



Summer Newsletter
June—August 2008

Mothers & More

Assabet Valley Chapter #185

The President's Piece

Summertime, and the livin's easy...unless it means that you suddenly find yourself with a houseful of cherubs who are normally in school, but are now painfully unoccupied. When my husband and I moved to Massachusetts from Oregon last summer I was very excited to learn about all the fun opportunities that avail themselves within about an hour of our house.

I don't have school-aged kids yet but I was making what was, for me, the sometimes painful (yes, sometimes rewarding) transition to staying at home full-time with a toddler, and I couldn't fill up that calendar fast enough!

I joined the Assabet Chapter of Mothers and More before even beginning our trek cross country. I knew I would need help adjusting to my new life, and I was not above buying my friends. It was the best decision I ever made, if only for the fact that my calendar was filled for me. We have an amazing group of women who take the time and consideration to prepare a well-balanced and fun-filled quarterly schedule that includes something for everyone.

The upcoming Summer quarter is no exception; from Berry Picking at Indian Head to outings at Davis Farmland and even a trek into Boston, you will have less reason to hear your kids use the "b" word (I'm talking *bored* here, folks) in reference to their summer.

This group has been a blessing to me, full of fun times and great friendships, and I hope that it means as much to you.

With great ambitions for summer,

Sara Wutzke
President

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Our Organizational Beliefs:

- A mother is more than any single role she plays at any given point in her lifetime. She is entitled to fully explore and develop her identity as she chooses: as a woman, a citizen, a parent or an employee.
- All the work mothers do - whether paid or unpaid - has social and economic value.
- All women deserve recognition and support for their right to choose if and how to combine parenting and paid employment.
- All mothers, all children and all families are unique.
- We respect the wisdom of each mother to decide how to care for her children, her family and herself.
- Mothers have the right to fulfill their care-giving responsibilities without incurring social and economic penalties.
- The transitions women make into and through motherhood are challenging and can be difficult.
- Together, mothers are powerful.

F.Y.I.

National has scholarship funds available for moms who want to join (or renew) but cannot afford the annual dues. Please ask for one if you need it! The process is completely confidential. Con-

Reminder: We will no longer be holding Chapter Meetings at National Grid. All meetings will now be held at Whitney Place in Northborough. Chapter Meetings will be held on the second Thursday and the last Tuesday of the month.

There will not be a meeting held on the last Tuesday in August.

New Additions and Milestones

Welcome to Our
Newest Member

Karen K., Westborough
Christina M., Bolton

Happy Birthday!

Melissa I. is turning 40 on June 16th!

Peggy D. June 10th

Denise P. June 11th

Sara W. July 2nd

Happy Anniversary

Carey N. & John 8 years, June 3rd

Denise P. & George 11 years, June 16th

Tracy C. & David 16 years, June 20th

Leanne P. & Ed 13 years, June 24th

Christina W. & Jim, June 24th

Lisa H. & Joe 9 years, July 3rd

Lauren M. & Telly 6 years, July 27th

Michele Q. & Kevin, August 23rd

Event Details (June 2 - July 1, 2008)

Monday, June 2nd, 7:30PM: Book Club
Susan T's House, Grafton

***Nectar from a Stone* by Jane Guill**

"It's Wales in 1351, and across a plague-infested, often brutal landscape, Elise—a spirited young woman prone to visions—and her servant/surrogate mother Annora flee the scene of an unplanned crime: Elise has killed her evil husband, Maelgwyn, and dumped his body in a river. On the run, she crosses paths with a mysterious rider named Gwydion who immediately intrigues her with his lordly composure and brooding manner. As Elise and Gwydion's travels further converge, it emerges that they have an enemy in common: the repellent Sir Nicholas, who murdered Gwydion's father and sister and who, with his henchman Dexter, came perilously close to raping and killing Annora and Elise in a previous encounter. Gwydion's and Elise's interest in each other grows, and their passions are stoked when Elise tends to the wounded Gwydion. Meanwhile, it's revealed that Maelgwyn is actually alive and intent on vengeance. What works in Guill's debut is the nicely developed chemistry between Elise and Gwydion and the numerous historical details that create vivid snapshots of life in medieval Wales. But the book suffers from too many plot lines, over-the-top villains, heavy-handed symbolism and pacing hobbled by well-written but tangential sections. The plot twists also prove predictable. But the main characters are loyal and good-hearted—certainly likable enough to follow on a few adventures." - Publishers Weekly

Monday, June 2nd, 10:00AM: Coffee Club
Location: Lalajava Northborough
RSVP Michele Q.

