



FROM THE PREZ, Dave Weiss

Hello and Happy Halloween! I hope everyone has/had a great time with whatever festivities won out in your family. Stay safe!

If you haven't noticed, MDAH is growing. I am very excited about the coming year and future of MDAH. We are now over 50 registered members (with a directory), closing in on 80 Yahoo members, have three regular weekly playgroups plus field trips, two Dad events per month, a year's worth of newsletters and a new web site among other things. Compare to last year at this time to approximately 25 Yahoo members, no registration (and no directory), an outdated web site, and only one semi-official playgroup. We are continually looking for ways to improve MDAH, so please send your suggestions to Paul or myself and we'll share them with the guys that are making MDAH move forward. And if you wish to volunteer a little of your own time and expertise, even better.

The board members just finished a "power week" of brainstorming and planning. We spent many hours talking about MDAH to find out who we thought we were and where we'd like to go. In short form, here is what has come of those meetings:

Mission: Connecting At Home Dads and their Kids to Play and Learn

Vision: To be the Most Respected Advocate and Real Life Resource for At Home Dads

As guiding core values, we identified Family, A Welcoming Atmosphere, Honesty, Integrity, Dedication and Stewardship. These values will keep MDAH moving in the right direction for years to come. We do hope you all feel that these thoughts are in line with MDAH.

We now are really trying to pinpoint our goals for bread and butter programs like playgroups and Dads events. We will also continue to gather and offer more information through the newsletter and web site (mdah.org) to become that respected "Resource" mentioned above. And, in the near future, look for a new logo and flyer to help spread awareness about MDAH. The list of ideas we've discussed in the brainstorming sessions are too many to list, but keep your eyes and ears open. I remind everyone again that our board meetings are open to all and if you ever have something you'd like to see be a part of MDAH, let us know.

It's very exciting to see the growth of MDAH. If you haven't been out recently, join us for the fun and camaraderie. And be surprised how much you and your kids learn.

Dave Weiss
President, MDAH

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KEEP UP WITH MDAH AT MDAH.ORG!!

Our new web site continues to develop and grow. It is our goal that members can always check on upcoming special events, playgroups, and DNO's and DB's (Dads Breakfast). We would love to hear your suggestions!

UPDATED DIRECTORY ... But You Need to Help

All registered members will soon receive an updated membership directory. But we want to include more info! You will soon see a request for info on your professional background and skills, hobbies, and birthday. We feel this will help us all learn a little more about each other. And it won't hurt to find out who can help you fix that leaky pipe in return for some babysitting time. Or who is just around the corner. You catch our drift. Note that the directory is only shared with registered members. New members must become active and vouched for by established members before receiving the directory. Protecting our members privacy and network is top of mind. If you haven't registered with MDAH, get connected!

ONE OF THE DADS: Mike Christianson

Who: Mike Christianson (age 38)

Wife: Sue

Kids: Morgan (5) and Samuel (3)

Residence: St. Paul, MN

At Home Dad Since: September 2002

Education: B.S. in Finance and International Business from Moorhead State University

Prior to being a stay home dad:

I held positions in a Fixed Income trading area at Chase Manhattan and until September 2002 worked at RBC Dain Rauscher in Minneapolis

Hobbies:

Running, although not enough, home repairs and cooking

How did you hook up with MDAH?

I hooked up with Paul Johnson through a mutual co-worker of my wife and Paul's wife.

What made you decide to become a stay-at-home dad?

We did not like having our kids in daycare. My wife was working part-time and was offered an expanded role in her department. It made sense that I would stay home for a few years.

What is most rewarding about being a stay-at-home dad?

Being a big part of our kids daily lives. Their new experiences, successes and challenges.

What do you like the least?

Folding laundry and putting dishes away. I am waiting for the kids to get older to take on those duties.

How long do you plan to be a stay-at-home dad?

Until both kids are well into elementary school.

Best advice for other dads:

Your spouse and you have to be realistic in what you can get done around the house. There will be days when the breakfast dishes are still on the table at 5 pm.

FOR DADS AND KIDS

Field Trip: Fire Station #5

We just missed fire safety month (October), but the kids should still love and benefit from a visit to a neighborhood fire station Thur, Nov. 6, 10:00 am. We will visit St. Paul station #5 at 860 Ashland Ave (intersection with Victoria just north of William Mitchell Law School). Expect about a 20-30 min. visit. It is barely a half mile from Linwood so we have the option of popping over to playgroup after the firefighters show us around their digs.

November Playgroups!!

