

Inside SDH

Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers • Tucson, AZ • August 2008



ROOTS & SHOOTS AND EARTH SCOUTS

by Lara B.

I will be collecting back-to-school supplies to donate to World Care, the first two park days back at Ft Lowell (Aug 19th and 26th). I will have a box there for people to drop off stuff into. Any amount would be greatly appreciated; one thing, two things, a bunch of things. Most of the stores have their BTS sales going now, so maybe keep an eye out for that when you are shopping if you are interested in donating. I know they especially like to receive backpacks, but they really need everything – the standard stuff like pencils, pens, notebooks, binders, refill paper, colored pencils, erasers, rulers, etc. (If you will not be at park for either of the first two back, but would still like to donate, let me know and I will arrange a pick-up.)

SHAKESPEARE CLASS

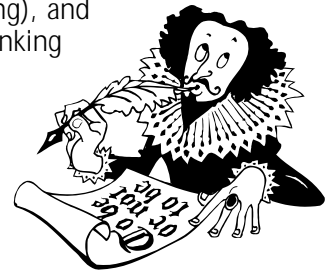
by Kim B.

This fall I will be offering a class studying the works of Shakespeare (dates and times to be announced). We will cover one tragedy (Othello), one comedy (Much Ado About Nothing), and one History (Henry V). It is possible that the class will run into the spring. At this time I'm thinking the class will run from the beginning of September through the middle of December—just like a semester in school. We should average one Act of a play per week.

The class will be rigorous and geared towards the high school level. Students will be expected to behave appropriately. Students will be expected to read the plays and engage in discussions with the teacher and fellow students. Students will also be expected to write one paper on each play. At the end of the term the students will do a reading of either one play or several acts from each play.

If you have a child who is interested, please let me know. I will contact you when I have the dates, times, and location of the class. This should be by the middle of August. I understand that whether or not your child can attend will depend on when and where the class takes place, but I'm still working on the logistics.

There will be a charge for the class. If you have any questions as to whether your child is ready for this class, please feel free to contact me.



**First
Park Day is
August 19!**

MOMS' ACTIVITY OUT

by Lara B.

Hi Ladies. If you saw it on the discussion list a little while back, then you know that we are trying a new way to do Moms' Coffee Night since there has been sparse attendance to that for quite some time. Based on the input so far, this is what we will do for the next few months. (The evening activities are alternated with daytime activities to try to accommodate as many people as possible.) I do not mind scheduling and reserving the moms' activities, but I don't want to decide alone what it all will be. Please keep comments, recommendations, and lots of input coming so that all moms interested in this are happy!

August – Saturday, August 23 – Breakfast and lunch at Tohono Chul Tea Room 11:00 a.m. (or maybe at someone's house if anyone would like to host). Here are menus and prices: <http://www.tohonochulpark.org/breakfast.html> and <http://www.tohonochulpark.org/lunch.html>

September – Wednesday, September 24 – Pool at Bedroxx 6:00 p.m. \$2.50 per hour per person, less if more than 4 (per table): www.bedroxx.com scroll down to Leopard Lounge.

October – Saturday, October 25 – Dessert at Something Sweet 3:00 p.m. Coffee, teas, and desserts ranging from about \$4 to \$7.



SPORTS DAY

by Kim B.

Get out your tennis shoes, cleats, swimsuits, and mitts! Let's play! Starting in September Lara B., Kristi G., and I will be heading up a sports day at Tuesday park. We are still working out the details, but right now we're planning to have sports one Tuesday a month and we'll offer a different sport or game each month. The list includes baseball, swimming, soccer, tennis, gymnastics, flag football, volleyball, badminton, and playground games. This list could change as we get into the swing of things and find what the kids are interested in the most. If there is sufficient interest we could also go to a twice a month sports day. If you are interested in helping with any of the sports, please let us know.

AFTER SCHOOL MUSIC LESSONS by Victoria M.

Though many of you do not qualify yourselves for these free music lessons, in the hope that you may be able to share this information with families that do meet the federal income guidelines, and have young students who would enjoy and benefit from music lessons, I am passing the following news along.

For over 50 years the Symphony Women's Association (TSWA) has been dedicated to "keeping music alive in the desert." To this extent, TSWA offers a variety of free music education programs to children who demonstrate a passion for music and may not be able to afford music lessons.

The music education programs take place in TSWA's downtown Music Education Center at the southeast corner of Stone Ave. and S. 15th Street. The classes are taught by professional musicians and music teachers and supported by trained TSWA volunteers.

