



# Inside SDH

Volume 1, Issue 8 January 2005

Homeschool Geography Bee January 7th, 9 a.m., Main Library Meeting Room

Homeschool Spelling Bee January 12th, 10 a.m., Main Library Meeting Room

## Live Cyberchase Show Update

by Felicia L.

The free Cyberchase show, featuring Finian Lowery from SDH, will be held Monday, January 10th, 3:00 p.m. at the Tucson Children's Museum. Please arrive 15 minutes early. The show will last about an hour.

Many of you have let us know you plan to attend, and I thank you.

Initially I asked people to let me know they were coming so the producers at channel 13 in New York City would be able to provide enough goody bags for all of the children attending. I padded the number I gave, so we will have room for at least thirty more

people. RSVPs are not necessary at this time—just come and bring your friends.

The show will star "Harry" and "Bianca," the human stars of Cyberchase, an animated math related show aired daily on PBS channel 6, KUAT in Tucson. The animated character "Digit" will also be there as a walkabout character.

Why the time and place change? The assistant superintendent of TUSD decided at the last minute that it was inappropriate for the school district to host 150 homeschoolers so he rescinded the invitation to the Cyberchase cast and crew for the performance. I will

have much more to say about this later! This was decided December 24th. Since then, the Cyberchase organizers in New York City, along with KUAT and myself have been working to make a new plan.

Tucson Children's Museum  
200 S. Sixth Avenue  
Tucson, AZ 85701

You can go to the link below to find a [map](#) and complete directions.

Please call or email me if you have any questions.

## Newsletter Business

by Eileen D. and Erin S.

*Inside SDH*, the monthly newsletter of Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers, is available to members on a monthly basis. *Inside SDH* is published at the end of each month for the following month.

If you have paid your SDH dues

you should receive your newsletter either by regular mail or e-mail by the 1st of each month. If you have paid your SDH dues but are not receiving your newsletter, or you are only able to view the newsletter from the SDH website, please contact Sharon Auvenshine to find out your membership status.

Every month the newsletter contains wonderful articles by SDH members and important information about group activities. We want to be sure everyone is receiving *Inside SDH*. If you have any suggestions, comments or questions, please don't hesitate to contact one of the editors.

## SDH Children Group Photo

by Claire B.

Mark your calendar for the SDH children's group photo opportunity February 8th, 12:30 at Ft. Lowell Park. Round up your child(ren) around 12:20. Bring your camera and take your annual photo of your children with all their friends.

Please note that the photo has been moved from the original date of 15<sup>th</sup> because it conflicts with a UApresents performance. Please contact me if you have any questions.

## Homeschooling Information Night

by Debbie G.

Are you new to homeschooling, or are you interested in learning more about it? Please come to the Homeschooling Information Night in the Wilmot Library meeting room on Tuesday, January 25, from 7:00 to 8:45 p.m. Learn the basic requirements for homeschooling your child in Arizona, get a brief overview of ways to approach homeschooling, plus have plenty of time to get answers to your questions. Presented by members of Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers.

Questions? Please contact me.

## Let's Play Games

by Sybelle V.

There will be an afternoon of playing board games on Friday, January 21st, from 1 to 5 p.m. at St. Francis UMC Room 50 (northwest corner of Swan and River Road.—enter from River Rd. and drive straight to the back parking lot).

Children of all ages, teens and adults are invited to join in the fun. If you want, bring a favorite game. Games for different ages will be available. You may come for part or all of the afternoon and you may want to bring a snack or drink. For questions or suggestions call, email or see me at park.

## 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.

### January 4

Group 1: *Young Cam Jensen and the Zoo Note Mystery* by David Adler

Group 2: *Mystery in the Sand* by Gertrude Chandler Warner

Group 3: *Sword of the Samurai: Adventure Stories from Japan* by Eric Kimmel

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

## Homeschool Spelling Bee

by Bridget W.

