

# Activities Newsletter

January 2012

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January 6th to January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012

## Saturday, January 07, 2012

11:00 AM - There were ten on the sled and the caribou said, "Slip over! Slide over!" -- and a grand, snowy adventure was launched. Climb aboard -- there's always room for one more! This reading event will be held from 11 a.m. to 12:00 Saturday at Oak Park Mall Barnes & Noble, 2352, 11323 W 95th Street in Overland Park, Kansas.

1:30 PM – No registration required. All Ages. Slither on in to the nature center for a scaly good time. Discover how snakes are one of the most surprising groups of animals during this hands-on interactive program. You may even get a chance to see how snakes consume their prey at Burr Oak Woods Nature Center, 1401 NW Park Road in Blue Springs, Missouri.

7:00 PM - This Broadway smash and Tony Award winner, Fiddler on the Roof, has warmed the hearts of people around the world. Based on the stories of Sholom Aleichem, Tevye the Milkman is a Jewish peasant in pre-Revolutionary Russia, coping with the day-to-day problems of life, his Jewish traditions, his wife and daughters, and state-sanctioned pogroms. Fiddler's familiar score includes Matchmaker, Matchmaker; If I Were a Rich Man; Sunrise, Sunset; and of course, Tradition. Sunday, January 08, 2012. Fiddler on the Roof will play at Yardley Hall at the Johnson County Community College, 12345 College Blvd in Overland Park, Kansas.

## Sunday, January 08, 2012

2:00 PM - Bring the family to Ernie Miller Nature Center on Sunday afternoons this winter for our entertaining and informative Sunday Family Series. The series starts off the new year with a program that's just for the birds. The winters of Kansas can be a great time to view and feed our feathered friends, and you'll learn the best food to attract a variety of them including Juncos, Finches and Waxwings. You'll also learn how to make a suet cake at home. Weather permitting; there will also be a short bird hike. The Sunday Family Series programs are presented by park naturalists and park police officers. The cost of each program to be paid at the site is \$2.75 per person including adults (ages two and under are free). Pre-registration is not required. Ernie Miller Nature Center is located at 909 N. K-7 Highway in Olathe, Kansas.

January 13<sup>th</sup> to December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012

## Friday, January 13, 2012

8:00 PM - Störling Dance Theater's "Underground" has been called "one of the most vivid, heartfelt, and theatrically astute pieces of dance theater ever to grace a stage," Kansas City Star also named it one of the top ten performances of the decade.

Choreographed by Mona Störling-Enna and Tobin James, "Underground" is a visual tapestry based on true stories of the Underground Railroad.

## January 13<sup>th</sup> to December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012 cont.

This year they will also be hosting a free children's literature event on Thursday, January 12, 2012 from 4:00pm – 6:00pm in the Brandmeyer Lobby at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. All children and their families are welcome to come and hear children's books being read as well as storytellers share stories about Martin Luther King Jr. and other great American heroic figures.

"Underground" will light up the stage at 8:00pm on Friday, January 13, 2012 at The Kauffman Center of the Performing Arts in Downtown Kansas City.

### **Saturday, January 14, 2011**

10:00 AM - Free Lowe's Build 'n Grow Castle at Lowe's Stores across the Metro. Your child is sure to love this castle. It comes with stickers, paperboard cutouts and a working drawbridge! The first 50 kids to register and be present at the store at 10am will receive a kit, aprons and goggles.

10:00 AM - Each Saturday morning at ten, children of all ages join Mother Nature in the Lakeside Nature Center's library area. Lakeside Nature Center is at 4701 E. Gregory Blvd. in Kansas City, Missouri. They will hear a story, learn 'cool facts' about the animal of the month and make something to take home. Sometimes the animal of the month is a resident of the center and is used in a short interpretative program. Other times, the kids see and handle feathers, wings, egg replicas, track casts, scat replicas and furs.

Not only is the story keyed to the animal of the month, the craft is s well. At a recent Mother Nature Reads session, children and their parents made turkey calls from kite string, a paper cup and a paper clip.

To make your own turkey call:

1. Punch a hole in the bottom of the cup
2. Thread a 24" piece of kite string from the outside to the inside of the cup
3. Tie a paper clip to the end of the string inside the cup
4. Wet the string and run your fingers along the wet string.

