

The Mothers' Center of Greater Louisville, Inc.

Journal

Vol. XXIV no. 2

Contact us at: 244-MOMS or www.murta.net/motherscenter

April/May 2004

Since 1999, I've been a member of The Mothers' Center, joining soon after my family moved here to Louisville from Dallas, TX. During the past five years, I've gone from being new kid on the block, to being one of the senior members (I met Danuta Netherwood at the New Members' brunch shortly before our youngest daughters were born.) Moving to a city where we knew no one and our families were a thousand miles away, The Mothers' Center has become familiar and comfortable. I've made many friends and acquaintances, and my children have benefitted from many playgroups (before starting preschool), activities and babysitting.



For the first few years, I was not a member of any committee. But as active members moved on or their children grew up, there became a need for more input. As I had become familiar with how things were run by participating, I first took on Children's Activities, helping then-coordinator, Carol Frame-Matthews and, later, became coordinator myself the following year. I've been member of the Babysitting Co-op since day one, and since coordinators rotate through the co-op membership, am currently coordinator of that, too. I began doing this newsletter for the June/July 2002 issue. I've had fun playing with my husband's digital camera as you can tell by the number of photographs in the newsletter since then. I've truly enjoyed doing these things, and am happy to give back a little to the Center.

This is *your* Mothers' Center, and I would like to encourage that you join a committee sometime during your membership. You can also contribute by helping out with special events or by submitting to the newsletter articles of interest to the membership, photographs, poems, drawings, etc. If you know someone who has a business, ask them if they'd like to

advertise in the newsletter. It doesn't cost you anything to ask, and The Center may bring in a few dollars to help defray publishing costs.

However you choose to participate, I hope your membership in The Mothers' Center enhances your family's enjoyment of these special early childhood years.

— Ruth Christensen

Play Group Schedule

Monday

Coffee Break & Newcomers

10:00–11:30 am

Lunch Bunch

12:00–1:30 pm

Afternoon Play

2:00–3:30 pm

Tuesday

Tweenies & Toddlers

10:00–11:30 am

12–36 months

Lunch Bunch

12:30–2:00 pm

Wednesday

Coffee Break

10:00–11:30 am

Lunch Bunch

12:00–1:30 pm

Afternoon Play

2:00–3:30 pm

Thursday

Infants

10:00–11:30 am

Newborn–18 months

Preschool

2:00–4:00 pm

Ages 3–5

Evening

6:00–7:30 pm

RSVP to Amy Leenerts

by noon

Friday

Coffee Talk

10:00–11:30 am

All play groups will be cancelled whenever Jefferson County Schools are closed due to inclement weather.

Inside...

Co-Director's Note	2
Officers and Committees	2
Peanut Butter	3
Adult Activities	4
Children's Activities	6
Calendar	7-8
Announcements	11
Planning Meeting Minutes	12

“Mothers Helping Mothers”

The Mothers' Center of Greater Louisville is a non-profit, nondenominational community program formed to promote the positive aspects of parenthood and families by offering playgroups, parent education and support, parent and child activities and resource materials. The Center, founded in 1983, is part of an organized network of Mothers' Centers across the U.S. The Center is operated by parent members and provides both a nonjudgmental learning environment for parents and a safe place for children to learn to play and socialize with other children.

The Mothers' Center is located in the back of John Knox Presbyterian Church, 9104 Westport Rd. Annual membership is \$50. For more information call 244-MOMS or visit our website at www.murta.net/motherscenter.

The *Journal* is published by The Mothers' Center of Greater Louisville, Inc. Articles are written by individual members and do not necessarily reflect the viewpoint of The Mothers' Center. If you would like to submit an article for the next newsletter, please call or e-mail Ruth Christensen. The deadline for the June/July issue is May 15, 2004.

Co-Director's Note

Greetings Parents,

Sarah Pesek has graciously agreed to become Co-Director with me. My family is adopting a baby and she was kind enough to realize that I really needed someone to help as I may not always be available. Thank You Sarah!!



We have a lot of great things going on at The Mothers' Center. John, my husband, has fixed one of our computers. We hope someone might have a set of old computer speakers to donate so that we can get the other computer operational as well. If anyone has any age-appropriate software to donate, it would be greatly appreciated.