Please call TSWA's Music Education Center at 882-6653 or Ruth Robsin at 546-9101 for more information. This year (2008-09) the following classes will be offered: Folkloric Marimba (ages 10 and up); guitar (Ages 9 and up); Kinder Klari (5 -9); Piano (9 and up); Suzuki Strings (5 and up), Trumpet (9 and up); Drums (7 and up).

CURRICULUM SHOW AND TELL NIGHT by Jackie O.

The 2008 SDH Curriculum Show and Tell night is scheduled for Tuesday, September 9. Trying to decide whether to attend the 2008 SDH Curriculum Show and Tell? Here's a quick curriculum quiz to help:

1. Set, Blink, Bananagrams and Quiddler are:
 - a) a 3 point, an 11 point and a 72 point Scrabble score
 - b) a new generation of fun, fast, and furious logic and word games
2. Rainbow Resource is:
 - a) a new Lisa Frank outlet for all your rainbow and unicorn needs
 - b) a 1000 page teachers' supply catalog created by and geared toward homeschoolers, with a discount on every item
3. Wrap ups are:
 - a) Arby's new low-carb lunch offering
 - b) math aids to help your kinesthetic learner memorize her times tables
4. Jim Weiss is:
 - a) a relative of a former Tucson anchorwoman running for elected office
 - b) an amazing storyteller sure to enthrall you and your children
5. Cuisinaire rods are:
 - a) the newest over-priced kitchen gadget from France
 - b) centimeter-width blocks in varying lengths and colors that help illustrate math concepts (they're also just a lot of fun to build with!)



If you answered "a" to any of the questions, you owe it to yourself to come to the Curriculum Show and Tell and see what other homeschoolers are using to help teach and engage their children.

If you answered "b" to any of the above questions, please come and bring some of your own tried and true learning aids. Remember curriculum can be anything! Videos, games, puzzles, audio tapes, art kits, etc. and yes, even packaged curriculum too!

We will meet at 7:30 pm (Tuesday, September 9) at Something Sweet, 5319 East Speedway (two blocks west of Craycroft, on the north side of the street). Who knows how long we'll stay! So if you're running late, call my cell—we'll probably still be there playing some fun games, er, I mean sampling some curricula. Call or email me for more information.



**PARK DAY is
every Tuesday
(starting August 19).
SDH members meet at
Fort Lowell Park (Glenn and Craycroft)
every Tuesday starting at 10:30 a.m.
Announcements are held
at 11:00 a.m.**



CYT OFFERING TWO FALL SHOWS

by Laura N.

This fall CYT will be presenting two school days shows:

“Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” on Thursday, October 2 at noon at Crowder Hall on the U of A campus.

“Charlotte’s Web” on Thursday, November 6 at noon at the Proscenium Theater on Pima Community College West Campus.

CYT is a children’s theater group with casts composed of kids aged 8 through 18. This will be the first time the casts are split between older and younger kids. The “Joseph” cast will be kids 12 and older. The “Charlotte’s Web” cast will be kids 8 through 12. Both plays

will be suitable and enjoyable for kids and adults of any age, though “Joseph” may be better suited toward upper elementary and up while “Charlotte’s Web” is directed more toward younger kids.

If you would like to attend either or both of these shows, please contact me by Friday, September 5 to get on the list. Tickets for school days showings are now \$5.00 per person. Payment (*made payable to CYT Tucson*) must be made in advance. No refunds are issued, so please make sure you can attend on those dates. We will meet as a group at the theater and go in to the play as a group. See www.cyttucson.org for more information.

ARIZONA OPERA

by Donna J.

It’s time to sign up for opera tickets – The second and final SDH sign-up deadline for this school year is Friday, September 16. Each year, AZ Opera gives Tucson students an opportunity to attend final dress rehearsals for several of its productions. During the 2008-09 season, four dress rehearsals are scheduled. (See below.)

Student tickets are just \$6 each for each opera and \$12 each for adults. If you are interested in attending any of this coming season’s student dress rehearsals and didn’t get your order in during SDH’s first sign-up, please email me and let me know how many adult and how many student tickets you want for each opera. I’ll then let you know how to submit your ticket payment to me. You may also give your check and order information to Laurie C. during the first three September park days.

All dress rehearsals take place at 7:00 p.m. at the Tucson Convention Center Music Hall, 260 S. Church. For more information, go to Arizona Opera’s website: <http://www.azopera.com>

Please note: AZ Opera has advised me that Don Giovanni isn’t suitable for younger audiences and says this opera is appropriate for high school students.

