



Inside SDH

Volume 1, Issue 9 February 2005

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Pima County Spelling Bee, February 10, 1 p.m. at Crowder Hall on the UA campus

Homeschool Science Fair February 12th, 10 a.m. at the Main Library.

Multicultural Festival

by Kim B.

The Multicultural Festival is coming up fast! It will take place on Tuesday, March 15th at Ft. Lowell park, and will start at our regular park time. The next planning meeting is Tuesday, February 22 after announcements.

The Multicultural Festival is designed to be a celebration of as many of the world's cultures as possible. People interested in participating can pick a culture or country and do what they want with it. Here are some options for you all to think about: wear a costume, make food, bring a craft for

the kids to do, bring a game to play, make artwork to display, make a flag, display a map of your country bring a folktale or story to share (or tell one), You get the picture! Do whatever makes you feel comfortable. It can be as big or as small as you, or your kids want it to be.

Here is how things are shaping up... On the day of the Festival Kim B. will start events with a parade of flags. If you want to participate either make or buy a flag that represents your country.

After the parade we will have a potluck. Eileen D. is in charge of the

potluck. We want to set up outside of the ramada so if you have tables to lend for this please let Eileen know.

After the potluck we have some entertainment planned. These will be scheduled events.

Laura C. is designing a "passport" for the kids to take around with them as they visit the different activities from around the world. She will put a copy of the passport on the SDH website for people to download if they want to participate in the passport system. (continued on page 7)

Thanks from CYBERCHASE

by Esther R., CYBERCHASE
Project Director

Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers
Kids and Parents,
Thanks so much to those of you who came to the CYBERCHASE Online Contest Grand Prize event, held for Finian L. at the Tucson

Children's Museum on January 10th. You are a great group with great kids!! I also appreciate your patience through the "bumps" we experienced with the last-minute change of venue. I am so sorry about leaving you out of my introductory comments—your kids/organization were

at the top of my list but my cyberbrain short-circuited causing me not to look at my list carefully. Of course all of you were the reason we were there!! Finian and his family, along with you and your kids, gave me a wonderful impression of Tucson and its people. Thank you.

Biology Class for Teens

Biology class is still open to new students for February and March. Class meets Thursdays, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. A monthly fee is required. The next topics are: Taxonomy, Population Dynamics, Protein Evolution, Dissections: Earthworm, Clam, Grasshopper, Crayfish, Starfish, Perch and Frog.

See the [class schedule and syllabus](#) for more information.

Contact the instructor, Noelle or Michela B. to sign up.

Father/Son Rocks and Ropes

by Craig S.
Date: February 7, 2005
Time: 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Cost: \$10/climber (includes all equipment). Each adult willing to belay will be charged \$5 for belay training. The \$5 is in addition to the \$10/climber.

Location: Rocks and Ropes 330 S. Toole Ave. 882-5924
Deadline to sign-up: February 4, 2005

Rocks and Ropes offers a fun, safe climbing adventure in an indoor climbing gym located near downtown Tucson. Questions? Contact Craig or Erin S.

UApresents

by Alica M.
Our next UApresents show is Pilobolus Dance Theater, Tuesday, February 15th. We will meet in front of Centennial Hall at 9:10 a.m. They seat us as a group as soon as everyone is there. The last couple of shows they have overbooked, and wanted to use our seats that were not filled—please be on time! I am not supposed to go in until everyone shows up, but I will not wait past 9:40 a.m. If you can't make the show please let me know so I can pass your tickets on. If you have any questions contact me.

Children's Book Discussion Groups

by Erin S. and Heidi H.
Children's reading group discussions are at 10:30 the first Park Day of each month. The groups are ability rather than age based. Select the group that best fits the child's reading ability. Parents are also welcome to use a selection as a read-aloud so the child is able to participate in the discussions.

In February the reading groups will change from three groups to two groups. The easiest reading groups will be discontinued due to a lack of participation.

February 1
Group 1: *The Whipping Boy* by Sid Fleischman
Group 2: *The Children of Green Knowe* by L.M. Boston

March 1
Group 1: *My Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George
Group 2: *Cricket in Times Square* by George Seldon

Goats: A Cinquain

by Danni H.

Goats
Playful, funny
Jumping, eating, tiring
They are really loud
Pals

A cinquain is really fun to write. It is a poem with five lines and it is in a diamond shape, but it doesn't rhyme. This is how you do it:
1st line- your subject, one word
2nd line - two words that describe the 1st line

3rd line - three verbs that end with "ing" about the subject
4th line - a short phrase about the subject
5th line - a synonym for the subject or a word that expresses something about the subject.

Volunteering Your Time to SDH

by Erin S.

The annual SDH Parents Meeting is scheduled for May 18th. This is the meeting where the group decides what events to have the following year and who will be in charge of organizing said events. The Who's Who list gets an overhaul and we all get to check in with each other regarding what is going on, what is working for the group and what changes should be considered. Now

is the time to start thinking about what you can do for the group. Every year there are many positions to fill, and all of these positions are important for the smooth running of SDH. Remember, we are a parent led group. It is important that everyone do what they can so our group can continue to offer exciting homeschooling opportunities. If you are currently holding a position within SDH that you do not intend to

continue next year, please notify Lisa F. so that she can prepare a Who's Who list with open positions.

Life Learning Magazine

by Alica M.

If you ordered Life Learning Magazine please find me at park to get your copy.

Scholastic Book Orders

by Sharon A.

The Scholastic book orders are due by February 15th. Order forms are available at the park. Make checks payable to "Scholastic" and return them to me.

Dogs

by Hanna H.

Dogs
Fast, funny
Running, playing, eating
Very good pals
Animals

Valentine Exchange

by Sybelle V.

The annual Valentine exchange will be Tuesday, February 8th. Children who would like to participate are encouraged to do the following:

1. Make a box with their name on it to receive valentines. This could be a decorated shoebox or oatmeal box, for example.
2. Bring approximately 50 valentines, either homemade or store bought. This is an estimate based on previous year's valentine exchanges.

After the 11 a.m. announcements, the children will place their container in a designated spot (*not*

under the ramada). The containers will be placed in a long line so the valentines can then be dropped into them by going from one end of the line to the other.

Parents, please make sure to be on time, explain to your children when and where to put their container and how to distribute the valentines. Please do not start before or during announcements. It can become chaotic quickly and some children will then end up with doubles, or none, from certain people.

Questions? Call, email, or see me at park.

SDH Children Group Photo

by Claire B.

The SDH children group photo opportunity is on February 8th, 12:30 at Ft. Lowell Park. I would like to have the children pose on the grass or on the bleachers so please help me by rounding up your child(ren) around 12:20. Bring your camera and take your annual photo of your children with all their friends. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Go, Dog, Go!

by Heather M.

Go, Dog, Go! - A musical theater production

Performance date: Wednesday, March 16th

Tickets: \$7 each

Deadline to PAY for tickets:

Tuesday, February 8th

Payment: Exact cash or check made out to: Heather M.

Meeting time: 9:40 a.m.

Curtain time: 10 a.m.

Program duration: 90 minutes

Location: Center for the Arts, Pima Community College, 2202 W. Anklam.

Parking: Plenty of free parking is available off Anklam Road just east of Greasewood Road.

Note: Children must be 3 or older to be permitted in the theater.

Parents who bring babies or toddlers will be asked to remain in the lobby throughout the show.

The Story: The cast of this beloved preschool favorite has gone to the dogs: with rollicking results! No one is safe - not even the strolling accordionist - as they bound onto the scene. There's cars, hats, audience participation, even a wild game of ball as this laugh-a-minute visual spectacle manages to sneak in some important lessons about life between innings. Based on the beloved book by P.D. Eastman, *Go, Dog, Go!* Is a musical romp full of surprises. The result is a production

full of color, clowning, vaudeville, singing/barking, and of course, six lovable dogs!

[About Childsplay](#): Childsplay is a non-profit professional theatre company of adult actors, performing for young audiences and families. Our Mission is to create theatre so strikingly original in form, content or both, that it instills in young people an enduring awe, love and respect for the medium, thus preserving imagination and wonder, the hallmarks of childhood, which are the keys to the future. Based in Tempe, AZ at Questions or to RSVP: Contact me.