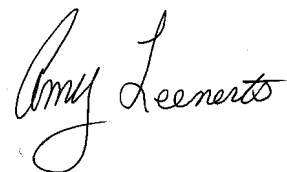
Children by two years of age can start to learn about the use of a computer. As we know, children learn through play, and who can think of a better way to start learning about the computer than with your friends at The Mothers' Center?

We have a few rules for safety that must be adhered to:

1. There must be an adult present (parents take turns) at all times when there are children playing with the computers.
2. No food and drinks around the computers.

I know my son plays computer games at home and can use the computer pretty well for a three-year-old. I hope you will take this opportunity to further your child's "early" education.

Happy Parenting,



Recently, one of the planned Mothers' Center activities was to make peanut butter Play-Doh. This caused Jen and Christy Charlton—Jack's moms and Mothers' Center members for the last two years—to panic. Please read their story to understand why... and how you can help. Thank you!

Peanut butter—cheap, nutritious, popular, and traditional. It is a mainstay in many American homes and was in ours until we had Jack, our now 2½ year-old son, who is the light of our lives.

Jack has food allergies—common among young children whose immune systems have not quite developed. Like many of you, we used to think that food allergies were, by and large, a non-issue—something that was an annoyance and would most likely be outgrown. Certainly, not anything that would cause serious problems. ENTER: Peanuts/Nuts—a food that would change our lives dramatically and send our blood-pressure sky-rocketing with the thought of Jack's exposure to it.

Ever wonder why airlines have stopped serving peanuts as snacks? Why some schools have banned peanut-butter and peanut products from their cafeterias and classrooms? Quite simply, peanut allergies are on the rise and, for some, just inhaling their odor/fragrance (much less touching their oils), can cause a life-threatening anaphylactic response, with severe swelling of the lips/mouth/throat, a sudden drop in blood pressure, and extreme shortness of breath. Lesser reactions typically include hives, itching, vomiting, and diarrhea.

You might think that this is uncommon, but it is on the rise. Up to 8% of children and 2% of adults in the U.S. are affected by a food allergy, and peanuts are one of the most common foods that trigger an allergic reaction. In fact, a whopping 3 million Americans are at risk! ENTER: Jack.

Jen and I have never given Jack any peanut-related products knowingly, but we have had one tremendous scare. Several months ago, I had eaten a bowl of cereal in which one of the ingredients was almonds. One-half hour later, I kissed Jack on the cheek. Moments after that, we were speeding down the expressway to get him to a hospital. He had broken out in large hives from



Christy and Jen Charlton
with their son, Jack.

head to toe, itching ferociously, with that minimal nut contact. Luckily, he was fine; however the ER doc told us that this was a warning. His next exposure to nuts, however slight, might result in the anaphylactic reaction described above. ENTER: Paranoia.

How have our lives changed knowing about Jack's nut allergies? Well, first, we never leave the house without an EpiPen, a potentially life-saving injection that we would administer to Jack were he to have a severe reaction. It is a short-term remedy that sometimes works and buys you time to get to the hospital where more life-saving measures are available.

Additionally, we read EVERY ingredient of EVERYTHING that sweet child eats! In fact, we read labels twice—just to be on the safe side. There is no carefree trick-or-treating for us... no sharing of snacks with other children without extreme caution... no random stops at the bakery to pick up a blueberry muffin (which might have been cross-contaminated with a nutty muffin or muffin pan). Needless to say, there have been days when Jen and I have

been in tears of frustration and fear. It has been tough.

As Jack reaches school-age, we know that, more than likely, we will be packing his lunch every day of the year. We have learned that you just can't be too careful and that there are hidden peanut ingredients in many foods you might never suspect. For example, did you know that almost 100% of packaged cookies (even those with NO peanuts labeled as an ingredient) are made on machinery that also processes peanuts? Cross those off our list of edibles. What about foods prepared in restaurants on a common grill which might contain peanut oil? And have you ever stopped to think about how many casseroles people bring to potluck-type dinners which have some sort of nut as an ingredient (green beans, salads, etc.)? ENTER: More sleepless nights.

For those of you whose children do not have food allergies, feel very lucky! For us, it is a different story, and we must be very careful. Jack doesn't know it yet, but this is an allergy that he most likely will never outgrow, and it impacts so much of what we do. Without trying to sound overly dramatic, Jack's life depends on us weeding out nuts (the edible ones—not the family members!) from his environment. That is

continued on page 5



Adult Activities

April

Bored of sitting around your house on yet another Thursday night? Come be “board” at my house! That’s right! Notice the spelling of board. Please join us for some “board” games—specifically the new Trivial Pursuit, Taboo, and the Pop Culture DVD game. We will order pizza for dinner, so please bring some money if you would like to partake. **7:00 pm, Wednesday, April 28, 2004.** Please RSVP to Serena by Sunday the 25th.

May

Join us for an evening of Bowling and Beer! We will meet first at **7:30 pm** at Ruby Tuesday’s (Shelbyville Road location) for an awesome dinner. At 9:15 pm we will head over to Ten Pin Lanes on Shelbyville Road (where fun is bowling!). The date is **Thursday, May 13, 2004.** RSVP by Tuesday the 11th so that I can make reservations at the bowling alley. Please join us so that a good time will be had by all.

Parents’ Time Out

Hello all of you hard-working mothers and fathers who love your families, but also need a little time away! The Mothers’ Center is going to be hosting Parents’ Time Out. This is a Fundraising project to help pay for our rent at The Center as well as for activities throughout the year. This will not replace the Date Night Co-op already scheduled, rather it will provide *another opportunity* for folks to go out and know that your children are in a safe environment with other mothers and fathers.

How will it work?

The Mothers’ Center will be open from **5:00 pm until 9:00 pm** with one adult per four children. The cost is \$15.00 for one child and \$20.00 for families of two or more children, no limit (good news for big families!). The dates for the first four Time Out opportunities are: **April 17, May 8, June 19 and July 10.**

If you wish for your child/children to attend, so that you and your significant other can have some time alone for dinner, hitting golf balls or whatever you fancy, simply call Mary Beth Hall. You need to call at least four days prior to the scheduled date, so that I know how many sitters I need to contact.

Also, you will need to feed your child dinner prior to coming, and send any drinks, diapers, wipes, bottles, etc. that they may need. Pretzels and goldfish will be available for those that want them. If you do send in a snack for your child, please remember that we are a peanut-free zone, due to allergies.

The sitters will have emergency medical forms that you will need to fill out the first time you drop off, if you do not already have one on file at The Center.

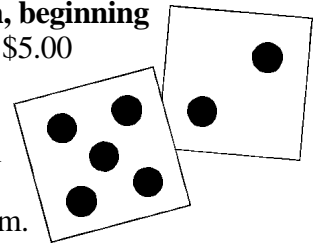
I hope everyone will try to take advantage of these wonderful opportunities for you to have an evening out as well as raise money for the center. I look forward to working with you and your children. Put those dates down on your calendar and make a date with your spouse!

Bunco

Hello Friends! Anyone interested in Bunco?

Bunco is a fun little dice game that is very easy to play. Basically, you roll dice and count your rolls. The focus is more on socializing, drinking and eating than the actual game!

We’re looking for people who want to play **one night each month, beginning in May.** The cost to play is \$5.00 per game, and this goes into a prize pot that you could win! We would begin an evening at **7:00 pm** and usually wrap up by 10:00 pm.



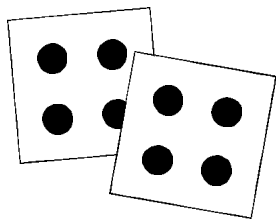
You will be asked to host one month out of the year. In order to host, you will need to open up your home to the members and serve light appetizers, drinks and dessert. The benefit here is that for the remaining eleven months, you only have to show up with \$5.00 to play!

If you would like to play, but do not think you would like to play each month, you could also sign on to be a substitute. As a substitute, you would not be required to host in your home.

If you are interested, call Mary Beth Hall by April 22. You'll need to let me know three things:

- If you want to be a regular player or substitute.
- Which weeknight evenings are best for you to play.
- Which months (if any) are not good for you to be the hostess.

I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU FUN WOMEN, AND ROLLING THE BONES WITH YOU!



Peanut Butter continued from page 3

why we are asking that you take a few moments to try to understand our predicament and refrain from bringing nut-related items to The Mothers' Center.

