

BANANAS

newsletter

APRIL-MAY, 2003, VOL. XXVIII, # 4



REETINGS –

Spring is springing up all over. We wish the state and world news were not so at odds with the beauty of the nature around us.

Consider this an invitation to **Stand for Children** on **May 7** in **Sacramento**. **Parent Voices** is sponsoring this event for the 7th year in a row – ever since **Marion Wright Edelman** of the **Children’s Defense Fund** put out the call to stand for children and a half a million people responded by coming to the Mall in Washington, D.C. Every day it becomes clearer that families need to continually remind policymakers that children and their well-being must be a local and national priority. This year, parents (and everyone who wants to join them) will be converging on Sacramento to express themselves and show their commitment to making a brighter future for all children and their families. Help in the planning or just take the day off to join us. Call Kim Kruckel or Sue Retherford at 658-7353 to find out the details. (See page 3.)

We know it’s all been said. But, we can’t let this edition be published without adding our voice to the praise for **Mr. Rogers’** lifelong demonstration of his commitment to children. We know some people absolutely adored him and others couldn’t stand the sound of his voice (we have those opinions staunchly held right here in our office!), but we do agree that he showed true respect for children. Wouldn’t it be a better world if we all could remember to respect children? One of

our favorite Mr. Rogers’ quotes: “Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But, for children play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood.” (See article on page 4.)

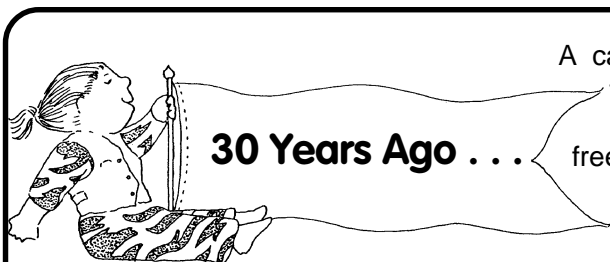
A warm welcome to new BANANAS baby **Ence Chan Dikousman** born to staff member **Samay Thongkham** on March 24th!

We want to thank all of you who e-mailed or wrote us to tell us how BANANAS has helped you over the years. We were astounded at the breadth of the responses and gratified by the quantity. One day we got twenty e-mails in 15 minutes. The immediate threat to the survival of Child Care Resource & Referral (the bureaucratic name for agencies like BANANAS) has been beaten back for now. But, we’ll hang on to those letters, just in case. Thank you, truly.

The **East Bay Heritage Quilters** have come through again, donating quantities of baby quilts to us so they can be wrapped around babies in need. This unique group has been quietly spreading their warmth through us and other organizations for many years now.

We meant to mention in the last issue all of the CPR-First Aid instructors who taught the thousands of folks who took our CPR classes over the years. Thanks to Vella Black-Roberts, Seuiying Lew, Wendy Sherman, and Jueleah Spencer as well as all of those on our own staff who have made a difference in the safety and quality of child care in the Bay Area.

Happy Mother’s Day, moms! Peace.



A call went out through the playgroup grapevine that the fledgling group called BANANAS, A Place to Find Playmates, was looking for volunteers to put together ideas for free and low-cost things to do with kids. A dozen mothers responded and started work on the first *BANANAS’ Guide for Underfives*. The fifth and last edition was a 220-page book published by Wingbow Press in 1982.

SPRING BOOTIES CAMP

Designed for new parents and ones who are expecting, this series of workshops will meet **Fridays, 6-8 pm** Learn from baby specialists about *Baby Basics* (April 4), *Feeding Your Baby* (April 11), *Sleep* (April 18), *Reading with Babies* (April 25) and *Baby Massage* (May 2). You can register for one or more topics by calling us at 658-7353. We provide refreshments. You can bring your baby, of course. See box below.

LIVING WITH THREES & FOURS

The boundless energy and curiosity of 3 and 4 year olds can try most parents' patience as well as warm their hearts. **Meg Zweiback**, nurse practitioner, mom and *Parent's Press* columnist, will give parents an overview of what to expect from this age group along with suggestions for coping. Meg's terrific sense of humor helps put even this worrisome developmental challenge in perspective. Come on **Tuesday, April 22, 7-8:30 pm**. Preregister early; see box below.

NEW MOMS GROUP FORMING!

Are you a new mother trying to figure out how to juggle life's demands? Come to BANANAS on **Wednesdays, April 16, 23, 30 and May 7, 10 am to 12 pm** for sharing and support facilitated by Susannah Maddock, experienced Mom. See box below to register.

PARENTS: TELL YOUR IN-HOME CAREGIVER

Our support group for in-home caregivers offers guidance, information and networking opportunities for a job which can feel isolated. The next meeting will be on **Tuesday, July 15 from 6:30-9 pm**. Call Aregash, Carmen or Janet at 658-7353 for information.

KINDERGARTEN READINESS FOR PARENTS

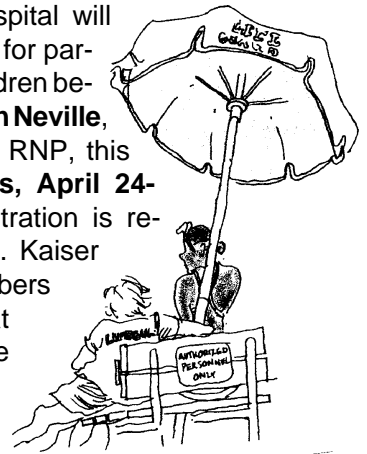
What should you expect in terms of what kids do in kindergarten? How do you prepare yourself as a parent for this big, sometimes frightening step? Our workshop on **Tuesday, April 29 from 7-8:30pm**, covers helpful tips and advice from former BANANAS staff member **Susannah Maddock**, who has taught kindergarten and is the parent of a current kindergartner. See box below.

TEENS - GET READY FOR SUMMER JOBS

BANANAS is offering a course especially designed for teen caregivers on First Aid and emergency care of babies and small children. Teens will learn life saving techniques from a qualified instructor on **Tuesday and Wednesday, June 17 and 18, 1-5 pm**. The cost is \$25. Call 658-7353 for registration form. Teens over the age of 13 can fill out an application form to be listed in our teenage babysitting file.

SPIRITED CHILD SERIES IN THE SPRING

BANANAS and Kaiser Hospital will cosponsor a six week class for parents who have "spirited" children between 1-5 years. Led by **Helen Neville, BS, RN**, and **Sue Jensen, RNP**, this class meets on **Thursdays, April 24-May 29, 7-9 pm**. Preregistration is required by calling 752-1456. Kaiser members pay \$20; non-members pay \$40. Call BANANAS at 658-7353 to reserve a space for child care. Limited child care is available for \$5.



WORKSHOP REGISTRATION INFORMATION: Preregistration is required for these workshops, 658-7353. Limited child care is available as a service to families with no other alternatives. The fee for child care is \$5 per child and **you must register and pay one week in advance** to secure a child care reservation; scholarships are available. Please be on time to the workshops. **Note:** If you need any special accommodations in order to attend any of these workshops, please let us know at least two weeks before the event by calling Vicki, 658-7353.

