



**From the Desk of
Executive Director, IMUSA
Small World**

This week I had a meeting with the Corporate people of Fed Ex. My aim was to get the Executives to understand why they should bend over backwards to support IMUSA in our endeavors. We will all see how successful I am.

During a break in our meeting, the local customer representative approached me, while swiftly flipping through her phone media. The grandmother was absolutely BEAMING, while tears were rolling down her cheeks. She played a video of her grandson who had contracted a very rare disease at the age of three months (only two cases in California and twenty in the US). The video was of him being massaged while the parent was singing to him. The grandmother shared that her daughter had been taught by one of Infant Massage USAs CEIMs. (She did not remember the name).

For months the boy was on medication that made him very unresponsive. This was devastating to the family. Someone had told the parents about infant massage, which they immediately sought out.

Now this young boy is laughing, rolling his head back and forth, smiling and chattering,

**A Note from the Membership
Coordinator**

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS and FORMS
UPDATE**

Our address has officially changed. We are no longer at the Huntsman Blvd. address. Our new address is:

34760 Center Ridge Road #39006
North Ridgeville, OH 44039

If you use the class forms that can be downloaded from the Resource page of our website, please be aware that the forms are going to be updated to reflect the change of address.

The membership renewal forms will be updated at the same time. It is anticipated that all updates will be complete by April 1, 2014.

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Chris Elkanick, Membership Coordinator
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Correction to February Newsletter

absolutely LOVING the massage and the singing. His skin had an amazing sheen to it.

As you can imagine, we were both in tears, but with the biggest smiles. Two of the men came back in the room wondering what they was happening. We went as far as we could through the story when they said they didn't want people seeing them cry.....

She ended with stating massage bought life to him physically and spiritually. His quality of life has increased 10 fold.

This is why we are here. This is what we do. Nothing should ever be allowed to get in our way of fulfilling Vimala's vision and mission. Here is to an amazing future!

Kindest regards,

Mercedes

Mercedes Del Castillo
mercedes.delcastillo@infantmassageusa.org

In our Febuary Newsletter it stated that we are "not" an Approved Provider for the National Association of Social Workers. Do to the hard work of Barbara Zimmerman, we are an approved provider. We are sorry for any confusion.

The Delicate Art of Listening to Your Baby: Thoughts on the Seminar

by Katharine Cornter-Wentz, CEIM

What a pleasure to attend DeAnna Elliott's seminar, *The Delicate Art of Listening to Your Baby*. Her phenomenal documentary 'Cellular Echoes', with amazing individuals presenting their research and beautiful detailed attention given to tribal practices. Good, Good Stuff.

Cellular Echoes is a fascinating, informative documentary. DeAnna presented case histories, provided many good articles and research in support of the pre and perinatal stages of babies lives and the stories they have to tell. She is so attuned to the heart intelligence and shares her knowledge with

Call for Presentations - National Breastfeeding Coalitions Conference



The US Breastfeeding Committee has issued a call for presentation proposals for the [Fifth National Breastfeeding Coalitions Conference](#), scheduled for August 2-4th in Arlington, VA. Breastfeeding coalitions, individuals, and other organizations are invited to submit proposals by April 4th. This year's Conference theme is Transforming Barriers into Bridges: Cultivate Your Community Leadership. The Conference will address implementation of The Surgeon General's Call to Action to

endearing grace and for her gift I am thankful.

Everything I read, watched and discussed during this seminar is NOW a valuable tool in my CEIM toolbox and my heart space.

I send my many blessings to DeAnna Elliott for her dedication and sharing her knowledge. As well, a whole hearted Bravo and Big Hug to Infant Massage USA for recognizing the value of this seminar, *The Delicate Art of Listening to Your Baby.*

All Good - All Love. Namaste

Support Breastfeeding through enhancement of breastfeeding coalitions' capacity to impact policy, systems, and environmental change. A new focus has also been placed this year on developing capacity and commitment to racial equity in breastfeeding support. Click [here](#) to review the Conference objectives, or click [here](#) to learn more about submitting a [presentation proposal](#).

Orphans' Lonely Beginnings Reveal How Parents Shape A Child's Brain

Parents do a lot more than make sure a child has food and shelter, researchers say. They play a critical role in brain development.



More than a decade of research on children raised in institutions shows that "neglect is awful for the brain," says Charles Nelson, a professor of pediatrics at Harvard Medical School and Boston Children's Hospital. Without someone who is a reliable source of attention, affection and stimulation, he says, "the wiring of the brain goes awry." The result can be long-term mental and emotional problems.

A lot of what scientists know about parental bonding and the brain comes from studies of children who spent time in Romanian orphanages during the 1980s and 1990s. Children like Izidor Ruckel, who wrote a book about his experiences.

Researchers began studying the children in Romanian orphanages after the nation's brutal and repressive government was overthrown in 1989. At the time, there were more than 100,000 children in government institutions. And it soon became clear that many of them had stunted growth and a range of mental and emotional problems.

When Nelson first visited the orphanages in 1999, he saw children in cribs rocking back and forth as if they had

How can Dad support the breastfeeding mom?