Join other moms and their kids for coffee and conversation when our chapter's newest club meets.

Thursday, June 5th, 10:00AM: Early Stages
Topic: Gentle Discipline
Michele Q's House, Boylston

What do you do when your darling little angel is jumping up and down on your last nerve? We'll discuss how to set limits, appropriate punishments, and what your 3 year old might be thinking when he decides to flush your watch down the toilet.

Sunday, June 8th, 7:00PM: Moms Night Out
Scavenger Hunt
RSVP Kim M-G

This is always a favorite MNO. Get a team together and see how resourceful and creative you can be in finding as many items on the list as possible.

Monday, June 9th, 4:30PM: HOOT 'N HOWL:
Rogers Park, Westborough
RSVP Susan T.

Is your Husband Out Of Town or Out Working Late? HnH's are a chance for you to get a break from cooking dinner while the kids wear themselves out playing. Expect to pay \$10 per family to cover pizza costs and bring a snack or drink to share.

Thursday, June 12th, 7:00PM: Chapter Meeting
Topic: Sibling Relationships

Location: Whitney Place, Northborough

Do you have some tips to share on how you foster your own children's relationships or what worked with your own siblings? Join in the discussion on how to handle sibling relationships.

Monday, June 16th, 7:30PM: Seasoned Moms
Topic: Taking a Break
Location: Canyon Cafe
RSVP Gaby D.

Taking a break! Get away for drinks at Canyon Cafe and share your secret get away ideas - away for a week, a day, a night or even a few precious minutes.

Thursday, June 19th 7:00PM: Moms Night Out
Progressive Dinner

Locations: The Homes of Peggy D., Janice P. & Parastu D.
Enjoy a fun Moms Night Out! You will get to enjoy an appetizer at one member's house, move on to another house for the main course and yet another location for dessert. It's sure to be an evening full of great food and fun!

Tuesday, June 24th, 7:00PM: Chapter Meeting:
Topic: Renovations
Location: Whitney Place, Northborough

We will have a guest speaker who will be speaking about home renovations. Come prepared with all your questions about your home renovations and finding a contractor who can complete them.

Wednesday, June 25th, 9:30AM: Kid's Activity
Strawberry Picking
Location: Indian Head Farm
RSVP Peggy D

Pack up your kids and head over to Indian Head Farm where you and your kids will be able to pick your own strawberries. Yum!

Sunday, June 29th, Time TBD: Movie Club
Location TBD
RSVP Carey N.

Please contact our list manager Elizabeth K. to get added to the movie club list-serve so you can vote on what we will see.

Monday, June 30th, 10:00AM: Kid's Activity
Boston Children's Museum
RSVP Nancy B.

Meet at the Boston Children's Museum and experience the new Airplay exhibit, explore an authentic Japanese home or experiment with bubbles. These are just a few of the many things your child will love to explore at the museum!

Tuesday, July 1st, 10:00AM: Coffee Club
RSVP Michele Q

Coffee not your thing? Grab a hot chocolate or tea and relax and chat while the kids play. No need for anyone to clean up their house for this playdate!

Event Details (July 1 - July 31, 2008)

Tuesday, July 1st, 7:30 PM: Board Meeting
Sara W's house, Shrewsbury

Wednesday, July 9th, 8:00AM: Moms Outing
Brimfield Antiques Show
RSVP Jess B.

If you like browsing at flea markets or antique shops, chances are pretty good that having kids in tow is getting in the way of your hobby. Here's a chance to visit one of the largest antique fairs in the country. Join us as we trek to the Brimfield fair, about an hour's drive west. It's a huge place - if you're interested in large pieces (like furniture) you might want to drive yourself in a truck. If small trinkets or window shopping are more your speed, let's carpool! Carrying cash and your own lunch is a good idea - though there are food vendors available.

Thursday, July 10th, 7:00PM: Chapter Meeting
Topic: Photography

Location: Whitney Place, Northborough

Our chapter member, Sarah M. will be presenting us with a workshop on photography. It will be a great chance to bring your camera and get some of your questions answered.