The City-wide Homeschool Spelling Bee will take place January 12, 2005, 10:00 a.m. at the Main Library Meeting Room on the lower level.

The spelling bee will begin with a practice round to give everyone an opportunity to familiarize

themselves with the format, the microphone (if one is available) and the announcer. The first round will begin with easy words, each round being progressively more difficult.

The Pima County Spelling Bee will take place on Saturday, February 12, 2005 at 1:00 at Crowder Hall on the UA campus.

The [Scripps National Spelling Bee](#) web site has information, rules, news, study tips and more.

Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to help.

## Homeschool Geography Bee

by Lisa F.

The City-wide Homeschooler's National Geography Bee will be held January 7, 2005 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Main Library (Joel Valdez - downtown) in the lower level meeting room (access directly from parking garage).

### *Who can participate?*

Bee registration is open to schools and homeschool associations with students in grades four through eight who are not over the age of 15 by the time of the national level. A student must be enrolled in a school or homeschool association that is registered with the Bee. Also, students of the eligible grade levels must be following a school schedule

and academic course load comparable to the majority of the student's grade-mates and age-mates. A student may not be enrolled in more than two academic courses at the high school and/or college level during each school year of the competition. We reserve the right to disqualify a student if we believe the rules have not been followed.

Schools from all 50 U.S. states, the U.S. territories, and the U.S. Department of Defense schools participate in the National Geographic Bee. Students enrolled in public or private schools may not compete as part of a homeschool association's Bee and, conversely, students who are homeschooled must

participate through a registered homeschool association. Only school or homeschool association administrators may register their schools. Also, to hold a competition, there is a minimum participation requirement of six students (in eligible grades), and students must be present to compete.

[Prepare for the Bee](#)

Or, for more [information](#).

## Life Learning Magazine

by Alica M.

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

## Paper Toys

by Erin S.

[Paper toys](#) web site has a variety of paper toys that can be printed out for free. There are coloring pages, paper dolls, crowns, paper models of cars and landmarks, and much more. There are many hours worth of

entertainment, for kids and parents, available on this web site.

## Valentine Exchange

by Sybelle V.

The annual Valentine exchange will be Tuesday, February 8th. This is a change from the original date! All children 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.

On February 8th be on time to park. Following 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. Also, this is going to be a busy day, since we will be taking the children's group photo at 12:30 after the exchange.

Questions? Call, email or see me at park.

## Homeschooling Dads

by Eileen D.

There are many articles and books written by homeschooling dads for other homeschooling dads. Here are some of the resources available:

The [National Home Education Network](#) offers articles, books and links to support homeschooling fathers in the "[For Dads by Dads](#)" section.

Ann Zeise's [A to Z Home's Cool](#) has "[Dads Talk](#)" articles and homeschooling dad blogs.

*And the Skylark Sings with Me-Adventures in Homeschooling and Community-Based Education* by David H. Albert is a book written by a homeschooling dad.

Don't forget SDH's Men's Coffee Night, the first Wednesday of each

month at Borders on Oracle at 7:30 p.m. This is an opportunity for fathers to discuss homeschooling issues, as well as other topics.

## December Music Recital

by Victoria M.

Where else in town can one hear a beautiful violin duet by mother and daughter, a Bach Minuet, and Sam G.'s arrangement of "Money" by Pink Floyd? There is only one place—our Music Recitals! If you missed the Winter Recital there is no need to regret it. The next chance to enjoy the talent of our

homeschool community will be May 5th, 3 p.m. at Washburn Piano. We will keep you posted

A very sincere and big thank you to all of you who played: Anna W., Seth G., Michael G., Rachel B., Amanda O., Eileen D., Cate M., Apryl M., Melody M., Christina M., Esther M., Caleb G., Cerelia M., Wes M., Luke M., Sam G. and Sarah G.

You did a great job. Please call me if you have any questions.

## Show and Tell

by Erin S.

On January 18th, after announcements, I will lead a Show and Tell. Children may bring anything they would like to share with the group. In the past children have brought toys and art work, demonstrated how to fold paper, read stories, or talked about something that happened to them.