When asked about the new nut-free policy in his school, one fifth-grader put it like this: "Well, it's one kid's life or another kid's lunch." While that may sound militant/harsh, it rings true for us, and we implore you to help. If it were your child, wouldn't you do the same?

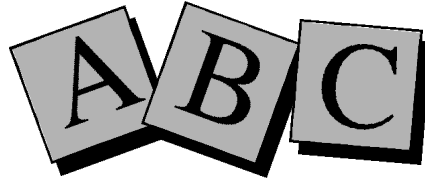
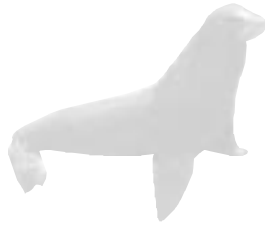
One last word of advice: For those of you who have small children, most pediatricians recommend that you steer clear of feeding your child peanuts/nuts until after his/her third birthday. Yes, that is how common and scary this allergy is becoming, and doctors want children to have as much of a chance to develop their immune systems before exposure.

For more information about food allergies, including nut allergies, please visit: www.foodallergy.org. Thank you so much for your support and understanding!

Sincerely,

Christy Charlton (and Jen and Jack!)

Children's Activities



Sign up for these events at The Mothers' Center or by calling Michelle Nethers. Be sure to sign up so that you can be notified if the event is cancelled or rescheduled. Also, if you sign up and then are unable to attend, please let Michelle know. If snacks will be offered, refrain from bringing nut-related foods and be sure to tell Michelle if your child has any other food allergies.

April

Tuesday, April 6, at 10:00 am

Easter Party – Meet at The Mothers' Center for an Easter Egg Hunt, goodies, crafts and a chance to meet the Easter Bunny. Bring a dozen plastic eggs filled with prizes or treats for each child to use for the Egg Hunt. Sign up at The Mothers' Center and indicate what snack you can bring by April 5.

Thursday, April 15, at 5:30 pm

Dinner at Chuck E. Cheese's – Join us for dinner at Chuck E. Cheese's on Hurstbourne Parkway. We can go in together on pizzas or they also offer a salad bar, hot dogs, etc. to purchase food separately. While waiting on dinner, the kids can play games and enjoy the play area. I will have several coupons that offer 20 free tokens with the purchase of a large pizza at regular price. RSVP by calling Michelle by April 14.

Tuesday, April 20, at 1:00 pm

Bowling at Lyndon Lanes – Children 3 and older can bowl for \$2.00/game with shoe rental included at Lyndon Lanes, 8119 New LaGrange Road. Please RSVP by calling Michelle by April 16.

Friday, April 23, at 11:00 am

April Birthday Party at McDonald's on Hubbards Lane – Let's celebrate April birthdays by having lunch together, enjoying a McDonald's birthday cake and letting the kids play together in the play land, 287 N. Hubbards Lane. Sign up at the Mothers' Center by April 20.

Tuesday, April 27, at 10:00 am and 12:30 pm

Mother's Day Craft – We will be making a card that will have the children's picture on it for their grandmothers as a Mother's Day gift. Their picture will be taken that day and then attached to the card after the film is developed. Please bring the grandmothers' addresses the day of the craft. Call Michelle by April 23 if you plan to attend.

Thursday, April 29, at 10:00 am

Derby Party – Bring the kids to The Mothers' Center to make a Derby-themed craft. If the weather is nice, we can go outside and have our own "Run for the Roses". Sign up at The Mothers' Center and indicate if you can bring a treat. RSVP by April 27.

May

Wednesday, May 5, at 9:30 am

Breakfast at McDonald's on Hubbards Lane – You deserve a break today.... so let's have breakfast at McDonald's and let the kids play together in the play land area. 287 N. Hubbards Lane. Sign up at The Mothers' Center by May 3.

Friday, May 7, at 10:00 am

May Birthday Party – Join us at The Mothers' Center to celebrate with members who have birthdays in May. Sign up at The Mothers' Center and indicate if you can bring treats or drinks.

Friday, May 14, at 10:30 am

Robson Park – The park is located behind the Post Office on LaGrange Road. There are playgrounds, picnic areas and a walking path. Bring snacks or a picnic lunch if you would like. Sign up at The Mothers' Center by May 13.