TAKE YOUR DAUGHTERS AND SONS TO WORK

The Ms. Foundation encouraged Americans to "take our daughters to work," and over a 10 year period, 70 million did just that! Now the event has changed to "Take Our Daughters *and* Sons to Work Day" for children aged 8-12 and this year the date is **Thursday, April 24**. For information on activities to encourage kids to think about how to balance work and family, visit www.daughtersandsonstowork.org.

TURN OFF THE TV, TURN ON LIFE

It is TV Turnoff Week on **April 21-27**, a nationwide program dedicated to turning off the TV for one week to show the benefits of reading and getting more exercise—at any age. You can order a 2003 Organizer's Kit for \$15, which includes 101 screen-free activities, news articles, posters, bumper stickers, various suggested readings, and more. Call (800) 939-6737 or visit the web site at www.tv-turnoff.org.

LEGISLATIVE SNIPS



The Legislature has finally been able to turn its attention to the proposed State Budget for 2003-04. Up until now, they have spent all this time readdressing the budget we're all currently operating under. To our recollection, never before has the Legislature had to go back to revise a budget which was already passed, at least not this late in the fiscal year.

So far, the Governor's proposal to "realign" child care (and other services) to the county level has received a cool reception from many legislators. At the end of March, the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee rejected the proposal outright. **Senator John Vasconcellos** on the committee said that we need to maintain quality child care standards statewide.

An *ad hoc* committee of statewide child care groups, now called the **California Partnership for Early Care and Education**, has taken a strong stand against realignment and is meeting to find cost savings in order to remain in the Department of Education and continue serving California's children and families with child care services.

Democrats and Republicans alike are loath to take away child care services from families who are struggling to work and be productive. They are very receptive to parents' individual stories about how child care assistance keeps them working. (See below for an opportunity to have your stories heard at the May 7th Stand for Children in Sacramento.)

Meanwhile, fiscal crisis or no, the Legislature has introduced a full docket of bills to review and consider.

Among the bills being considered are:

- **AB 422** introduced by **Wilma Chan** to require the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to finish its work on a pilot project which would make alternative coursework available to child care providers.
- **AB 1134 (Spitzer)** to extend the current policy of allowing students to receive interdistrict transfers for child care reasons until January 1, 2010; the current policy will expire July 1 of this year.
- **AB 1684 (Pavley)** to require a notice be posted in all child care facilities when a site visit occurs.
- **AB 1327 (Wyland)** to limit who can take advantage of Paid Family Leave.
- **SB14 (Escutia)** to establish funds for new construction or expansion of center-based child care and after school programs.
- **AB 72 (Bates)** to require child care resource & referral agencies (like BANANAS) to stop referrals to providers when a TSO is issued, a license revoked or when a provider is placed on probation; although under our referral policies, BANANAS already does stop referrals under these conditions, this is not uniformly done statewide.
- **AB51 (Simitian)** to require cities and counties to include planning for the distribution of child care centers in new or revised general plans after January 1, 2005.

And, the Federal Government? Well, suffice it to say they would rather spend our tax dollars elsewhere than to fund child care to the extent needed. In fact, the current legislative child care proposal would represent a cut in Federally-funded services over time.

Call us any time for details.



Wednesday, May 7 is our **7th annual**

Stand for Children! This is your chance to speak your mind, in person, and be heard! Here's what you can expect if you join us for Stand for Children Day:

8:00 am A luxurious bus ride to the State Capitol

9:30 Child Care Policy Briefing: Up-to-date Legislative information about child care programs

11:00 Short March and Rally with guest speakers, songs, and parent testimony.

12:00 Lunch on the Capitol Lawn

PARENT VOICES

1:00-3:00pm Visits to legislators, key

committee members, and government officials

3:15 Leave Sacramento, arrive at BANANAS around 5:00.

Donations for the trip are welcome. Parent Voices advocates for quality child care for all young children. We encourage parents to use their regular child care on Stand For Children Day. For more information about Stand for Children, come to a meeting, **Thurs., April 24, 7 pm** at BANANAS.

LIFE IS MESSY . . . HAVE MESSY FUN WITH KIDS

Play is truly children's work. There are whole toy boxes filled with articles, books and research documenting the tremendous importance of play in the growth and development of healthy children. Whether it is the early play of babies as they explore the world through their senses or the imaginary play of older children, it is crucial. What we adults call "play" or "playful" activities should not be underestimated, for often it is the most important part of any child's learning.

What's wrong with making a mess? Many parents worry about children's clothes getting dirty, or having trouble getting paint out of hair. Some parents think that if children are messy at the end of the day they have been neglected or unsupervised by the caregiver. Usually, the opposite is true – a great amount of activity has been going on. Messy play is fun play if you are young, and judging by the looks on the faces of child care providers who take our BANANAS messy play activity workshops, it's fun at any age.

Here are some of our staff's suggestion for getting "down and dirty."

WATER PROJECTS:

If you have a water table for the children to stand around, use it as often as you can. Give the children different sized containers for measuring and pouring. Or, wash the baby dolls and listen for the talk as children with new brothers and sisters give their babies a bath and sometimes hold their heads under water a little too long! If you do not have a water table, wash basins on the ground will work fine. Or, allow children to play at the kitchen sink. Then use the spilled water to mop the floor. A sink full of soapy bubbles is good for a solid chunk of messy and scientific energetic time.

Painting with Water: Using different-sized brushes, paint on the sidewalk. Remember to tell children that their beloved projects will not last.

DIRT, MUD and OTHER GRIMY PROJECTS:

Go outside and find a good place to play with water and mud. Play in the dirt. Make mudpies and then *pretend* to eat them. Play in the sand making pies, cakes and other delicious things to pretend eat.

Damp dirt on sheet of paper: Put a small amount of dirt on the middle of a sheet of paper. Shake slightly from side to side and watch dirt develop into small peaks. The physical world is really alive!

Mr. or Ms. Grasshead: Put about $\frac{2}{3}$ T. of grass seed into the foot of an old pantyhose. Cut the pantyhose above the ankle. Add about 1 - 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups of soil on top.

Tie a knot in the end to keep the soil from falling out. Paint Mr. or Ms. Grasshead's face. Fill a yogurt cup about $\frac{3}{4}$ full with water. Make sure to leave a long enough tail on the panty hose so it reaches the water. Keep adding water so the grass will grow. Enjoy!

For more grimy fun, *visit a compost pile* and look for worms and slugs. These remarkable creatures are generally slow and easy to watch. Pick them up if you have the nerve, or allow the children to do so, if you feel a little squeamish.

MESSY ART STUFF:

Ooblihook: Put 2 cups of warm water and 3 cups of cornstarch together and mix in a bowl with your hands. See what happens to the mixture when left alone and when you hold it in your hands.

Silly Putty: Mix together 2 parts Elmer's Glue and 1 part liquid starch. If the mixture is too sticky, add more starch. (Add food coloring for variety). Cover and refrigerate overnight. This silly putty can be cut with a scissors or pulled or twisted.

Shaving Cream Projects: Place a large table cloth on a child's size table and give the children cans of shaving cream (or if they are younger, put it out on the table for them). Watch them create clouds, streaks, blobs, whatever. Talk about the smell and the texture as well as the sound the spray cans make. Not for children who still put everything in their mouths. Clean-up is easy – all you need is soap and water.