Participation ribbons will be given to all who "show and tell".

If you have any questions, please contact me.

## Holiday Card Recycling

by Erin S.

On park days between Thanksgiving and January 11th, I will have a box available for people to recycle holiday cards (fronts only, please). I will send what is collected to St. Jude's Ranch for Children card recycling program. Children at the ranch make the used cards into "new" ones to sell.

Questions? Please contact me by phone, email or see me at park.

## 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. 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.

## Testing and Homeschooling

by Debbie G.

Confused about standardized tests?

Wonder if your child would  
"measure up" to other kids?

Worried that there are gaps in your  
child's knowledge?

Welcome to homeschooling, where  
there are no easy answers and no  
cheap comfort.

"Wait a minute," you say. "What  
about test scores? Aren't they  
important? Don't they mean some-  
thing?"

Here are some quotes about  
testing:

"If more testing were the answer  
to the problems in our schools,  
testing would have solved them a  
long time ago." Bill Goodling, House  
Education and Workforce  
Committee Chairman

"Believing we can improve schooling  
with more tests is like believing you  
can make yourself grow taller by  
measuring your height." Robert  
Schaeffer of FairTest

"Only on 'Who Wants To Be a  
Millionaire?' can people rise to the  
top by rote memorization and  
answers to multiple-choice ques-  
tions. The FINAL ANSWER to  
improving education is more than  
memorizing facts for a multiple-  
choice test. "Children today need  
critical thinking skills, creativity,  
perseverance, and integrity—  
qualities not measured on a  
standardized test." Dr. Paul  
Houston, executive director,  
American Association of School  
Administrators

Testing is seen as an answer to all  
of the problems in schools. Simply  
demand accountability (what results

are being obtained with the public  
money that is being spent), then  
prove that accountability with a test  
score, and no one will be able to point  
fingers at schools anymore, schools  
will be demonstrably doing their  
jobs.

But this has little or nothing to do  
with homeschoolers. Homeschoolers  
receive no public money in Arizona,  
so there is no entity to demand  
accountability. Parents rarely  
homeschool twenty to thirty children  
at a time, so there is no need to rely  
on tests to gauge their children's  
learning—parents are right there  
with their children, directly involved  
in their education.

Most adults in the United States,  
including homeschooling parents, see  
education through the prism of  
public schooling. This view distorts  
our perceptions of requirements,  
necessities, and mandates. Many  
homeschoolers want to evaluate  
their homeschooling using the same  
tools that schools use without  
realizing the significant differences  
between the two circumstances.

Look at grades as an example. What  
reason does a homeschooling parent  
have to grant any grade that does  
not reflect mastery and proficiency  
in a topic? And how many schools can  
expect that same level of learning  
from their students? That is why  
"good enough" grades exist—good  
enough to pass that class and then  
move on to the next class, but not  
good enough to indicate understand-  
ing or comprehension.

Homeschoolers have time—time to  
delve into subjects, and time to  
expand subjects into more than one

area. They have time to learn  
subjects in many different ways and  
at deeper levels. Favorite topics can  
be revisited and explored in new  
ways. And subjects that leave both  
the child and the parent cold can be  
tabled for another time, awaiting a  
new approach that makes the  
subject at least bearable, if not  
intriguing.

They also have time to wait. There  
are no schedules to follow, no  
curricula to adhere to, no  
timetables to fall behind.  
Homeschoolers are free to just  
take time off and try other ways to  
learn—or to have fun. Consider how  
much learning happens while  
children play games. Spending time  
with their children, talking with  
them, and having fun together,  
these are the luxuries that  
homeschooling provides. When  
people express envy or bitterness in  
regard to homeschoolers, it is often  
this aspect of homeschooling that is  
causing those feelings—time is  
typically in short supply in our  
society, and homeschoolers, both  
parents and children, are luxuriating  
in time—time to enjoy each other,  
time to laugh, time to create, time  
to learn, time to dream.

