

HOW YOU CAN HELP

As a non-profit institution, Wonder Works depends on the kindness and generosity of individuals, corporations and foundations. You can help us fulfill our mission of providing a hands-on learning experience by donating time and/or money. Or you can get creative, something we encourage in kids and adults alike. Here are some ideas:

- Donate a family membership (\$65 per year) to a family in need. We are developing partnerships with area organizations to help those less fortunate.
- Host a tile party at Wonder Works. We'll give you free rein in the museum after hours. You bring in friends and family to play and paint 6 inch by 6 inch tiles that will eventually be displayed permanently on our outside walls. Each tile is \$75 apiece. It's a great time and a great way to get involved with the museum.
- Have your birthday party at Wonder Works and ask your guests to donate money or supplies to the museum.
- Tell your preschool, day care and elementary teachers about Wonder Works and ask them to schedule a field trip. All they have to do is call us at 708.383.4815 to arrange a field trip.
- Volunteer at the museum. We have slots available Wednesday through Sunday. Commit as much or as little time as you have to give. Call us at 708.383.4815.
- Buy a membership for a friend for a birthday.
- Wonder Works is in the process of forming an auxiliary board. If you would like to help the museum plan events and fundraisers, the auxiliary board is a great way to participate. Call Gale Zemel at the museum (708.383.4815) if you're interested.



Wonder Works

JANUARY 2004 NEWS

A Children's Museum in Oak Park
6445 West North Avenue
Oak Park, Illinois 60302



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telephone: 708.383.4815 fax: 708.383.5730 www.wonder-works.org

EVENTS IN THE WORKS

Children's Concert

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Wonder Works welcomes John Harrison and friends for a special concert at 4 p.m. Sunday, February 1. Harrison, an early childhood special education teacher in Chicago, will appear with Julia Hurn-Clarke (who sings with the Chicago Symphony Chorus) and her husband Shawn (a jazz pianist), Amy Dolan (a piano player and vocalist) and singer Joy Maheau. The concert will benefit Wonder Works and the American Stroke Association. Tickets are \$3 for members and \$8 for non-members, which includes admission to the museum. The museum will remain open until 6 p.m. on this special evening.

Outdoor Activities

Outdoors expert Eric Gyllenhaal will be back in the museum on Saturday, January 10 and 24 from 10 a.m. to noon. He will also be at Wonder Works every Friday in February and March from 10 a.m. to noon to conduct informal nature and science programs in the Wonder Works Great Outdoors exhibit. Here is the schedule:

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 10 A.M. TO NOON:

Footprints. Learn about and make footprints of animals found in your neighborhood.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 10 A.M. TO NOON:

Sea life. Touch shells and preserved sea life, make a craft project, and take home a small collection.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 10 A.M. TO NOON:

Rocks. Touch many kinds of rocks and take home a small collection.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 10 A.M. TO NOON:

Bugs. Meet live bugs and find out where they spent the winter.

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 10 A.M. TO NOON:

Footprints. Learn about and make footprints of animals found in your neighborhood.

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 10 A.M. TO NOON:

Frogs. Meet baby frogs and see how they grow up.

FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 10 A.M. TO NOON:

Bugs. Meet live bugs and find out where they spent the winter.

FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 10 A.M. TO NOON:

Reptiles. Meet live snakes and play with plastic reptiles.

IN THE WORKS EVERY WEEK

Each Wednesday in January, at 3 p.m., we will read poems from Judith Viorst's book "If I Were in Charge of the World." Participants can write an essay on the theme as part of the activity.

And every Friday beginning in January, we will have Story Time at 3 p.m.

WONDERFUL NEW EXHIBITS

In December, Wonder Works added an infant nest, a special space for our smallest guests. Funded by a grant from the Harris Foundation, the infant nest gives non-walkers a safe, stimulating place to play.

And in The Great Outdoors, we have added a row boat to enhance the camping experience. Thanks to Larry Brozek and his Boy Scout Troop for building the boat.

And finally, we have a new roof. No more leaks. Good thing.

RECIPROCAL BENEFITS START AT CHILDREN'S MUSEUMS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Beginning January 1, all Wonder Works Family Plus members (or higher) receive free admission at more than 130 children's museums in the U.S. (and two in Canada). This includes free admission at Chicago Children's Museum at Navy Pier, Kohl Children's Museum in Wilmette and the DuPage Children's Museum in Naperville.

Please stop by the museum for a sticker to affix to your Wonder Works membership card. Or call us at 708.383.4815 and we can mail it to you.

And if you currently have a Child or Family membership, now would be a great time to upgrade to the Family Plus membership.

MAKE A FURRY OR SLIMY FRIEND FEBRUARY 15

On Sunday, February 15, Julie from the Trailside Museum (the site of Cook County's wildlife rehabilitation center for orphaned and injured native animals) will visit Wonder Works from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. with a critter or two. Join us for this free event and learn more about the animal world.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to Paul Martin, Nordstrom, Sun Microsystems, Ellen Hoffenkamp, Sally Ahlgren, Robert Moriarty, Dana and Joe Connell, the Burns Family Foundation, the Levitt Family and all of our volunteers and employees.

HAVE YOUR PARTY AT WONDER WORKS! CALL 708.383.4815 TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION.