

BANANAS

newsletter

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2003, JANUARY 2004, VOL. XXIX, # 2



REETINGS –

Wow! What a great bunch of people you are! We had such a wonderful birthday party – thanks to all of you who came or participated or volunteered (see our official thanks below). We estimate that 3,000 people came and enjoyed the sunny, bright October Saturday event at Lake Merritt. It was nice to see the children enjoying themselves at the activity tables, under the storytelling tree, climbing the firetruck, reading their free books or watching the children performing on stage. It was also nice to re-visit with so many parents and grandparents. Next time we do something like this, we'll probably have the great-grandparents who used our services when they were young. How daunting!

A fond farewell to **Fé Ponce** who worked here for six years primarily as manager of the Stage 3 child care payment program. She is still doing good work – now for the disabilities community. We miss her already.

Welcome to **Libertad Ayala** who comes to us with lots of experience working with families and youth in Los Angeles. And, welcome to **Dow-Jane Chi** who recently moved here from the East Coast and spent the summer working with the Alameda County Local

Planning Council, already many people in the field have become acquainted with her. Libertad and Dow-Jane are working in our payment programs as well as learning to provide referrals to parents.

It's that time of year when you are being asked to donate to **United Way**. When you do, remember that you can designate your donation to the agency of your choice. If BANANAS is your choice, use our **Donor Option Number 3026**. Please see "Where to Give, Where to Get," for charitable giving on page 7.

The annual **Preschool Fair** will be held **January 24, 2004, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** at the Scottish Rite Center, 1547 Lakeside Dr. Oakland. For more information, call 653-7867.

Have a relaxed holiday season and Happy New Year.

MISSED OUR BIRTHDAY?

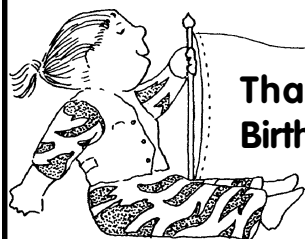
Stop by for your party favor: a pencil, sippy cup or banana magnet. We still have beautiful **tee-shirts**, **onesies** and **bibs** on sale on the birthday page of our web site www.bananasinc.org. They make great holiday gifts!

The GAP
Berkeley Bowl
Cody's Books
Grand Bakery

Ajanta Enterprises
Berkeley Hills Nursery
Builder's Booksources
Graphic Traffic

Albertson's
Black Oak Books
Delicious Food Co.
Hopkins St. Bakery
Precision Graphics

Barnes & Noble
Boadecia's Books
East Bay MUD
Jamba Juice
Neldam's
Bayer Corporation
Bonanza St. Books
4M Enterprises
Jelly Belly
Peet's Coffee



**Thank You to our
Birthday Donors!**

Metropolitan Bank
Noah's Bagels
Parents' Press
Penas Bakery
Douglas Parking
Pixar

Miramontes Bakery
Napoleon Super Bakery
Lakeshore Learning Center
Children's Book Press
Discount School Supplies
Los Mexicanos Bakery

Afikomen Books

Rockridge Kids

Rubicon

Ruby King

(More thank yous, page 12!)

POSITIVE PARENTING SERIES

Being a parent can be a daunting challenge. We can help. Come to our eight-week long parenting class and learn simple and practical approaches to raising healthy, competent children. This popular class will meet on **Mondays, February 2** through **March 22, 7-8:30 pm** and will be facilitated by **Madeline Meyer Riley**, experienced LMFT and former child care provider. Call 658-7353 to preregister.

TALKING ABOUT TEMPERAMENT

Come learn how temperament affects children's behavior and how to best live and work with inborn traits, focusing on children ages 1-5 years, with **Helen Neville**, BS, RNP, and **Sue Jensen**, RNP, on **Thursdays, Jan. 8** through **Feb. 12, 7-9:00 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.

WINTER BOOTIES CAMP

Do you have a new baby or are you expecting one? Baby specialists will teach parents about *Baby Massage* (**Friday, Nov. 14, 6-8 pm**), *Sleep* (**Friday, Nov. 21, 6-8 pm**) *Baby Basics* (**Thursday, Jan. 29**), and *Yoga With Baby* (**Thursday, Feb. 5**). All the 2004 workshops are held from **10 am to noon**. Babies and both parents are welcome. See box below.

BABY PLAY AS BABY LEARNS

Molly Sullivan, PhD and former child care provider, teaches this class on **Mon., January 26, 7 to 8:30pm**. This is the introductory session of a new 2004 series of classes called Beyond Booties, also including Reading, Feeding and Temperament. Call 658-7353.

KINDERGARTEN READINESS

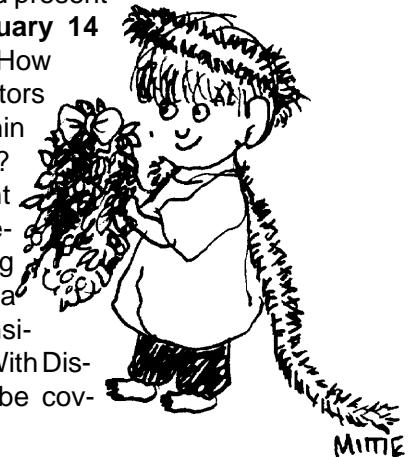
Do you have a 4 or 5 year old who will enter kindergarten soon? **Meg Zweiback**, nurse practitioner, mom and *Parent's Press* columnist, will lead a discussion about preparing your child (and yourself) emotionally and socially for kindergarten. Bring your questions and concerns to BANANAS on **Tuesday, December 2** from **7-8:30 pm** and she'll try to answer them. See box below to preregister.

LIVING WITH ONES OR TWOS?

Keeping up with active one and two year olds is a big challenge for parents and child care providers. Ones and twos can surprise parents with their energy, their emerging personalities and the developmental stages they go through on the way from baby to toddlerhood. **Meg Zweiback** will provide practical advice on this topic on **Tuesday, January 13, 7-8:30pm**. Call 658-7353 to preregister.

BEHAVIORAL STRATEGIES & THE IEP PROCESS

Family Resource Network and the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund present a workshop on **Wed., January 14** from **7-9 pm** at BANANAS. How do behavior and other factors affect student's behavior within a school or classroom setting? Requesting an assessment that includes Functional Behavioral Analysis, creating Positive Behavior Plans and a review of rights and responsibilities under the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act will be covered. Call FRN at 547-7322.



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 Heather, 658-7353.

PARENTING CLASSES IN SPANISH

This series en Español provides an opportunity for parents to discuss the challenges and rewards of being parents, including family communication, discipline and celebrations from different cultures. The class, led by psychologist **Lourdes Abad**, meets **Mondays, November 17 & 24** and **December 1 & 8, 7-8:30 pm**. Call 658-7353 to register; see box above about child care.