Printing: Press any of the following objects first in paint and then on a surface: gadgets, blocks, sponges, twigs, string, stones, left over pieces of fruit and vegetables, spools, leaves, feet, feathers, fingers, cork. (See our "Mini Art Guide" handout for additional suggestions on playdough and fingerpaints.)

COOKING PROJECTS:

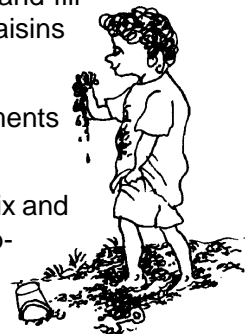
Explore the world of senses in every cooking project you do. How do the ingredients look, feel, smell, taste?

Worm in the Mud: Break up graham crackers and layer with chocolate pudding. Children can hide gummy worms in the "soil."

Bugs on a Log: Use celery as your log and fill with peanut butter (cream cheese). Put raisins on the top.

Both of these activities are great supplements to any book about bugs.

Cooking projects in which the children mix and measure ingredients and see what happens is fun. Don't avoid letting children make a mess. The learning opportunity is worth the clean up!



ONGOING BANANAS' EVENTS: For more information or to register, please call 658-7353. All of these events are held at BANANAS, 5232 Claremont Avenue, Oakland.

Choosing Infant Care Workshop: Choosing child care for a baby can seem a difficult and scary responsibility. This workshop will help parents understand the options and give support in selecting appropriate care. The next workshops are **Wednesdays, May 14 and June 11 at 10 am**. A nighttime workshop will be held **Tuesday, May 27 at 7 pm**. Feel free to bring baby.

Family Child Care Provider Orientation: Anyone who wants to obtain a family child care license must attend a Dept. of Social Services meeting on the 2nd or 3rd Thurs. of each month, at 1 pm. Information on BANANAS' services is also given. Participation is limited to the **first 30 people who make a reservation**, 658-7353. We begin taking reservations for the following month on the 1st working day of the month. DSS allows no children.

Babysitter/In-Home Caregiver Orientation in Spanish: BANANAS ofrece juntas de orientación en español para niñeras. Para más información llámenos al teléfono 658-7353. Las fechas son **martes, 22 y 29 de abril y 20 y 27 de mayo del 2003 a las 2 pm**.

Babysitter/In-Home Caregiver Orientation in Vietnamese : BANANAS sẽ giới thiệu và hướng dẫn các bà mẹ và các cô giáo về việc tìm kiếm và tuyển dụng nhân viên chăm sóc trẻ em. Thông tin chi tiết xin liên hệ số điện thoại 658-7353. Các buổi học sẽ được tổ chức vào ngày **Thứ 7, 23 Tháng 5 & 21 Tháng 6, lúc 2 giờ chiều**.
• **15 Hour Health/Safety Course in Vietnamese - 15 Giờ Lớp Chăm sóc sức khỏe và An toàn cho Trẻ em**, gồm 2 lớp học dành cho các bà mẹ và các cô giáo về Gia đình hay làm việc với trẻ em. Các buổi học sẽ được tổ chức vào ngày **Thứ 6, 3 và 10 Tháng 6, từ 9 giờ sáng đến 5 giờ chiều**.

Teenage Babysitting Class: This class gives an introduction to child development and practical babysitting hints on **Tuesday, May 13, 4-5:30 pm**. Pre-teens are welcome but you must be 13 to be in our teen babysitting file.

Parent First Aid and Emergency Care For Babies and Small Children: Learn lifesaving techniques from a first aid specialist. Each class is offered in two sessions. The first session addresses safety and first aid. The second session is on Infant-Child CPR. Both sessions are on **Sundays, 4-7 pm**. A class will be held on **May 4 & 18**. You must send a registration form & a check payable to BANANAS to reserve a space. Fee: \$30; \$50 for parent-couples.

到家保姆登記日 Babysitter/In-Home Caregiver Orientation in Chinese: 華語星期二、四，英語星期五早上十時正 (約一小時) 請預備兩位居美僱主或朋友的姓名，地址及電話作保薦。

CPR Classes in Spanish & Chinese – see page 9

Child Development Corps News

Your Career Advocate is here to help! Need assistance finding the right courses and workshops for your professional growth? Looking for career advice and support? Call **Joya Chavarin**, Career Advocate at BANANAS, for all of the listed events, 658-7353.

If you have a minimum of 6 early childhood units and worked in Alameda County at a family child care home or child care center for at least 20 hours per week last year, you may qualify for a professional recognition stipend from the Child Development Corps. For returning students, make sure your mailing address is current with the Corps. If you have not received an application by the week of May 19th, call 667-7451. The application period ends July 12.

You can become a Professional Growth Advisor. If you are at level 2 in the Child Development Corps, and have at least 3 years experience, come to a training at BANANAS on **Tuesday, April 8 from 6:30-9:30 pm**.

Learn how to assess your classroom or family child care using the Harms/Clifford Rating Scale. For centers, attend the **Sat., April 26** BANANAS training from **2:30-5:30pm**. For family child care, attend the **Tues., May 6** training from **6:30-9:30 pm**.

Come fill out your paperwork for the child development permit in a supportive group at BANANAS on **Friday, April 18, 6:30-9:30pm** or **May 9, 6:30-8:30 pm**.

Pre-registration required for all of the above workshops: 658-7353.

APRIL – April is Child Abuse Prevention, Earthquake Preparedness Month and the Month of the Young Child. For more information on child abuse, call the Child Abuse Prevention Council, 780-8989; for more information on Earthquake Preparedness, call the Office of Emergency Services, 286-0895, www.oes.ca.gov

To plan Spring Break activities for your child, talk to other parents, contact your local recreation department or recreation center, the nearest library, YMCAs, Tilden Park, Crab Cove, Fairyland, MOCHA, Lawrence Hall of Science, Shorebird Nature Center/Adventure Playground or call BANANAS at 658-0381.

- 3-6/1 Kids Collect: CA History in the Making Exhibit, Oakland Museum, objects contributed by students in Oakland schools, 238-2200, www.museumca.org
- 3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 17, 22, 23 Word for Word presents "Stories by Sandra Cisneros," Oakland branch libraries, 238-3615, www.oaklandlibrary.org
- 4, 11, 18, 25 & 5/2 **Booties Camp** at BANANAS, page 2
- 5 & 6 Open Studio with Artist-in-Residence Lien Truong, Oakland Museum, every Saturday and Sunday through 4/27, all ages welcome, 238-2200, www.museumca.org
- 6 Baba Ken and the Nigerian Brothers, 3-4:30 pm, Ashkenaz Music & Dance Community, ages 2-6, 525-5099 ext 2#, www.ashkenaz.com
- 6-12 **Week of the Young Child**, www.naeyc.org/woyc
- 6-12 **National Library Week** – Visit the library! For children's events and activities: Albany, 526-3720; Alameda, 748-4662; Berkeley, 981-6223; Oakland, 238-3615; www.oaklandlibrary.org; or contact your local library
- 7, 8, 9, 12 Hambone Ham Tech with Derique at the Berkeley Libraries, 4/7: 3 pm at South branch, 981-6260, 4/8: 4 pm at West, 981-6270, 7 pm at North branch, 981-6250, 4/12: 2 pm at Central, 981-6223
- 8 **Professional Growth Advisors Training**, page 5
- 8 **Family Law Clinic**, also 4/22, 5/13 & 27 and 6/10, see back cover for details
- 12 Spring Festival, 11-6 pm, International House, Berkeley, 642-9460, www.ihouse.berkeley.edu

