7.

Sunset Seville is the Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy's fund-raising event of the summer. Come support its free programming in the park. Bring the whole family for delicious food, drinks, music, and dancing.

All proceeds support the Conservancy's free recreational, cultural, and educational programming, including special sessions for public school classes

and day camp groups from all parts of Brooklyn.

Sunset Seville on June 7, from 6 to 9 pm. Tickets are \$750 per family (up to two adults and four children), \$175 for an adult, \$50 for children, and free for children under 3. An individual "sunset supporter" ticket is \$250. Tickets required.

Harbor View Lawn at Brooklyn Bridge Park Pier 1 [Near Middagh and Furman streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 925-4341; rtonthat@brooklynbridgepark.org; www.brooklynbridgepark.org].

families; 1 pm to 4 pm; Free with museum admission.

Sprint through the history of magic in New York with a sampling of illusions performed by Tanya Solomon, a magician and teacher of circus arts. Try to keep track of multiplying balls in an early act performed by magicians like "Queen of Magic" Adelaide Hermann at the turn-of-the-century, count how many coins Tanya pulls from the air (or from behind your ear!) in a classic vaudeville trick, or uncover tales of other magicians leading into the modern era. Kids can even learn some magic themselves!

"Princess Petunia and the Dragon": Le Carrousel at Bryant Park, 85 W. 40th St. at Fifth Avenue; events@urbanmgt.com; bryantpark.org; 2 pm; Free.

WonderSpark Puppets presents this story of a brave knight and a beautiful princess.

"Aladdin": Galli Theater, 357 W. 36th St. #202; (212) 731-0668; www.gallitheaternyc.com/shows; 2 pm; \$20 (\$15 child; \$35 one parent one child).

When Aladdin finds a genie in a lamp, he can make magic carpets fly and his dreams of riches come true. In order to win the love of the princess and save the kingdom, Aladdin will need more than a genie's magic! For children 4 and up.

LONG-RUNNING

IN MANHATTAN

"Frozen" on Broadway: St. James Theatre, 246 W. 44th St. (866) 870-2717; frozenthemusical.com; \$100 and up.

A musical worth melting for! If you loved the movie "Frozen," you'll love seeing Anna, Elsa, Kristoff, and Olaf come to life on stage to tell the timeless tale of two sisters who are pulled apart by a mysterious

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secret. Of course, there's the classic song "Let It Go," plus many new numbers for this new production.

Unseen Oceans: American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at W. 79th Street; (212) 769-5200; www.amnh.org; Daily, 10 am-5:45 pm; \$28 Adults, \$16.50 Children.

Take a deep dive into modern ocean exploration in this brand new exhibition at the American Museum of Natural History! Highlights include a virtual ride in a submersible into the shadowy depths and a magnetic sand table where visitors can dig trenches and form islands. There are also live marine animals such as comb jellies, seahorses, pipefishes, and chain catsharks.

Learning Through Art: Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, 1071 Fifth Ave. at 89th Street; (212) 423-3500; www.guggenheim.org; Daily, 10 am to 5 pm; until Wed, June 13; Free with general admission.

A Year with Children 2018, is an annual presentation, now in its 47th year, and showcases select artworks by students in grades two through six from the 11 public schools who participated in program. More than 100 creative and imaginative works, including collages, drawings, found objects, installations, paintings, sculpture, and prints will be on display.

Governors Island: New York Harbor; <https://govisland.com>; Weekdays, 10 am-6 pm, Saturdays and Sundays, 10 am-7 pm, Ferries run from Manhattan and Brooklyn. Check website for schedules and fares. Entry to the island is free.

This unique New York City destination is open for the season! The 172-acre island in the heart of New York Harbor has something for everyone, from biking, slides, play fountains and hammocks to tours of historic Fort Jay and Castle Williams.

"Neverland - Peter Returns": Swedish Cottage Marionette Theater, W. 79th Street and West Drive; (212) 988-9093; www.cityparksfondation.org; Tuesdays - Fridays, 10:30 am and 11:30 am, Saturdays and Sundays, 1 pm, \$12 (\$8 children).

The City Parks Foundation presents the original marionette play based on J.M. Barrie's iconic Peter Pan tales. This version is a spin on the beloved children's classic. Leaving their parents behind, the Darling children follow Peter Pan back home to Neverland for the adventure of a lifetime. When the cunning Captain Hook turns Peter's pals Tiger Lily and Tinker Bell against him, the children team up with the Never Boys to save the day, learning the value of forgiveness and friendship.