10:00 AM - Surviving harsh temperatures is but one of the many obstacles that await the local plants and animals that call Missouri home. Discover survival strategies they use to endure the long winter months at Burr Oak Woods Nature Center, 1401 NW Park Road in Blue Springs, Missouri.

Reservations are required by January 14, 2012. Call 816-228-3766 to register.

### **Sunday, January 08, 2012**

2:00 PM - Ernie Miller Nature Center's Sunday Family Series continues with a question....Why do snakes seem so terrifying? Could all the stories you have heard about snakes be true? See Kansas snakes as we explore the facts and fallacies of these legless wonders of the natural world. The cost of the program to be paid at the site is \$2.75 per person including adults (ages two and under are free). Pre-registration is not required. For more information call (913) 764-7759. Ernie Miller Nature Center is located at Ernie Miller Nature Center, 909 N. K-7 Highway in Olathe, Kansas.

## January 20<sup>th</sup> to January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012

### **Friday, January 20, 2012**

6:00 PM - The Doo-Dads live in concert at the Record Bar, 1020 Westport Rd in Kansas City, Missouri . Come Dance & Sing with The Doo-Dads. It's a 2012 Dance Party! There will be Food and Lots of Fun. Kid's have FREE admission. Doors open at 5pm & Show is at 6pm.

### **Saturday January 21, 2012**

10:00 AM - Special clues and questions will help children and adults discover works in The Big Reveal during this self-guided art adventure at Kemper Museum, 4420 Warwick Boulevard in Kansas City, Missouri. Upon completion, kids will receive a take-home art activity. Explore works of art every third Saturday of the month with Scavenger Saturdays.

11:00 AM - A special Storytime for children ages 3-8 at Oak Park Mall Barnes & Noble in honor of National No-Name Calling Week. They'll be featuring stories such as Freckleface Strawberry: Best Friends Forever which celebrates a person's uniqueness and the importance of being a good friend. Barnes & Noble is located at 2352, 11323 W 95th Street in Overland Park, Kansas.

### **Sunday January 22, 2012**

2:00 PM - Nature comes into focus as Ernie Miller Nature Center's Sunday Family Series continues. Photographing plants, animals and landscape can be an adventure too! Discover how to compose beautiful works of art and memories that will last a lifetime. Learn from nature photographer enthusiast Bill Araujo. You can see his amazing photos from the nature center, Kansas City Zoo, Yellowstone, Africa and more. This hour long session will focus on basic skills for beginner photographers. Bring your camera to take a picture of an owl! Recommended for ages 8 and up. The cost of the program to be paid at the site is \$2.75 per person including adults. Pre-registration is not required. For more information call (913) 764-7759. Ernie Miller Nature Center is at 909 N. K-7 Highway n Olathe, Kansas.

## January 28<sup>th</sup> to January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012

### **Saturday, January 29, 2011**

11:00 AM - Your child can build a cool dinosaur and then choose the stickers to make it a cartoon or a realistic dinosaur at Lowe's Stores across the Metro. The first 50 kids to register and be present at the store at 10am will receive a kit, aprons and goggles.

11:00 AM - "The Further Adventures of Jack's Cow". A hand puppet show by Anitra Steele that tells what happened to the cow in the story of Jack and the Beanstalk. Shows will start at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m at Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Rd in Independence, Missouri.

11:00 AM - Strega Nona's puppet show at Paul Mesner Puppet Studio, 1006 E. Linwood Blvd in Kansas City, Missouri. In this hilarious Italian folk tale, Big Anthony is left alone with Strega Nona's magic bubbling pasta pot. He is warned not to touch it, but he can't resist. But before you can say "Fetuccini Alfredo," pasta is pouring out of the pot into the entire village! Holy Cannoli! To restore order before Strega Nona returns, Big Anthony tries to eat his way through town and winds up with a belly-full of problems.

# January 28<sup>th</sup> to January 31st, 2012 cont.

## **Sunday, January 30, 2011**

2:30 PM – Classical Kids, producers of Mozart's Magnificent Voyage, and Beethoven Lives Upstairs, present a tale about Russia's most famous composer and his visit to America. Learn about Tchaikovsky's reactions to Carnegie Hall and Niagara Falls, and enjoy more than 20 excerpts of his music including Swan Lake, 1812 Overture and Piano Concerto No. 1. Concert will be located at The Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, 1601 Wyandotte in Kansas City, Missouri.