12 CAL Day, 9 am-4 pm, UC Berkeley, 642-2294, www.berkeley.edu/calday

12 Wild Pond, City Pond, 10-11:30 am, Crab Cove, 521-6887

12 Leaf Printing, 2-3:30 pm, Tilden Nature Area, 525-2233

12 Earth Day Celebration, 10 am-3 pm, Oakland Zoo, 632-9525

12 CA State Parks Cleanup, 9 am-1 pm, volunteers of all ages needed, (888) 98- PARKS, www.calparks.org

12 "Cantemos Juntos", 10:30 am, La Peña, 849-2568, www.lapena.org

12 Family Farm Day: Spring Crafts, Slide Ranch, Marin, (415) 381-6155



- 12 & 27 Earth Day Activities for families, Save the Bay, 452-9261, www.savesfbay.org/cbrmain.html
- 13 Magician Dick Newton, 1-2 pm, Berkeley Richmond JCC, 236-SHOW, www.TheBuddyClub.com
- 13-19 National Infant Immunization Week – health questions: CA Child Care Healthline, (800) 333-3212; Berkeley Health Dept. Clinic infant immunizations Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1-4 pm, 981-5350; for low cost immunization locations in Alameda County: (888) 604-4636; for blue immunization cards, call BANANAS
- 16, 23, 30 & 5/7 **New Moms Group**, see page 2
- 16 **Preschool and Child Care Day**, see page 8
- 16 **PASSOVER** begins at sundown
- 18 & 5/9 **Child Dev. Permit Application Nights**, page 5
- 19 Los Mapaches, 10:30 am, La Peña, 849-2568, www.lapena.org
- 19 Kids on the Block Puppet Shows, 2 pm, Hall of Health, Berkeley, 549-1564, www.hallofhealth.org
- 19 City of Oakland Celebrates Earth Day, 9 am-noon, Public Works Events Hotline/Earth Day Project, 238-7611
- 19 Super Solutions for Earth Day, 11 am-noon, Crab Cove, ages 5-8, 521-6887
- 19 Berkeley Earth Day Fair, noon-5 pm, Civic Center Park, also Farmer's Market Family Farm Day (Ecology Center, 548-3333, www.ecologycenter.org), Karen Hester: 654-6346, www.hesternet.net
- 19 Coastal CleanUp Day, Jack London Square,
- 19 Physics of Toys: Ecology, noon-4 pm, in celebration of Earth Day, Exploratorium, (415) 563-7337, www.exploratorium.edu
- 19 Eggster Hunt Learning Festival, Valley Life Sciences Building Lawn, UC Berkeley, 643-2033
- 20 **HAPPY EASTER** – Easter Egg Hunts: 4/18, 3:30-4pm, FM Smith Recreation Center, 238-7742; 4/20, 9 am, Montclair Recreation Center, co-sponsored by the Montclair Lions Club, Rec. Center: 482-7812
- 20 Egg Hunt & Estuary Eggs-ploration, 10:30-11:30, Crab Cove, 521-6887
- 20 Old-Fashioned Easter Celebration, Dunsmuir Historic Estate, also Family Sundays on the 1st & 3rd Sundays, 615-5555
- 21-27 **TV-Turnoff Week**, see page 2
- 22 **Living with 3's & 4's with Meg Zweiback**, page 2
- 22 **EARTH DAY** – celebrate and enjoy our planet
- 23-27 Pacific Sail Expo, Jack London Square, (866) 295-9853, www.jacklondonsquare.com
- 24 **Spirited Child Class** begins, see page 2
- 24 **Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work Day**, P. 2
- 24 Health and Justice Fair, 9 am-2 pm, St. Mary's Center, Oakland, 893-4723 ext. 209
- 26 Berkeley Bay Festival, noon-5 pm, Berk. Marina, 644-8623, www.cityofberkeley.info/marina/bayfest.htm
- 26 Crab Cove Up Close, 2:30-4 pm, 521-6887
- 26 Bonnie Lockhart, 10:30 am, La Peña, 849-2568, www.lapena.org

- 26 **Harms/Clifford Training for Centers**, page 5
- 26-27 Family Sundown Safari, 6 pm-10 am, Oakland Zoo, 632-9525
- 27 "Daffy Dave": ClownComedy, Magic & Juggling, 1-2pm, Berkeley Richmond JCC, 236-SHOW, www.TheBuddyClub.com
- 29 **Kindergarten Readiness for Parents**, see page 2

MAY – *May is World Asthma Awareness Month. For kit, contact EPA, (800) 438-4318, www.epa.gov/asthma.*

- 3 HOPEFEST 2003, noon-5 pm, Jack London Square, (866) 295-9853, www.jacklondonsquare.com
- 5 **CINCO DE MAYO** – celebrations 5/4: Oakland, Fruitvale District, Parade and Festival, 11 am-6 pm, 869-3933, www.cincodemayo.net; Berkeley, noon-5pm, James Kenney Park, also 4/28-5/5 Semana de la Raza on UC campus and 4/26 Open House at BAHIA-Centro Vida 9 am-noon, 540-1046 ext. 10
- 5, 12, 19 **Parenting Classes en español**, see page 9
- 6 **Harms/Clifford Training for FCC**, page 5
- 7 **Stand for Children in Sacramento**, pages 1 & 3
- 9 Provider Appreciation Day, (888) 334-7781
- 10-18 Youth Arts Festival, Zeum @ Yerba Buena Gardens, art created by SF K-12 students, (415) 750-8630, www.sfyouthartsfestival.org
- 11 **HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY**
- 11 A Revels Mother's Day Celebration with John Langstaff, 2 pm, Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, California Revels: 452-9334
- 11 Mother's Day Concert: Oakland Youth Orchestra and

Youth Chorus, noon-1 pm, Oakland Museum, 238-2200, www.museumca.org

- 11 Mother's Day Celebration, Slide Ranch, Marin, (415) 381-6155
- 12-7/12 **2003 Corps Application Period**, see page 5
- 15 Caring for Kids with Mobility Challenges, 7 pm, Fremont, details on page 9
- 17 Kids on the Block Puppet Shows, 2 pm, Hall of Health, Berkeley, 549-1564, www.hallofhealth.org
- 17-18 Bay Area Storytelling Festival, Kennedy Grove, El Sobrante, www.bayareastorytelling.org
- 17 & 18 Himalayan Fair, Live Oak Park, 869-3995
- 17 & 20 Strawberry Tastings at Berkeley Farmers' Markets, Saturday 10 am-3 pm, Center St @ ML King Jr. Way, Tuesday 2-7 pm, Derby St. @ ML King Jr. Way, Ecology Center: 548-3333, www.ecologycenter.org
- 20 **Immunization Assessment Workshop**, see page 9
- 21 **FCC Orientation en español**, see page 9
- 31 **UC Davis Class for FCC en español**, see page 9



JUNE and beyond – upcoming BANANAS' workshops
Call BANANAS for information on the upcoming workshop about caring for children with asthma

- 3 **Child Care, Hazardous to Your Health?**, see below
- 7 & 14 **UC Davis Family Child Care Classes**, p. 9
- 7 & 14 **FCC Classes en español**, see page 9
- 17 & 18 **Teen First Aid**, see page 2
- 7/15 **In-Home Caregiver Support Group**, see page 2

➡ **Please see page 5 for Ongoing BANANAS' Workshops**

CHILD CARE – HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH?

