

# Inside SDH

Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers • Tucson, AZ • February 2008

## VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY

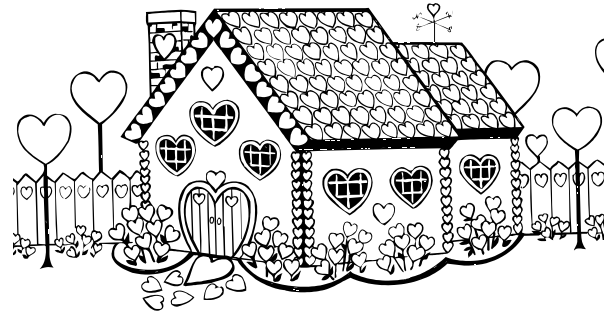
by Heather H.

The annual SDH Valentine's Day party will be held on Tuesday February 12 at our regular park day! A vote was held with a rousing 26 votes cast. As a result of such poor voter turn-out and because of the discussion on the SDH yahoo group, we will still have the card exchange for all who wish to participate in that event. BUT for all those who do not, I am encouraging everyone to bring an old (or new) blank t-shirt and a Sharpie (or other permanent marker) to the park and exchange signatures!

To add to the fun we will also be having a treat potluck. Bring something sweet (homemade is always nice, plus you can control the sugar. HAHA!) to share. I will be having a craft for the kids under the ramada, so if you have any Valentine-like crafty things (stickers, old lace, old Valentines) bring them to share and the kids can make a Valentine for a special loved one.

Anyone who is planning on bringing Valentines to the park to exchange, I would suggest bringing maybe 20 or 30. I got no real count on who was actually wanting to participate in the exchange. Sorry.

Thank you for all the input! If you have any questions, please contact me.



## UApresents

by Alica M.

We have two shows this month. Friday, February 1st is *Frankly Ben*, and Monday, February 11 is *Leahy*. Both are at Centennial Hall, and per usual we will meet in front of the Hall at 10:00 a.m. and go in as a group. Please allow time for parking. If you have any questions contact me.

## ROOTS & SHOOTS/EARTH SCOUTS

by Lara B

We will get together to decide what we would like to do in the Earth Day Parade this year, and if we would like to have a booth again for the Clean Air Fair. This year they have combined those two things, so it will be on the same day, which probably means that doing both would depend on how many people are interested in participating.

We will get together on Monday, February 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Grant/Campbell Bookman's. We will also do a recycling craft while we are talking about Earth Day, so that the kids (and adults!) have something fun to do while we are there. We will make recycled material ATCs (art trading cards). Provided will be cards cut to size from magazines, catalogs, etc. and various glues, coloring things, kid-scissors, and bits of 'stuff' for decorating. If you have anything you would like to use, you can bring that too. Candy wrappers, stamps, postcards, ribbon bits, food boxes, junk mail, etc. People can trade cards at the end if they would like, or just take them home.

The theme for this year's Earth Day & Clean Air Day is: "All Species Need Clean Air!" and "All Species Procession" for the parade. We will pick what we'd like to do for the parade based on that - so come with ideas! Here is the website for the event: [www.tucsonearthday.org](http://www.tucsonearthday.org) where you can look at all the things happening that day (and other related days too).



## TUCSON GEM & MINERAL SHOW

by Heather M.

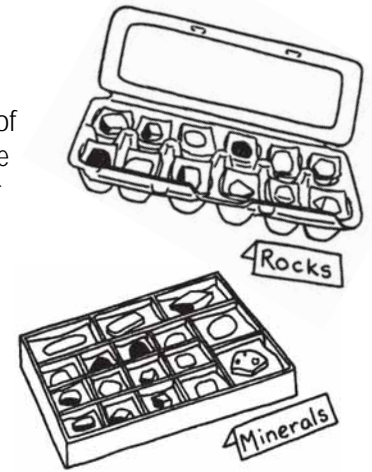
The acclaimed Tucson Gem & Mineral Show is held every year on the second full weekend of February. It has set the standard for gem and mineral shows around the world, and is now the largest gem and mineral show in the United States. I have scheduled us to go as a group (for free!) on Friday morning, February 15. We will meet inside the lobby of the Tucson Convention Center (260 South Church Ave.) at 10:00 a.m. Parents might want to bring a bag of some sort. We usually end up with a handful of goodies; posters, sample rocks/minerals, a shark tooth, and of course, any items we purchase. There is usually an area set up for school kids to pick up an egg carton and then they get to pick out a small rock/mineral to put into each compartment. Once we enter the show as a group, you are on your own to wander around and stay as long as you want.

Please sign up with me either by email or in person, at park. I need your name, phone number, and number of children you will be bringing, and their ages.

You can check out <http://www.tgms.org/2007show.htm> for construction updates and parking suggestions. I usually park in one of the TCC parking lots for convenience, but it costs more than other parking areas.

The show is open to the public, so if you can't make it Friday morning, here is the schedule of this particular show: February 14-17, Thursday, Friday, Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is \$9. Children 14 years and under are free with a paying adult.