4-D Theater: Central Park Zoo, E. 64th Street and Fifth Avenue; <https://>

centralparkzoo.com; Daily, 11 am to 4 pm, until Sat, June 30; Free with Total Experience (\$7 per person).

An immersive experience featuring the visual drama of a 3-D film with a variety of built-in sensory effects. It's quite an adventure. Please note: this experience is geared for children ages 6 and up, and is not recommended for kids under age 4.

Changing Wedding Traditions in the 19th Century: Merchant's House Museum, 29 E. Fourth Street; (212) 777-1089; <https://www.nycgovparks.org/events/2018/06/02/exhibition-tredwell-brides-changing-wedding-traditions-in-the-19th-century>; Thursdays - Mondays, Noon to 8 pm, until Mon, July 30; \$15 (\$10 seniors/students; Free for children under 12).

Over the course of the 1800s, weddings in New York City evolved from intimate private ceremonies to large, lavish affairs. This exhibition explores the changes in wedding customs as the 19th century progressed. Highlights include Eliza Tredwell's 1820 empire-style embroidered cotton wedding dress and Sarah Ann Tredwell's 1872 silk bridal dress made in Paris, the highest fashion of the post-Civil War bustle period.

Little New-Yorkers: New-York Historical Society, 170 Central Park West at W. 77th Street; (212) 873-3400; www.nyhistory.org/childrens-museum/families; Tuesdays and Fridays, 3:30 pm, Fri, June 1 - Fri, June 29; 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 years old.

Summer on the Hudson - #TotallyPublicKaraoke: Pier 1 at Riverside Park South, W. 70th Street and Riverside Boulevard; 311; <https://www.nycgovparks.org/events/2018/06/01/summer-on-the-hudson-totallypublickaraoke>; Fridays, 6 pm to 10 pm, Fri, June 1 - Fri, Sept. 7; Free.

Amaze the crowd when you rock the mic at #TotallyPublicKaraoke nights. Bring your friends, your voice, and your courage. All ages! This is a popular event, so please note that sign-ups are required and close between 8:30 pm and 9 pm depending on attendance. You may not have a chance to sing. One song per person/group. We alternate young singers with adults in the lineup.

"Rennie Harris - Funkedified": The New Victory Theater, 209 W. 42nd St. between Seventh and Eighth avenues; (646) 223-3010; www.newvictory.org; Friday, June 1, 7 pm; Saturday, June 2, 2 pm and 7 pm; Sunday, June 3, noon and

5 pm; Friday, June 8, 7 pm; Saturday, June 9, 2 pm and 7 pm; Sunday, June 10, noon and 5 pm; \$16 and up.

Rennie Harris celebrates all that is funk in this world premiere show! With singular style, commanding control and astounding athleticism, the expressive and internationally-renowned street dancer and his group Puremovement break the boundaries of locking, popping, hip hop and more. Joined by The Hood Lockers and a live funk band, you are guaranteed to groove to the upbeat, the downbeat and every syncopation in between.

Saturday Sketching: Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, 1071 Fifth Ave. at 89th Street; (212) 423-3500; www.guggenheim.org; Saturdays, 10 am to 4 pm, until Sat, July 28; Free with general admission.

Prepared materials with drawing prompts encourage visitors to explore Frank Lloyd Wright's architectural shapes and spaces, and to record their perspectives through drawing. Free with museum admission.

Family Activity Kiosk: Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, 1071 Fifth Ave. at 89th Street; (212) 423-3500; www.guggenheim.org; Saturdays and Sundays, 10 am to 4 pm, until Sun, July 29; Free with general admission.

Families with children ages 4 and up borrow a Family Activity Pack with materials featuring fun conversation prompts and activity ideas to captivate the entire family.

Urban Farm Exploration Day: Urban Farm at Randall's Island, Wards Meadow Loop; (212) 830-7722; Saturdays and Sundays, 11 am to 5 pm.

Take a self-guided tour through the Urban Farm to see the variety of fruits and vegetables that we are growing this season. Our farmers have planted some surprising and interesting produce this year so we encourage you to come visit! All ages welcome.

"That Physics Show" and "That Chemistry Show": The Playroom Theater, 151 W. 46th Street; (212) 967-8278; www.sciencetheatercompany.com; Saturdays and Sundays, Noon and 3 pm, \$59.