IN HOME CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

This support group offers guidance to caregivers who often feel isolated caring for one or two children in their employers' homes. **Madeline Meyer Riley**, MFT and former child care provider will cover behavioral concerns about children and fun activities to do with kids on **Wed., November 19, 6:30 to 8 pm**. Call Aregash, Carmen or Janet at 658-7353 to register or if you have questions. Parents, please tell your caregivers.

LEGISLATIVE SNIPS



There's a lot of talk floating around out there about Universal Preschool. Parents and providers have asked us what it's all about. The problem is there is no one idea about what **Universal Preschool** (UPK) is. There's not even an agreement on what to call it. It's also called Preschool For All and, in Massachusetts, they use a more inclusive name, Early Education for All.

There are quite a few entities who are spearheading their own campaigns for Universal Preschool in California. **First Five California** (aka Prop. 10) has put \$100 million toward establishing UPK in several counties, including Los Angeles where the local Prop 10 has also put up \$500 million of their own. The **David & Lucille Packard Foundation** is dedicating most of its dollars toward UPK and has funded a new organization, **Preschool California**, to build the public will for UPK. Four legislators, **Steinberg, Daucher, Liu** and our own **Wilma Chan**, are working together in sponsorship of AB 56 to work on the legislative aspects of UPK. And, now, the **California Teachers Association** (CTA) with **Rob Reiner** are filing an initiative for next November's ballot to change the tax structure for corporations to provide "voluntary preschool to all California children the year before they start kindergarten" as well as to bring additional funding to the K-12 system.

Some of the big questions are:

- Why can't UPK be integrated into the current child care delivery system?
- Will funding be taken away from the current system to underwrite UPK?
- Why are we only talking about 3 & 4 year olds; what happens to infants and toddlers?
- How will children with special needs be accommodated in UPK?
- Will all this attention lead to academic

testing of our youngest children?

- If UPK is only three hours a day (which seems to be the vision for several of the entities), how do working families take advantage of UPK?
- Will UPK happen only in the public school system (as the CTA proposal states)?
- What happens to the preschools and family child care programs outside of the school system that are currently providing these services?
- Will those working in the current system have to meet different qualifications?
- Where will the space be found for UPK?

The Select Committee on California Children's School Readiness and Health, chaired by Majority Leader **Wilma Chan**, will be holding a hearing entitled "**Universal Preschool: Listening to Parent and Providers**" on **January 10** (time to be announced) at the **Elihu Harris State Building, 1515 Clay St., Oakland**. (Call us in January for the exact time.)

Meanwhile, all this discussion is going on and the licensing system (which provides bottom line health & safety assurances for all child care programs) has been severely reduced because of budget constraints. They will now only provide evaluatory visits every five years instead of once a year for centers and once every three years for family child care. They will continue to visit and investigate programs which receive complaints. The burden of monitoring falls more and more on parents who deliver and pick up their children every day. They must pay close attention and report health & safety violations (i.e., too many babies or children in care, the use of corporal or unusual punishment, children being left with others) to 622-2602.



PARENT VOICES

Parent Voices is so thankful for all the support we have received from the community for our advocacy work. Thank you! We are still receiving contributions towards our "Stand For Children" campaign, which help us as we get ready for the upcoming legislative season.

The next meeting is **Sat., November 15**, from **1:30 - 3:30 pm** in San Francisco at the Yerba Buena Children's Center. Call Kim Kruckel at 510-658-6177 or email parentvoices@bananasinc.org.

Our annual Legislative Action Training will be **Saturday, January 24, 10 am - 1pm** at the Unitarian Church at 13th St. and MLK in downtown Oakland. Participants will learn how state budget child care decisions are made, meet state legislators and advocates, and strategize about how we can improve child care policies for our children. We will be selling our famous Thai dinners that day, at 1:00 pm. You can take a great dinner home to your family!

FAMILY CRAFTS FOR SHORT DAYS, LONG NIGHTS



Fall is here and winter is on the way. As days get shorter and nights longer, it's a wonderful time for families to turn off the TV and focus on fun activities together. We've polled the BANANAS' staff for their favorite craft ideas and came up with the following suggestions. How much your children can

do of each activity depends on their ages and stages of development.

Nature collages Children go for a walk and collect items from nature like tiny stones, leaves from different trees, sticks, acorns, flowers, etc. They glue objects onto construction paper. While collages are drying, read a great book like *The Fall Leaves, Fall is Here* or *Leaves, Leaves, Leaves*.

Collages with magazine pictures or color copies of favorite photos. This is an easy activity that your children can enjoy again and again. Keep a supply of magazines, paper, scissors and glue on hand.

Baker's dough ornaments Mix 2 cups flour (not self-rising) and 1 cup salt together; add 1 cup water, a little at a time. Knead 7-10 minutes until dough is smooth. If dough is a little sticky, add more flour during kneading process. Store in a plastic bag until used. Line a cookie sheet with aluminum foil and make ornaments right on the sheet. Use cookie cutters or make free form ornaments. Remember to put holes in ornaments before baking! Bake thin object in oven at 150-200 degrees; thicker objects at 250-350. Reduce oven temperature if thin objects start browning too fast.

Make cakes together or an adult can make cupcakes beforehand. Set out an assortment of colored frostings, sprinkles, raisins, coconut, etc. and popsicle sticks for kids to spread frosting. Decorate, then eat your works of art.

Glue and sand paintings Squeeze glue onto paper and pour colored sand on top of glue. Gently fold paper and pour off excess sand. Let dry.

Leaf prints Dip leaves in paint. Make print on construction paper. You can use a variety of items to dip in paint for printing: sponges, cork, string, forks, potato masher, toothpicks, bottle tops, cookie cutters, potatoes and other vegetables, etc.

Structure Building Cut up straws and paste them on styrofoam, using white glue. Stick toothpicks into lightweight foam rubber. Build with small boxes, toilet paper rolls, paper tubes, milk cartons.

Personalized placemats Have children trace their handprints on colored construction paper. Cut out handprints, then glue them on another colored piece of paper. Children can decorate around handprints. An adult then laminates to make placemats.

Water and colored chalk paintings Children use sponges or paint brushes to dampen construction paper. Draw pictures using colored chalk on the wet paper. Let dry.

No-Cook Playdough Combine 1 cup water, 3 cups flour, 1 1/2 cups salt, 1/4 cup oil, food coloring or 1 tablespoon powdered tempura. Mix ingredients. Add more flour if mixture is too sticky. Store in plastic bag. Try rolling, pinching, forming balls and other basic shapes. Children can create more sophisticated forms as they get older.

Float-a-boat Work together to create a boat that will float. Once you're done, test the boat in the bathtub or a dishpan full of water to see if it floats. Suggested materials: aluminum foil, wooden blocks, styrofoam trays, clay, colored construction paper for sails, weights such as washers.

Egg carton ornaments or mobiles Cut up a cardboard egg carton so that you have several rounded cup pieces. Decorate with paint and glue on glitter. Prick a small hole in the top of each and insert a wire ornament hook. Be sure and put the child's name and year on the inside.