## Heifer International

by Ingo V.

I am starting a campaign to help children in need in the world to chase away hunger and poverty. I want to raise money for [Heifer International](#). This organization gives animals to families in need, to help with food or income. When the animals breed, the family gives some of the babies to other families. Heifer also teaches them to take care of the animals.

I would like it if as many kids as possible want to help with raising as much money as possible.

We can participate in the "[Read to Feed](#)" program and in another program, called "Fill the Ark".

My mom and I will have a meeting for children and adults who are interested in helping. We will watch a video that shows how Heifer helps children and their families. We will also hand out information, bookmarks, books and learning materials (mom says these are good for homeschoolers).

Then, I would like to talk about ways to raise money and to set a goal for the amount we want to try to raise

and when we want to be done.

The meeting will be on Friday, January 14th, from 10:00-12:00 in the community room at Bookman's on Grant and Campbell.

For more information you can look at these websites:

You can also call me at home, email me or talk to me at park.

I hope you will all come and get involved!!

## Homeschool Science Fair

by Laura C.

We are quickly approaching the day of the science fair and in order to have a successful event I need volunteers. I am looking for a set-up and clean-up crew, food preparation help, and judges with science backgrounds. If you know of someone who would make a good judge, please let me know. Judges must be child friendly so that this is a positive, rewarding experience

for all.

Interested students can go to the [SDH web site](#) and check out the science fair link. In the next week I will be posting an online application that can be emailed directly to me. The application deadline is February 1st.

In addition to Kindergarten though 12th grade entries, we also permit team entries (enter with a buddy)

and family projects. Family projects cannot go on to SARSEF, but are a great way to have fun learning about science. Any family with children from Kindergarten though 12th grade may submit a family entry.

If you have any questions about the science fair or want to discuss volunteer opportunities, please contact me.

## Mathematical Mystery Tour Group

by Debbie G.

The Mathematical Mystery Tour group resumes weekly meetings on Monday, January 3rd, in the Main Library's 2nd floor study room at 11:00 a.m. If you are new to the group and are interested in coming, please let me know so that I have enough materials available for everyone. The group is designed for

children 6th grade and up, and uses Mark Wahl's book, *A Mathematical Mystery Tour* (Wilmot Library has a copy of this book if someone wants to take a look). Group members are given handouts and do not have to purchase the book themselves. This is not a traditional math class - kids will explore mathematical concepts and expand their understanding of

math's relationship to the world around them.

If you have questions, please contact me.

## My New Puppy

by Bibiana V.

One day we went to Paradise Kennels and we got a new puppy. Dad said we would get a girl, but we ended up getting a boy, because they were all boys. There were four of them.

He was biting my ear when I picked him up. Then we went to the pet

shop and we got him a squeaky toy and a chew bone and puppy food.

When we got home we let the puppy out and we let him play with Kiki, our other dog. She didn't like the puppy very much. We named him Robbie and he is seven weeks old.

## Teen Activity Group

By Emily, Guy and Diann B.

Our January activity will take place Saturday, January 15th at 1:30 p.m. We will meet at our home, then go miniature golfing. The fallback plan, in case of bad weather, will be bowling. If you plan to participate, or have any questions, please contact us by phone or e-mail.

## "Free to be...You and Me" Performance

by Georgie W.

Interested singers are wanted for a chorus performance of "Free to be ... You and Me" by Marlo Thomas. I'm looking for boys and girls ages 8 to 14. Bring a friend, it's lots of fun! We need a minimum of eight enthusiastic kids. Don't be shy, sign

up now. No fee, just a love of singing in a chorus and performing. Rehearsals would be once a week on Mondays from 10 to 11:15 a.m. at The Fountains of La Cholla (2020 W. Rudasill Rd, which is south of Orange Grove Rd., east of La Cholla).

Tentative dates are from January 10 to March 7.