Tuesday, July 15th, 7:30PM: Book Club
Deb S's House

***Good Night Nobody* by Jennifer Weiner**

"Chick Lit star Weiner's fourth novel, following *In Her Shoes* (2002), which has been adapted as a major motion picture starring Cameron Diaz, follows bored, upper-middle class, suburbanite mother of three Kate Klein as she becomes entangled in a local murder case. When Kate discovers the stabbed body of neighbor Kitty Cavanaugh, her pursuit of the killer gives Kate's mundane life a new sense of purpose, but her zeal puts pressure on her already wobbly marriage to Ben. She charges on, however, aided by best friend Janie, the chic, fearless daughter of a multi-millionaire. Kate soon uncovers Kitty's second life, centered on Kitty's search for her real father, entailing an investigation of several powerful men. Things are further complicated by the reappearance of Evan McKenna, Kate's unrequited love interest of the past seven years, who is a charming part-time private investigator, the exact opposite of Ben. Linked to the case through work he'd done for Kitty, Evan joins Kate on the mystery, and his seductive presence leaves her torn. While Weiner's characters are passionate, affecting and poignant, the murder mystery is less compelling. Too many false conclusions leave the reader tired by the time the real killer is revealed. The ending is also hard to believe. But Weiner's readers will root for Kate, whose humor and warmth amidst her struggles to transcend the roles of mom and wife make her a loveable, fully realized character." - Publisher's Weekly

Thursday, July 17th, 7:30PM: Planning Meeting
Kim M-G's House

This is your chance to help decide what our chapter will be doing during the next quarter. Only those who show up at the meeting get to vote. You can send any ideas you might have to Kim M-G.

Saturday, July 19th, 10:00AM: Mom's Outing
Pedicures

Location: Creative Nails, White City Plaza, Shrewsbury
RSVP Sara W.

Here is your perfect chance to get out of the house on a Saturday morning and do something just for you. What a way to relax!

Wednesday, July 23rd, 3:30PM: Kid's Activity
Splash Pad in Northborough
RSVP Lauren M.

Enjoy the company of other moms while your kids cool off and burn off that afternoon energy. Please note there may be a nominal fee for this activity.

Sunday, July 27th, Time TBD: Movie Club
Location: TBD
RSVP Carey N.

Please contact our list manager Elizabeth K. to get added to the movie club list-serve so you can vote on what we will see.

Monday, July 28th, 8:30AM: Kids Eat Out
Breakfast Picnic

Location: Berlin Memorial School
RSVP Leslie S.

Bring your breakfast and a blanket and enjoy your meal at this playground. Then, you can let your kids enjoy playing at the while you get to have a little adult conversation.

Tuesday, July 29th, 7:00PM: Chapter Meeting
Topic: Cooking Tips

Location: Whitney Place, Northborough

We are planning to have a guest speaker who can give us some cooking tips and tricks.

Thursday, July 31st, 4:30PM: HOOT 'N HOWL
Location : Berlin Memorial School Playground
RSVP Lisa H.

Is your Husband Out Of Town or Out Working Late? HnH's are a chance for you to get a break from cooking dinner while the kids wear themselves out playing. Expect to pay \$10 per family to cover pizza costs and bring a snack or drink to share.

Event Details (August 3 - 25, 2008)

Sunday, August 3rd, 7:30PM: Book Club
Beth K's House

***Rise and Shine* by Anna Quindlen**

"Bridget Fitzmaurice, the narrator of Quindlen's engrossing fifth novel, works for a women's shelter in the Bronx; her older sister, Meghan, cohost of the popular morning show *Rise and Shine*, is the most famous woman on television. Bridget acts as a second mother to the busy Meghan's college student son, Leo; Meghan barely tolerates Bridget's significant other, a gritty veteran police detective named Irving Lefkowitz. After 9/11 (which happens off-camera) and the subsequent walking out of Meghan's beleaguered husband, Evan, Meghan calls a major politician a "?!*%^!" before her microphone gets turned off for a commercial, and Megan and Bridget's lives change forever. As Bridget struggles to mend familial fences and deal with reconfigurations in their lives wrought by Meghan's single phrase, Quindlen has her lob plenty of pungent observations about both life in class-stratified New York City and about family dynamics. The situation is ripe with comic potential, which Bridget deadpans her way through, and Quindlen goes along with Bridget's cool reserve and judgmentalism. The plot is very imbalanced: a couple of events early, then virtually nothing until a series of major revelations in the last 50 or so pages. The prose is top-notch; readers may be more interested in Quindlen's insights than in the lives of her two main characters. " - Publishers Weekly

Monday, August 4th, Time 10:00AM: Coffee Club
Location: TBD
RSVP Michele Q.

