

Inside SDH

Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers • Tucson, AZ • April 2008

MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL

by Heather H.



Come one! Come all! to the SDH Medieval Festival (combined with Artist Day and Science Fair) on Tuesday, April 8, at Ft. Lowell Park! We have many great events planned so come early.

- Starting at 11:30 am we have Irish folk dancing performed by one of our own SDH members!
- The pot luck begins at 12:15 so bring something good to eat! You can be creative with the food you bring – something Medieval related, science related, or arts related would be great, but it doesn't have to go with a theme. (Bring your own plates, flatware and drinks)
- At 1:00 p.m. we have a Samurai sword demonstration.

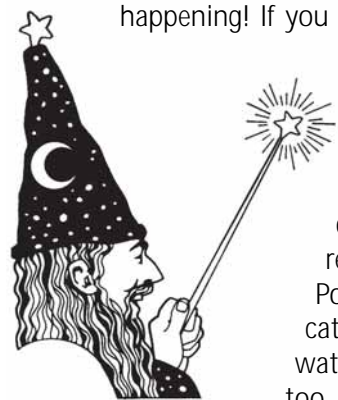
- At 1:15 p.m. there will be two Maypoles set up for people to try and do the Maypole dance.
- From 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. SCA will be putting on a sword fighting demonstration and will also be doing a talk about Medieval history.

In between all that there will be some science projects and art projects to take a peek at. We will even have a mini trebuchet set up that will do a demonstration! This is only as great as we make it. So bring in your science projects and art projects. These can be anything and everything. Remember the Medieval time period was about 800 years and was happening all over the world, so really the sky's the limit! Please come a bit early to set up or you can drop it off with me on Tuesday, April 1st.

Remember to come dressed up too. It will be great fun!

Our homeschool website has a great resource page <http://hozho.homestead.com/MedievalCenter.html>. The public library also has many books on medieval times with loads of information and crafts.

As a side note, we still have a few things in the works as of this time... so there may be even more things happening! If you have any questions please contact me.



SCIENCE FAIR

by Donna J.

Don't forget – the science fair will be held during the Medieval Festival on April 8 during our regular park day. Participants may exhibit any type of science project, experiment, demonstration, report, or collection, such as a rock collection. The topics don't have to relate to the Medieval time period. But feel free to have fun with that theme if you want to.

Possible science fair projects that relate to the Middle Ages include ideas like constructing a catapult, showing how herbs were used during that time period, or maybe even constructing a water mill. If you liked the previous Earth Day theme, that could inspire some great projects too. If your child is working on a solar car or solar house and it will be finished in time, both are great projects that could be exhibited.

Please let me know if your child is planning to participate, so I can prepare certificates and make sure I have enough tables. If you have any questions, call or email me.

ART DISPLAYS

Everyone is encouraged to bring something that they've made to display, or set up and do a performance (performing arts). Be creative! Don't be shy! Let's see your artistic side!



UNSCHOOLING DISCUSSION

by Tara M. and Debbie G.

Is there a "right" way to unschool? Join a discussion led by Debbie G. about unschooling, a form of education in which learning is based on the person's interests, needs, and goals. Find out what it looks like and who defines it – and hear more about this surprisingly traditional approach to learning. Tuesday, April 1, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Martha Cooper Branch Library meeting room (1377 N. Catalina Ave. <http://www.library.pima.gov/locations/marthacooper/>) For questions or more information, please contact Debbie or Tara.



FUNHOUSE MOVEMENT THEATRE SCHOOL MATINEE

by Heidi H.

The Funhouse Movement Theatre will present a dance production on Thursday, April 10 at 10:30 a.m. at the Pima Community College Proscenium Theatre (West Campus). Funhouse Movement Theatre is a local professional modern dance company. Hanna Herrington and several girls from her dance school will be dancing at this show as they did last year. The show will last about 1 1/2 hrs and we will meet in front at 10:00. I still have several seats available. This show will be a stretch for kids under 6. E-mail me with number of adults and kids if interested.

INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE DEMONSTRATION

by Shane S.

I will be giving a short class on Tuesday, April 29 at Ft. Lowell Park on how internal combustion engines work. I will use a disassembled lawn mower engine to explain the components and how they work. Please contact me for further information.

MAY MUSIC RECITAL

by Victoria M.



Our May Recital is fast approaching. This year it will be on Thursday, May 1st at 2:00 at the Armory Park Senior Center in downtown Tucson, just to the east of the Children's Museum across 6th Ave. There is parking, but it is metered.

We will attempt to play "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" in the KEY OF C all together at the end of the program. Come a little early so we can run through it a few times. We will have a few refreshments, some program music puzzles, and a raffle. Please call or email me if you have any questions or would like to be added to the program. I am looking forward to seeing you there!

ANNUAL SDH CURRICULUM EXCHANGE – May 13

By Jackie O.

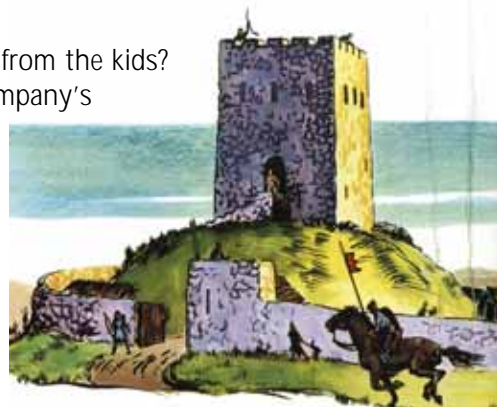
New date! Tuesday, May 13 **before** park at 10:00 a.m. It is going to be HOT! Let's set up early, **before** announcements. By mid-May we will all have completed our academic goals for the year — right?! Well, even if you're a few weeks behind (or months, like us), you will probably have a pretty good sense of what you won't be needing again. Bring it all to park! Set up a table or a blanket, put price stickers on it and some other family will likely snatch it up and put it to good use over the next 12 months.

I will bring Eegees, so make sure you get there early 'cause when it's gone, it's gone!

MOM'S NIGHT OUT

by Donna J.

Does a night at the theater sound good to you? Do you need a little break from the kids? I'm hoping we can organize a moms' night out to attend Arizona Theatre Company's production of *The Clean House*. A group as small as just four people can get a 25 percent discount on the regular ticket price. Regular ticket prices are \$47-\$31. The play runs from April 5 to April 26 and week night performances start at 7:30 p.m. at the Temple of Music and Art. There are also Sunday matinee performances that start at 2 p.m. Once I hear from people, we can select a date together that will work for everyone. If you're interested in going to *The Clean House*, please contact me by April 8. For more information about the play, go to ATC's web site and click on the link for *The Clean House*: <http://www.arizonatheatrecompany.org/>



ROOTS & SHOOTS AND EARTH SCOUTS

by Lara B.

• GARDENING

On Wednesday, April 2 at 10:00 a.m. we will meet at Zita's house again this year to do permaculture gardening and have potluck lunch. We did digging and weeding and soil prep last year, so that's basically already done. We will decide where to plant stuff, and plant it this time. Bring a small dish to share, and we'll garden chat while eating! Zita lives very central, I will give directions when you RSVP.

• GOAT FARM VISIT

The Goat Farm visits were wildly popular. Most people who wanted to go have already been. For the ones who have not yet been, but would still like to go, we have a time set up of 1:00 for every Wednesday through April. You can just go ahead and show up on any of those that you'd like to go if you've already been scheduled before but had to cancel. If you haven't yet been scheduled, and would like to go, please let me know which day, and I will email you the directions and farm information.

www.hoofsnhorns.com



• EARTH DAY PARADE AND CLEAN AIR DAY



Our theme for the Earth Day Parade (and Clean Air Day booth) this year is going to be ocean plastic-waste awareness, and what it does to sea creatures - from the tiny bottom feeding krill that end up eating the plastic micro beads that are found in many body and face soap scrubs, to the floating swirling plastic grocery bags and bottles that in one 'spot' alone covers the size of Texas in the pacific ocean. Everyone is invited to participate - you do not need to "sign-up" for R&S or Earth Scouts. Just come and participate if you are interested!

Our parade procession will be an ocean, and all of us will be the ocean creatures - a fish, an octopus, a squid, etc. - even a mermaid - whatever each person would like to be! On Monday, April 14 at 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. downtown at the Joel Valdez Main Library (in the big lower-level meeting room), we will have one more group get-together to work on parade stuff. Everyone interested in that is invited to come! We need to make one more Roots & Shoots banner, and people can also work on their costumes and 'garbage sticks' (a tall stick/dowel with plastic garbage something-or-others hanging from top - ie a group of those six-pack holder rings dangling down, a couple of milk jugs, a bunch of plastic grocery bags, empty bath soap w/ scrubbing beads containers, etc, that each person will carry).

People are welcome to do stuff completely on their own at home and just show up on parade day. (Let me know so I can keep an eye out for you.) The parade and booth is the same day this year, which is on Saturday, April 19. The parade starts at 10:00 a.m. and is very short, so even the littlest kids can handle it. Babies in strollers are welcome too! The booth goes from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and we have an R & S dad who has volunteered to man the booth! Please call with any comments or questions.



• CAMPING AND HIKING

We will be camping and hiking up in the Colossal Cave area (with bathrooms and running water). It will be Friday and Saturday nights, May 2 and May 3. It is \$5 per car (up to 6 people) per night, and you can come for one, the other, or both. A day hike around the grounds is \$8.50 per, and is completely optional. There will be an on-site option of a gem and arrowhead search of \$7 per, or 2 people for \$12. For the camping and/or hiking, I need sign-ups by **April 12th**. (The gem and arrowhead can be decided on once there.)

NORTHWEST PARK DAY

by Lea C.

