

Child's Play



BY ANDREA SCHARNAU — CHALK4PEACE

How often does a kid get the green light to draw colorful masterpieces all over town — sidewalks, steps, the works — and not get in trouble? This week, various sites in the Washington area have signed up with **CHALK4PEACE** to allow children the opportunity to express their visions of peace through

outdoor art. The project was started last year by John Aaron, artist and director of the Museum of Modern ARF in Arlington. This year, it will be carried out everywhere from California to Capetown, South Africa.

Aaron first got the idea when hosting a similar children's art event with the D.C. mayor's office. "I saw a drawing of this beautiful, four-foot wide cubistic army tank with giant Chinese symbols about peace crushing another tank, and this was done by a 16-year-old kid," he says. "It just hit me right between the eyes then — if we got millions of kids to do this all over the world, maybe grown-ups would listen."

Aaron says that the event is about instilling a spirit of goodwill in the next generation, rather than making a political statement or commenting on Sept. 11, 2001. "While I honor that, I did not want people to treat our event that solemnly," says Aaron. "This is about kids and their joy of creating."

— **Akeya Dickson**

Saturday, 9:30-11 a.m. Barcroft Elementary School, 625 S. Wakefield, Arlington. Free. 703-228-5838.

Saturday-Sept. 17, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Organization of American States, 17th Street and Constitution Avenue NW. Free. 202-458-3585.

Saturday at 10:30 a.m. Ages 4 and older. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, 901 G St. NW. Free. 202-727-0321.

Saturday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Damascus Community Recreation Center, 25520 Oak Dr., Damascus. 240-777-6930.

Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Warehouse Arts & Theatre Complex, 1021 Seventh St. NW. Free. 202-783-3933.

For more events taking place around town, visit www.chalk4peace.org.

CHILDREN IN THE CHURCHYARD — Today, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. The children's festival includes crafts, a moon bounce and more. Historic Christ Church, 118 N. Washington St., Arlington. Free. 703-549-1450.

KIDS DAY OUT: KEVIN REESE, A PERFECT BALANCE — Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. Reese shows off his colorful mobiles in a one-man play that celebrates the creative process. Harmony Hall Regional Center, John Addison Concert Hall, 10701 Livingston Rd., Fort

Washington. \$5. 301-203-6070.

EVERYONE'S HERO — Opens Friday. Originally directed by the late actor Christopher Reeve, the computer-animated film centers on Jake (voiced by Jake T. Austin) as he helps the New York Yankees win the World Series. Other voices include Raven-Symone, Whoopi Goldberg and others.

AFRICAN ROOTS, LATINO SOUL — Friday at 10:15 and 11:30 a.m. Ages 9-14. The new play, which includes music, poetry and drama, explores ethnic diversity in America. S. Dillon Ripley Center, Discovery

Theater, 1100 Jefferson Dr. SW. \$6, children \$5. 202-357-1500.

ARTS ON FOOT — Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. The 14th annual festival includes crafts, games and more. Smithsonian American Art Museum, Eighth and F streets NW. Free. 202-233-0667.

KARIBUKIDS TIME! — Saturday at 11 a.m. Includes story time, play games and more. In celebration of National Literacy Month. Karibu Books, Bowie Town Center Mall, 15624 Emerald Way, Bowie. Free. 301-352-4110.