

WONDER WORKS TO ORGANIZE FAMILY FREE DAY AT FIRST BANK OF OAK PARK ON NORTH AVENUE

On Saturday, September 18, stop by the North Avenue branch of First Bank of Oak Park for games, refreshments and performances. The event, which runs from 8:30am to 1:00pm, is free and will take place on the wonderful plaza First Bank built at the corner of Austin and North. We will have games of skill, art activities and a dance performance by Danza Viva at 11am. Bring the kids to open a bank account or just enjoy the fun. For more information, call First Bank of Oak Park at 708.386.4308.

BIRTHDAY BALL A SMASH

Wonder Works celebrated its first anniversary on June 26 with a party attended by 150 people. We raised \$25,000 for the museum, thanks to co-chairs Clarice Harris and Michael Griffin and the entire committee, especially Sharon Madura, Kari Hayden, Carrie Van Ermen and Nancy Depke.

Many area businesses helped out, including Alliance Paper Products, Ananas, All About Denim, The Ballyard, Benjamin Kende Portraits, Dominicks, DOTI (Design of the Interior), Ebert, Edwardo's Pizza, Fastframe, Frame Warehouse, Hemmingway's Bistro, J.C. Licht, Jewel, Marion Street Grill, My Gym, Oak Park Athletic Club, One Stop Comics, Park District, Paper Source, Partners in Play, Radio Flyer, Russell's Barbecue, Tim Cozzens Furniture Design, Twin Anchors Restaurant, Trattoria Peppino, TwoFish Art Glass and Val's Halla.

Many local restaurants donated wonderful food, including Vivaldi, Winberie, Cucino Paradiso, Café Le Coo, Fuego Loco, the Buzz Café, Sparacino, Avenue Ale House, Papaspiros, Einstein's and Maggiano's. Jim Boehstengel of Galerie St. James, the finest auctioneer this side of Paris, led our live auction.

For a complete list of contributors, visit our web site at www.wonder-works.org.



STORY TIME AT WONDER WORKS

*Every Friday
at Noon and 3pm*

WONDER WORKS OCTOBER 7 GOLF OUTING

*Contact Mike Griffin at 312.321.7771
for details about this event
at the Oak Park Country Club*

Wonder Works

SEPTEMBER 2004 NEWS

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

THANK YOU!

We are fortunate to be able to thank a lot of people, including Lori Hannigan from masonry firm Edward Cross & Sons for getting a sampling of our tiles on the outside walls. Thank you also to "retiring" board members Chris Kirchenberg and Karen Lloyd. We welcome Renee Rotatori and Neal Davis as new board members and thank them for their commitment to children and families.



Wonder Works

SEPTEMBER 2004 NEWS

A Children's Museum in Oak Park

6445 West North Avenue, Oak Park, Illinois 60302

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

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH COMING

This fall, Wonder Works will celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month again, thanks to grants from Nordstrom and the Oak Park Area Arts Council.

From Wednesday, September 15 to October 16, kids and adults can enjoy Hispanic-themed art workshops, a cooking demonstration by Chef Fredy Hernandez and dance workshops by Explore Flamenco. On Saturday, October 16 we will close with a celebration of food and music.

NORDSTROM



Wednesday, Sept. 15.....	Art Workshop	3:30-5:30pm*
Wednesday, Sept. 22.....	Art Workshop	3:30-5:30pm*
Sunday, Sept. 26	Explore Flamenco	1-2pm*
Wednesday, Sept. 29.....	Chef Fredy	4-6pm*
Friday, Oct. 1.....	Art Workshop	3:30-5:30pm*
Friday, Oct. 8.....	Art Workshop	3:30-5:30pm*
Sunday, Oct. 10	Explore Flamenco	1-2pm*
Saturday, Oct. 16.....	Fiesta	3-5pm

*These events are \$2 each for members and \$3 for non-members (to cover material costs) and require a reservation. Please call the museum at 708.383.4815 to reserve your spot.

MUSEUM NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Wonder Works is happy to announce Elizabeth Smith as its new executive director. For the past two years, Elizabeth has served as the board treasurer. An Oak Park resident, Elizabeth spent 13 years working in state government. In addition to serving on the museum's volunteer board, Smith most recently worked as a consultant to non-profit organizations including Voices for Illinois Children, Ounce of Prevention Fund and The Day Care Action Council of Illinois.

EVENTS IN THE WORKS

Science Activities with the Nature Guy

Eric Gyllenhaal, our nature guy, will be at Wonder Works on Fridays in September from 10am to noon. Here's what he has crawling up his sleeve:

- *Friday, September 17th, 10am to noon:* Reptiles and Amphibians. Meet live snakes and frogs and play with plastic reptiles and amphibians.
- *Friday, September 24th, 10am to noon:* Sea Life. Touch and collect real shells and sea life, make and fish for paper sea life, and play with plastic sea animals.

KidSign Workshop

- *Sunday, September 12, Noon to 2pm:* Designed to help you communicate with children too young or otherwise unable to speak, KidSign will return to Wonder Works on Sunday, September 12th with a two-hour workshop for \$75. Space is limited so sign up at Wonder Works now!

Leslie Elaine, Children's Entertainer

- *Saturday, September 25th, 10:30am:* Leslie Elaine, a children's entertainer, will be at Wonder Works playing games, performing magic, reading stories and more. Be sure to stop by for this free event.

Kids Concert Series

This fall and winter, Wonder Works will present a five event concert series. Each concert takes place on a Sunday afternoon at 4pm; the museum will remain open until 6pm on the day of the show. Seating is limited, so reserve your tickets early (\$5 for members, \$8 for non-members) by calling 708.383.4815.

October 17	Shirley King (daughter of the blues)
November 21.....	Fred Koch
January 16.....	TBD
February 20	Joel Frankel
March 20.....	Susan Salidor

All of these Chicago-based performers are nationally recognized children's entertainers. We have CDs on sale at Wonder Works and will play their music in the museum in the months leading up to the shows. If you would like to sponsor a concert, sponsorships start at \$125. Call Elizabeth Smith, executive director, at 708.383.4815.

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