SDH P.E. Classes

by Eileen D.

Athletes in Training (AIT) offers SDH P.E. classes on Tuesdays, from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. at Ft. Lowell park.

Here are the sports they will be doing through May of 2005:

February—Volleyball and Frisbee

March—Recreational Games

April—Baseball

May—Wacky Water Games

A typical class starts with stretching. Then the instructors teach the skills for the game, the children practice and then play a game.

The program is for ages 5 and up and the cost is \$15 per month for one child with discounts for additional children. Discounts are also given for paying in annual or quarterly payments. Typically a new

sport is started each month, so you can start class any month you choose. Or, you may participate all year. These classes run from September to May each year.

The schedule and prices are posted on the bulletin board at the park. If you have any questions, please call or email.

Free to Be...You and Me Musical Performance

By Georgie W.

Come Enjoy the Family Musical "Free To Be ... You And Me" by Marlo Thomas presented by the NEW Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers Chorus.

When: Monday March 7th at 1:00 p.m.

Where: The Inn and the Gardens at the Fountains (792-2002)
5830 N. Fountains Avenue

Directions: South on La Cholla from Orange Grove; Take second driveway on left after Rudasil (under construction, difficult to see, very messy); Road curves around;

entrance on right.

This is the chorus's first performance. The residents will join us as well as the daycare that is also part of the Fountains complex. Any questions see Eileen D. at park or call Georgie W. See you there!

What We're Reading

by Erin S. and Eileen D.

Last month we asked you what you were reading. We thought it would be fun to find new books to read and learn something from each other. We can only say that we were totally overwhelmed and excited with the response! Due to space limitations, we were only able to print one book per person. Thanks so much for your participation. Here is the list, in no particular order.

Erin S. *Reading Lolita in Tehran* by Azar Nafisi

Riley S. *Peter and the Starcatchers* by Dave Barry and Nancy Drew mystery she can get her hands on.

Connor S. *Any Henry and Mudge or Berenstain Bears*

Amanda O. *The Gorillas of Gill Park* by Amy Gordon and working her way through all the old Hardy Boys mysteries.

Eileen D. *Battle Rock: The Struggle Over a One Room Schoolhouse in the Vanishing West* by William Cellis

Jeff O. *Protecting the Gift* by Gavin De Becker

Erinn H. *Bridget Jones the Edge of Reason* by Helen Fielding

Damien H. *Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain

Kaine H. *Dragon Slayers' Academy-The New Kid At School* by Kate McMullan

Ashlyr H. *The Treasury of Peter Rabbit and Other Stories* by Beatrix Potter

Tom H. *The Thoreau Reader*

H. Family Novel *Pinnocchio* by Carlo Collodi

Hilary L. *America, the book*

Aodhan L. *Series of Unfortunate Events* by Lemony Snicket

Ezra L. *Kibu, the little Lion Hunter*

Birdie C. *The Secret Garden* by Ann M. Martin

Dreya C. *Hooper Has Lost His Owner!* by Marsha White

B. Family Novel *Encyclopedia Brown* by Donald J. Sobol

Lara B. *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay* by Michael Chabon

Audrey F. *The Keepers* by Jackie Koller

Natalie F. *The Amber Spyglass* by Phillip Pullman

Lisa F. *Will in the World: How Shakespeare Became Shakespeare* by Stephen Greenblatt

Mike H. *Beck: The Art of Mutation* by Nevin Martell

Heather H. *Skinny Dip* by Carl Hiaasen

Audrey H. *So You Want to be a Wizard* by Diane Duane

Logan H. *Great Illustrated Classics: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain

Lisa B. *Creating the Not So Big House* by Sarah Susanka

Greg B. *Construction Manual by Natural Spaces Domes*

Zoë B. *Juliette Low* by Helen Boyd Higgins

Teagan B. *DK "My First" series*

Kim B. *The Practice of Freedom: Aikido Principles as a Spiritual Guide* by Wendy Palmer

Blake B. *Teachings of the Buddha* edited by Jack Kornfield

Hunter B. *Freddy and the Perilous Adventure* by Walter R. Brooks

The G. Household *What's the Matter with Kansas* by Thomas Frank and *The Last Honest Place in America: Paradise and Perdition in the New Las Vegas* by Marc Cooper

V. Household *Chickens May Not Cross the Road and Other Crazy (But True) Laws* by Kathi Linz

Sybelle V. *A Chicken's Guide to Talking Turkey With Your Kids About Sex* by Kathy Flores Bell

Arnold V. *Fear Less: Real Truth About Risk, Safety, and Security in a Time of Terrorism* by Gavin De Becker

Ingo V. *Star Wars Attack of the Clones Incredible Cross-Sections* by Curtis Saxton

Bibi V. *A Harry the Dirty Dog Treasury* by Gene Zion

Arleeta R. *Microsoft, First Generation* by Cheryl Tsang

Sophia R. *Chicken Soup for the Pet Lover's Soul*

Mark R. *Exploring the West* by Herman J. Viola

Free Form Poetry

by Heather H.

We just finished learning about "free-form" poetry here at the H.'s "nest." Free form poetry is a kind of poetry where you are given a blank sheet of paper and a pen (or pencil) and without thinking about it, you write what ever comes to your mind. It doesn't have to rhyme, or follow any poetry rules. In fact you shouldn't hesitate, just write until you are done.

You should give it a try. It is fun. Here is a poem written by Audrey H., age 10.

TV

The TV is in my mind,
holding on to my every whim,
making me a Human remote control.
My Brain is the buttons, my mind is
the VOLUME!
My face is the screen, and the news
clicks on.
In the middle of the night,

the late late show, keeps me up!

Yes, it does.

The nose on my face is the off
button!

I feel my antennae, my ears!

I feel a commotion in my head!

Jumbles, on and off!

Then; in the still,

comes PBS!

My eyes are the viewers!

My nose is the power Button!

Spring Music Recital

by Victoria M.

Thanks to the generosity of violin teacher, Rebecca M., SDH has been provided with a new venue for our music recitals. The PRIME SCHOOL. This music school is located at 3434 E. Broadway (south

of El Con Mall between Country Club and Alvernon just west of the Bank of America).

Our Spring Recital will be held on Thursday, May 5th from 1 p.m. to approximately 3 p.m. I would like to encourage our musical parents to

participate this time. I would also like to welcome homeschoolers from other groups around Tucson.

Please call me to be added to the program or if you have any questions.

SDH Game Day

by Sybelle V.

Did you miss the SDH game day? Don't despair! By popular demand this may become a regular event. Unfortunately time before the newsletter deadline is too short to arrange for the room, but I will try to plan another day for Friday, February 18th, from 1 to 4 p.m. However, I cannot be sure about it at this time, so please check SDH-Discuss for an update. I can also be contacted by phone or email when that date comes closer.

Heifer Project Book Sale

by Ingo V. and Sybelle V.

The children involved in the Heifer Project fundraiser are asking everyone in SDH to donate used books, games and puzzles and bring them to park during the month of February and place them in the designated box. On February 22nd, the children will have a sale at one of the tables. Books and games will be sold for small prices, with all proceeds going to Heifer. Please help if you can and clean out your book cases! For more information, call, email or see one of us at park.

Desert Museum Trip

By Jackie S.

My husband and I are thinking of arranging a field trip to the Desert Museum. He works as an exhibit preparator and would be willing to take a group around for a tour of the grounds with the possibility of some behind-the-scenes views. The trip would likely be in March or April—before the summer heat! Let me know via email if you'd be interested, how many would be in your party, their ages, and what in particular you might be interested in learning that you wouldn't get during a regular visit to the Desert Museum. We hope to have details posted in time for next month's newsletter.

Multicultural Festival

(continued from page 1)

People doing activities or booths of some kind can have a stamp or sticker or some memento for the kids to put in their passport book. Activities like games and crafts will happen simultaneously with other events.

Brandye F. is organizing an "art gallery." Bring your artwork to the park that day and it will be displayed for everyone to see.

As a complement to the art gallery we also encourage people to bring folktales or stories from their particular culture. Pick one that fascinates you, print it, make a few copies, and we'll have a place to

share all of the stories.

The following is a list of the countries or cultures already on the menu:

Brandye F. India
 Kim B. Japan/Thailand
 Ann V. Greece
 Laura C. El Salvador
 Shelly S. Germany
 Christine G. Ireland
 Debbie G. Jewish (Askenazic)
 Ana E. Mexico
 Sybelle V. Netherlands
 Heather H. Scotland
 Claire B. Wales and Italy
 Amy G. Dominican Republic
 Paige J. Denmark
 Maaike M. Africa

Japanese Club Japan

Lisa B. (Girl Scouts) Native American

Lorenzo V. Egypt

Eileen D. Croatia

Sharon A. Ukraine

Erinn H. Australia

(a list of countries chosen can also be found on the [website](#)).

If you have any questions you can contact either Brandye F. or Kim B.

Homeschool Science Fair

by Laura C.

The [Pima County Home Educators Science Fair](#) will take place February 12th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Tucson-Pima Main Library. Please come by and support all the children who put time and effort into doing an experiment or

project.

[SARSEF](#) will take place March 14th to 19th and Funfest will be March 16th to 18th.

There is still time to register for SARSEF.

The deadline to submit your science fair application is February 1st.

There is more information available in the January edition of Inside SDH. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Weaving Studio Field Trip

by Victoria M.

Our field trip to the Weaving Workshop on January 21st was a pleasant and informative success. We hope to be able to do another in March or April. Please call me and let me know if you are interested. Those of you who already called me, I have your names and will call you first when I get a new date.

January '04 Treasurer's Report

by Claire B.

| | |
|---|-----------|
| December Beginning Balance: | \$983.21 |
| Seven new members | +35.00 |
| Pay outs (newsletters, newcomer packets and web calendar) | -77.44 |
| | ----- |
| Balance January 25 | \$ 940.56 |

Babysitter Available

by Isabella L.

Hello, my name is Isabella L. and I am a member of SDH. I am 13 (14 in March) years old, and I would like to baby-sit. I have had a lot of experience with babies and young children, including watching my little brother a lot. I live on the East side. Please call or email me if you are interested, I am available most of the time.

Roots & Shoots Club

By Heather M.

Wednesday, February 2, Noon to 1:30 p.m. "Butterfly Magic" at the Tucson Botanical Gardens.

This second field trip is full. If you have reservations and can't go, please let me know so I can fill it with another family. I am trying to set up an unprecedented THIRD field trip. If you are interested, let me know asap (see below for my contact info).

We will meet on the sidewalk at the front entrance gate at noon and take a self-guided tour of the gardens. At 1 p.m., half the group will go into "Butterfly Magic: an indoor exhibit of live tropical butterflies" for 15 minutes. The rest of the group will enter at 1:15 p.m.

Cost is \$1 per person to get into the gardens. You will pay this to me at the entrance to the botanical gardens. The butterfly exhibit has its own cost - \$3/adult and \$1/child (kids under age 6 are free). You will pay this to me separately when you ARRIVE. Please try to have the exact amount so I don't have to make change. Strollers are NOT allowed into the butterfly garden. Pay me at the gardens on Wednesday or at park on Tuesday.

Note: I suggest you eat before you come. They no longer have picnic facilities at the [TBC](#). The gardens are located at 2150 North Alvernon Way, just south of Grant. For directions and more information see:

Friday, February 4, 10 a.m. to noon. Presentation by [Native Seeds/SEARCH](#). Plant a seed to take home.

Bookmans - Speedway and Wilmot, community room (as you enter Bookman's, go to the right. About midpoint along the right wall is a hallway with restrooms and community room).

Native Seeds/SEARCH, a nonprofit organization, works to conserve the traditional crops, seeds, and farming methods that have sustained native peoples throughout the southwestern U.S. and northern Mexico.