Thursday, May 20, at 1:00 pm

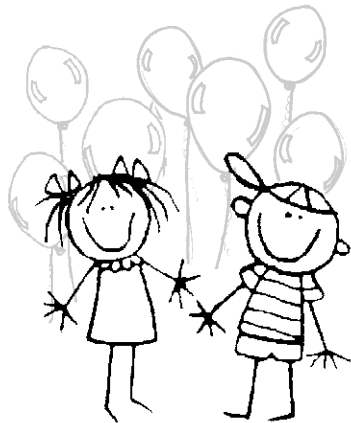
Tour of Graeter's Ice Cream – Join us after lunch to learn how ice cream is made and try a new flavor. The shop is in Springhurst Shopping Center at the corner of Hurstbourne Parkway and Brownsboro Rd. (near Kroger). The price is the cost of ice cream. There is a coupon in the Entertainment Book, B30 - Buy one single or double cone and get one free. RSVP by May 19.

Monday, May 24, at 10:30 am

Art Sparks – Now that school is out, hopefully some of our older kids can attend this activity. We will meet at Art Sparks in the

continued on page 9

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 April Fools' Day	2	3
4 Palm Sunday Daylight Saving Time Begins	5 RSVP Deadline Easter Party Full Moon Passover begins at sundown	6 10:00 am Easter Party	7	8	9 Good Friday	10
11 Easter	12 Last Quarter	13 7:00 pm Planning Mtg RSVP deadline Parents' Time Out	14 RSVP Chuck E. Cheese's	15 5:30 pm Dinner at Chuck E. Cheese's	16 RSVP deadline (kids') Bowling at Lyndon Lanes	17 5:00 pm Parents' Time Out Thunder Over Louisville
18	19 RSVP Deadline Date Night New Moon	20 RSVP Birthday Party 1:00 pm (kids') Bowling at Lyndon Lanes	21	22 Deadlines for: RSVP Babysitting Coop Playgroup, Bunco Signup Earth Day	23 RSVP Mother's Day Craft 11:00 am Birthday Party at McDonald's 2:00 pm Babysitting Coop Playgroup	24 6:30 pm Date Night
25 RSVP Deadline Board Games at Serena's	26	27 RSVP Derby Party 10:00 am, 12:30 pm Mother's Day Craft First Quarter	28 7:00 pm Board Games at Serena's	29 10:00 am Derby Party	30 Arbor Day	
March 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	May 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	<h1>April 2004</h1>				



Happy Birthday!

CHILDREN

MeMe Steinbock 4/7
 Yasmeen Bucayu-Lee 4/9
 J.T. Nethers 4/10
 Katie Hall 4/11
 Joseph Snow 4/12
 Alec Christensen 4/16
 Catherine Bretl 4/17

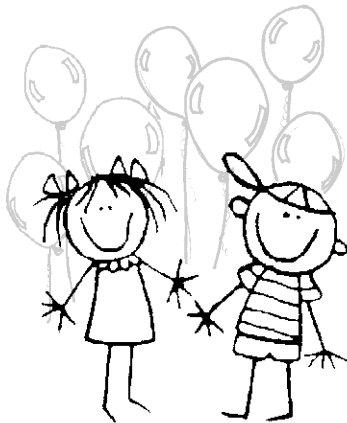
Jordon Aberson 4/19
 Lauren Chan 4/30
 Amanda Jones 4/30

PARENTS

Elise Meaney 4/7
 Bart Mansmann 4/23



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 130 th Kentucky Derby
2	3 RSVP Deadline Breakfast at McDonald's	4 RSVP Deadline Parents' Time Out 	5 9:30 am Breakfast at McDonald's Cinco de Mayo	6	7 10:00 am Birthday Party	8 5:00 pm Parents' Time Out
9 Mother's Day	10	11 RSVP Dinner & Bowling 7:00 pm Planning Meeting 	12	13 RSVP Robson Park 7:30 pm Dinner & Bowling	14 10:30 am Robson Park	15 Armed Forces Day
16	17 RSVP Deadline for Date Night	18	19 RSVP deadline Tour of Graeter's 	20 1:00 pm Tour of Graeter's RSVP Art Sparks	21	22 6:30 pm Date Night
23 Memorial Day 30	24 Victoria Day (Can.) 10:30 am Art Sparks Memorial Day Observed 31	25 RSVP deadline Louisville Zoo Shavuot begins at sundown	26	27 10:00 am Louisville Zoo 	28	29
April 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	June 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	<h1>May 2004</h1>				



Happy Birthday!