Linwood, Eden Prairie and North Dale continue on through most of November! Check the calendar for specific dates (i.e. no playgroups Thanksgiving week). Regular playgroups:

Wed: North Dale Rec Center, 9:30-11:30 am

Wed: Eden Prairie Center, 9:00-11:00 am

Thur: Linwood, 9:30-11:30 am. We have a paid semester (thru Nov) group membership at Linwood. Thursday will be the official playgroup day, but you can also go Tues mornings as well. Note that Linwood will be closed in December. Watch for other options in December!

Top Ten List: Winter Activities

Winter is approaching. Let's create the best winter activities list in the Twin Cities! Send your indoor (e.g. rec centers) and outdoor (e.g. sledding) favorites to Justin M.!

Toddler Tuesdays at the Mall of America

When needing some excitement, there is always Camp Snoopy and Underwater Adventures at the Mall of America. Also, every Tuesday is Toddler Tuesday with special events and kids can eat free at participating restaurants. Events for November are 10 am-12 pm and include Animal Adventures (Nov 4), Rock and Roll with Rhythm (Nov 11), the Cat in the Hat Breakfast (Nov 18), and Arthur Breakfast (Nov 25). More info about Toddler Tuesdays or any of the other mall attractions, check out www.mallofamerica.com

DB ... that's Dads Breakfast (Sat, Nov 22, 8:00 am)

Dad's Breakfast #2 will be at the Uptown Bar and Café, located at 3018 Hennepin Ave South (just south of Lake street). There is parking in the rear of the building and the telephone number is 612-823-4719. Buy a full course breakfast or just come for a free dose of manly BS. Contact Mike C.

DNO (Thur, Nov 13, 7:00 pm)

Holiday time is almost here! Thursday, November 13, we will meet downtown Minneapolis for some (so we've heard) good food and games for just about anyone. DNO visits Game Works at 600 Hennepin Ave. The past bowling events were quite successful, thus we have reserved a couple of lanes to assure us a ton of gutter balls. We'll meet close to 7pm for a quick bite to eat and then hit the lanes. And Game Works has a lot more than bowling if bowling isn't your thing.

WELCOME TO NEW GUYS

Derek Haidle (Oakdale)

Richard Meyer (Chanhassen)

Patrick Wilson (Woodbury), Member #50 (!)

Mike Utt (Golden Valley)

AND A NEW MDAH BABY!

Tom V. Max, Linda, and successfully returned from Seoul, Korea on Monday, October 13th with their new daughter Emma Lee Luise (born 5/11/03). Congratulations!

MDAH NOVEMBER CALENDAR

If you would like to submit an event for the calendar, send it to Paul Johnson at pjohnson@goldengate.net. For more info on playgroups and directions, contact the person listed or watch the Yahoo email group for announcements. [Check Yahoo FILES for directions.](#)

NOVEMBER

- 5, Wed North Dale Rec Center (St. Paul) playgroup, 9:30-11:30 am. Contact Dave W.
- 5, Wed Eden Prairie Center (Eden Prairie) playgroup, 9:00-11:00 am. Contact Justin M.
- 6, Thur Field Trip: Fire Station #5, St. Paul, 10-10:30 am. Then over to Linwood. Contact Paul J.
- 6, Thur Linwood Rec Center (St. Paul) playgroup, 10:30-11:30 am. Delayed start due to fire station field trip. Contact Mike C.
- 12, Wed North Dale Rec Center (St. Paul) playgroup, 9:30-11:30 am. Contact Dave W.
- 12, Wed Eden Prairie Center (Eden Prairie) playgroup, 9:00-11:00 am. Contact Justin M.
- 13, Thur [Dads Night Out!](#) Game Works, 7:00 pm, Minneapolis. Contact Dave W.
- 13, Thur Linwood Rec Center (St. Paul) playgroup, 9:30-11:30 am. Contact Mike C.
- 18, Tue MDAH Board Mtg, College of St. Catherine, 7:45-9:15 pm. All welcome. Contact Paul J.
- 19, Wed North Dale Rec Center (St. Paul) playgroup, 9:30-11:30 am. Contact Dave W.
- 19, Wed Eden Prairie Center (Eden Prairie) playgroup, 9:00-11:00 am. Contact Justin M.
- 20, Thur Linwood Rec Center (St. Paul) playgroup, 9:30-11:30 am. Contact Mike C.
- 22, Sat [Dads Breakfast.](#) 8:00 am, Uptown Bar & Café, 3018 Hennepin Ave South (just south of Lake street). There is parking in the rear of the building and the telephone number is 612-823-4719. Contact Mike C.
- 22, Sat At Home Dads National Convention, Des Plaines, Ill. Contact Dave W.
- Note: No scheduled playgroups Thanksgiving week. But don't let that stop you getting together.
- 27, Thur Happy Thanksgiving!