Through seed conservation and community interaction, Native Seeds/SEARCH works to protect crop biodiversity and to celebrate cultural diversity. Both are essential in our efforts to restore the earth.

Friday, February 18, 1 to 3 p.m. Activities with [ChimpanZoo](#): Research, Education and Enrichment, a program of The Jane Goodall Institute.

RSVP requested by Tuesday, February 15. Bookman's - Grant and Campbell, community room (in far back corner behind the children's books)

Founded in 1984, ChimpanZoo is an international research program dedicated to the study of chimpanzees in zoos and other captive settings. Approximately 200 chimpanzees are involved in ChimpanZoo, making it the largest ape research program ever undertaken. Trained by participating zoos and the Jane Goodall Institute, students, caretakers and volunteers record behavioral observations and work with zoo keepers to improve

the lives of captive chimpanzees and compare their behavior to that of chimps in the wild.

Goals:

- (1) To increase public awareness about the plight of chimpanzees and to increase understanding of chimpanzee behavior.
- (2) To assist zoos in their efforts to improve the habitats and conditions for captive chimpanzees.
- (3) To facilitate the exchange of information on ways to enrich the lives of captive chimpanzees.

Questions or to RSVP, call me or email.

[Roots & Shoots](#) is the Jane Goodall Institute's international environmental and humanitarian program for young people. Our club sponsors activities, field trips, and service projects regarding care and concern for the environment, for people and for animals.

Testing and Your Homeschooling Rights

by Debbie G.

The Pima County School Superintendent's Office notified parents of registered 11th and 12th grade homeschoolers that the office will be administering the high school AIMS test to homeschoolers.

Here is the text of the postcard: "The Pima County School Superintendent's Office will give the high school AIMS test this spring to home schoolers in the classes of 2006 and 2007. Go to the following [website](#) for more information and to register or call 740-8213 if you do not have Internet access."

The wording of the notice is misleading, and implies that homeschoolers are required to take this test.

The office's web page states that

the test is offered to "interested home-schoolers," and that the "AIMS test is required for students in district and charter schools, but not for home-schooled students or those attending private schools." However, if parents simply scrolled down the page to the registration form, they might have missed reading that the test was not mandatory for their homeschooled children.

Homeschoolers in Arizona are exempt from all testing requirements that apply to students enrolled in public schools. This is an area where the distinction between homeschooling and virtual charter schools becomes important. Students enrolled in virtual charter schools like the Arizona Virtual Academy or Sequoia are considered

public school students even though they do their work at home. As public school students, they are required to take the same tests as other public school students.

Homeschooling rights depend on parents who are knowledgeable about the regulations and laws that apply to their children. This postcard is an example of a situation where confusion about those regulations could lead to parents doing far more than is required by law.

If you have any questions about testing, please contact me and I will try to find answers for you.

SDH Memory Book

by Lara B.

I've decided to try to put together an SDH memory book. This will be something simple and basic—mostly black-and-white with maybe a few color pages. I'm not going to try to copy school yearbooks. The memory book will be casual and in paperback. Those of you that take pictures at the different SDH activities, please pass them my way. You can email digital photos to me, or give me prints. What is very important is that the name of the person(s) and the activity they are doing is written on the back of the photo, or included with any emailed photos! If you give me prints, and you want them back, please put your name on the envelope so I can easily

return them to you. Obviously I won't be able to use all of the photos I receive, but I hope to use enough to provide a good representation of all that SDH does. I won't know the exact cost until I have something going, but my guess is that the cost will be \$5, or so.

I need help brainstorming ideas, and I may need a little bit of hands-on help. Please, if you'd like to do this with me let me know. If you do not want your, or your child(ren)'s, picture in the SDH memory book let me know so I can be sure to omit them. Please contact me with any ideas, and/or if you'd like to help out!

Suggested Websites

by Lisa B.

There are lots of websites with various state games, but [this one](#) has a bunch on one site and Zoë and I have been having fun with it.

[Space Shuttle Paper project](#)

[Fun ideas](#)

This Month's Featured Web Sites

by Debbie Gubernick

Visit the [SDH Featured Web Sites](#), and check out [past collections](#).