Sock puppets or popsicle stick puppets Collect those old socks and draw or glue eyes on them, sew on some yarn hair. You can use fabric paint or permanent markers to add more details. Cut creatures out of colored construction paper and glue to popsicle sticks. Find an empty box big enough to put on a show and you have your own puppet theater.

Beading and Jewelry Making for older kids When you visit a craft store, pick up a bag of assorted beads and string. Preschoolers who don't put things in their mouths might be old enough to sort beads into egg cartons or onto a shoelace. Older kids can experiment with bead patterns. If you have old buttons, string them on thread or elastic to make a great button bracelet.

When parents engage in hands-on activities with their children, they learn many interesting things about their child's growth and development. It's also a great time to slow down and talk about what's going on in the child's life. So look on those rainy, dreary days and nights as an opportunity to create works of art and family connections! (You can download our handouts, *Mini Art Guide* by Gay Austin and *Baker's Dough Ornaments* at www.bananasinc.org.)

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, Nov. 12, Dec. 10 & Jan. 14 at 10 am.** Nighttime workshops will be held **Wednesdays, Nov. 19 & Jan. 21 at 6 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, 18 y 25 de noviembre del 2003 y 20 y 27 de enero del 2004 a las 2pm.** No hay orientaciones en diciembre.

Babysitter/In-Home Caregiver Orientation in Vietnamese : BANANAS sẽ giới thiệu và tư vấn về việc tìm kiếm và tuyển dụng nhân viên chăm sóc trẻ em, các khóa học và các buổi hội thảo. **15 Hour Health/Safety Course in Vietnamese - 15 Giờ Lớp Chăm sóc Sức khỏe và An toàn cho Trẻ em, 15 Giờ Lớp Học và Hội thảo về việc tìm kiếm và tuyển dụng nhân viên chăm sóc trẻ em.** Ngày Thứ Bảy, 10 và 17 Tháng Giêng 2004, từ 9 giờ sáng đến 5 giờ chiều.

Teenage Babysitting Class: Gives an introduction to child development and practical babysitting hints on **Wednesday, February 11, 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 **Nov. 9 and Nov. 16.** You must send a reg. form & a check payable to BANANAS to reserve a space. Fee: \$30; \$50 for parent-couples. Next series is in March 2004.

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.

Save the Date! If you plan to return to the Corps in 2004, you must attend the Corps Seminar on **Saturday, Dec. 6, 2003** from **7:45am to 3:15 pm** at the Oakland Marriot City Center. Contact Every Child Counts for additional information, 875-2400.

Child Development Permit Anyone? All Corps member must have a Child Development Permit to receive a stipend in 2004. The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing is backlogged, and the application process can now take six to nine months. Delaying the application process will result in your not receiving the Permit on time. Please do not delay, apply for your Permit today!

Family Child Care Providers: Get a head start on completing your Corps requirements and attend the Harms/Clifford FDCRS training on **Friday, Feb. 6, 2004** from **6:30-9:30 pm.** Must register to attend this training.

Are you interested in a PGA Support Group? We want to hear from you; call 658-7353.

VIETNAMESE PARENTING GROUPS

Buổi họp mặt công phu huynh sẽ được tổ chức vào hai ngày Thứ Bảy, 15 và 22 Tháng Giêng 11, 2-4 pm. Mời bạn tham gia và xin gọi 658-7353.

NOVEMBER – *Native American Heritage Month*

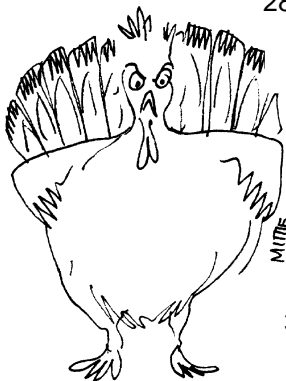
- 11 **VETERANS DAY** – BANANAS closed
- 12 **Choosing Child Care for LGBT Parents**, BANANAS
- 14 & 21, 1/29 & 2/5 **Booties Camps**, see page 2
- 15 Native American Culture Day Celebration, noon-5pm, Oakland Main Library, American Indian Library Service at Dimond Branch Library: 482-7844, www.oaklandlibrary.org
- 15 **PV Meeting in SF**, see page 3
- 15-22 Children's Book Week, Oak. Main Library, 238-3134, www.oaklandlibrary.org; Berk. Central Library Children's Room, 981-6223, www.infopeople.org/bpl/ or contact your local library
- 16 DNA Day, 1-3 pm, Lawrence Hall of Science, 642-5132, www.lawrencehallofscience.org
- 16 Indian Life, noon-4 pm, Oakland Museum, 238-2200, www.museumca.org
- 17 **Santa Suit reservations** begin, see page 7
- 17, 24, 12/1 & 8 **Clases para padres**, see pages 2 & 9
- 19 **In-Home Support Group**, see page 2
- 19 **FCC Orientation en español**, see page 9
- 20 Community Tree Lighting and other holiday activities, 6 pm, Bay St., Emeryville, sponsored by Alameda County Community Food Bank & the City of Emeryville, Jennifer Hinderliter: 834-3663x328
- 21-23, 28-30 Splash Circus Theatre: In the Magical Forest, 11/21 at 7 pm, other shows at 2 pm, Julia Morgan Theatre, presented by Head Over Heels, tickets: (925) 798-1300
- 22 **UC Davis SN class en español**, see page 9
- 22 Amiguitos de La Peña: Cascada de Flores, 10:30 am, La Peña, 849-2568x20, www.lapena.org
- 22 Astrojax, 1-3 pm, Lawrence Hall of Science, 642-5132, www.lawrencehallofscience.org
- 22-23 Favorite Insect Songs, 12:30 & 1:30pm, Children's Fairyland, 452-2259, www.fairyland.org
- 22-30 ZooLights, Oakland Zoo, 632-9525
- 23 Kids Show with Asheba, 3-4:30 pm, Ashkenaz, 525-5099, www.asheba.net
- 23 The Science in Art, 1-3 pm, Lawrence Hall of Science, 642-5132, www.lawrencehallofscience.org
- 25 **Family Law Clinic**, again 12/9, 1/13 & 27, 2/10 see back page
- 27 **THANKSGIVING** – BANANAS closed 11/27 & 28
- 28 Tree Lighting Ceremony, noon-8pm, Jack London Square, (866) 295-9853

- 28 & 30, 12/7, 9 & 10 SF Ballet Nutcracker Family Nights, War Memorial Opera House, (415) 865-2000, www.sfballet.org
- 29 Thanks to the Bay!, 1-2 pm, Crab Cove, 521-6887
- 29-30 Ravioli the Clown, 12:30 & 1:30 pm, Children's Fairyland, 452-2259, www.fairyland.org
- 30 Kids Show with Princess Moxie, 3-4:30 pm, Ashkenaz, 525-5099