3:00 PM - The Ugly Duckling & The Tortoise and the Hare at the Folly Theater, 12th and Central in Kansas City, Missouri. The Ugly Duckling: Mother duck knew from the very beginning that one of her babies would be different from the rest... this egg was too large and oddly shaped! Upon hatching it is clear - mother duck has an Ugly Duckling! Teased, chased and pushed aside from his friends and family, Ugly Duckling must run away from the pond and venture out on his own. Through the different seasons and new friends along the way, he continues his search for others who will love him for who he really is...an Ugly Duckling? The Tortoise and the Hare: The famous story of the race between the tortoise and the hare is best known today for teaching the moral that "slow and steady wins the race."

**January is the time for sledding, snow skiing, ice skating, and wonderful indoor family outings. It can also be a time when parents are seeking creative ways to ward off Cabin Fever!**

### **Horse Drawn Sleigh Rides**

**When, Where, What:** Snowy Weekends at the Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop (1200 Kansas City Rd, Olathe, KS). Rides are offered on weekends if there is snow. Call ahead at 913.971.5111 to verify.

### **Fiddler on the Roof**

**When, Where, What:** Jan. 7 & 8, Yardley Hall at the Johnson County Community College. 913.469.8500

## **Störling Dance Theater's "Underground"**

**When, Where, What:** Störling Dance Theater's "Underground" at The Kauffman Center (816.994.7222) at 8pm on Jan. 13. This year you may also enjoy a free children's literature event on Thursday, January 12, 2012 from 4:00pm – 6:00pm in the Brandmeyer Lobby at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. All children and their families are welcome to come and hear children's books being read as well as storytellers share stories about Martin Luther King Jr. and other great American heroic figures.

## **Paul Mesner Puppet Shows**

**When, Where, What: Strega Nona:** At Paul Mesner Studios (1006 E. Linwood Blvd., KCMO), Jan. 25 - Feb. 19. In this hilarious Italian folk tale, Big Anthony is left alone with Strega Nona's magic bubbling pasta pot. He is warned not to touch it, but he can't resist. But before you can say "Fetuccini Alfredo," pasta is pouring out of the pot into the entire village! Holy Cannoli! To restore order before Strega Nona returns, Big Anthony tries to eat his way through town and winds up with a belly-full of problems.

**Long Story of Corinthian Hall:** Jan. 27, 6:30pm at the Plaza Branch of the KC Public Library (4801 Main, KCMO). FREE! Paul Mesner Puppets presents the tale of Kansas City's famous equestrienne Loula Long Combs in honor of her birthday with a special showing of the Long Story of Corinthian Hall. Corinthian Hall, currently under renovation, is the home of the Kansas City Museum. The evening's festivities will include cake, punch and arts and crafts after the show!

## **Chinese New Year Celebration**

**When, Where, What:** Jan. 27 & 28, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art (4525 Oak Street KCMO. 816.751.1278 ) This annual tradition at the Nelson is magical and memorable for the entire family! This year, celebrate the Year of the Dragon with performances and family-friendly activities. Dress in authentic Chinese robes, "ride" a traditional rickshaw, watch the Shaolin Lohan Pai Lion Dance Troupe, watch a Chinese Tea Demonstration and pose with the Empress and Emperor or next to a dragon balloon sculpture.

## **Corbian: The Ugly Duckling & The Tortoise & The Hare**

**When, Where, What:** Jan. 29-30, Folly Theater (300 W. 12th Street KCMO. 816.842.5500). These childhood classics are tales of transformation, perseverance and acceptance, and they come to life magically using Corbian's one-of-a-kind glow-in-the-dark puppetry. To tell the stories, creators Corbin Popp and Ian Carney use larger than life puppet characters, with flexible glow in the dark wiring, in a blackout setting.

## **Second Saturdays by the Grinter Stove**

**When, Where, What:** Jan. 14 at 10am at the Grinter Place (1400 South 78th St., KCKS. 913.334.2500)

It's both fun and educational to step back in time at the Grinter Place where the heritage of cooking on the wood stove is preserved. Explore traditional recipes through cooking demonstrations and tastings and hear a presentation on local history topics.