



# Inside SDH

Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers • Tucson, AZ • August 2009

## PARK DAYS

Every Tuesday SDH members meet at the park beginning around 10:30 a.m. We have an alternating monthly schedule between McCormick Park (2950 N. Columbus Blvd.) and Fort Lowell Park (Glenn and Craycroft). See the schedule in the box below. Our first park day for this school year is Tuesday, August 18 at McCormick Park. Announcements are held at 11:00.



## FINAL SUMMER ACTIVITIES

by Shelley M.

There are only two Monday summer activities for August, since park day starts the third week. I've scheduled these as a way for the kids to see each other over the summer. Everyone is welcome!

Monday, August 3 – Movie "Inkheart." This is the free kids movie at Crossroads. It starts at 10:00. After the movie we'll move to the splash park in Brandi Fenton park at River and Dodge.

Monday, August 10 – We'll meet at the pool at my apartment complex at 10:00 a.m. I live near Campbell and River. Please RSVP about a week in advance for the pool. If we have enough people, I'll reserve the clubhouse. The clubhouse has a kitchen and bathroom, and gives us an air conditioned place to sit.

## LEGO CLUB

by Kim B.

The SDH Lego Club will meet on Friday, August 21 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Martha Cooper Library meeting room. Bring your Lego's and your creativity and have a great time!

## GIRL SCOUTS COLLECTING FOR BRONZE AWARDS

by Lisa B., GS Leader of Troop #1155

Gabby V. and Melissa W. are both collecting items for part of their Girl Scout Bronze Award Projects. Gabby is collecting any and all items for pets — suggestions include food, dishes, towels (used are fine), litter, brushes, cleaning tools, etc.

Melissa is collecting any and all items for babies and toddlers — the most wanted item right now is diapers, but she'll take anything you would like to donate. The girls will accept donations through at least the end of August.

Please drop items off at the Girl Scout Council office (Broadway and Columbus). Melissa has a box there and Gabby soon will. (Put both in Melissa's box if you don't see Gabby's) or contact me for more information. We will be emptying these boxes on August 18.

Thank you very much!

### **PARK DAY SCHEDULE**

**August – McCormick**

September – Ft. Lowell

October – McCormick

November – Ft. Lowell

December – McCormick

January – Ft. Lowell

February – McCormick

March – Ft. Lowell

April – McCormick

May – Ft. Lowell

June – summer break

July – summer break

See page 4 for all contact information



## TEEN GRAND CANYON HIKE

by Brian W.

Hello all, I have been hiking the Grand Canyon for years now, and some parents have approached me to put together a teen hike into the Grand Canyon for next April. I have taken kids before, and all have enjoyed it. My three children have all hiked through the Canyon at least four times each. I am planning a four day hike to the bottom and back. With travel days, we would be gone six to seven days depending on the group wishes.

The cost would be approximately \$125.00 per person to cover the permit, gas, hotel on the rim, before and after the hike, but does not include gear or food. (I have some stuff the kids can borrow, and Summit Hut rents equipment pretty cheap). I could take 10 people with me. Parents are welcome to go. If no other parents go, I will take either my wife or one of my firemen friends who have hiked the Canyon before.

I need a \$50.00 deposit by Oct. 31 to hold a spot, and so I can go to the Grand Canyon and get the permits (they must be purchased far in advance). Once we get a group of interested teens together, I will have an informational meeting to go over details, and schedule a few warm-up hikes around Tucson.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, or check with my wife.

## ARIZONA THEATRE COMPANY STUDENT MATINEE SERIES

by Donna J.

Arizona Theatre Company has a great 2009-2010 season planned this year with lots of must-see performances. So order your tickets for their student matinee series now and guarantee your seat. The season begins with a performance of *The Kite Runner*, set for Tuesday, September 29 at 10:00 a.m. Since that date is coming right up, I will do a separate sign-up for this play. I must have your ticket order for *The Kite Runner* by Friday, August 21. Student tickets are \$8 each and adult tickets (subject to availability) are \$15 each. See order information below.

Just a reminder – ATC plays contain adult themes (and sometimes adult language) and aren't suitable for younger children. Please order tickets for middle school and high school students only!

ATC has four other student matinees planned. Please see schedule and descriptions below. Tickets for the musical, *Ain't Misbehavin'* are \$10 for students and \$18 for adults, subject to availability. Tickets for *George is Dead*, *The Glass Menagerie*, and *Second City* are \$8 for students and \$15 for adults, also subject to availability. I must have your ticket orders for these four plays by Friday, September 18.