Breastfeeding a baby is a normal part of parenting a little one, but it can go so much smoother if Mom has great support undefined especially from the baby's other parent. What can a daddy really do to help his partner flourish as a [breastfeeding](#) mother?

Be there

Dad may be tempted to leave Mom alone if he thinks that's what she needs to succeed, but if he sticks around during the nursing session, he can offer comfort, approval and support. He will be able to watch as she and the baby bond and can help her troubleshoot latch positions and fetch her water, a pillow or a snack.

autism. He also saw toddlers desperate for attention.

The odd behaviors, delayed language and a range of other symptoms suggested problems with brain development, Nelson says. So he and other researchers began the children using a technology known as (EEG), which measures electrical activity in the brain. The scientists realized the cause wasn't anything as simple as malnutrition. It was a different kind of deprivation undefined the lack of a parent, or someone who acted like a parent.

[Read the Full Story](#)



Encourage her

Dads can lift a new mom's spirits by speaking words of encouragement to her. Encouragement comes in the form of actions also.

Respond to cries

Patricia Berg-Drazin, RLC, IBCLC, CST, told us that Dad can play a pivotal role by responding when a baby cries.

Tell her about it

Dad shouldn't hesitate to share with his partner how awesome she is doing. It can give her a huge boost of confidence to have that love and support directly from Dad. A card can do the same trick, or a text in the middle of the day.

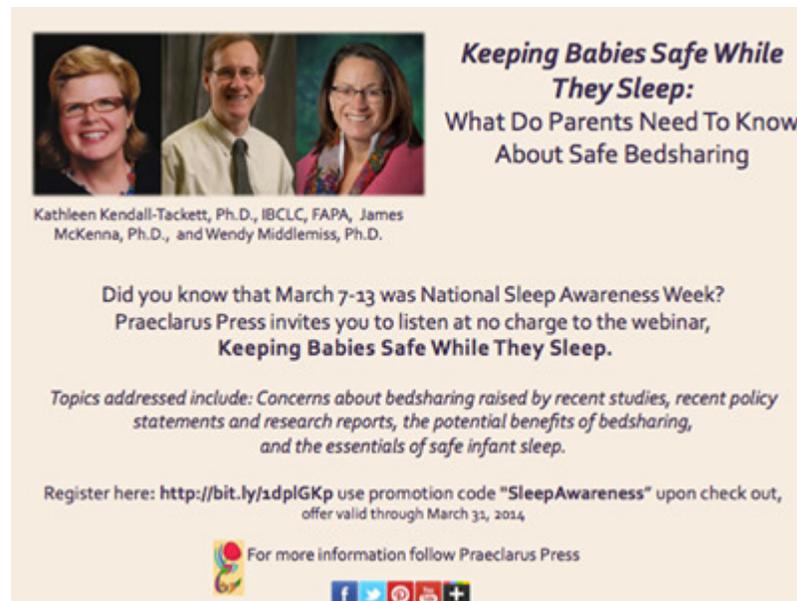
Yes, breastfeeding is primarily a moms-only activity, but there is so much that a dad can do to support her and turn it into an act of parenting that both can take part in.

[Read the Full Story](#)

Keeping Babies Safe While They Sleep: What Parents Need to Know

Follow Infant Massage USA's Current Humanitarian Mission in Haiti

A webinar and resources on safe bedsharing and breastfeeding with your little one. Dr. James McKenna. It is free with the code "**SleepAwareness**" until March 31st.



**Keeping Babies Safe While They Sleep:
What Do Parents Need To Know
About Safe Bedsharing**

Kathleen Kendall-Tackett, Ph.D., IBCLC, FAPA, James McKenna, Ph.D., and Wendy Middlemiss, Ph.D.

Did you know that March 7-13 was National Sleep Awareness Week? Praeclarus Press invites you to listen at no charge to the webinar, **Keeping Babies Safe While They Sleep.**

Topics addressed include: Concerns about bedsharing raised by recent studies, recent policy statements and research reports, the potential benefits of bedsharing, and the essentials of safe infant sleep.

Register here: <http://bit.ly/1dplGKp> use promotion code "**SleepAwareness**" upon check out, offer valid through March 31, 2014.

For more information follow Praeclarus Press



You can follow Infant Massage USA's Humanitarian Mission in Haiti by reading Dr. Vonda Jump's [blog](#). Here is an excerpt from her latest entry:

"It is hard to believe the trainings are finished! The Cap Haitien training was again well attended (28 people certified!), and the participants were so grateful



for what they learned. They listened attentively, worked hard on learning the strokes, and were quite involved with the discussions! Of course, Jody and JoAnn were great at engaging them, and got them to tell lots of stories about their lives, to sing songs, and to dance. Most of the participants are already working for different agencies in Haiti, so they will likely find implementing massage with families much easier than those in Port-au-Prince, where many participants are still finishing their studies or looking for work in their fields. In fact, there were 5 midwives in the training in Cap Haitien, and they talked about teaching every parent whose babies they deliver! Others work with or in orphanages and plan on teaching orphanage

*staff to massage the babies
in their care."*

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