[Groundhog Day Facts and Factoids From Cornell University](#)

This page presents answers to questions about groundhogs/woodchucks (yes, they are the same animal), including just how much wood could a woodchuck chuck?

[Engineering Magic From the American Society of Mechanical Engineers](#)

Explore how science and engineering are used in magic tricks. This section of the ASME web site features six magic tricks, and includes printable handouts for investigating each trick.

[Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens Presented by the Mount Vernon Ladies Association](#)

Take a virtual tour of George Washington's Virginia home, and learn about the country's first president. There is link to an interesting page about a 16-sided treading barn invented by Washington - find it in the *GW, Pioneer Farmer* section of the site.

[Abraham Lincoln Papers From the Library of Congress](#)

The Library of Congress has created a virtual exhibit of Lincoln's correspondence, along with special presentations about the Emancipation Proclamation and his assassination.

[Grammar Gorillas From FunBrain](#)

This interactive game can be played at a beginner or an advanced level, and includes a brief Help section.

Grand Canyon Girls Club

by Emily A.

Food...Fun...Friends...Classes...Crafts for girls ages 7 to 12 (younger with Prior Permission).

The Grand Canyon Girls Club is designed to give girls a chance to have fun and make real friends in a safe environment.

Next Girls Club Meeting is Saturday, February 12th from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

A Very Valentines Girls Club.

At this Club meeting, we will be making Valentine's Day Cards for your mom, your friends, your Aunt

Harriet or anyone else you want to make them for. We will also serve up some snacks and loads of fun for you and your friends.

The Girls Club meets the second Saturday of every month at the Temporary Club House, unless something really, really big comes up.

Interested in the Grand Canyon Girls Club? Please call or email us.

Multicultural Festival Web Page

by Debbie Gubernick

I am working on the Multicultural Festival's web pages and am looking for material to add. Are there interesting web sites about the culture that your family is presenting? Do you have links to art, stories, music or crafts from that culture? Please send links to sites, along with descriptions to me and I will post them on the SDH web site. And, if you have ideas or suggestions for the festival's web pages, please let me know!

Monthly Parent Opportunities

Every month of the year, SDH has opportunities for parents to meet, talk and get to know each other better.

Mom's Coffee Night

Currently Mom's Coffee Night is held on the last Wednesday of every month at Something Sweet located at 5319 E. Speedway. That's at the NE corner of Speedway and Beverly (the Office Depot store is on the intersection's NW corner and Live Theater Workshop is in the same plaza). We get together at 7:30 p.m. but don't worry if you can't make it at 7:30 - many of us stay until midnight! We chat, laugh, and generally have a

great time. It is a great way to get to know others better and there is always a mix of parents with younger or older children so you can ask lots of questions. Contact Kim B. if you'd like more information.

Men's Coffee Night

Men's Coffee Night is the first Wednesday of each month. This is an opportunity for fathers to discuss homeschooling issues, as well as other topics. Please join us at Borders on Oracle, for coffee, tea, good company and conversation. This casual meeting starts around 7:30 p.m. Contact Jeff O. or Brian M. for more information.

Parent's Book Discussion Group
A Parent's Book Discussion is held the 3rd Thursday of each month at Something Sweet, 5319 E. Speedway at 7 p.m. Questions? Contact Erin S.

February 17: *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay* by Michael Chabon

March 17: *Word Freak* by Stefan Fatsis

April 21: *House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros

May 19: *The Plot Against America* by Philip Roth

Upcoming Events

March

AIT P.E. Classes Tuesday's

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 9:15 a.m., Ft. Lowell Park

Children's Book Discussion, March 1, 10:30 a.m. at Ft. Lowell

Men's Coffee Night, March 2, 7:30 p.m., Borders on Oracle

UApresents Kevin Locke, March 4, 10 a.m., Centennial Hall

Free to Be...You and Me Rehearsal March 7, 10 a.m. at The Inn at the Gardens, downstairs.

Free to Be...You and Me Performance, 1 p.m. at The Inn at the Gardens lobby.