Tucson Student Dress Rehearsal Schedule:

Rigoletto – Friday, October 10, 7:00

Mikado – Thursday, November 13, 7:00

Elixir of Love – Thursday, January 15, 7:00

Don Giovanni – Friday, February 20, 7:00 (*Not recommended for students younger than high school age.*)

Elixir of Love Mini-Opera and Opera In a Box

During Arizona Opera Week in Tucson, on September 5, Fox Theatre will host two mini-performances of the opera, *Elixir of Love*, one at 10:30 a.m. and the other at 1:30 p.m. PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGE FROM THE LAST NEWSLETTER. There is no charge for admission. If you’re interested in attending one of these performances, please let me know so I can give our attendance numbers to AZ Opera.

In addition to the mini-opera, the Tucson Children’s Museum will host opera-related activities from September 2 through September 7. On the 7th, AZ Opera will present three Opera in a Box performances at the museum. Participation is free with admission to the museum. Contact the Children’s Museum for more information.

A final note, there’s no look-in scheduled in Tucson this year. But I will try to coordinate and schedule an “Opera in a Box” session for all of our students. This is an interactive program. Using opera costumes and props, a professional artist will help students create their own opera scenarios.

AZ Opera says we may be able to use their opera rehearsal space to hold this event. Look for updates about this program on the discussion group and in the newsletter.



ARIZONA THEATRE COMPANY STUDENT MATINEE SERIES

by Donna J.

Got theatre tickets? Now is the time to get your tickets for Arizona Theatre Company's student matinee series. ATC has some great productions lined up for its 2008-2009 season. I'm beginning the second and final SDH sign-up for three of the plays: *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Henry V*, and *Beethoven, as I Knew Him*. Tickets will likely go fast for these plays, so order now. The SDH sign-up deadline is September 16.

Student tickets are \$8 each for *A Raisin in the Sun* and *Henry V*, and \$10 per seat for *Beethoven*. Adult tickets are \$15 each for *A Raisin in the Sun* and *Henry V*, and \$18 per seat for *Beethoven*. Play information and dates are all listed below.

To sign up, email me and let me know how many adult and how many student seats you want for each performance and I'll let you know how to get your payment to me. You may also give your check and order information to Laurie C. during the first three September park days.

Before beginning the sign-up process for the rest of the plays in the student matinee series, I want to determine if there's any interest. ATC has noted that many of these plays contain mature themes and language and these four plays seem more geared to an adult audience. If you are interested in attending the student matinees for any of the following plays, please let me know. The plays are: *Enchanted April*, *The Lady with All the Answers*, *Hair*, and *Somebody/ Nobody*. Tickets are \$8 per admission, per student, for all except *Hair*, which is \$10. Adult tickets are \$15 each, except for *Hair*, which is \$18. I would also consider organizing an SDH theater night for parents, if anyone is interested.

A note about age appropriateness— the student matinee series isn't something I would recommend for young children. ATC's plays and musicals are great for tweens and teens. Most of the content is something that just doesn't hold the interest of younger kids, even when there's no mature themes and language.

All ATC performances take place at the Temple of Music and Art in downtown Tucson at 330 S. Scott Ave. Descriptions for each play are taken from an ATC announcement. The actors are available for discussions with the students after each matinee. For more information check ATC's website: <http://www.aztheatreco.org>.

ENCHANTED APRIL by Matthew Barber from the novel by Elizabeth von Arnim

Tuesday, September 23, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. "To those who appreciate wisteria and sunshine. Small castle on the Mediterranean, Northern Italy, to be let for the month of April." That simple newspaper notice seduces a quartet of British women to rent a villa for one blissful spring in 1922, where their lives of ordered regularity blossom into glorious disarray. Seduced by cinnamon breezes, they learn to let their hair, and their guards, down and awaken to the simple joys of friendship, love and marriage. A Tony-nominated Broadway hit based on the bestselling novel; a heartwarming, verdant comedy about the romantic rediscovery of life's enchantments. "A lush, thoroughly refreshing theatrical holiday. A magical triumph." - *LA Times*.

THE LADY WITH ALL THE ANSWERS by David Rambo

Tuesday, November 4, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. *Dear Ann Landers...* "For decades she allowed lovelorn teens, confused couples and everyone else in need of help to turn to her for advice. No topic was off-limits from love to death to how to properly hang a roll of toilet paper. Now, late on a 1975 night in Ann Landers' Chicago apartment, an ironic twist of events confronts her with a looming deadline for a column dealing with her own personal dilemma. "Engaging from beginning to end" - *LA Times*. Contains mature themes.