30 Closing Day at the Cove, 10 am-4 pm, Crab Cove, 521-6887

DECEMBER – *Safe Toys and Gifts Month*, see page 11

- 1 Oakland/East Bay World AIDS Day Peace March and Vigil, 3-7 pm, Jack London Square to Preservation Park, Brother2Brother/Sister2Sister: 595-4624
- 2 **K Readiness with Meg Zweiback**, see page 2
- 5-7, 12-14 Berkeley Ballet Theater's Nutcracker, 7 pm Friday, 2 & 7 pm Saturday, 2 pm Sunday, Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 843-4689
- 6 Child Development Corps Seminar, see page 5
- 6 Celebrate Oakland Public Library's 125th Anniversary, for complete schedule of events: 238-3134, www.oaklandlibrary.org
- 6 Lighted Yacht Parade, 3-8 pm, Jack London Square, (866) 295-9853, www.jacklondonsquare.com
- 6 Amiguitos de La Peña: Derique the High Tech Clown, 10:30 am, La Peña, 849-2568x20, www.lapena.org
- 6 Alameda Tree Lighting Ceremony, 5:30 pm, Alameda City Hall, Alameda Parks & Recreation, 748-4565
- 6-7 Annual Fungus Fair, Oakland Museum, 238-2200, www.museumca.org
- 6-7, 13-14, 20-21 Holiday Season at Dunsmuir, 11 am-6pm Sat., 11 am-5 pm Sun., Dunsmuir Estate, 12/6, 13 & 20, Children's Tea with Father Christmas, 11:15am, reservations required, (925) 275-9490, www.dunsmuir.org
- 6 & 20 the Art of Giving, 1-4 pm, MOCHA, 465-8770, www.mocha.org
- 6, 13, 20 Holiday Crafts Fair, Berkeley Farmers Market, Center St. @ MLKing, Ecology Center: 548-3333, www.ecologycenter.org
- 7 Kids Bluegrass Show with Gayle Schmitt and the Toodala Ramblers, 3 pm, Ashkenaz, 525-5099, www.Ashkenaz.com or www.gaylesongs.com
- 7 Exploring Fuel Cells, 1-3 pm, Lawrence Hall of Science, 642-5132, www.lawrencehallofscience.org
- 7 Comedian & Sleight-of-Hand Specialist Tye the Magic Guy, 1-2 pm, Berkeley/Richmond JCC, 236-SHOW, www.TheBuddyClub.com
- 9 **Provider Fire Safety Workshop**, see page 9
- 12-14, 19-21 The Christmas Revels, Scottish Rite Theater, discounts for children, seniors & groups, (415) 621-1216, www.calrevels.org
- 13 Kairos Youth Chorus Winter Solstice Concert, 4 pm, Univ. Christian Church, Berkeley, 849-8271
- 13 Holidays of the World, noon-2 pm, Peralta Hacienda Historical Park, free, 532-9142
- 13 Amiguitos de La Peña: Bonnie Lockhart, 10:30 am, La Peña, 849-2568x20, www.lapena.org
- 13 Meet Mrs. Frizzle, noon-2 pm, Lawrence Hall of Science, 642-5132, www.lawrencehallofscience.org
- 13 Breakfast with Santa, 10 am-noon, O'Club, res. required, Alameda Parks & Recreation, 748-4565
- 13-15, 20-21, 23-24 Telegraph Ave. Holiday Street Fair, 10 am-6 pm, Telegraph Ave./Bancroft to Dwight Way

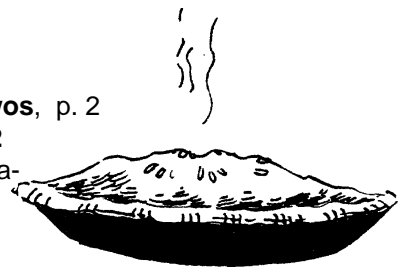


- 14 Festivals of Light, 10 am-noon, Tilden Nature Area, reg. required, 525-2233
- 19 **HANUKKAH** begins at sundown
- 19 Holiday Extravaganza, 2-5 pm, Albany Community Center, 524-9283
- 19-23 Oakland Ballet's Nutcracker, Paramount, wait list for student matinee 12/18 at 10:30 am, discount for 4 or more, 286-8914, 465-6400
- 20 Amiguitos de La Peña: Betsy Rose, 10:30 am, La Peña, 849-2568x20, www.lapena.org
- 21 WinterFest: Kwanzaa, Las Posadas, Hanukkah and Other Family Traditions, noon-4 pm, Oakland Museum, 238-2200, www.museumca.org
- 25 **CHRISTMAS** – BANANAS closed 12/25 & 26
- 26-1/1 KWANZAA – for activities contact the Bay Area Kwanzaa Committee, (415) 563-3519
- 26-1/4 Holidays at LHS, Lawrence Hall of Science, 642-5132, www.lawrencehalloffscience.org

JANUARY – *January is Bath Safety Month; for more info., www.investinkids.com, www.safekids.com*

- 1 **HAPPY NEW YEAR** – BANANAS closed 1/1 & 1/2
- 3, 10, 17, 24 **Beginning ESL for Providers**, page 9
- 8 **Talking About Temperament classes** begin, p. 2
- 10 Universal Preschool Hearing, see page 3
- 10 Open House and Free sample dance classes, North Berkeley, 644-3629, www.lunakidsdance.com
- 11 Derique as" The Classy Clown," 1-2 pm, Berk/Richmond JCC, 236-SHOW, www.TheBuddyClub.com

- 13 **Living with Ones & Twos**, p. 2
- 14 **FRN Workshop**, page 2
- 18 Lunar New Year Celebration!, noon-4pm, Oakland Museum, 238-2200, www.museumca.org
- 19 **M.L. KING, JR. BIRTHDAY** – BANANAS closed
- 20 **FCC Taxes with Nancy Ott**, see page 9
- 22 **CHINESE NEW YEAR** (Year of the Monkey) – 2/7 SF Parade, (415) 391-9680, www.chineseparade.com; 2/22 Chinese New Year Celebration, 2-5 pm, Albany Community Center, 524-9283
- 22 **HAPPY TET** – Huong Viet: 835-9156, East Bay Vietnamese: 533-4224
- 23 **Spanish Merritt Class** begins, see page 9
- 24 **PV Legislative Action Training**, see page 3
- 24 Preschool & Child Care Fair, see Greeting
- 24 You Gotta Have Heart!, 2-4 pm, MOCHA, 465-8770, www.mocha.org
- 25 Earthcapades: Acrobatics, Juggling and Music, 1-2pm, Berkeley/Richmond JCC, 236-SHOW, www.TheBuddyClub.com
- 26 **Baby Play with Molly Sullivan**, see page 2
- 31 **Chinese/Vietnamese Merritt Class** begins, page 9



FEBRUARY & beyond

- 2 **Positive Parenting** series begins, see page 2
- 6 **FDCRS Training**, see page 5
- 3/12 **English Merritt** begins, see page 9

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

WHERE TO GET HELP OVER THE HOLIDAYS

Now's the time for low-income families who are seeking holiday help to call government and nonprofit agencies because frequently the deadline for assistance is mid-November. Families on TANF (welfare) can call their eligibility worker for a referral. **HELPLINK**, (800) 273-6222, refers families to agencies which serve holiday meals or provide food baskets and toys. Call the **Alameda County Community Food Bank Holiday Hotline** at (800) 870-FOOD Monday through Friday, Nov. 3-Dec. 24, 9 am to 12 pm and 1 to 4 pm to get help finding a location in your neighborhood for a holiday food basket or hot, delicious meal.