The director is Georgie W., a composer and former youth choir director. To sign up, call or email me.

## Shaka, King of the Zulus

by Ingo V.

Shaka was born in 1787 and was killed 41 years after his birth. His father was Senzagakona, chief of the Zulu clan and his mother was Nandi.

He grew up working for his father, watching the sheep, goats and cattle. One day a sheep was killed by a wild dog and his father got really mad. His mother took his side and they were sent away to live in his mother's clan.

His mother's clan couldn't support them and they had to pick up their stuff and move to another clan that could support them. That clan was where Shaka got started on his journey to become the king of the Zulus.

He became strong and famous for fighting bravely and decided he wanted a new weapon. He had a new assegai (= spear) made by the best blacksmith in the nation. He won the right to fight for his nation and believed in himself once more.

He grew up to be the greatest king the Zulu nation ever had. He even had female regiments in his army. He made the little Zulu clan a great nation.

At the age of 41 he was killed by his half-brothers.

## Weaving Field Trip

by Victoria M.

If you would like to learn about weaving, I can set up a field trip at the Desert Weaving Workshop at 512 S. 6th Ave. south of Downtown between 15th and 16th Streets on the west side of the street. We could learn about, and actually try, their six beautiful looms and discuss weaving and natural dying. Please contact me and let me know if you are interested.

## Roots and Shoots

by Heather M.

[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.

We meet the 1st, 3rd and 5th Fridays of the month from 10 a.m. to noon. Any member of SDH is welcome to join us. To join, get on our email list, or ask questions,

contact me.

Last month we made a couple of fleece blankets and delivered them to the Ronald McDonald house. On the 17th we had a great turnout for the holiday planetarium show at Flandrau Science Center. Roots & Shoots will not meet January 7th so everyone can come out and support the Citywide Homeschoolers National Geographic Bee. We will meet instead on Friday, January 14th and help support Ingo and Heifer Project. You'll find details about that

meeting elsewhere in this newsletter. Our other January meeting date and time is still to be announced. Alica and I are trying to schedule a tour of "Butterfly Magic at the Gardens: An indoor exhibit of live tropical butterflies" at the Tucson Botanical Gardens. I'll make announcements at park and send email updates when the date and time are confirmed.

## The Well-Trained Mind

by Erin S.

*The Well-Trained Mind* by Susan Wise Bauer and Jessie Wise is a combination of "how-to" and "why" for homeschoolers written by experienced homeschoolers. *The Well-Trained Mind* provides an alternative for homeschoolers whose educational philosophy falls between Unschooling and school-at-

home. Although the book does recommend schedules and materials, the authors point out that one need not do it all their way. This is a book where homeschoolers can pick and choose what makes sense to them for their situation.

*The Well-Trained Mind* enjoys a large following among homeschoolers. There are [message boards](#) sponsored

by *The Well-Trained Mind*, as well as [independent e-mail lists](#).

## Homeschooling in the News

by Debbie G.

Visit SDH's "[Homeschooling in the News](#)" for links to interesting articles about homeschooling from around the country (sometimes even around the world).

The page is updated regularly, and I welcome recommendations for new articles. Just e-mail me with the information.

## Rosters for Newcomers

by Eileen D.

If you are a new member of SDH, you should have received a membership roster when you paid dues. If you have not received a roster, there are two ways of obtaining one: SDH Newcomer Liaisons (those in the yellow SDH shirts at park) have them and will give you one upon request. Or, you can go to the "Files" section of the sdh-newsletter Yahoo! group and download a copy.

## Our Kitty

by Riley S.



## Multicultural Festival

by Kim B. and Brandye F.

It's a small world! SDH's Multicultural Festival will take place on March 15th at Ft. Lowell park. Planning is underway!

There is a [list of chosen countries](#) on the SDH website.

We have many exciting ideas and visions for this event. We would love to see many different cultures represented. If you are considering participating, please do. You can share your own heritage or choose a culture that particularly fascinates you or your children. Think creatively and diversely! There are many cultures to choose from and everyone should be able to find one that interests them.