And if you aren't familiar with the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show, there are actually many shows going on around town. The one we are attending is just one of the many. There are classes and demos and all sorts of cool stuff going on. Here is an online show guide <http://www.colored-stone.com/tsg/>. I recommend picking a few and checking them out! There are free shuttles available as well to do your driving for you.



## ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

by Lara B

Because of it being too challenging for most people to get to the adult book group each month, it has been decided that we will do it at the regular Fort Lowell park day. So, until further notice, the book group will now meet on the third Tuesday of each month at park day, starting at noon and going until whenever people are finished (probably around 2:00 p.m.).

March will be the exception because of the Artist's Day event, so we will do that month's discussion on the following Tuesday, March 25. Please keep an ear out for exactly where in the park we will do it, but you may want to bring a chair or blanket to sit on. Please see book list on the Monthly Parent Opportunities page to see upcoming books. And keep in mind that we are always looking for book suggestions, and that you are welcome to come to the discussion even if you have not read the book!

## MATH ENRICHMENT CLASS

by Lara B

I took votes per last month's announcement, and everyone except one voted for Sunday as first choice. (Which is great for those of us driving a ways; far less traffic). The Math Enrichment Class will start on Sunday, February 17, and will go for six weekly sessions, ending on Sunday, March 30 (except no class on Easter Sunday, March 23). It will later be determined if a second session will start after that.

Each class will be 90 minutes long, 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. It will be held at the Grant/Campbell Bookman's rather than Himmel Library as first thought, so please note that important change.

The cost per participant is based on the number of people who end up doing the class. Based on who has showed interested, it looks like it will come out to be roughly \$6-8 per class for first child, and about half that for additional family members. If even more people sign up, then that cost will come down more. That is just an estimate. Once people sign up everyone will get the set price before the session starts. Please sign up with me, or with Eric directly, by February 12 so the final price can be determined and announced. Even if you have already expressed interest and/or voted, please sign-up so I have an actual list. *When signing up, please also give age and approximate math level of each person.*

For class description and Eric's personal info, please see last month's newsletter. And if you have any questions at all, please ask! Eric's direct email is [zymerati@gmail.com](mailto:zymerati@gmail.com).





## GEOGRAPHY CLUB

by Donna J.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered and participated in January's Pima County Home Educators National Bee.

In February, Tom Martinez will be our tour guide for a trip to Peru. That meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, February 20 at the River Branch Library, 5605 E River Rd.

In March we will take a look at Spain. Look for our itinerary for that journey in the March newsletter and on SDH discuss.

If anyone has any ideas for our trips in April and May, please let me know. May will be our last meeting for the year and we will start again in August or September. This summer, I will be scheduling speakers and outlining activities for the coming year, so I can get more advance notice of events to everyone. With that in mind, I would also welcome any suggestions you might have for next year

## ARIZONA OPERA by Donna J.

Arizona Opera's student dress rehearsal performance of *The Magic Flute* is set for Thursday, February 28 at 7:00 p.m. Please meet me in front of the TCC Music Hall box office at 6:30 p.m. Be on time, as the ushers lock the doors promptly at seven. We have a large group and it will take some time to hand out tickets. I will send a reminder with more information right before the event. If you ordered tickets during the third sign-up in January, I haven't received confirmation of these seats yet, but I don't think there will be any problem. I will contact you to confirm that you have tickets by February 8. I am not taking new orders for this event.

However, I am still taking reservations for the *Opera Look-In*, which is scheduled Saturday, March 1 at noon and is free. This program is designed to give a behind-the-scenes glimpse of opera theater. Students are shown demonstrations with sets, lighting, sound, special effects, costumes, wigs and make-up. The look-in ends with a performance by a main-stage artist, followed by a question and answer period. This free one-hour program is a lot of fun and appropriate for all ages. It was a big hit with younger SDH kids last year. Email me, or call me if you want to attend.

## ARIZONA THEATRE COMPANY (ATC)

by Donna J.

For those who have already purchased tickets, don't forget, we will be attending Arizona Theatre Company's student matinee performance of *To Kill a Mockingbird* on Thursday, March 6. Please meet me in front of the Temple of Music and Art at 9:30 a.m. I will email reminders and more information before the event.



## NORTHWEST PARK DAY by Joy M.

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. Be sure to bring plenty of water, sunscreen and snacks 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 westside. On occasion, the group decides to not meet or relocate at another park, please contact Joy for further information.

## PIMA COUNTY FAIR by Theresa W.

The fair is getting closer. The dates are April 17-27. I would love to see lots of SDH entries in Old Pueblo Hall. There is a lot of information on the website [www.swfair.com](http://www.swfair.com), click on the yellow box in the middle of the screen that says premium book/ entries. This page will have all the rules and entry forms.

I will be coming to most park days and will have the information with me. Here are just a few of the things you can enter: tie-dyed anything, gourds (painted, burned, etc), gardening (flowers, potted plant, floral arrangements), seasonal decorations. And remember adults can enter also. How great for your kids to see your crafts displayed.