The Northwest Park group meets regularly at Richardson Park on Thursday's from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Some of us may arrive earlier or later. This group's smaller size makes it easy for kids and parents to get to know each other. Kids currently attending are ages 2-8. Be sure to bring water, snacks, sunscreen, and a chair. Directions: Richardson Park is located behind Richardson School, 6901 North Camino De La Tierra 85741. Cmo. De la Tierra is half mile east of Thornydale Rd. Take Ina Rd. or Orange Grove Rd. to Cmo. De La Tierra. The school and park are located half-way between these streets on the west side. On occasion, the group relocates to another park, so please contact Lea for further information.



ANNUAL PARENTS PLANNING MEETING – May 19

by Lara B.

Just an early heads-up that the Parents Planning Meeting for the 2008-2009 SDH year is set for Monday, May 19. I will open doors at 5:30 p.m., and we will start promptly at 6:00 p.m. and can go until almost 8:00 p.m. when they close. It will be in the big lower-level community room at the Joel Valdez Main Library. We will decide dates for the annual activities, and go over each job that needs a new volunteer to do it. If there is a job or something that you'd like to add, this is a great time to do it. If you already have a job that you'd like to give up, please post it and announce it ahead of time if you can, so that someone else can think about it and volunteer for it either before, or at the meeting.

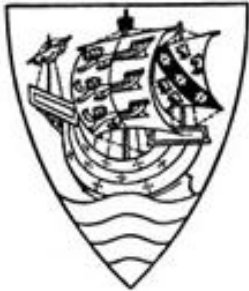
If someone has something that they'd like to add to the meeting, but cannot come, please let someone who is going know, so that it is passed on there. I will make the standard agenda to pass out, so if you have something that you'd like added to it beforehand, let me know! There will also be a period of time at the meeting that we go over last-minute stuff that does not make it onto the list.



CYT PRESENTS "PETER PAN"

by Laura N.

The school days showings of CYT's "Peter Pan" will be on Wednesday, May 14 and Thursday, May 15 both at 12:00 noon. Tickets are \$4.00 per person. Seats are selling out quickly for this show. Please contact me by Friday, April 4 to get on the list (indicate how many adults and kids and which day you want to go). Payment (*made payable to CYT Tucson*) must be made by April 16. No refunds are issued, so please make sure you can come that day. We will meet as a group at Crowder Hall (U of A) and go in to the play together. If you can't make the school days showing, the play will also be showing for two weekends this time, May 16-18 and May 23-25 and you can purchase tickets through me. See www.cyttucson.org for more information.



AZ OPERA AND ATC FOR THE 2008-09 SCHOOL YEAR

by Donna J.

I hope to have the information for Arizona Opera's student dress rehearsals and ATC's student matinees soon. The first sign-up deadline will be in July. Look for more information in next month's newsletter.

FORT LOWELL PARK INFORMATION

by Shelley M.

A parks and rec guy (the boss of the groundskeeper that is always there on Tuesdays) came and talked to me and a few others last Tuesday. He had a list of what he thought were problems from our group. I told him I would pass these along:

1. Clogging the toilets. He said he has had to hire a plumber several times the past month. They have found pinecones, balls, etc in the toilets. This may not be from us, but please talk to your kids about it, to make sure it isn't from our group in the future.

The rest of these are what he considers to be liability issues:

2. Climbing on the roofs of the buildings.
3. Swinging from the flagpole rope.
4. Climbing the trees.

Please note: He has all of the parks and rec employees watching us and reporting to him.



PARK DAY is every Tuesday.
SDH members meet at Fort Lowell Park (Glenn and Craycroft) every Tuesday.
Announcements are held at 11:00 a.m.



SDH MONTHLY PARENT OPPORTUNITIES

Parents' Book Discussion Group - April 15

The Book Group discussion has a new time and place! It will be at the regular Ft. Lowell park day, on the third Tuesday of each month. It will start at 12:00 p.m. and go until we are finished, likely around 2:00 p.m. For the summer months of June, July, and August the book group will still meet on the third Tuesday of the month, but instead of at park it will be at the Borders on Oracle (across and a little south of the Tucson Mall) from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. The Cafe is open until 11:00 p.m. and should be perfect for sitting outdoors!

People are always welcome to join whether they've read the book or not.

- April: *Next* by Michael Crichton
- May: *Nineteen Minutes* by Jodi Picoult
- June: *The Bookseller of Kabul* by Asne Seierstad
- July: *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult
- August: *Citizen Vince* by Jess Walter
- September: *The War of Gifts* by Orson Scott
- October: *A Complaint-Free World* by Will Bowen

Note: Some of these books have long lists at the library, so you might want to get on the list asap if you plan to get them from there.

Moms' Coffee Night - April 30

Held on the last Wednesday of every month at Denny's (3655 E. Speedway, two blocks west of Alvernon) from 7:30 p.m. to midnight (or any time in between).

Dads' Coffee Night - April 2

Held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Borders on Oracle.



Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers

<http://tucsonhomeschoolers.org>

Info: sdhtucson@yahoo.com

Newsletter: sdhnewsletter@yahoo.com



© Jim Almstrom

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."