A passport is being created for the kids to use when they "visit" each culture. This will provide both families and children with a keepsake of the festival. More details about the passport program will be discussed at the January 11th meeting.

January 18th is the deadline to let us know if you plan to participate by presenting a culture. January 18th is also the deadline for letting us know about any performers or guests you plan to have as part of your cultural presentation. For performers/guests we will need to know the time they are available as well as how long their act will be and what kind of supplies they may need. Finally, if there is

any sort of charge involved we will need to know the exact amount. The January 18th deadline is very important. We want to create a schedule for performers and any other big "events" for the day so that everyone has a chance to appreciate the diversity presented.

The next planning meeting will be on January 11th, after announcements. It is our hope that the Multicultural Festival is a fun and rewarding event for everyone in SDH.

If you have any questions or would like to help contact us.

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## 2005 Homeschooling Conferences

by Eileen D.

Whether you are new to homeschooling, or have been doing it for many years, homeschooling conferences are a great way to get energized about homeschooling. There are many different types of conferences including Unschooling,

religious and secular. Anne Zeise's web site, "A to Z Home's Cool" has a new listing of homeschool conferences and other homeschool events for [2005](#).

You can also view the [list](#) on a month by month calendar and view other interesting links, activities and

holidays. The calendar currently goes to May of 2005.

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## Peppermint Extreme

By Craig and Riley S.

Peppermint Extreme

Peppermint

Extreme

Royally Minty

Peppermint Extreme

## November Treasury Report

by Claire B.

November 2nd balance: \$ 1,036.07

New members (five): \$ 50.00

Payouts (newsletters, rosters, programs, etc.): \$ 102.86

December 14th balance: \$ 983.21

## Scholastic Book Orders

by Sharon A.

The Scholastic book orders are due by January 18th. Book order forms are available from me at the park. Please make checks payable to "Scholastic" and give them to me with your order form.

## This Month's Featured Web Sites

by Debbie G.  
the [SDH Featured Web Sites](#) and check out [past collections](#).

Visit

### [Historic Calendars](#)

The Calendar Zone presents links to information about calendars worldwide plus explanations about reckoning time.

### [Gregorian Calendar](#)

Visit this web page to learn about the calendar we currently use—why it was developed and when it was fully adopted.

### [Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service](#)

*On January 17, 2005 Americans across the country will celebrate the national holiday honoring the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As they have since 1995, hundreds of thousands of Americans will remember Dr. King by participating in service projects in their communities. Together, they will honor King's legacy of tolerance, peace, and equality by meeting community needs and making the holiday "A day ON, not a day OFF." This web site includes suggestions and tips for service projects.*

### [Sabino Canyon](#)

This site, created by Judi Moreillon, includes an Ecology WebQuest, songs and contributions from children.

### [Map of the Arizona Trail](#)

From the Arizona Trail Association

The Arizona Trail will eventually be 790 miles long, stretching from Utah to Mexico. Here is the route map, along with links to more information about the trail. Check the [AZ-Trail-Build pages](#) for information about helping to build the trail near Tucson.

### [Sonoran Arthropod Studies Institute](#)

Check SASI's online Education Center for links to articles and photographs about arthropods native to the Sonoran Desert.

### [Pitch: Sharp, Flat, and Natural Notes](#)

From Connexions, an online learning environment "for collaboratively developing, freely sharing, and rapidly publishing scholarly content on the Web."

This page is from the section about music, and it includes links to many more related topics. The site is a great example of the opportunities that exist on the Web for exploring knowledge.

