



# Inside SDH

Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers • Tucson, AZ • January 2007

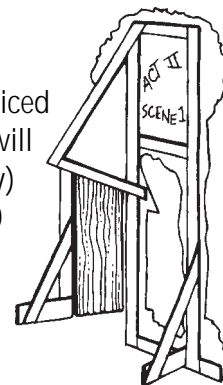


## THE WIZARD OF OZ

by Laura C.

We have put our own southwest spin on this classic tale. The kids have practiced very hard and done a great job so please come out and support them. We will perform at the Red Barn Theater (948 N. Main Ave., just south of Speedway) on Thursday, January 4 and Friday, January 5 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$3.00 and children under 3 will be free. If you would like tickets please contact me

quickly as tickets are selling fast and there are only 60 seats per night. Snacks and drinks will be available at the show priced between \$.50 and \$1.00.



## GEOGRAPHY BEE

by Donna J.

Do you know your way around the world? Then consider participating in the Pima County Home Educators Geography Bee, scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 6 at the Woods Memorial Branch Library, 3455 N. First Ave. The bee is open to homeschoolers in grades four through eight and eligible students don't need to pre-register to participate. On-site registration will take place the day of the competition. Participants may register beginning at 12:00 noon. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please join us and support SDH members competing in the bee.

If your child is interested, but is too young to compete, contact me. These students may be able to participate in a practice round before the National Geographic portion of the local bee begins. This would be a great way for the younger kids to see what the bee is like and prepare for the day when they can officially compete.

The bee is a first step toward competing in the National Geographic Bee. The winner of the homeschool bee will be given the opportunity to take a test to determine whether he or she qualifies to go on to the next level of competition, the state geography bee. The winner of the state bee is invited to attend the national competition.

While pre-registration isn't required, if you have a child planning to compete, please call or email me at [homeschoolgeographybee@yahoo.com](mailto:homeschoolgeographybee@yahoo.com). This will help me get an estimate of the number of participants and an idea of whether we are meeting minimum participation requirements.

Who can participate? Homeschool students in grades 4-8 who meet National Geographic's eligibility requirements and who are not over the age of 15 by the time of the national level competition may compete. According to National Geographic's rules, 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. Students enrolled in public or private schools, including publicly funded virtual academies, aren't eligible to compete in the homeschool bee. To hold a competition, there is a minimum participation requirement of six students (in eligible grades), and students must be present to compete. We reserve the right to disqualify a student if we believe the rules have not been followed. More information about the bee, its eligibility requirements, and study resources may be found on the SDH web site's geography bee page: <http://www.hozho.homestead.com/GeographyBee.html> and on the National Geographic Bee web site: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geographybee/>



## LADIES' LUNCH

By Celeste W.

It has been a while since we last went out for lunch together, and it has been a very busy fall and winter for many of us, but I would like to go out for lunch again. We will meet on Saturday, January 13, at noon at The Blue Willow Restaurant, 2616 N. Campbell Ave. Please RSVP by 12:00 noon on the 12th, because I will not be at the restaurant on the 13th if I don't have people reserve with me first.

## UApresents

by Alica M.

The next UApresents show is **Interpreti Veneziani** on Friday, January 19. As before, we will meet in front of Centennial Hall at 10:00 a.m. We are seated as a group so please be on time. Also, I got the refund money from the Momix show for those you who were not able to get tickets to it but paid for them. Any question please contact me.



## ARTIST TRADING CARD TRADE EVENT

by Sybelle V.

There will be an Artist Trading Card trade at the park on Tuesday, January 23 after announcements. I will bring some blank cards and supplies, but bring some too if you want to make cards there. Try to have some made to trade ahead of time! The website for info and ideas again: <http://www.cedarseed.com/air/atc.html> or see me at park or email me.



## ROOTS & SHOOTS

by Liz H. and Lara B.

Here are the Roots and Shoots activities and projects that are currently scheduled. If you would like to attend any of them, please let us know (if you have not already), so that we have an approximate number of how many to expect.

### Friday, January 12, 10:30 a.m. Tucson Botanical Gardens Butterfly Magic exhibit

A reduced admission rate will apply. RSVP to Liz H. required. We have a full list, but are taking names for a waiting list and if we get enough names we will go up to the next group size so everyone can go.

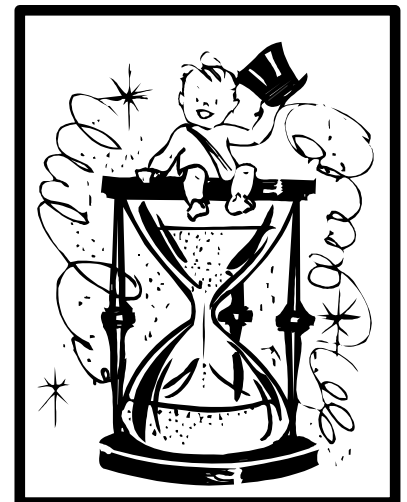
### Friday, January 26, 10:00 a.m. Present your own topic

Everyone is invited to research a topic related to one of the Roots & Shoots core areas — care and concern for people, animals, and the environment — to present to the group at a special meeting. The only guidelines are that the presentation be related to one of the core areas and be 5 to 15 minutes long. Other than that, it's up to you! Work as a family, with a friend, or singly. Bring a poster, an animal, or just your notes. RSVP to Liz H. by January 19. Location to be announced.

### Friday, February 2 or February 16, 10:00 a.m.

#### Tour of the Waste Management Recycle Plant

As most of you know, the recycle plant tour was canceled last-minute, and is being rescheduled. They are waiting for the holiday rush of garbage to wane before giving us the new date, but it will be either Friday the 2nd, or Friday the 16th. I will announce which date in the next week or so, and then it will go into February's newsletter. We will do a tour of Waste Management's Recycle Center. They have an "education room" where we will start out with a quick video and then Q&A. After that we go outside to see it all in real motion. Dumping trucks, sorting, etc. Please wear closed shoes (like sneakers, not sandals). Everyone is welcome, though little ones might need to be held for part of it. Directions: Go Prince Rd. to one block east of I-10 and turn north on Runway Dr, it's at 3909 Runway Dr, a little bit down, just past American Home Furnishings. RSVP to Lara B.



## ART CLUB

by Laura C.

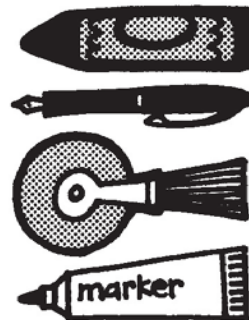
Art Club will return on Thursday, January 25 with Batiking. I have been looking forward to this one! Lara B. will teach us the art of Batik. This is a two month project and little ones will need parent assistance. We will start at 10:00 a.m. and I will serve lunch. Please be sure to RSVP so that we can have enough supplies and food.

## ART AND TALENT SHOW

by Laura C.



The art and talent show will be held on Saturday, January 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Main Library in the downstairs meeting room. I would like to invite parents as well as children to share your talents and art with us. Let me know by January 20 if you will be participating so I can put together a program. I have reserved the display case outside the children's library for the month of February and all art entered into the show will have the opportunity to be exhibited in the case. Art can be knitting, painting, clay work, etc. and talent could be dance, music, a skit, juggling, etc. If you have any questions don't hesitate to call me. Refreshments will be served.



## ARIZONA OPERA

by Donna J.

There is still time to sign up for the Opera Look-In for *Madama Butterfly* and the student dress rehearsal for *Beauty and the Beast*. Times and deadlines are listed below. Tickets for *Beauty and the Beast* are \$4 for students and \$10 for adults. The look-in is free. I must receive your order and payment by the deadline date. The best way to submit your order is to mail it to me, since I don't always make it to park days.

Both events take place at the Tucson Convention Center Music Hall. For *Beauty and the Beast*, we will meet in front of the box office at 6:30 p.m. There is absolutely no late seating. They lock the doors promptly at seven, so be sure you have no scheduling conflicts before you purchase your tickets. For more information and study guides, go to: <http://www.azopera.com/learn.php?subcat=programsyouth>

**Opera Look-In: Madama Butterfly** Saturday, February 3, 12:00 p.m. Free. Sign-up deadline: January 16. The look-in is designed to give the audience a glimpse behind the scenes. Students will be introduced to Arizona Opera professionals and shown demonstrations with sets, lighting, sound, special effects, costumes, wigs and make-up. This approximately hour-long program ends with a performance by one of AZ Opera's main-stage singers, followed by a question and answer period.

**Andre Ernest Modeste Gretry's Beauty and the Beast Student Dress Rehearsal** Thursday, March 1, 7:00 p.m. Order deadline: February 13

## NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

by Donna J.

If your child loves writing and history, or would enjoy creating a play, web site or documentary on a history topic, don't forget National History Day (NHD). There's still time to participate in this great program. Despite its name, NHD isn't just a one-day event or competition. It is a yearlong education program that includes regional, state and national competitions. Students in grades 4-12 may participate.

"Triumph & Tragedy in History" is this year's theme. Students in grades four and five participate by creating and presenting posters. In grades 6-12, students may choose to compete in one of five categories: documentaries, exhibits, historical papers, performances, or web sites. The regional competition is set for March 10 in Tucson with state finals scheduled on April 14 at the state capitol in Phoenix. Students must register by February 14.

For more information about NHD, please contact me. Information is also available on the state's NHD web site: <http://www.nhdarizona.org>. Click on the "2007 Arizona Theme Supplement" link on the left side of the site's homepage for all the details on how to pick a topic, research it, and compete. Also see <http://www.nationalhistoryday.org>

## SCIENCE FAIR

by Donna J.