Start your morning off right with a cup of coffee and a playdate for your kids.

Tuesday, August 5th, 7:30PM: Budget Meeting
Beth K's House

Thursday, August 7th, 10:00AM: Early Stages
Location: Davis Farmland
RSVP Christina W.

Many of you have asked for it and now we're giving it to you -- an Early Stages outing! Pack a lunch and your swimmies and join us for some fun on the farm. We'll meet at 10:00AM and stay at least through lunch -- but we understand nap schedules and other toddler-isms, so show up when you can and stay for as long as you'd like. Check your local library for admission passes.

Friday, August 8th, 9:00AM: Kid's Activity
Blueberry Picking
Location: Tougas Farm
RSVP Heidi G.

Let your kids pick some yummy blueberries for your family to enjoy. Just think of all the delicious things you can put them in.

Monday, August 11th, 7:30PM: Moms Night Out
Drinks on the Patio at Beth's K's House

Slow down and cool off as we sip cocktails, nibble hors d'oeuvres, and celebrate those fleeting summer evenings.

Tuesday, August 12th, 3:30PM: Kid's Activity
Daytime Campout
RSVP TBD

Let your kids experience camping out in the comfort of the back yard during the day. They can play games and eat s'mores and just have a really fun time!

Wednesday, August 13th, 4:30PM: HOOT 'N HOWL
Location: Central Street Playground, Southboro
RSVP Liz H.

Is your Husband Out Of Town or Out Working Late? HnH's are a chance for you to get a break from cooking dinner while the kids wear themselves out playing. Expect to pay \$10 per family to cover pizza costs and bring a snack or drink to share.

Thursday, August 14th, 7:00PM: Chapter Meeting
Topic: Bullying

Location: Whitney Place, Northborough
Mothers & More member, Tina Wells will be speaking to us about Bullying.

Tuesday, August 19th, 7:30PM: Moms Night Out
Games Night
Jess B's House

Bring your competitive spirit on over to Jess B's House and have fun playing some of your favorite games with other moms.

Thursday, August 21st, 10:30AM: Kid's Activity
Bike Rally
Lori F's House

Have your kids grab their scooters and bikes and head on over to Lori's house where you will find a great cul-de-sac for bike riding. Lori also has a great yard for the kids to play in if they don't want to or can't ride a bike.

Sunday, August 24th, Time TBD: Movie Club
Location TBD
RSVP Carey N.

Please contact our list manager Elizabeth K. to get added to the movie club list-serve so you can vote on what we will see.

Monday, August 25th, 7:30PM: Seasoned Moms
Location: Borders near the Solomon Pond Mall
Topic: Big Kids' Playdates and Sleepovers

How old should they be for sleepovers? How are they different from when they were little? Who do you invite? Do you let your kids organize them? Let's put our heads together on this one.

Index of Events

Categorized by Age

Adults (and non-Mobile Infants)

- Book Club, June 2
- Scavenger Hunt, June 8
- Chapter Meeting, June 12
- Seasoned Moms, June 16
- Progressive Dinner, June 19
- Chapter Meeting, June 24
- Movie Club, June 29
- Brimfield Antiques Show, July 9
- Chapter Meeting, July 10
- Book Club, July 15
- Pedicures, July 19
- Movie Club, July 27
- Chapter Meeting, July 29
- Book Club, August 3

- Drinks on the Patio, August 11
- Chapter Meeting, August 14
- Games Night, August 19
- Movie Night, August 24
- Seasoned Moms, August 25

Moms and Kids

- Coffee Club, June 2
- Early Stages, June 5
- HOOT 'N HOWL, June 9
- Strawberry Picking, June 25
- Boston Children's Museum, June 30
- Coffee Club, July 1
- Splash Pad, July 23