To begin the order process, first, email me and let me know how many adult and how many student seats you want for each performance and let me know how you would prefer to pay for your tickets. You may mail a check to me, or use PayPal. Please email me even if you are planning to mail your order, so I'll know to expect it (mail has gone astray in the past). To mail your order, send it to my home address. Be sure to include your check, and make it out to me, so I can consolidate our payments.. Also include your email address and phone number with your order so I can contact you easily if I have a question. If you're paying via PayPal, I'll invoice you after I receive your email. Please note, if you use PayPal, there will be a small service charge added to the cost of your tickets. This is to cover the fee for using PayPal.

All ATC performances take place at the Temple of Music and Art, 330 S. Scott Ave. in downtown Tucson. 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/>

***The Kite Runner*** Based on the novel by Khaled Hosseini, Adapted for the Stage by Matthew Spangler  
**Tuesday, September 29, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.**

"Come see me, Amir, there is a way to be good again..." A cry for help from an old friend in a distant land lies at the heart of this powerful story of friendship, betrayal and redemption newly adapted from the international best-selling novel. Based on one of the most beloved books of the last decade, *The Kite Runner* is told through the lives of two boys, Amir and Hassan, growing up in Afghanistan in the same household, but in two starkly different worlds. When the innocence of the boys' childhood is confronted with the brutality of prejudice and hate, Amir begins a journey of self discovery and enlightenment that will take him far from his home and the demons of his youth. But fate, global politics and historical tragedy threaten his ability to make amends for his past. A bracing look at the modern world, *The Kite Runner* shows us the human face beneath the headline news.

*(Arizona Theatre Company schedule continued on next page)*

## **ARIZONA THEATRE COMPANY (continued)**

**George Is Dead** Written and directed by Elaine May

**Tuesday, November 3, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.**

Comic legend and Academy Award nominee Elaine May offers up a new comedy starring Emmy and Golden Globe Award winner Marlo Thomas as Doreen, the socialite wife of a right-wing Republican named George. On her way to a fundraiser, driven by a possibly illegal immigrant, she ends up at the home of a former employee and her left-wing husband. How? Why? Do they kill her? Reject her? Adopt her? Is George really dead? See this comedy by the award-winning writer of *The Birdcage*, *Primary Colors* and *Heaven Can Wait* to find out! Note: Contains mature themes and language.

**Ain't Misbehavin' The Fats Waller Musical Show**

Based on an idea by Murray Horwitz and Richard Maltby, Jr. Music by Thomas "Fats" Waller

**Thursday, December 3, 2009 at 10:30 a.m.**

Note: Tickets for this musical are \$10 for students, \$18 for adults.

Bright lights. Glamorous gowns. And finger-snapping, toe-tappin' music. The joint is jumpin' and we're taking misbehavin' to a whole new level! Travel back to Harlem's sassy, swinging '30s with this riveting, Tony Award-winning musical — exuberantly performed by a quintet of irresistible talents. Spend a joyous evening partying with one of the greatest jazz songwriters of all time, Thomas "Fats" Waller. A composer and pianist with a legendary lust for life, he created jubilant melodies, soulful ballads and gleeful love songs like *I'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter*, *Honeysuckle Rose*, *I Can't Give You Anything but Love* and, of course, *Ain't Misbehavin'*. This is one show that may just bring the house down! One never knows ... do one?

*America Plays! Celebrating Great American Stories Series:*

**The Glass Menagerie** by Tennessee Williams

**Tuesday, March 9, 2010 at 10:30 a.m.**

In the 1930s in a small tenement apartment in St. Louis, the Wingfield family awaits your visit. The mother Amanda lives in an illusion of recapturing her faded Southern Belle glory, her daughter Laura lives in a fantasy world of delicate glass figurines, and her son Tom dreams poetically of a world beyond the back stoop. When Tom brings home a Gentleman Caller to meet his sister, *The Glass Menagerie* weaves these lives into a heart-stopping dance of hopes pursued and dreams betrayed. Considered by many to be Tennessee Williams' greatest play, *The Glass Menagerie* is an achingly beautiful story of longing and love that has touched generations of theatergoers with its sparkling, delicate radiance.

**The Second City Does Arizona, or Close, But No Saguaro**

**Tuesday, April 20, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.**

Talk about a stimulus package! From sagebrush to Sheriff Joe, from Green Valley to kokopelli — it's time to batten down the barrel cactus because we've invited The Second City to Arizona to do a no-holds-barred world premiere comedy revue all about us. Famous for their hilarious sketch comedy and for their equally famous alumni (Tina Fey, Steve Carell, Stephen Colbert, Bill Murray, John Belushi, Gilda Radner and a whole slew of others), The Second City is turning their photo radar on the Grand Canyon State, and aiming their tee-shots at the land of prairie dogs and snow birds. We're joining with this troupe of expert Chicago comedians to create a comedy about the challenges of the high life in the low desert. It's a guaranteed evening of recession-proof fun and high-mileage laughter — and which of us couldn't use a lot more of that right now?