Some parents even won ribbons last year. If you have any questions please feel free to call or email.



**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.

## EARTH DAY SCIENCE FAIR

by Donna J.

Interested in saving the earth, protecting the environment, or alternative energy? Go green and participate in this year's science fair. The Pima County Home Educators Science Fair, sponsored by SDH, will be held during our park day on Tuesday, April 22, which is Earth Day. *All science projects, on any topic, are welcome.* But since the fair will be held on Earth Day, we are encouraging participants to go green by doing projects or experiments that address environmental concerns. These could include experiments on saving energy at home, solar and other alternative energy projects, reports on ways to recycle, or demonstrations, such as creating a solar oven and showing how it works— or anything you can dream up.



I will also be working on setting up some science demonstrations. Funfest has been canceled this year, so this would be a way to give our kids a similar experience. (See below.) The fair will be held after announcements. I will post about the idea of also having a potluck to see if there is any interest in doing this. Or, if you are not on the discussion group, call me. Science fair projects may be done individually or in groups and families may do projects together. Entries may be science experiments, a science demonstration, a research project, a collection (such as a rock collection), or a scientific apparatus, or anything science-related that you may create. And remember, you don't have to follow the green theme. *All science topics are welcome.*

There will be no judging this year. Instead, each child will receive a recognition certificate, indicating he has participated in the fair. I will need help setting up an area for students to display their projects. If you have a card table or other table, we could use for the fair, or would be willing to help with setup, please let me know.

## SCIENCE FAIR STUDY SESSIONS

Saturday, February 16, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Woods Library, 3455 N. First Ave. small meeting room:

This will be a general meeting to help students create a project for the April fair. Several people have requested a workshop to go over how to create a project board similar to those that students bring to the Southern Arizona Regional Science Fair (SARSEF). So we will also review ways to create a project board. And I will have some samples on hand. Following SARSEF rules is not a requirement for our science fair. But, if your child is interested in some day participating in SARSEF, it's good to know how to set up the boards. Our fair is a great way to practice the technique in a low-key environment.

In addition to project boards, I will also bring some books that might help kids generate ideas for our fair in April and I will have copies of SDH's science fair guide to hand out. It outlines several ways to approach creating a science fair project.

Saturday, March 8, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., Woods Library, small meeting room:

This is for those who are planning to participate in the Southern Arizona Regional Science and Engineering Fair, which will be held March 17-21. Since our science fair is being held after SARSEF, if there is enough interest, I will invite several past science fair judges to come to this study session to evaluate student projects, using SARSEF criteria. This is an opportunity for students planning to take projects to SARSEF to get some feedback that may enable them to improve their projects before taking them to the regional fair. However, *this is not a science fair.* It will be a study session where you will have the opportunity to discuss your project with scientists.

*Before inviting our past judges to this study session, I need to know if we have enough interest in it to merit holding it. So please contact me ASAP, if you are interested, but no later than by February 8.*

Anyone planning to enter SARSEF this year should already be working on a project and should be nearing completion by the end of February. Don't attempt to create a SARSEF project after the February study session, you won't have enough time! If you haven't already started a project, focus on the homeschool science fair this year and aim to enter SARSEF next year.

Remember, you must register your SARSEF project online by February 29 and project setup is on March 17. For more information go to <http://www.sarsef.org/>



**FUNFEST:** This year's Math, Science and Technology Funfest, usually held in March to coincide with SARSEF, has been postponed this year. It will be held in November. While Funfest has been canceled, I encourage you and your kids to visit SARSEF during its public exhibition days, March 19-21. The student projects are amazing and a lot of fun to tour— sure to spark your family's imagination.

## SDH MONTHLY PARENT OPPORTUNITIES



### **Parents' Book Discussion Group - February 19 (NEW TIME AND PLACE)**

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 (w/ March being the exception because of Artist's Day - March's book discussions will therefore be on the fourth Tuesday, March 25). It will start at 12:00 p.m. and go until we are finished, likely around 2:00 pm. People are always welcome to join whether they've read the book or not!

- February: *Eat, Pray, Love: One woman's search for everything across Italy, India, and Indonesia* by Elizabeth Gilbert
- March: *The World Without Us* by Alan Weisman

**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 - February 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).

### **Dads' Coffee Night - February 6**

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



### **Friends of the Library 37th Annual Book Sale February 1 - 19, 2008**

Book Barn located at  
2230 N. Country Club Rd.  
Members Day - Friday February 1

Open to the public starting  
Saturday February 2

½ Price Days - Sundays 2/3, 2/10, 2/17

Dollar Days - Mondays 2/4 and 2/11

Bag Days - Mon and Tues 2/18 and 2/19

Closed for restocking:

Tues - Thurs 2/5 - 2/7

Tues - Thurs 2/12 - 2/14

## **Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers**

<http://tucsonhomeschoolers.org>

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

Newsletter: [sdhnewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:sdhnewsletter@yahoo.com)



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