SANTA SUIT SIGN UPS . . .

begin **Monday, November 17, 9:30 am**. Call Tracy or Janet at 658-7353 to reserve the suit for your holiday gathering. You can borrow the suit weekdays from 10 am-12:30 pm or from 1-4 pm. Weekends may be possible by special arrangement. Sorry, no schools or clubs, just child care programs.

WHERE TO GIVE DONATIONS FOR OTHERS

Here's where to help others in these hard times:

- Alameda County Food Bank**, 834-3663, Rita MacDonald; accepts food items, money, gifts.
- Alameda County Holiday Adopt-a-Family Program**, Mrs. Anderson, 271-9194; accepts food, clothing, toys, cash.
- Alameda Red Cross**, 814-4209, Jim Franz; accepts money, food for holiday baskets, new toys.
- Berkeley Holiday Fund**, P.O. Box 9779, Berkeley 94709; accepts money for needy Berkeley families.
- BOSS**, 848-3409, Rosie Kaplan; wants new adult socks, blankets, winter clothing, towels, toiletries; or contribute to **BOSS' Adopt-a-Family Project**.
- Oakland Mayor's Toy Drive**, 238-3141, John Betterton; accepts money and new toys.
- Toys for Tots**, 814-1601, Staff Sgt. Steve Brown for northern Alameda County; new, unwrapped toys.
- Grandparents as Parents**, 559-9556 Tricia Kerr or 527-9257 Shirley Brewin; contribute a gift or sponsor a family, deadline December 1.

BANANA Splints

Judy Calder R.N.



Dear Judy,
I'm a family child care provider. A parent of a 4 year old is coming to visit me to see if she wants to enroll her son here for after school care. He attends a special school in the morning because he is hard of hearing. I feel very confused about the possibility of caring for a child with a hearing problem. I think that I could probably help this parent out and learn something as well. What do I need to do to prepare for their visit?

Lorraine

Dear Lorraine,
It sounds like you're preparing already by looking at your attitudes and capabilities in caring for a child who may challenge you to do something you've not done before. It's hard to know how much of a challenge this might be as every child is so different. Every child needs a period of adjustment to a new child care setting and every caregiver needs time to figure out a particular child who is new to care. It sounds like your attitude is positive and that you are willing to learn.

Since the child is already in a special program, your job will be to provide a safe, nurturing environment for this little guy to play and enjoy a social experience. Although learning happens everywhere, most of his structured learning takes place in the special program. You can take advantage of the information this program and parent can provide you such as: how much hearing the child has; what kind of assistive devices or aids are used; whether sign language is used and what are the commonly used signs. You will need to know how he expresses his needs, how he communicates with hearing peers and what his favorite play activities are.

You may want the parent and child to explore your indoor and outdoor space to determine if it will be safe for the child. He may be less distracted by visiting your home when other children aren't there. If he has assistive devices, you may want instructions on how they work as well as instructions on basic signs needed

to communicate basic needs. With practice and use, these signs become easy and understandable and soon the other children in care will want to use them as well. Hearing loss or even deafness does not affect a child's curiosity or ability to learn.

Here are some tips from the Center for the Education of the Infant Deaf on including a child who is deaf or hard of hearing in your child care program. **Visually accessible play space** – play space should include a visibly accessible environment. Partitions between areas should be as open as possible. That way the teacher/provider can get the attention through eye contact and communicate with the children by blinking the lights without having to go around obstacles. **Lighting** – lighting should also be adequate in all areas of the room in order to reduce eyestrain. Lengthy activities should not take place behind windows because a child may get distracted; make sure to have adjustable blinds on the window. **Don't wear distracting clothing** – flashy rings, necklaces and earrings as well as elaborate hairstyles and flashy clothing will make it more difficult for a child who needs to speech-read you or watch your signs. Men with beards and mustaches should make sure their lips are easily visible. **Make eye contact** – when talking or signing to a deaf or hard of hearing child make sure you look her in the eye. This is how the child knows you are talking to her and makes it easier for her to see your lips and/or signs. A child may not think she has your attention unless you are making direct eye contact. **Do not shout or exaggerate your speech** – no matter how much louder you speak, a person with a hearing loss will probably not hear you more clearly. Exaggerating your mouth movements will just distort the normal appearance of speech on the lips and make it harder to understand you. Speak in a normal, clear voice and make sure you have the attention of the person you are speaking to.

For more information on early warning signs of a child's hearing loss or how to make other accommodations in your inclusive child care program, please contact Heather at BANANAS, 658-7353.



Yours in Sickness and Health, Judy

TAXES FOR FAMILY CHILD CARE

Nancy Ott, longtime family child care tax specialist, discusses techniques for gathering information and filing taxes on your family child care home. This popular workshop is a must for new providers and always helpful to more experienced ones. If someone else does the taxes in your family, s/he is welcome to attend with you. Come on **Tuesday, January 20** from **7:00-8:30 pm**. Space is limited; call 658-7353 to register.

FIRE SAFETY FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

On **Tuesday, December 9, 7 to 8:30 pm**, **Stephanie Massey**, public education coordinator with the Oakland Fire Department, will lead a workshop on fire safety. Topics covered include: how to teach small children about fire safety, the rules and regulations providers need to follow and the services the fire department provides to the community. Free fire safety products to participants; call 658-7353 to register.

BEGINNING ESL FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

Child care workers who want to learn how to communicate better with parents and children are welcome to come to this class, **Saturdays, January 3, 10, 17, 24, 9 am to 12 pm**. Participants need to be able to speak with the teacher in English. Call 658-7353 to register.

MERRITT CLASSES IN THE SPRING

Courses in English: Introduction to Preschool Curriculum II (1 unit), M1140, CHDEV 226B, Friday, March 12, 6:30-9:30 pm and **Saturdays, March 13 & 27 and April 17, 9:30 am to 2:30 pm**.

Introduction to Early Childhood Education (3 units) M0765, CHDEV 050, **Thursdays, 4-7 pm, January 15 to May 20**, taught in English with language support in Chinese, Vietnamese and Spanish.

In Spanish: Introduction to Preschool Curriculum I (1 unit), M1138, CHDEV 226A, **Friday, January 23, 6:30-9:30 pm** and **Saturdays, Jan. 24 and Feb. 7 & 21, 9:30 am to 2:30 pm**.