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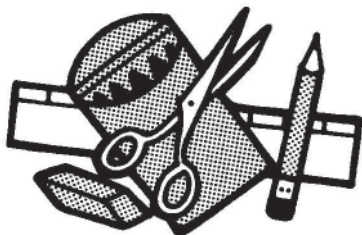
## **SDH MONTHLY PARENT OPPORTUNITIES**

**Moms' Coffee Night - August 26**

Held on the last Wednesday of every month at Something Sweet, 5319 E. Speedway (NW corner of Speedway and Beverly, east of Craycroft) from 7:30 p.m. to midnight (or any time in between)

**Dads' Coffee Night - August 5**

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



**View the SDH CALENDAR at**  
<http://supercalendar.com/view.html?a=1539>



## 2009-2010 AZ OPERA STUDENT DRESS REHEARSALS

by Donna J.

You don't have to travel to New York for great opera, or pay a lot of money for tickets. Arizona Opera – now in its 37th season – is an Arizona treasure and students have the opportunity to attend the company's final dress rehearsals at a bargain price. Three of these performances are scheduled for Tucson this season: *Così fan tutte*, *Salome*, and *A Concert of Signature Arias*. Student tickets are just \$6 for each opera and adult tickets are \$15. (More information is listed below.)

If you are interested in attending an AZ Opera Student Dress Rehearsal, please give me your ticket order by Friday, September 18. To begin the order process, first, email me and let me know how many adult and how many student seats you want for each dress rehearsal and let me know how you would prefer to pay for your tickets. You may mail a check to me or use PayPal. Please email me even if you are planning to mail your order, so I'll know to expect it (mail has gone astray in the past). To mail your order, send it to my home address. Be sure to include your check, and make it out to me, so I can consolidate our payments. Also include your email address and phone number with your mail order so I can contact you easily if I have a question. If you're paying via PayPal, I'll invoice you after I receive your email. Please note, if you use PayPal, there will be a small service fee.

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>

### ***Così fan tutte*** by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

*Thursday, October 15, 2009, 7:00 p.m.*

To test a lover's fidelity is to test one's own ability to live with the consequences. In Mozart's witty – yet deeply human – opera, the line between laughter and heartache is perfectly drawn. The stunning mezzo-soprano Lauren McNeese, vivacious in her portrayal of Dorabella at Lyric Opera of Chicago, brings her signature role to Arizona this fall in a score that contains some of the most sublime music Mozart ever composed. Recommended for middle school and high school students.

### ***Salome*** by Richard Strauss

*Thursday, November 12, 2009, 7:00 p.m.*

Kelly Cae Hogan sings the title role of Salome, whose disturbing obsession with John the Baptist drives her to make a shocking request: the head of the Prophet as a reward for performing the Dance of the Seven Veils. The dysfunctional and dangerous court of King Herod is brought to searing life through Richard Strauss' powerfully seductive music. Greer Grimsley, world renowned bass-baritone, debuts with Arizona Opera as Jokanaan. Recommended for mature high school students.

### ***A Concert of Signature Arias***

Cast: Christine Brewer, soprano; Dolora Zajick, mezzo-soprano; Stuart Neill, tenor; Gordon Hawkins, baritone

*Thursday, March 4, 2010, 7:00 p.m.*

Four of today's most exciting stars bring their signature roles to thrilling life in a must-see performance of dramatic arias and ensembles. This confluence of artistic forces gives Arizona Opera audiences a rare opportunity to experience some of opera's greatest hits featuring works by Puccini, Verdi, Wagner, Richard Strauss and other famous composers. Recommended for all ages.

### ***Arizona Opera Week – free performance***

Arizona Opera is planning a free performance of *La bohème* on Monday, October 12 at 10:30 a.m. at Crowder Hall on the University of Arizona campus. I don't have all the details yet, but most likely this will be a shortened version of the opera and suitable for all ages. I will post the details as I get them. Seating is limited and AZ Opera is asking that those interested in attending this event register with them. If you are interested in going to this performance, please email me.



**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."

<http://tucsonhomeschoolers.org>

Info: [sdhtucson@yahoo.com](mailto:sdhtucson@yahoo.com)