This workshop, sponsored by Bayer, focuses on family child care providers and covers the OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) laws that affect you if you hire assistants. Learn about common injuries and how to inform your employees about ways to reduce injuries. This workshop on **Tuesday, June 3** from **7-8:30 pm** will be led by **Judy Calder**, RN, MPH. Professional growth certificates and plenty of handouts for participants; call 658-7353 to register.

HANDOUTS AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE

All of our English handouts (and some of our Spanish handouts) can be downloaded from our website at www.bananasinc.org. Upcoming events, workshops and classes are on the website's events calendar.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER UPDATE

BANANAS no longer maintains a substitute teacher list. If you are a family child care provider or center in need of a substitute, contact Project HUG, 533-0431 or Temp Care Teachers' Connection, (650) 577-8367.

DO YOU CARE FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS?

A new grant opportunity through the Low Income Investment Fund promotes the inclusion of children with special needs in child care programs in several counties, including Alameda. Grants to licensed child care centers and large family child care homes will support facilities enhancements or equipment purchases to meet the needs of children with disabilities. If you are interested, call Gail Wechsler, 893-3811 X327 or gwechsler@liifund.org.

IS YOUR CAR SEAT INSTALLED CORRECTLY?

In Alameda County, more than 95% of children's car seats are used or installed incorrectly. Come to *free* car seat check ups and have trained technicians help you ensure your child rides safely. On **Saturday, May 10** from **10am-noon**, come to Bay Fair Mall, Fairmont and E. 14th St., San Leandro. On **Saturday, May 17, 10am-noon**, come to Hinks Parking Garage, 2020 Kittredge St., Berkeley.

BANANA Splints

Judy Calder R.N.



Dear Judy,
I heard that it is best to use antibacterial soap in my child care program. Should I use that or the clear gel for handwashing?

Eyana

Dear Eyana,

Many child care providers have questions about what type of soap to use because there are so many choices that it gets confusing. Antibacterial soap is not the preferred soap to use because:

- 1) Studies have shown that there is little or no evidence that the antibacterial products add additional protection against bacteria, and that they may add to our public health problem of resistant bacteria.
- 2) Antibacterial soap is usually applied in ways that allow it to work properly.
- 3) Both viruses and bacteria are common causes of illness and bacterial soaps are not designed to kill viruses, a more common cause of illness in child care. A false sense of security can lead to less vigilance about handwashing.

While alcohol-based gel, liquid or foam hand sanitizers are preferred for hospital use, they may not be appropriate for child care settings. (They are good in situations where running water is not available, such as field trips.) More research is needed to determine their safety and effectiveness for ongoing use in child care programs. The concern centers on their potential for toxicity in young children and infants who put everything in their mouths and can ingest small amounts over time. In addition, these sanitizers must be applied according to manufacturers' directions in order to be effective, and those instructions vary product by product. Most health professionals and the Center for Communicable Disease recommend the old tried and true soap and running water as the best method to use when washing hands for children, staff and parents.

When to wash hands is important. Providers need to wash their hands upon arrival for the day or when

moving from one child care group to another. They should also wash before and after a great many activities including: eating, handling food, feeding a child, giving medication, playing in water that is used by more than one person, diapering, using the toilet or helping a child use a toilet, handling body fluids, handling uncooked food, especially raw meat and poultry, playing in sandboxes, cleaning or handling garbage, or handling animals.

Children should be given help to wash at a sink. An alternative if a child is too young or too heavy to lift is wiping the child's hands with a wet soapy towel followed by a wet towel to remove the soap. Handwashing is the most important infection control measure you can use in your child care program or in your home.

Yours in Sickness and Health, Judy

CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS

Attention: all child care providers. Let everyone know that **April 16** is "Preschool and Child Care Day." The focus this year is on immunizations that affect respiratory health. This includes pertussis (to prevent whooping cough), pneumococcal and flu vaccines. Please review your children's records and let parents know when and what immunizations are due. If you need current schedules and advice, call Renee Cheney-Cohen at 268-2139, or be sure to attend the immunization workshop listed on page 9 of this newsletter.

Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for our two handouts, "Promoting Health & Hygiene in a Child Care Setting" and "In Sickness & In Health — Establishing Illness Policies," or download them at www.bananasinc.org.



IMMUNIZATION UPDATE FOR CHILD CARE

Child care regulations require that all children in child care programs be up-to-date on their immunizations. Come to an Immunization Assessment workshop on **Tuesday, May 20, 7-8:30 pm**. Child care providers will learn how to read the child's immunization record and develop tracking systems to notify parents when immunizations are due. Participants will receive the new California Immunization Handbook for Child Care Programs, immunization posters and calendar, and a special immunization health curriculum to use with children. Infant-toddler caregivers will be given a tracking box. Professional growth certificates available; call 658-7353 to reserve a space.

CARING FOR KIDS WITH MOBILITY CHALLENGES

Come to a hands-on workshop on **Thursday, May 15 at 7 pm** to learn about ways to adapt seating, toys and your environment to help all young children participate fully in your program's daily play and learning activities. Special feeding strategies and techniques will also be covered. Co-sponsored by Family Resource Network and CA Children's Services, the workshop will be held at Glankler Medical Therapy Unit, Fremont, call Sharon at 584-3118 to register.

CELEBRATE THE DAY OF THE CHILD

Wednesday, April 30 is the Day of the Child in many Latin-American countries. Parents who have children living in their native country can come to BANANAS from **3 to 6 pm** and our staff will help you write and mail your letter to your child, along with a beautiful photo of you! Call Blanca at 658-7353 for information.

UC DAVIS CLASSES THIS SPRING

On **Saturday, June 7**, Culturally Consistent Care examines the values, beliefs and practices that stem from each person's culture. What are your cultural beliefs and practices? How do you learn about each infant's home culture? This workshop, from **9 am to 1pm**, emphasizes the role of the family child care provider in helping each child form a healthy identity.

Loss, Trauma and Young Children, on **Sat., June 14** from **9am to 1 pm**, addresses the emotional impact of loss and trauma on young children. In addition to concrete information for increasing the physical safety of children in family child care, the course

explores the provider's role in helping children cope with stressful events, such as divorce, separation and changing caregivers. Call 658-7353 to register for either workshop held at BANANAS.



¿HABLA ESPAÑOL? – BANANAS' Services to Spanish Speaking Caregivers and Parents Para más información o inscripción para cualquiera de las clases siguientes, llame al 658-7353.