In Chinese and Vietnamese: Introduction to Preschool Curriculum I (1 unit) M1139, CHDEV 226A, **Saturdays, January 31 and Feb. 14 & 28, 9 am to 3 pm**. Enroll at any Peralta College, call 436-2487 or call Sylvia Espinosa at 536-1830 to register in Spanish.

TEACHER SUPPORT GROUP OPENINGS

Looking for a safe place to develop collegial relationships with other early childhood professionals? A place to expand your understanding of the field and grow professionally? The monthly teacher support groups at BANANAS have openings. For information, call 658-7353 and leave a message for the facilitator, **Marion Cowee**.



¿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 para padres – BANANAS ofrece una serie en español. Fechas: **17 y 24 de noviembre y 1 y 8 de diciembre, 7-8:30 pm**.

Clase de UC Davis para proveedoras de cuidado infantil hogareño – “Claves para servir a niños con necesidades especiales,” se ofrecerá **sábado, 22 de noviembre, 9 am-5 pm** en la oficina de BANANAS.

Clases de salud y seguridad – La próxima serie en español será en **enero del 2004**.

Cursos de Merritt en BANANAS – El próximo curso en español será sobre el currículo para niños de edad preescolar, M1138, CHDEV 226A. Comienza **viernes, 23 de enero, 6:30-9:30 pm** y seguirá en **3 sábados, 24 de enero y 7 y 21 de febrero, 9:30 am-2:30 pm**. Para registrarse llame a Sylvia Espinosa al 536-1830.

Orientación del estado para obtener su licencia de cuidado infantil hogareño – El Dpto de Licencias ofrece orientaciones en español en la oficina de BANANAS en **noviembre y mayo**. No se permite traer niños. El Dpto. de Licencias también ofrece orientaciones en español en Concord en enero y julio (Contra Costa Child Care Council: Pregunte por Ela al teléfono 925/676-5437) y en Hayward en marzo y septiembre (4C’s of Alameda County: 582-2182).

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. 香蕉中心創立 30 週年慶祝會于 10/18 日在 Lakeside Park, Oakland 舉辦. 謝謝大家參加.
2. 家長座談會十一月廿二日週六, 下午二時至四時, 送玩具, 書本, 並有托兒資助. 托兒工作人員請鼓勵家長們踴躍參加.
3. 嬰幼兒健康安全與托兒訓練課: 十五小時國語課程日期有所更改, 請注意 1/17/04, 2/7/04, 2/21/04. 證書二年到期, 續期者, 申請托兒執照者請儘速報名.
4. 致家長的信中文專刊, 來信索取自閱或轉贈家長. 題目有: “如何才能不縱容孩子”, “書中自有黃金屋”, “小小人兒, 滿口爛牙”.

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 at BANANAS. On **Thursday, November 20, Angie Garling**, Alameda County Child Care Coordinator, will lead a discussion on "Universal Preschool." The following meeting will be on **Thursday, January 15**; both are from **10 am - 12 noon**. No meeting in December. 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.
- CA EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTOR PROGRAM 2003-2004 Series of Director Mentor Institutes for program directors and site supervisors, Jan. 23-24 Carlsbad, Feb. 6-7 Los Angeles, March 5-6 Bakersfield & Napa, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, for further info. call Linda Olivenbaum, (415) 452-5602, \$60.
- PREKINDERGARTEN LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT Guidelines Training Program, "Inclusion of Children With Disabilities and Other Special Needs," on Sat., Nov. 22 or Tues., Dec. 9 and "The Teacher's Role in Supporting Children's Learning," on Sat., Dec. 6 or Tues., Dec. 16, visit www.caeyc.org, click on Programs and select Pre-K or call (916) 486-7762.
- THE INNOVATIVE TEACHER PROJECT Special Roundtable with Amelia Gambetti, Reggio Emilia, Italy, Presidio Child Development Center, San Francisco, contact Sandy Osborne, (415) 561-5822, \$35.
- THE EAST BAY RESOURCE CENTER for Nonprofit Support provides free training workshops, technical assistance and a nonprofit business and funding research library in downtown Oakland at City Hall Plaza, Monday through Friday, noon to 5 pm, www.rescenter.org, 834-1010.
- AUTISM AND YOUNG CHILDREN WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS, Infant Development Association Conference, CA School for the Blind, Fremont, Monday, Dec. 1, 8 am to 2:30 pm, speakers Jay Gense and Marilyn Gense, reg. deadline Nov. 19, \$79-139, (916) 453-8801.
- STATE BUDGET POLICY WORKSHOPS, Oakland, Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2004, 8:30 am to 2 pm, Preservation Park Nile Hall, 668 13th St., On the Capitol Doorstep, (916) 442-5431, \$115-125.
- CA ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN Conference, leadership day Fri., Feb. 20, conference Saturday & Sunday, Feb. 21-22, San Diego Town and Country Resort & Convention Center, early bird reg. by 11/17/03, reg. deadline by 1/22/04, \$90-290, (800) 378-2817.
- AVAILABLE TO TALK TO FAMILIES AT YOUR PROGRAMS about health insurance options for children – Joseph Smith, Blue Cross Medi-Cal & Healthy Families Program, 986-2404.
- TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM At Museum of Children's Art, Oakland, Dec. 4, 4-6 pm, Printmaking for the Holidays, Jan. 22, 4-6 pm, The Heart of Color, 528 9th Street, 465-8770, www.mocha.org.
- THIRD ROCK FROM THE SUN: ASTRONOMY FOR TEACHERS, Sat., Nov. 22, 3-6:30 pm, Sunol Visitor Center, discover the sun, moon and planets, for elementary ages, (925) 862-2601, reg. required.

(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)

Berkeley, 2/01, flex, Star, 548-9657
Berk/Oak, 5/02 & 9/00, 2-3 days/wk flex, Bodo, 644-9744
Rockridge/Berkeley, 8/94, Fri PM, Marianne, 654-7264
Oakland/Berk, 11/02, M-F flex, Tina, 569-8003
Pied/Trestle/Mont/Rock, 1/99, Wed am or pm, Gordana, 763-0677

EXCHANGES WANTED (Date = child's birthdate)

Berk/Albany/N Oak, 8/97, eves & wkends, Linda, 649-2993
Oakland, 4/03, M-F before 4 pm, Jonna, 577-0795
Oakland, 2/99 & 5/01, Monday 10-1, Tuesday 1-3, Desirae, 601-6242
Oakland, 6/96 & 7/98, Monday & Wednesday eves, Cristina, 261-8335

LOOKING FOR SHARED SITUATIONS (No sitter hired)