**January 2005**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 11:00 a.m. Mathematical Mystery Tour Group, Main Library	4 9:15 a.m. AIT P.E. 10:30 a.m. Book Discussion for Children 10:30 a.m. Park Day 11:00 a.m. Announcements	5 7:30 p.m. Men's Coffee Night, Borders on Oracle	6	7 9 to 11 a.m. City-wide Homeschoolers' National Geography Bee, Main Library No Roots and Shoots meeting	8
9	10 10:00 a.m. Free to be...You and Me Rehearsal (see January newsletter article for more information) 11:00 a.m. Mathematical Mystery Tour Group, Main Library 3:00 or 3:30 p.m. Live Cyberchase Show	11 9:15 a.m. AIT P.E. 10:30 a.m. Park Day 11:00 a.m. Announcements 11:15 Multi-cultural Festival Planning Meeting	12 10 a.m. City-wide Homeschool Spelling Bee, Main Library Meeting Room	13	14 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Heifer International fundraising meeting, Bookman's on Speedway, Community Room	15
16	17 10:00 a.m. Free to be...You and Me Rehearsal 11:00 a.m. Mathematical Mystery Tour Group, Main Library	18 9:15 a.m. AIT P.E. 10:30 a.m. Park Day 11:00 a.m. Announcements 11:15 Show and Tell Scholastic book order deadline Multicultural Festival sign-up deadline	19	20 7 p.m. Parent's Book Discussion, Something Sweet	21 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Dance Southwest, The Ugly Duckling, Pima Community College Proscenium Theatre 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Game Day, St. Francis UMC Room 50	22
23	24 10:00 a.m. Free to be...You and Me Rehearsal 11:00 a.m. Mathematical Mystery Tour Group, Main Library	25 9:15 a.m. AIT P.E. 10:30 a.m. Park Day 11:00 a.m. Announcements 7 to 8:45 p.m. Homeschool Information Night, Wilnot Library meeting room Deadline for February <i>Inside SDH</i>	26 7:30 p.m. Mom's Coffee Night, Something Sweet	27	28	29
30	31 10:00 a.m. Free to be...You and Me Rehearsal 11:00 a.m. Mathematical Mystery Tour Group, Main Library					

## 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. January 20: *The Discovery of Chocolate* by James Runcie

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

### February

*AIT P.E. Classes* Tuesday's February 1, 8, 15, 22, 9:15 a.m., Ft. Lowell Park  
*Children's Book Discussion*, February 1, 10:30 a.m. at Ft. Lowell  
*Homeschool Science Fair Application Deadline*, February 1, see newsletter article for application information.  
*Men's Coffee Night*, February 2, 7:30 p.m., Borders on Oracle  
*Free to be... You and Me Rehearsals* February 7, 14, 21, 28, 10 a.m. at Fountains of La Cholla  
*Valentine's Day Exchange*, February 8th, after announcements at Ft. Lowell park.  
*SDH Children Group Photo*, February 8th, 12:30 p.m. after Valentine's Day Exchange  
*Homeschool Science Fair*, February 12, 10 a.m. at Main Library

*Pima County Spelling Bee*, February 10, 1 p.m. at Crowder Hall on the UA campus  
*UApresents Pilobolus Dance Theater*, February 15, 10 a.m. at Centennial Hall  
*Parent's Book Discussion*, February 17, 7 p.m. at Something Sweet  
*Mom's Coffee Night*, February 23, 7:30 p.m., Something Sweet  
*Newsletter Deadline* February 25

### 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 Fountains of La

Cholla  
*Multicultural Festival*, March 15, after announcements, Ft. Lowell Park  
*Southern Arizona Regional Science and Engineering Fair (SARSEF)*, March 17–19, 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

### 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.

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### 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

Books comprise the cornerstone of our homeschooling. Books of all kinds find their way into our homes and lives. Some are more educational than others, but all touch our lives and provide experiences and insights that we may not find elsewhere. Some of

the best books we've read have been recommended by others, so for the February newsletter we'd like to publish a list of what SDH people are reading. Please send us titles that your family, your children, and you are reading. We will all get some great ideas and

perhaps find some interests in common we didn't know we had.

Send your submissions for *Inside SDH* by January 25.

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

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## [Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers](#)

[Info](#)

[Newsletter](#)



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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."