Clases de salud y seguridad – La próxima serie de clases en español será los **sábados 5 de abril** (Salud Preventiva), **12 de abril** (Primeros Auxilios) y **3 de mayo** (Resucitación Cardio-Pulmonar), **10 am-3 pm**. Esta serie se repetirá en agosto del 2003.

Clases para padres – La próxima serie de clases en español será los **lunes 5, 12 y 19 de mayo del 2003, de 6:30 a 8:30 pm** con **Angélica Guerrero**.

Orientación del estado para obtener su licencia de cuidado infantil hogareño – El Dpto de Licencias ofrece una orientación en español en la oficina de BANANAS **miércoles, 21 de mayo a la 1:30 pm**. **Debe de registrarse en abril** al teléfono 658-7353. Como parte de la orientación, ofrecemos información sobre como iniciar y promover su negocio. Tendremos como invitado a **Carlos Aleman**, especialista en impuestos para proveedoras. No se permite traer niños.

Para proveedoras de cuidado infantil hogareño

- La Universidad de California de Davis ofrece una clase en BANANAS titulada **"Perdida, Trauma y los Niños Pequeños."** Fecha: **31 de mayo, 9 am-1 pm**.
- BANANAS ofrece un taller en dos partes los **sábados 7 y 14 de junio de 10 am a 12 pm**. Dos proveedoras con experiencia comparten sus casas y sus ideas sobre como abrir y mantener un negocio de cuidado infantil hogareño.

香蕉中心華語服務 BANANAS' Services to Chinese-Speaking Caregivers and Parents
香蕉中心華語服務 - 請電 658-7353 查詢

1. 嬰幼兒健康安全與托兒訓練課: 日期在 4/19 - 急救; 5/10 - 心肺救援. 証書到期者, 請盡速報名.
2. 護兒英語班: 增進英語能力, 增廣服務範圍, 四, 五月初級班. 八個週二晚 6:30 - 8:30, 請向 Davida 報名.
3. CCIP 家庭托兒訪問學習在四月及五月舉辦. 請注意通知.
4. 致家長的信中文專刊, 來信索取自閱或轉贈家長. 最新題目: "出外.....看天氣", "如何申請托兒津貼", "電腦與孩子的成長".

BANANAS' NEWSLETTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

BANANAS' ANNOUNCEMENTS are a service to the public. We do not endorse or guarantee any services offered. Space is limited and all announcements are subject to editing. First priority goes to free services and/or to services for parents. Our deadlines: August 10, October 10, January 10, March 10 and May 10.

BANANAS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

- BANANAS' referral policy is available to any provider or parent upon request. It addresses our referral philosophy & how programs are included or removed from our files.
- OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED, call Tasha at 658-7353.

PROVIDER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Center Directors' Roundtable meets the third Thursday of the month, September through May, from 10 am to 12 noon. On **April 17**, BANANAS staff, **Heather Lang** will lead a discussion on the new Inclusion Grant for providers serving children with special needs. On **May 15**, **Lisa Bradford** will be here from the Child Care Fund. Call Judy, 658-7353, for more information.

Family Day Care Associations: — call for meeting times, locations and services:

- Alameda Family Day Care Association, 521-3997
- Berkeley/Albany Licensed Day Care Operators Association (BALDCO), 549-1223
- Oakland Licensed Day Care Operators Assn., 658-2449
- CHILD CARE CENTER ORIENTATIONS are held in the DSS office in downtown Oakland; call 622-2617 for a schedule. Call BANANAS for assistance after you attend the orientation.
- ADVOCACY ACTION DAY for CAEYC, Sacramento Convention Center, April 23, register by 4/10, (916) 486-7750.
- CALIFORNIA INNOVATIVE TEACHER PROJECT, May 2-3, Mills College, Oakland, \$125 before 4/22, \$150 after 4/22, Susan Lyo, Director, (415) 397-8211, slyon@mills.edu
- MEN WHO WORK IN CHILD CARE SUPPORT GROUP forming, call Khusrau at 521-5846 for next meeting.
- LUNA KIDS DANCE TEACHER EDUCATION WORKSHOPS, Seminar "Bringing all Children to Dance and Dance to all Children," May 3&4 and "Creative-Based Dance Education," on May 17&18, both in Oakland, call 644-3629 or visit www.lunakidsdance.com.
- CA ASSOCIATION FOR FAMILY CHILD CARE CONFERENCE, Los Angeles, April 25-27, contact Elda Fontenot, 536-9273.
- CHILD DEVELOPMENT TRAINING CONSORTIUM ADMINISTRATOR INSTITUTES, May 7-8, Redding, (209) 572-6086 or brovontg@yosemite.cc.ca.us.
- NEIGHBORHOOD ACCREDITATION CENTER at AOCs in Oakland has Saturdays of learning and exploring, April 12 & 26, May 10, 24 & 31 and June 14, 9 am to 5 pm, \$10 each, CSUH credit available, 261-1076.
- THE PROGRAM FOR INFANT/TODDLER CAREGIVERS VIDEO Training Series, program info call (916) 322-6233 or call (800) 995-4099 for credit card orders.
- THE FABULOUS FOURS: Universal Preschool Statewide Summit, April 22-25, Hyatt Regency Orange County, www.cce.csus.edu/conferences, \$175.
- SERVICE COORDINATION INSTITUTE (ADVANCED) for Early Start service coordinators will be held June 2-4, Embassy Suites, Buena Park, \$75; previous attendance at SCIF required, (916) 492-4018.

(HELP!! – PARENTS WHO ARE LISTED IN OUR OFFICE looking for Shares, Playgroups, Exchanges, or offering babysitting or live-in jobs can help us by calling when you no longer need to be listed, 658-7353. These are very popular files & they need to be up-to-date. If we don't hear from you, we will discard your card after 6 months.)

PLAYGROUPS WANTED (Date = child's birthdate)

Alameda, 12/98, flex times, Carmen, 864-4175
Alameda, 10/01, weekdays & possible Sat, Lia, 521-8548
Berkeley, 5/02 & 9/00, flex 2-3 days, Bodo, 644-9744

Oak/Berk/Emery, 3/02, M-Th flex, Danielle, 655-7952
Oak/Berk/Rock, 10/02, 0-9 months, flex, Carrie, 923-0564
Oakland Colby/College, 8/94, Fri after school, Marianne, 654-7264
Open, 4/00 & 10/02, weekdays, 1-2 days, Sandra, 843-5494

EXCHANGES WANTED (Date = child's birthdate)

Berk/N Oak/Emery, 8/97, eves/wkends flex, Linda, 654-2255
Oakland, 5/97 & 12/94, wkends (4-8 hours), Stacie, 531-4006
Dimond/Mont/Glen, 9/01, flex, Grace, 482-1967

LOOKING FOR SHARED SITUATIONS (No sitter hired)