- Picnic in the Park, July 28
- HOOT 'N HOWL, July 31
- Coffee Club, August 4
- Early Stages, August 7
- Blueberry Picking, August 8
- Daytime Campout, August 12
- HOOT 'N HOWL, August 13
- Bike Rally, August 21

Categorized by Type of Event

Board Meeting

- July 1

Budget Meeting

- July 5

Book Club

- June 2
- July 15
- August 3

Coffee Club

- June 2
- July 1
- August 4

Chapter Meetings

- June 12
- June 24
- July 10
- July 29
- August 14

Early Stages

- June 5
- August 7

HOOT 'N HOWL

- June 9
- July 31
- August 13

Kids Activity

- June 25
- June 30
- July 14
- July 23
- August 8
- August 21

Kids Eat Out

- July 28

Moms Night Out

- June 8
- June 19
- July 9
- July 19
- August 11
- August 19

Movie Club

- June 29
- July 27
- August 24

Planning Meeting

- July 17

Seasoned Moms

- June 16
- August 25

Each event should be listed once in the top section and at least once in the bottom section

Chapter Calendar June 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Coffee Club 10:00AM Lalajava RSVP Michele Q. Book Club <i>Nectar from a Stone</i> 7:30PM Susan T's House	3	4	5 ES 10:00AM Gentle Discipline Michele Q's	6	7
8 MNO Scavenger Hunt 7:00PM Ends Kim M-G's	9 HnH 4:30PM Rogers Park RSVP Susan T.	10	11	12 Chapter Meeting 7:00PM Sibling Relationships	13	14
15	16 SM 7:30PM Canyon Café Taking a Break	17	18	19 MNO Progressive Dinner 7:00PM	20	21
22	23	24 Chapter Meeting 7:00PM Renovations	25 KA Strawberry Picking 9:30AM Indian Head Farm RSVP Peggy D	26	27	28
29 Movie Club Time TBD RSVP Carey N.	30 KA Boston Children's Museum 10:00AM RSVP Nancy B.	31				

Key to Abbreviations:

AVAFN Assabet Valley Area Family Network, 169 Pleasant St. Marlborough
 BC Book Club
 DP Drop-In Playgroup
 ES Early Stages

FA Family Activity
 KA Kid's Activity
 HnH Hoot 'n Howl
 MEO Moms Eat Out
 MNO Mom's Night Out
 SC Scrapbook Club
 SM Seasoned Moms

Chapter Calendar July 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Coffee Club 10:00AM Location TBD RSVP Michele Q. Board Meeting 7:30PM Sara W's	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 MNO Brimfield Antique Show 8:00AM RSVP Jess B.	10 Chapter Meeting 7:00PM Photography	11	12
13	14	15 Book Club <i>Good Night Nobody</i> 7:30PM Deb S' House	16	17 Planning Meeting 7:30PM Kim M-G's	18	19 MNO 10:00AM Pedicures Creative Nails RSVP Sara W.
20	21	22	23 KA 3:30PM Splash Pad in Northborough RSVP Lauren M.	24	25	26
27 Movie Club Time TBD RSVP Carey N.	28 KEO Picnic Breakfast 8:30AM Berlin Memorial School RSVP Leslie S.	29 Chapter Meeting 7:00PM Cooking Tips	30	31 HnH 4:30 Berlin Memorial School RSVP Lisa H.		

August 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Book Club <i>Rise and Shine</i> 7:30PM Beth K's	4 Coffee Club 10:00AM Location TBD RSVP Michele Q.	5 Budget Meeting 7:30PM Beth K's	6	7 ES 10:00AM Davis Farmland RSVP Christina W.	8 KA Blueberry Picking 9:00AM Tougas Farm RSVP Heidi G.	9
10	11 MNO Drinks on the Patio 7:30PM Beth K's House	12 Daytime Campout 3:30PM RSVP Gaby D.	13 HnH 4:30PM Central Street Park, Southborough RSVP Liz H.	14 Chapter Meeting 7:00PM Bullying	15	16
17	18	19 MNO Games Night 7:30PM RSVP Jess B.	20	21 KA Bike Rally 10:30AM RSVP Lori F.	22	23
24 Movie Club Time TBD RSVP Carey N.	25 SM Playdates & Sleepovers 7:30PM Borders					



Mothers & More
Assabet Valley Chapter #185
107 Causeway Street
Hudson, MA 01749