CHILDREN

Mariam Bradley 5/1
 Parker Thomas 5/8
 Steven G. Dabney, Jr. 5/14
 Luke Mansmann 5/22
 Shea Tronco 5/22

PARENTS

Trish Gallagher 5/1
 Mitzi Root 5/17

Children's Activities

continued from page 6

Speed Museum. For free admission, present your library card at the front desk. Street parking is available, but garage parking is recommended. You can have your parking ticket validated if you buy something in their gift shop. Art Sparks offers lots of fun activities, including light-shadow movement, drawing, computer activities, a shadow puppet theater and a separate playroom for babies and toddlers. RSVP by May 20.

Thursday, May 27, at 10:00 am

Louisville Zoo – Everyone enjoys a day at the zoo. Some of our Mothers' Center members have Zoo memberships with "guest passes". When signing up, please let us know if you have this type of membership so that we might pair up before going into the zoo. For those without a membership, the Zoo admission prices are as follows: Adults (12-59): \$9.95, Children (3-11): \$6.95, Children 2 and under: FREE. Train: \$1.75, Tram: \$1.50, Carousel: \$1.00. You may want to pack a lunch or the Zoo has a few places to eat. RSVP by May 25.

*Is there something else you'd like to see listed as a Children's Activity?
Call Elise Meaney with your suggestions.*

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Birthday Party



*Celebrating their February Birthdays
at The Mothers' Center are from left:
Aidan Welch, 1, with his sister, Deirdre
and Tyler Chan, 2, with his mom, Vanessa.*

Valentine's Day Party



(clockwise from top) Katie Sauber-Steinbock with daughter, MeMe; Bart Mansmann with son, Luke; Elise Meaney with children, Killian and Caitlin.

A Day at the JCC

Mothers' Center members join in at an afternoon class at the JCC: Sharon and Steven Dabney, Catherine Brett, Tess Christensen, Caitlin Meaney and JT Nethers.



Announcements

Thank You!

Thanks to the following people for cleaning and reorganizing The Mothers' Center in March: Vanessa Chan, Sharon Dabney, Bart Mansmann, Sarah Pesek, Sara Squires, Marie Stroud and Hema Wetzel.

Because of their hard work, all of our children will be healthier.

-Amy Leenerts

Congratulations!

Megan and Chris Cyterski are expecting a new baby in July.



If you have had a baby or know someone who has, please call Ruth. Also call with news such as families moving, transferring, etc.

Babysitting Co-op

Join the Babysitting Co-op and exchange free babysitting with other Mothers' Center members. Playgroups are held to familiarize your child with other co-op members' homes. Come to a playgroup and check it out! For more information, call the current Babysitting Co-op coordinator, Ruth Christensen.

Upcoming Playgroup
(RSVP by the day before.)

Apr. 23 at 2:00 pm Katie Sauber-Steinbock

Date Night Co-op

Would you ever turn down free babysitting? No way! Now's your chance to take advantage of free, yes FREE babysitting! As a member of the Date Night Co-op, you will have the ability to have free babysitting one Saturday night a month from 6:30 to 9:30 pm at The Mothers' Center. Rotations are made so that you and your spouse will take a turn babysitting other members' children. Since the date night takes place at the Center, you're assured a safe and healthy environment for your child. We keep a ratio of 4 children to 1 adult. If interested, please call the current coordinator, Michelle Nethers.

The date nights and babysitters for April and May are as follows: (Remember to RSVP by the Monday before.)

Apr. 24 Amy and Chris Jones

May. 22 Katie and Stuart Sauber-Steinbock

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Breastfeeding & New Mom Resource Center



The Mothers' Center of Greater Louisville, Inc.

Planning Meeting Minutes

Date February 10, 2004

Start Time 7:05 pm

Attendance Bobbie Bretl, Chris Charlton, Jen Charlton, Ruth Christensen, Sharon Dabney, Kate Hettinger, Amy Leenerts, Bart Mansmann, Michelle Nethers, Danuta Netherwood, Serena Repsold, Katie Sauber-Steinbock, Brigid Wickson

Directors' Report

Old Business

- Amy Leenerts renewed our lease.