(Date = child's birthdate, f-t= full-time; p-t = part-time)
Albany, 2/02, flex p-t, Molly, 540-6492
N Berk/Albany, 9/96 – PMs only, 1/02 f-t, M-F, Peter, 558-0517
N Berk/EC/Kens, 3/02, M-Th f-t, F 8-2, Rochelle, 965-1194
N Berk/Alb/Kens, 10/02, MTTh p-t, Karen, 526-3283
Berk/Alb, 6/02, M-F f-t or p-t, Bill, 558-1440
Elm/Rock, 2/03, M-F f-t, Erik, 883-0980
Rock/Temescal/Lake/Pied, 2/03, M-F f-t, Elizabeth, 654-4765
Lake Merritt/Mont/Pied, 3/02, M-F full days, Awatif, 763-5868
Lake Merritt/Pied/Rock, 12/02, f-t, Kitty and Willard, 625-9970 or 450-7622
N Oak/Rock/Elm/S Berk, 11/02, M-Th f-t, Rachel, 428-2891
Pied/lake/Mont/Trestle/Crocker, 1/02, 30 hrs+, Mercedes, 663-4546
Montclair, 10/01, flex p-t, Jocelyn, 530-3230
Mont/Pied, 1/03, T-F 24-40 hrs, Linda, 339-9465
Mont/Pied/Rock, 1/03, TWTh & every other Mon f-t, Amy, 597-1697
Mont/Pied, 2/03, M-F f-t, Jacqueline or Michael, 339-7354
Pied/Mont, 3/03, f-t, Kristin or Hyung, 654-7325
Pied/Crocker/Glen, 2/02, 15 hrs/wk, Eunji or Tyler, 834-3080
Oak near Zoo/Bay Farm, 7/02, flex p-t, Serena, 636-9584
Redwd/Mont/Pied, 9/02, 3 full days flex, Michele or Berkeley, 336-0436
Anywhere in Oakland, 6/01, WF f-t, Nancy or Tamara, 663-1393

SHARED ARRANGEMENTS OFFERED (Sitter hired)

Alameda/open, 7/01, M-F p-t or f-t, Karen, 263-9891
Alameda, 8/01, M-F f-t, Meresa, 748-6097
N Berkeley/Albany, 9/02, M&W & F AM – 20 hrs, Veronica, 527-1985
N Berk/Albany/Kens, 12/02, M-Th poss. F f-t or p-t, Nancy, 526-0255
N Berk our home only, 7/02, f-t, Eva, 528-0174
Berk/Rich/Oak, any age up to 3 yrs, avail M or W, Stevie, 528-3454
Berk/N Oak/Albany, 1/03, MTTh 8-1:30, Clare, 704-8285
Berk/Rock/Emery/Lake Merritt, 1/03, MT flex, Janet, 848-4008
Elm/Claremont/Rock/Central Berk, 8/01, f-t, Susie, 655-1121
Oak/Berk/flex, f-t or p-t, Ann, 208-3790
NOak/Mont/Pied/Lake Merritt/Temescal, 5/02, f-t or p-t, Eric, 654-5653
Rockridge, 1/01, MTTh f-t, Ellen, 654-8955
Rock/Pied/Temescal/Mont, 3/02, MTW p-t or f-t, Amy, 985-0411
Rock/Pied/Mont/1/01, 2 days/wk flex f-t, Chuck & Susan, 482-1451
Rock/Mont, 11/02, M-W or W-F, Marcilie, 653-5070
Oakland/Pied, 10/01, MTTh f-t flex, Lisa, 530-8230
Crocker/Glen/Rock/Pied, 9/02, f-t, Lori, 839-3793
Crocker Highlands/Lakeshore, 7/01, M-F f-t, Phylis, 452-4055
Glen/Rock/Mont/Dimond/Crocker, 0-2, M &/or F f-t, Celeste, 482-6228
Mont/Pied, 12/01, f-t, Lori, 339-7018
Mont/Pied/Rock/Elm, 12/02, TTh, Kristine, 985-0104
Mont/Rock/Pied, 8/02, 2 days/wk MWF, Sonja, 339-9658
Montclair, 7/01, f-t or p-t, Elizabeth, 658-5145
Pied/Mont/Rock, 7/02, M 5 hrs, W 10 hrs, Karen, 336-0700
Redwood Hts/Mont/Glen, 8/02, M-F f-t, Maureen, 531-5551

SHARED ARRANGEMENTS – Parents Split Caregiver's Time

Alameda, MTF f-t, WTh after 1 pm, Katie, 865-5580

Oak/Berk, any age, TWTh, Nadya, 482-0682
Rockridge, 6 months+, W&F f-t, Ellen, 654-8955

PARENT SUPPORT (*Groups, classes, services, announcements, \$\$ means fee is charged.*)

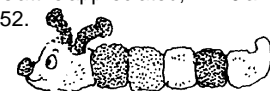
- MAKE TRUSTLINE part of your in-home caregiver screening process; continually updated by the CA Dept. of Social Services. For Trustline info, call BANANAS at 658-7353 or (800) 822-8490.
- IF YOU HAVE A SPANISH-SPEAKING IN-HOME CAREGIVER, please refer her/him to announcements on page 9.
- STEP FAMILY ASSN: support for stepparents, 1st Thurs. monthly, 7:30-9 pm at BANANAS. Anthony Carpentieri, 849-1626.
- DONATE your old parenting books to BANANAS Lending Library.
- I-PRIDE FOR INTERRACIAL/INTERCULTURAL FAMILIES in the East Bay, call 663-0975 or email keifferv@aol.com.
- IMPACT, MOVING PARENTS AND CHILDREN TOGETHER, free dance classes for re-unified families in the child welfare system, Saturdays, April 12 and 26, 10-11 am, Alice Arts Center, 1428 Alice St. at 14th, Oakland, 644-3629.
- CHILDHOOD MATTERS RADIO PROGRAM Sunday mornings, 9-10 am on 98.1 KISS FM, parents, grandparents, child care providers can call in questions and comments, (877) 372-KIDS for info.
- CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND NEW WEBSITE: Join the movement to Leave No Child Behind, download CDF materials, www.cdfca.org.
- NO-COST PRESCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH & DEVELOPMENTAL Screenings, Tuesday, April 15, 9:30am-12:30pm, children must be registered in advance by parent or legal guardian, RSVP to Gilbert Kliman MD or Mike McDonald, (415) 474-0955 or gil.kliman@cphc-sf.org.
- NEIGHBORHOOD PARENTS NETWORK events and forums for families with young children in Northern Alameda County, call 527-MOMS or www.parentsnet.org.
- HOW TO CREATE AN INDEPENDENT BAR/BAT MITZVAH: A workshop for parents, important questions will be addressed in this informative workshop that provides an overview of preparation, ceremony and celebration. Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley, \$30, call 848-0237X127 to register.
- SUPPORT GROUPS FOR MOTHERS: Sherry Reinhardt, RN, MPH, Mom, www.supportgroupformothers.com, 524-0821, \$\$.
- EAST BAY MOMS, activities for parents with their infants and toddlers, 653-7867, www.eastbaymoms.com.
- UNDERSTANDING THE IEP PROCESS, explains how parents request special education services, how an IEP meeting operates and what kinds of plans will help your child, Wed., April 9, Garfield Elementary School, 1641 22nd Ave., Oak., 5-8 pm, 547-7322.
- SISTER TO SISTER, a support group for African American moms with young children born prematurely or with special needs, 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month beginning 4/16, 12-2pm, 1 Eastmont Town Center, #260, Oakland, 547-7322.
- FATHERS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS Support Group, last Thursday of month at 5232 Claremont Ave., Oakland, facilitated by James Ricks, Jr., sponsored by Family Resources Network, 547-7322.
- SMART HEALTHY BABIES has programs for parents and kids in the City of Alameda, including workshops, parenting classes, special events, call 864-1077.
- 2003 RECREATION RESOURCES LIST FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, call Deanna at 547-7322 X12 for your copy.
- PARENT SHARE SUPPORT GROUP for parents of premature or sick babies, 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month, 7-9 pm, Tuesdays, 11:30-12:45 pm, Family Waiting Room, 4th floor, Alta Bates Hospital, Berkeley, Linda Cole, (925) 935-9240.
- PARENTING CLASSES OFFERED ON SLIDING SCALE at Habitot Children's Museum in Berkeley, 647-1111.
- NEW PARENTING SKILLS CLASSES FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING, Wednesdays, 7-9 pm, St. Joseph's Center, 25580 Campus Drive, Hayward, LaRonda, 881-2247 TTV or LZupp@sjcd.org.
- INFORMATION ABOUT LEARNING DISABILITIES AVAILABLE at www.SchwabLearning.org.
- BANANAS WELCOMES DONATIONS OF KIDS' CLOTHES & BOOKS, formula and diapers.