(Date = child's birthdate, f-t = full-time; p-t = part-time)
N Berkeley, 10/02, flex 15-20 hrs/wk, Deborah, 533-5111
Oakland/S Berk/Pied, 2/03, Th, Laura, 655-4823
Grand/Glenview/Rock, 8/03, M-Th 30 hrs/wk, Jenny or John, 986-1365
Grandlake/N Oak/Rock/S Berk, 8/03, MT&Th, 30+ hrs flex, Jeff, 267-0904
Montclair/Pied/Oak/Rock, 5/03, T-Th f-t, Anastasia, 530-6945
Montclair/Pied/Rock/Glen, 6/03, M-F f-t, Maritina, 336-0168
Montclair/Glenview/Rock, 10/03, M-Th 30 hrs/wk, Lynn, 482-2980
Redwood Hts/Mont/Pied, 8/03, M-Th, 30-40 hrs, Tracy, 336-9644

SHARED ARRANGEMENTS OFFERED (Sitter hired)

Alameda/Oak, 3/02 & 6/02, M-F f-t or p-t, Karen, 523-5701
Albany/N Berk, 1/01, M-Th starting 2:30, F all day, Holly, 559-7839
N Berk/Albany, 4/03, M-F f-t or p-t min. 20 hrs., Terry, 558-0197
N Berk/Albany, 7/01, M-F f-t or p-t, Terri, (415) 983-1096
Berkeley, 2/03, M-F f-t or p-t, Sonia, 644-1517
Berkeley, 1/03, M-Th 20 hrs/wk, Camille, 847-7298 or 7297
Elm/Berk, 3/01, M-F p-t or f-t flex, Megan, 486-0606
N Oak/Rock7/02, MTThF, f-t or p-t, Laura, 923-0169
Rockridge, 10/03, M-Th 3-4 days, Victoria, 658-1331
Rock/Mont/Claremont/Crocker, 11/02, M-Th, F avail, Marclie, 653-5070
Lakeshore, 5/02, MWF flex, Nancy, 271-0148
Crocker/Glen/Mont/Rock/Pied, 2/03, flex MWTh 30 hrs, Suzanne, 663-6253
Pied/Rock/Lake/N Oak, 3/98 & 10/00, MTTh f-t flex, Lisa, 652-9333
Mont/Laurel/Rock, 11/02, M-F 32 hrs/wk, Sharon, 531-3938
Mont/Rock/Crocker/Oakmore/Redwd, 4/02, TTh f-t, Marianne, 339-9990

SHARED ARRANGEMENTS – PARENTS SPLIT TIME

Berk/Albany/EC, 2-4 days/wk 9am-2pm, Andrea, 843-5100
Oak/Berk, TWTh flex, Nadya, 482-0682
Oakland, MWF flex, Sarah, 531-1951
Montclair, MWF after 1 pm, TuTh all day, Karen, 653-2078
Upper Rock/Mont/Pied/Glen/Lake, MWF f-t, Jessica, 547-0455
Open area, M-Th until 2:30, also share PMS & F, Holly, 559-7839

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

- IF YOU HAVE A SPANISH-SPEAKING IN-HOME CAREGIVER, please refer her/him to announcements on page 9.

- **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.
- **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.
- **OUR FAMILY COALITION PROMOTES THE CIVIL RIGHTS** and well being of families with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender members through education, advocacy, networking and community organizing, www.ourfamily.org, (415) 981-1960.
- **PEACE EDUCATION FUND 2004 CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARDS**, *Dear Ichiro*, *The Princess and the Admiral*, *PEOPLE*, and *Passage to Freedom*, place order for these marvenous books at ChildrensBooks@CaliforniaPeaceAction.org.
- **KINDERPREP SEMINARS ON "Lesson for Parents on Schools,"** offer coaching for parents through the course of school selection; call Wanda Stewart, 665-1665 for a seminar at your school or for individualized educational counseling.
- **DADS MAKE A DIFFERENCE**, a program for expectant and parenting teens, student referrals may be made by parents, counselors, nurses, doctors, community agencies and students themselves by calling 532-1038, 8:30 am to 2:30 pm, Monday through Friday, 532-1038 or 670-4104.
- **SUPPORT GROUPS FOR MOTHERS**, Sherry Reinhardt, RN, MPH, Mom, visit www.supportgroupformothers.com, 524-0821, \$\$.
- **FREE SMOKE DETECTORS AVAILABLE** for Berkeley residents and UC students who live off-campus in houses, 981-5585 X5501.
- **SPECIAL NEEDS TRUSTS**, Dale Law firm has series of workshops on limited conservatorships and special needs trusts, in Walnut Creek, special needs trust, Sat., Dec. 6, 1901 Olympic Blvd.; in San Francisco at 1500 Howard St., Sat., Nov. 22, 1 pm to 3 pm, Limited Conservatorships and Dec. 13, Special Needs Trust, 10 am to 12 pm, (925) 280-0172.
- **SPANISH-SPEAKING PARENTS OF SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN** have new group in Hayward, the last Saturday of each month, 3-5 pm, La Familia Office, 22366 Fuller Ave., 534-0318.
- **STRETCH MARKS PERFORMANCE BY DRAMA MAMAS**, four Bay Area moms star in this funny, poignant play about motherhood, Nov. 13-22 and Dec. 4-13 at the Exit Theatre on Taylor in San Francisco, 277 Taylor at Eddy, tickets avail. at www.DramaMamas.com/tix or by calling (415) 289-2289.
- **TEENAGERS AND DRUGS IN BERKELEY**, What can parents, schools, community do? talk with Meredith Maran, Wed., Nov. 19, 6:30-8 pm, Main Gym, Berkeley YMCA, free, 665-3238.
- **LOOKING FOR CHILDREN AGES 2-4** who are not attending pre-school or licensed child care for new services and supplies; call Brenda or Veronica, 665-3271 or vcorpuz@baymca.org.
- **NON-CUSTODIAL DADS AND MOMS** who want direction in their child access issues, call Child Access/Children's Rights Council, (800) 787-KIDS.
- **FATHERS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**, last Thursday of month at 7:30 pm, Family Resource Network, 5232 Claremont, 547-7322.
- **TEEN PARENT TIME AFTERNOON AT HABITOT** Children's Museum, Wed., 11/19, 1-3 pm, 2065 Kittredge St., Berk., 647-1111 X 15.
- **SISTER TO SISTER SUPPORT GROUP**, for African American moms raising children born premature or with special needs, FRN, 547-7322 X 15 for dates, times and directions.
- **BERKELEY ARTISANS HOLIDAY OPEN STUDIOS**, Saturdays & Sundays, 11 am to 6 pm, Nov. 29-30, Dec. 6-7, 13-14, 20-21, 2003, www.berkeleyartisans.com, 845-2612, maps in the East Bay Express.

CLASSES & ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS & TEENS

- **TEEN HIP HOP WORKSHOPS AT ROCKRIDGE LIBRARY** for ages 12-18, this Saturday series will cover history of hip hop, hip hop production, b-boying, graffiti, MC'ing and DJ'ing, record your own rap, call Susan or Rocky at 597-5017 to register, Nov. 15, 10 am to noon and Nov. 22, noon to 2 pm, 597-5017.
- **JOIN THE DIMOND BOOK CLUB**, ages 9 to 13, 1st Friday of the month, refreshments provided, Dimond Branch, 4 to 5 pm, 482-7844.