New Business

- Ruth Christensen will write the article for the front page of the **next newsletter**.
- **The Mothers' Center will be a nut-free zone effective immediately.** Signs will be posted at The Mothers' Center and there will be an article in the next newsletter explaining the reactions that some children have if exposed to nut products. All members present at the meeting voted in favor of this policy. Future membership documents need revision to include this new policy.

Treasurer's Report

- Our current **bank balance is approx. \$2,138 and \$1,512 in the CD.**

Committee Updates

Fundraising

- Some **money-making ideas** offered at the meeting were:
 1. Offering last minute **gift wrapping** for next Christmas.
 2. Offering **babysitting services** at The Mothers' Center on a quarterly basis and also during the holiday season. Members would staff the babysitting sessions.
 3. **Just Creations** on Frankfurt Avenue allows organizations to staff their business on certain days and receive a percentage of the sales during that time. We could spread the word to family and friends and also offer refreshments.
 4. **Shopping cards** from various stores.

Children's Activities

- When planning activities, committee members are trying to **set up activities for morning and afternoon.**
- We are considering having a **magic or puppet show** as an activity. There would be no charge for the show, but each child would need to bring a new toy to donate to The Mothers' Center.

Adult Activities

- Serena Repsold is planning **one activity per month.** As long as the response is good, she will plan a dinner after the monthly planning meeting.

Facility

- Sharon Dabney will be having a **toy cleanup** on March 12 at 10:00 am. Members that cannot be at The Mothers' Center at this time, but would like to help, can pick up toys to take home for cleaning. The phone tree will call members to inform them of the toy cleanup.
- Jen Charlton suggested rearranging the big room to make an **area for the babies to play.** This area could be made with gates or the bookshelves. The room rearrangement will be done during the toy cleanup on March 12.

Adjournment 8:15 pm

– Michelle Nethers

Date March 9, 2004

Start Time 7:05 pm

Attendance Jennifer Bradley, Sharon Dabney, Mary Beth Hall, Kate Hettinger, Amy Leenerts, Bart Mansmann, Elise Meaney, Michelle Nethers, Sarah Pesek

Directors' Report

- Amy Leenerts needs someone to help as a **Co-Director** or someone that can help with her position as needed.
- The **computer** is working in the back room. Computer games for children ages 3 and older are needed.

Treasurer's Report

- Our current **bank balance is approx. \$1,915 and \$1,512 in the CD.**

Committee Updates

Membership

- We are going to promote The Mothers' Center at the **Baby Fest** at Babies-R-Us on May 8. It will be from 12:00-4:00 pm. Babies-R-Us will provide a table and banner with our name for this free event. Sarah Pesek will update our brochures and other paperwork before the event. Members will be asked to volunteer. We will

hand out a current newsletter, brochures, etc. to interested people with the hopes of receiving new members.

Fundraising

- Mary Beth Hall has received information on **shopping cards** from Kroger, Meijer and Thornton's. She is also going to check with Wal-Mart and Target. She will enroll The Mothers' Center, and we will receive shopping cards that members can purchase and a percentage of the sales will go to The Mother's Center. She will probably have some of the cards in a month.

- **Babysitting** at The Mothers' Center as a fundraiser will probably start in April. Members will need to volunteer to babysit at a 4 children to 1 adult ratio. A Saturday evening will be picked and children can be left from 5:00-9:00 pm. The cost will be \$15.00/child or \$20.00/2 or more children. The children will need to have been fed dinner before coming, and parents need to bring drinks for their children. Snacks will be provided at The Mothers' Center. Mary Beth Hall will post a sign to see if there is a need for babysitting on Oak's Day.

- A **consignment sale** is being considered for this fall.

Children's Activities

- There's been **little response for afternoon activities**.

- We are considering having a **magic or puppet show as a toy drive** sometime this summer.

Adult Activities

- **Bunco** is being planned to take place the first Thursday of the month. Participants will take turns hosting bunco at their home and providing the refreshments for that month. Mary Beth Hall will host the first month. She will provide information in the next newsletter.

Adjournment 8:30 pm

– *Michelle Nethers*

“Mothers Helping Mothers”

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The Mothers' Center
of Greater Louisville, Inc.
Journal