CLASSES & ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS & TEENS

- ITTY BITTY KIDDIE GYM, for ages 9 months through 3 years, bring an adult to play, dance, sing, explore, Lake Merritt United Methodist Church, 1330 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, Jennifer Kantor @ 465-4793 X 4 for info.
- WORD FOR WORD PERFORMING ARTS COMPANY will present Stories by Sandra Cisneros, Thurs., April 17 11 am at Piedmont Branch, Tues., April 22, 10:30 am at Lakeview Branch and Wed., April 23 at Asian Branch, Oakland Public Libraries, 238-6713.
- NATURE EXPLORATION: NATURE WRITERS, explore the cove while observing nature and writing down your experiences, Crab Cove Visitor Center, Alameda, Sun., April 13, 11 am-noon, 521-6887.
- PLAYING WITH TIME EXHIBIT AT LAWRENCE HALL OF SCIENCE in Berkeley, through May 4, 642-5132.
- MAKE YOUR OWN FLOWER PRESS, Tilden Nature Area, 3:30-5:30, Sat., April 12 for 4+ years, reg. required, 525-2233, \$6 res.
- AFTER SCHOOL FUN COOKING AND SAFETY for Youth ages 14-22 with and without disabilities, every Wednesday, 3:30-5 pm, Center for Independent Living, 841-4776.
- PRESCHOOL ART CLASSES AT HABITOT Children's Museum, 2065 Kittredge St., Berkeley, scholarships available through Family Outreach Program, contact Rosie Hernandez, 647-1111 X15.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- SKYLINE PRESCHOOL SPRING FLING, Sat., May 17, 10 am-2 pm, astro-jump, carnival games, activities for ages 2-9, silent auction, raffle and barbeque lunch, 530-0884 for information.
- A GLIMPSE OF DANCING CHINA, Children's traditional folk dance, including dances from minority tribes of mainland China, Sunday, April 6, 3 pm, Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th St. at Webster, Oakland.
- BREAKING THE CODE: a panel of educational leaders and service providers in the learning disabilities field will demystify the evaluation and testing process, May 10, East Bay Learning Disabilities Association, for info or to register, 642-4111, \$\$.
- CSAA GREAT BATTERY ROUNDUP, recycle old automotive, Marine and motorcycle batteries April 14-19 at 30 designated sites in CA, visit www.batteryroundup.com or call 1-800-903-AAA7.
- HAIKU MEHNDI: POETRY IN THE HAND, May 5, 6-7 pm, Central Library Reading Room, 2090 Kittredge, Berkeley.
- HARAMBEE: A VILLAGE GATHERING, for African-American people with disabilities and their families, food, music, information, Sat., June 7, Claremont Middle School, Oakland, 547-7322 for information.
- PORT OF OAKLAND PORTFEST, fun-filled event for the entire family, Saturday, June 7, 11 am to 5 pm, 645-5968, www.jacklondonssquare.com.
- LEAVE A LEGACY FOUNDATION provides individuals with assistance in planned giving, you can name BANANAS and other non-profits to receive a bequest through your estate, 419-0454 or www.leavealegacy.org.
- ARTISTS FOR OPEN SPACE at Lindsay Wildlife Museum, Two-dimensional works in oils, watercolors, pastels, etc. will be featured, sales to benefit the museum, 1931 First Avenue, Walnut Creek, (925) 935-1978.
- TWO DAY TOWN Family Camping & Community Music Event, April 25, 26 & 27 at Lake Del Valle Regional Park, south of Livermore, \$50 per person for 3 day pass, or \$25 per day, kids under 12 free, James Benney, (925) 930-6094.
- CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SALE, Sat., April 19, Tilden Regional Park, Wildcat Canyon Road and South Park Drive, Berkeley, free admission, 841-8732, www.nativeplants.org.
- THE ART OF SEEING: NATURE REVEALED THROUGH ILLUSTRATION at Oakland Museum through June 15, 10th & Oak Streets, Oakland, 625-6873 or www.museumca.org.
- PEACE VIGILS ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS, 6:30-7:30 pm, meet in median strip of Center and Shattuck near downtown Berkeley BART.
- PRESCOTT RESOURCE CENTER ACCEPTS DONATIONS of adult and children's clothing, business attire appreciated, M-F 9 am to 5 pm, 800 Pine St., Oakland, 628-9152.



OUR YEARLY POSTCARD UPDATE

It's time for our yearly postcard update for child care providers. Please help us give good child care referrals by promptly returning the postcard with your updated information to BANANAS. If your card is postmarked on or before April 15, your name will be entered in a drawing to win a \$100 gift certificate to Lakeshore Children's Center!



FREE FAMILY LAW CLINIC

The next Family Law Clinics sponsored by BANANAS and offered by the Volunteer Legal Services of the Alameda County Bar Assn. will be held on **Tuesdays, April 8 & 22, May 13 & 27, and June 10, noon – 2 pm** at our office. These clinics help low-income families with domestic matters. Reservations are required; call Volunteer Legal Services, 893-7160, and follow the teleprompt to "new clients" for an appointment.

BANANAS THANK YOU'S — SPECIAL THANKS TO THESE CONTRIBUTORS (IN TIME AND/OR MONEY)

Estelle Bern	Daniel Cowles	Brenda Wagner	Marlene Morris	Deloris White	Amber Cooper	Nicholas & Annis Kukulan
Erica Perry	Stephanie Tran	Mina Katoozian	Vivian Laquette	Janelle Downs	Steve Lomprey	Peter & Jacqueline Khorliu
Katie Hung	Dana Guyer	Anatasia St. John	Ramona Marin	Norie Clarke	Jennifer Greer	James & Carolyn Vonbehren
Diane Wynn	Nancy Deming	Jon Ishibashi	Jean Hayward	Franklin Yap	Kristine Brown	Michael Coro/Mara Molteni
Amy Faltz	Laura Stevens	Janet Bensick	Kathryn Striebel	Ann Parker	Natalie Mehta	Safe & Sound Children, Inc
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