The Science Theater Company, the newly formed theatre company founded by Producer Eric Krebs is now in its third year, delighting, amazing and educating audiences. The shows are performed in repertory on Saturday and Sunday.

Art on the Farm at Randall's Island Park: Urban Farm at Randall's Island Park, Wards Meadow Loop; (212) 830-7722; <https://www.nycgovparks.org/events/2018/06/02/art-on-the-farm-at-randalls-island-park>; Saturdays, 2 pm to 4 pm, Free.

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Join us for fun farm art projects that you can create and take home! All ages are welcome.

Open studios: Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, 1071 Fifth Ave. at 89th Street; (212) 423-3500; www.guggenheim.org; Sundays, 10 am to 4 pm, until Sun, July 29; Free with general admission.

Families with children ages 3 and up stop by the Sackler Center Studio Art Lab and create a work of art inspired by themes and materials from the Guggenheim's current exhibitions.

Youth Wheelchair Basketball:

Gertrude Ederle Recreation Center, 232 W. 60th St.; (646) 632-7344; www.nycgovparks.org/events/2018/03/04/youth-wheelchair-basketball-hosted-by-new-york-rolling-fury; Sundays, 1 pm to 3:30 pm, Free with center membership.

Hosted by the New York Rolling Fury. Have you ever wanted to learn how to play wheelchair basketball and know the rules inside and out? Well, here's your chance to learn from the best! Come out and scrimmage against other wheelchair basketball players from the NYC area.

Stargazing: On the High Line, 14th Street and the High Line; (212) 206-9922; <https://www.nycgovparks.org/events/2018/05/01/stargazing>; Tuesdays, 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm, Free.

Head to the High Line each Tuesday night for a romantic walk along the park and a chance to take a closer look at the stars. Peer through high-powered telescopes provided by the knowledgeable members of the Amateur

Astronomers Association of New York to see rare celestial sights. In the event of rain, Stargazing on the High Line will be cancelled.

"Panda's Home": The New Victory Theater, 209 W. 42nd St. between Seventh and Eighth avenues; (646) 223-3010; www.newvictory.org; Thursday, June 7, 10 am; Friday, June 8, 1 pm; Saturday, June 9, 10 am, 1 pm and 4 pm; Sunday, June 10, 10 am, 1 pm and 4 pm; Friday, June 15, 10 am; Saturday, June 16, 10 am, 1 pm and 4 pm; Sunday, June 17, 10 am, 1 pm and 4 pm; \$20.

Venture into the depths of China's rich culture! Fusing ancient art forms and contemporary dance, Italy's Compagnia TPO with Teatro Metastasio Di Prato and China's TONG Production invite little ones to follow a panda's footprints and roam a bamboo forest as they explore the five elements of Wu Xing — wood, fire, earth, metal and water. With kaleidoscopic imagery and the sounds of traditional instruments, "Panda's Home" is anything but black and white.

Summer in the Square: North Plaza - Union Square, E. 14th Street and Park Avenue South; (212) 460-1200; <https://www.nycgovparks.org/events/2018/06/14/summer-in-the-square>; Thursdays, 7 am to 8:30 pm, Thurs, June 14 - Thurs, Aug. 9; Free.

Family-friendly activities plus shows, live music and dance performances, and movie nights; interactive children's activities and performances from 9 am to 6 pm. Bring your family and friends for some summer

fun for the whole gang on the park's South Plaza!

"Cinderella": Galli Theater, 357 W. 36th St. #202; (212) 731-0668; www.gallitheaternyc.com/shows; Saturday, June 16, 2 pm; Sunday, June 17, 2 pm; Saturday, June 23, 2 pm; Sunday, June 24, 2 pm; Saturday, July 21, 2 pm; Sunday, July 22, 2 pm; Saturday, July 28, 2 pm; Sunday, July 29, 2 pm; \$20 (\$15 child).

Cinderella is joined by a new stepmother and stepsister, but they turn out not to be as nice as she had hoped. When the Prince invites everyone to the ball, they tell her she has to stay home and clean, clean clean. When she makes it to the castle and dances until the clock strikes midnight. Cinderella could live happily ever after if a certain glass slipper fits her foot. For children 3 and up.