- **FAIRYLAND IN OAKLAND WINTER HOURS:** Friday through Sunday and national holidays, 10 am to 4 pm, closed on Thanksgiving Day, \$6 per person, infants under one year are free, 452-2259, www.fairyland.org.
- **BERKELEY REP SCHOOL OF THEATRE'S** Winter Session of Theatre Classes for youth begins Jan. 12, 2004, classes include creative drama, play creation and beginning acting, schedule available at www.berkeleyrep.org in early December.
- **CALIFORNIA COASTAL ART & POETRY CONTEST**, for K-12 students, entries must be postmarked by 1/31/04, for more information, www.coastforyou.org, (800) Coast-4-U or coast4u@coastal.ca.gov.
- **CODE BLUE AT THE GENOME ZOO**, school touring production appropriate for grades 4-8 at Berkeley Repertory Theatre, opens February, www.berkeleyrep.org or 647-2972.
- **ART EXHIBIT FROM CHILDREN'S BOOK ILLUSTRATORS** through January 3rd at Museum of Children's Art, 528 9th Street, Oakland, 465-8770.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **SATURDAY VOLUNTEER FOOD SORTS**, Dec. 6 & 20, Jan. 10 & 24, sort food, do office work, answer the Hunger Hotline, help in the warehouse, Mary Schoen at 834-3663, X 308 .
- **BANKRUPTCY LAWYER IN THE LIBRARY**, 1st Wednesday, 6 to 8 pm at Oakland Main Library, 125 - 14th St., sign up lottery at 5:45 pm, 238-3134.
- **AFRICAN AMERICAN QUILT GUILD OF OAKLAND** will display member's quilts throughout November, public demonstration is set for Sat., Nov. 15, 2 to 3:30 pm at Lakeview Branch, through November 29, 238-7344.
- **MISSING PERSONS: SIX ARTISTS & A COMMUNAL PROJECT** Explore Identity & Loss through Nov. 22, Pro Arts Gallery, 461 Ninth St., Oakland, 763-4361 or 763-9425.
- **CALLING OUT NAMES**, 10 am - 6 pm, Jack London Square, sponsored by Family Builders by Adoption & Black Adoption Placement and Research Center, (866) 295-9853, www.jacklondonsquare.com.
- **OAKLAND'S CHAVEZ BRANCH LIBRARY IS RELOCATING**, closing 1900 Fruitvale Ave. site on Sat., Nov. 22, reopening in new Fruitvale Village, 3301 E. 12th St. on Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2004, 238-3511.
- **ADVOCATES FOR READING LITERACY GROUP**, committed to eradicate illiteracy as we foster a true love of reading and reading awareness in children and their families, 630 Thomas L. Berkley Way, Ste. 100, Oakland, CA 94612, ARLGroup@Bestweb.net, reasonable fees upon request.
- **BANANAS NEEDS WORKSHOP PRESENTERS** who can present in languages other than English, especially Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese, call Vicki at 658-7353.
- **FRIENDS OF THE BERKELEY LIBRARY BOOKSTORES** at 2090 Kittredge at Shattuck and 2433 Channing Way in lobby of Sather Gate parking garage, sale of children's and adult books at low prices in excellent condition, proceeds benefit Berkeley Library, 981-6211.

DECEMBER IS SAFE TOYS AND GIFTS MONTH

Toys are meant to be fun, but they can also be harmful. The leading cause of toy-related death is choking, mostly on small balls, although a third were related to latex balloons.

- When selecting toys, follow age and safety recommendations of labels.
- Riding toys should not be used near stairs, traffic or swimming pools.
- Dispose of wrapping paper, ribbon/bows, etc. to prevent choking.

For more information, visit: www.preventblindness.org/children/safetoy.html or call (800) 331-2020.

HEALTH ENROLLMENT EVENTS

The Medi-Cal Division of Alameda County Social Services Agency will sponsor six health enrollment events through May 2004. Low income Alameda County residents can enroll on **Sat., Nov. 15, 11:30 am to 4:30 pm** at Ashland Community Center, 1530 167th Ave., San Leandro or on **Sat., Jan. 10, 10 am to 2 pm**, St. Elizabeth's Parish, 1500 - 34th Ave., Oakland.



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, Nov. 25, Dec. 9, Jan. 13 & 27 and Feb. 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)

SBC Company	Spectator Books	Safeway	Carol Eisenstein	Eileen Chow	Ada Chow	Wonder Food Bakery
KQED	Starbuck's Coffee	La Farine	Will Chaverin	Casey Elliott	Don Feist	Whole Foods Walnut Creek
See's Candies	The Art of Baking	Murray Cohen	Susanna Cohen	Rodrick Jackson	Cherry Ng	Acts Christian Academy
Sheng Kee	Alex Hernandez	Mike Scott	Kingsley Heaven	Karla Nuñez	Tarina Peace	SF Children's Book Project
Sierra Water	Mario Hernandez	Marlow Tello	Meghan Riley	Danielle Rivas	Nicole Rivas	Little Stars Preschool
Signal Books	Jonah Pivio-Scott	Ana Portugal	Greg Retherford	Silvia Rivas	Tyler Saechao	Dandelion Nursery School
Storyteller	Ali Thanawalla	Erika Scott	Bruno Grougeon	Sarah Grougeon	Andy Do	Karen & Schlomo Zilberstein
Tom's Bakery	Dalia Pimentel	Andy Do	Madeline Riley	Charlotte Chan	George Chow	BAHIA Teacher's Fund
Travel Smith	Cyril Wood	Zoe Feist	Yali Lincroft	Chris Chan	Lupe Soltero	Michael McConneloug
Helen Neville	Sandra Carrasco	Jasmin Zhang	Kevin Zhang	Rory Darrah	June Sale	Catherine Grougeon
Don Jen	Abby Cohen	Fred Atilano	John Luna Sparks	Chris Murray	Dawnelle Castro	Jasmine Retherford
George Rowan	Chris Murray	Alesia Jones-Martin	Jonathan Cohen	Van Anh	Damien Cano	Wan & Zachary Suvannalath
Kairos	Bonnie Lockhart	Asheba Wilson	Xiao-Min Li	Martha Cuevas	Naru Kwina	Los Mexicanos Restaurant
Tina Ruffin	Angela James	Allison Adams	Carlos Moreno	Sharon Williams	Lincoln Leong	J. Carranza Mariachi Band
MG4	Timothy James	Terreen Masters	Caroline Harvey	Judy Calder	Molly Sullivan	Judy Lewis' students
Simon Chan	Anisa Antonio	Nina Stockard	Sam Chaverin	Mike Pinkney	Star Griffin	Jessica Hernandez

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