HAIR The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical by Gerome Ragni and James Rado / Music by Galt MacDermott

Tuesday, December 9, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. It's the dawning of the Age of Aquarius, the year is 1968, and a tribe of hippies in New York's Central Park is letting down their gleaming, streaming, long beautiful hair – and a revolutionary musical that changes everything opens on Broadway and conquers the world. If you experienced it then, you'll want to groove to it again. If you were too young the first time around, come discover what the fuss was all about as ATC stages a glorious new production of Hair to celebrate its 40th Anniversary. Contains mature themes and language.

A RAISIN IN THE SUN by Lorraine Hansberry

Thursday, January 15, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. A gripping and explosive tale of one family living and learning together on the South Side of Chicago in the 1950s, *A Raisin in the Sun* was the first authentic voice of an African American playwright to hit the Broadway stage. "The play that changed American theatre forever...a seething interplay of past and present, of wisdom and passion." - *The New York Times*

SOMEBODY/NOBODY by Jane Martin

Tuesday, March 24, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

Sheena is a somebody who wants to be a nobody. Loli is a nobody desperate to be a somebody. In this hilarious world premiere comedy about Hollywood, fame and the TMZ, renowned playwright Jane Martin takes dead aim at our culture of celebrity. Contains mature themes and language.

The Guthrie Theatre and the Acting Company's Production of **KING HENRY V** By William Shakespeare

Wednesday, April 1, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. Young, restless and ambitious, Henry V inherits a troubled crown and seeks to secure his position at home by launching a hasty invasion of France. The charismatic warrior King's aggressive pursuit of the French crown earns him iconic status, uniting England and France and briefly banishing the civil strife that will long outlive him. This Shakespearean epic expertly balances the thrilling heroics of battle with the painful and complex reactions of men who are sometimes unsure of the justice of their cause. KING HENRY V is a rousing, fascinating story about the power of courage and the price of glory.

BEETHOVEN, AS I KNEW HIM The Music of Ludwig van Beethoven / Text by Hershey Felder

Tuesday, April 28, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

We embraced him last season as the inimitable New Yorker George Gershwin and the elegant and mystical Chopin. Now, Hershey Felder completes his musical trilogy with his brand new production about the headstrong German genius Ludwig van Beethoven.

NORTHWEST PARK DAY

by Lea C.

The Northwest Park group will meet May through August at James Kreigh Park on Thursday mornings, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Some of us will arrive earlier as the weather becomes hotter. Be sure to bring plenty of water, snacks, sunscreen, and a chair. Directions: James Kreigh Park; 23 West Calle Concordia. From Ina and Oracle Rd., take Oracle north past Magee and Hardy. Calle Concordia is the next light. Turn left and the park is located on the right.

NOTE: Due to the extreme temperatures, attendance was very low in June. Please contact Lea for further information.

SDH MONTHLY PARENT OPPORTUNITIES

Parents' Book Discussion Group - August 19

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.



- 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.

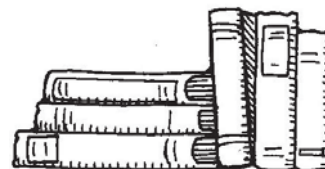
Moms' Coffee Night - August 27

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).

See page 1 for an alternative Moms' Activity to take place on Saturday, August 23.

Dads' Coffee Night - August 6

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



SDH 2008-2009 DATES LIST

First Park Day	Tuesday, August 19	
Harry Potter Class	Fridays Sept-Dec	Kim B.
Roots & Shoots Club	Bi-monthly TBA	Lara B. and Frances K.
Park Sports Day	Bi-monthly TBA	Kristi G., Kim B., Mike B.
Talent and Art Show	Late September TBA	Shelley M. and Kristi G.
Fall Science Event	Fall TBA	Donna J.
Fall Softball	Fall TBA	Donna J.
Geography Game Day	Mid-October TBA	Donna J.
Fall Clothing Exchange	Tuesday, Oct 14	Sharon A.
Halloween Party	Tuesday, Oct 28	Melinda H.
Winter Music Recital	Thursday, Dec 4	Victoria M.
Zoo Holiday Tree Decorating,	December	Melinda H.
New Year's Eve Bowling	Wednesday, Dec 31	Donna J.
Geography Bee	Saturday, Jan 10	Donna J.
Valentine's Day	Tuesday, Feb 17	Shelley M.
Group Photo	Tuesday, Feb 17	Shelley M.
Spring Science Event	Spring TBA	Donna J.
Spring Softball	Spring TBA	Donna J.
Spring Clothing Exchange	Tuesday, March 24	Sharon A.
Earth Day Potluck	Tuesday, April 21	Lara B.
Spring Music Recital	Thursday, May 7	Victoria M.
Curriculum Exchange	May TBA	Sharon A.
Parents Planning Meeting	May TBA	Lara B.
Last Park Day	Tuesday, May 19	



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."