FURTHER AFIELD

Dig! Plant! Grow! Scent-sational Herbs:

New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Blvd. at Fordham Rd., The Bronx; (718) 817-8700; www.nybg.org; Tuesdays - Sundays, 1:30-5:30pm, Tues, June 19 - Sun, July 15; Included in All-Garden Pass. Weekends: \$28 adults, \$12 children 2-12, children under 2 free. Weekdays: \$23 adults, \$10 children 2-12, children under 2 free.

Enjoy the Family Garden's herbal delights and learn more about the delicious sweet and savory herbs growing throughout the summer garden. Smell, touch and explore how herbs are used in all parts of our daily lives. Pot up your own herb plant to tend to at home.

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New & Noteworthy

BY LISA J. CURTIS

Catch of the day

When we're thinking of summer days spent scooping up seashells on the beach, we can't imagine an outfit that will help little ladies keep their cool longer than this Cute Well-Dressed Kids' frock.

The blue-and-white-striped cotton sundress is lavishly embroidered with lobsters, but the real shell-shocker is the large, red appliqué of the preppy crustacean on the back. Its front claws are securely clamped around the red-white-and-blue rope that forms the neckline.

But wait, there's more: This dress looks as adorable coming as it does going with a front yoke that features a button placket embellished with dainty blue ruffles. And for that perfect, seaside family portrait, the company offers matching shorts for brothers (\$36.50). Let the vacation packing commence!

Embroidered Lobster-Back Dress, \$69.50, cwdkids.com.



'Incredible' teamwork

Family game night can end with a whimper when a young player loses. To avoid that snafu, Wonder Forge comes to the rescue with a board game inspired by Disney Pixar's hotly anticipated animated film, "Incredibles 2."

The Incredibles Save the Day Game is hitting stores in tandem with the June 15 release of the sequel to 2004's "The Incredibles." In the new film, Holly Hunter's Elastigirl is reunited with Craig T. Nelson's Mr. Incredible, and Sarah Vowell as their daughter, Violet. (Their son Dash is voiced by newcomer Huck Milner.)

In the game, 1 to 4 players (ages 6 and older), take on the role of a member of the family and work as a team to fix problems around Metroville, defeat the villains (Screenslaver, Screech, Voyd, and more), and rescue baby Jack-Jack teleports. The novelty is that your family wins as the team of heroes that they are, or — whoops — they all go down together. When playing cards reveal a crime or a road has been destroyed, the game board changes, so your Incredible family is never playing the same game twice.

Each player has unique powers which they can use to solve dilemmas, while playing as a team encourages cooperation. Win or lose, your family members are attempting to save the day — and make Incredible memories — together.

The Incredibles Save the Day board game, \$19.99, Amazon.com.



Father's Day songs

Don't get caught empty-handed on Sunday, June 17, when it's time to celebrate all the

dads in the family! For patri-archs — and kids ages 3–7 — who love happy tunes and relish a dance party, check out the first CD from Like Father Like Son. The newly formed duo is comprised of indie music legends Lou Gallo (of Lou Gallo & The Very Hungry Band fame) and his son,

Frank Gallo (of Brooklyn's Rolie Polie Guacamole band).

Their debut album, "Sun is a Star" has father-son themed songs including the quiet, reflective "Like My Dad" and the upbeat, "Like Father Like Son." Catch them live for free on June 8 at 6 pm at the Vanderbilt YMCA [224 East 47th St. in Manhattan] and on June 10 at 4 pm at the J.J. Byrne Playground [344 Fifth Ave. in Brooklyn].

"Sun is a Star" CD by Like Father Like Son, \$15, digital download, \$10, CDBaby.com.

Memento for a mentor

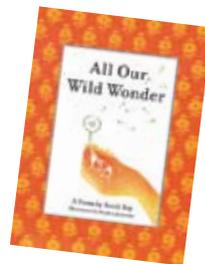
Before students and parents pack their suitcases for their much-deserved summer getaways, they should take a moment to thank the educators who have made a difference. Poet Sarah Kay's new book, "All our Wild Wonder" (Hachette Books), can be your go-to gift for that special mentor.

Kay's latest single-poem volume is a wonderful childhood reminiscence about a principal that fascinated and inspired

5-year-old Kay, who grew up to be a writer and educator.

Skilled line drawings by Sophia Janowitz evoke the wistful, fragmented nature of Kay's happy memories.

"All our Wild Wonder" book by Sarah Kay, \$12, BarnesAndNoble.com.



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