Multicultural Festival, March 15, after announcements, Ft. Lowell Park

Go, Dog Go! Performance, March 16, 10 a.m., Center for the Arts, Pima Community College

Southern Arizona Regional Science

and Engineering Fair (SARSEF),

March 17 to 19, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tucson Convention Center

Parent's Book Discussion, March 17, 7 p.m. at Something Sweet

UApresents Momix, March 22, 10 a.m., Centennial Hall

Newsletter Deadline March 25

Mom's Coffee Night, March 30, 7:30 p. m., Something Sweet

April

AIT P.E. Classes Tuesday's

April 5, 12, 19, 26, 9:15 a.m., Ft. Lowell Park

Children's Book Discussion, April 5, 10:30 a.m. at Ft. Lowell

Men's Coffee Night, April 6, 7:30 p.m., Borders on Oracle

Parent's Book Discussion, April 21, 7 p.m. at Something Sweet

Newsletter Deadline April 25

Mom's Coffee Night, April 27, 7:30 p. m., Something Sweet

May

AIT P.E. Classes Tuesday's, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 9:15 a.m., Ft. Lowell Park

Children's Book Discussion, May 3, 10:30 a.m. at Ft. Lowell

Men's Coffee Night, May 4, 7:30 p.m., Borders on Oracle

Spring Music Recital, May 5, 3 p.m., The Prime School

Parent's Book Discussion, May 19, 7 p.m. at Something Sweet

SDH Annual Parent's Planning Meeting, May 18, time and place TBA

Last Ft. Lowell Park Day, May 24

Mom's Coffee Night, May 25, 7:30 p. m., Something Sweet

SDH Membership Form

To Join SDH, return this form and \$10 cash (\$5 after January 1st) to either a Newcomer Committee member in a yellow SDH t-shirt or SDH's treasurers Claire B. or Teresa B.

Parents' Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____ Phone Number _____

E-mail Address _____

If you provide an e-mail address your SDH newsletter will be delivered via e-mail. Please check the box if you wish to have your e-mail listed for contact purposes but wish to receive a printed, snail-mailed newsletter

Child(ren) Name(s) and Birthdate(s) (MM/YY) If provided, this information will be included on the SDH roster. The roster is available only to SDH members and is never sold or used for any solicitation purposes.

Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers FAQs

About SDH

SDH is a home education network serving homeschoolers throughout Tucson and Southern Arizona.

- SDH was founded in January 1999.
- Over the years, an average of 95 families are SDH members, with children from infants through teenagers.
- SDH meets on Tuesdays at Ft. Lowell park, from mid-August through mid-May at 10:30 a.m.

What are the benefits of joining?

Every month, Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers Newsletter will be sent to you either electronically or by mail.

- Get the SDH membership roster, plus regular updates.
- Participate in SDH-discuss, an e-mail list restricted to current members of SDH.
- Participate in and help organize SDH group activities for your children and children of all ages.

What does it cost?

\$10.00 per year (after January, the fee is reduced to \$5 for the remainder of the year—SDH years run August through July)

How do I join SDH?

To join, come to the Tuesday park meeting—you can submit the above form plus the fee to a newcomer committee member in a yellow SDH t-shirt or to Treasurers Claire B. or Teresa B.

[Questions](#)

From the Editors

Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers is six years old this month. Over the years the group has grown significantly in membership, but the original intent remains true—to bring homeschooling families together in an open-minded community led by involved parents. One has only to

skim through this newsletter to see how active and motivated our homeschooling community has become. SDH owes thanks to founding members who are still with us, and those who have moved on, for their vision, guidance and inspiration. Happy Anniversary SDH!

Send your submissions for the March *Inside SDH* by February 25.

[*Erin S. and Eileen D.*](#)



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Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers is an open, not-for-profit home education network, providing social and creative outlets for homeschooling families. We are not devoted to any one homeschooling approach, political platform, religious outlook, or philosophical ideal. Our homeschooling community supports all families, regardless of their personal lifestyle or educational choices in the area of home education. Our motto is "hozho," a Navajo word meaning "harmony" or "walking in beauty or friendship."