It's science fair time. Don't have a project yet? Don't worry. There's still plenty of time to create an experiment and join the fun at the Pima County Home Educators Science Fair, set for Saturday, February 24. If coming up with a good topic has you stymied, we'll have a display at the Jan. 9 park day to get you started. It will include a list of resources almost guaranteed to spark ideas and plenty of how-to information. An SDH guidebook with tips on developing a project and preparing it for exhibit is also available. To obtain a copy, or to place your name on the science fair mailing list, contact Donna J. by phone or e-mail at [homeschoolsciencefair@yahoo.com](mailto:homeschoolsciencefair@yahoo.com). (The guidebook can be emailed to you.)

We're still searching for a meeting room for the fair, but will announce the location and a schedule soon. Look for information to be posted and announced at park. Or get on the fair mailing list for updates. Sponsored by SDH, this event is an opportunity for homeschoolers in grades K-12 to publicly exhibit their research and scientific discoveries. Projects may be done individually or in groups with other homeschoolers, and there's also a family group category. You may enter the fair with one of the following types of projects: a science experiment, a science demonstration, a research project, a collection, or a science apparatus.

Volunteers are needed for set-up and clean-up crews, and food preparation. If you can volunteer or would like more information about the fair, contact Donna.



## IMMIGRANT DISCUSSION AND ACTIVITY

by Katrina O.

I am reading a book called We Shall Not Be Moved by Joan Dash. It is a history reading regarding the Women's Factory Strike of 1909. I would like to invite children ages 10 and up to join us for this book reading and at the end of the January I would like to have a book discussion. Since the book mentions immigrants, I would like to invite the children to have lunch together at a restaurant which is operated by immigrants and discuss the living and working condition of these employees. It would be interesting exploring the immigrant world, and letting the children see the history instead of just reading it. Please contact me if you are interested and we will work out the dates and other details.

## VALENTINE EXCHANGE

by Laura C.

Our annual card exchange is coming up on Tuesday, February 13 at our regular park day. Just a quick note to those of you who like to make your cards, you may want to get started now since after last year's event it was determined that 100 would be a good number to bring!

## DANCE CLASSES

by Kristen K.

I would like to put together some dance classes for homeschoolers at a local Tucson studio. I have been teaching tap, ballet and jazz lessons for about 11 years for preschool and after school programs. If anyone is interested in dance classes, please contact me.

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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."

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<http://tucsonhomeschoolers.org>  
info: [sdhtucson@yahoo.com](mailto:sdhtucson@yahoo.com)

## AIT : ATHLETES IN TRAINING

by Jaimie L.

Athletes in Training (AIT) meets on Tuesdays at Fort Lowell Park. AIT is a physical education/fitness program taught by trained coaches. Each month will have a specific sport or activity. Classes are in two age groups and at two times:

9:15 -10:15 a.m. for ages 7 and up; and 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. for ages 4 to 6

Parents need to fill out a health questionnaire/ waiver and sign a code of conduct agreement. Please arrive at least 15 minutes early to fill out paperwork and make payment. Costs are: \$16.00 first child, \$12.00 second child, \$8.00 third child, and \$8.00 for each additional child.

This is not a drop-off class. Parents must be present and close by when their children attend PE (or have another adult there who is responsible for them.) Children should be dressed appropriately for the activity and wear sneakers.



## NORTHWEST PARK DAY - Thursdays

We meet on Thursdays at Richardson Park between Orange Grove and Ina on Cmo. De la Tierra from 10:00 to about noon. If the weather is too uncomfortable, you can find us at the Nanini Library just off Shannon.

## EASTSIDE PARK DAY - Mondays and Wednesdays

We meet on Mondays and Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. at Purple Heart Park in Rita Ranch, also referred to as Rita Ranch Park, on E. Rita Road off Houghton. Look for us at the purple play structure at the far west end of the park.



### SDH MONTHLY PARENT OPPORTUNITIES



### **Parents' Book Discussion Group - January 18**

Held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Something Sweet, 5319 E. Speedway. (NW corner of Speedway and Beverly east of Craycroft). January's book is *Kissing the Virgin's Mouth* by Donna Gershtwn

- February: *Think: Why Crucial Decisions Can't Be Made in the Blink of an Eye* by M. LeGault
- March: *The Light of Day* by Jamie Saul
- April: *Zero: The Biography of a Dangerous Idea* by Charles Seife
- May: *Straight Man* by Richard Russo
- June: *The Tipping Point* by Malcolm Gladwell
- July: *Freakanomics* by Steven Levitt

**Note:** Some of the above books may have a waiting list at the library. If you plan to get a selection from the library, you may want to look into putting an early hold on it.

### **Mom's Coffee Night - January 31**

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)

### **Dad's Coffee Night - January 3**

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

### **PARK DAY - Every Tuesday**

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