

# Inside SDH

Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers • Tucson, AZ • January 2009



## **NEW WEEKLY PARK LOCATION TRIAL-RUN EXTENDED**

by Lara B.

We are extending the new park trial-run by one month, because of the holidays and very bad weather in December. So the trial will continue at McCormick Park through January 2009, with the voting to take place on the last park day of the month; Tuesday, January 27.

The vote will be to decide to either stay at that park as our new permanent weekly park day, or to resume park day back at Ft. Lowell Park and just stay there. If you know someone who doesn't regularly read the monthly newsletter or is not on the email discuss list and you think they may not have heard yet, please let them know.

The new park is *McCormick Park*, 2950 N. Columbus Blvd (right next to the Lighthouse YMCA), between Ft Lowell Rd. and Glenn St. It is the same latitude as Ft. Lowell Park, but about a mile west. The next main street west of Craycroft is Swan, then the next semi-main street west is Columbus. (Columbus is the street halfway between Swan and Alvernon.) Here's a map: [www.tinyurl.com/5uvjsq](http://www.tinyurl.com/5uvjsq)

Everything about parkday stays the same: Tuesdays, with announcements at around 11:00.

## **TWILIGHT SERIES BOOK DISCUSSION**

by Kim B.

I've been asked this by several people so I feel like I need to make it clear that this is not a class. This is a one time informal book discussion. If there is enough interest we can consider doing it another time as well, but that can be decided on the night of the discussion.

On Monday, January 19, 2009 I will be facilitating a book discussion for women and girls on the four books in the *Twilight* series by Stephenie Meyer. We will meet at Something Sweet at 7:00 p.m. The books are long, but fast reads! The books are *Twilight*, *New Moon*, *Eclipse*, and *Breaking Dawn*.

These books have become a huge thing (there is now a movie for *Twilight*), especially with young adult girls. During discussions with both teenaged girls and moms I have found that they have different takes on the books, so I thought it would be interesting for both the women and the girls to discuss the books together. I'm sorry to have to exclude boys and men from the discussion, but I want the girls to be able to speak freely (these books are about a 17 year old girl who falls in love). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

## **MOM'S COFFEE NIGHT**

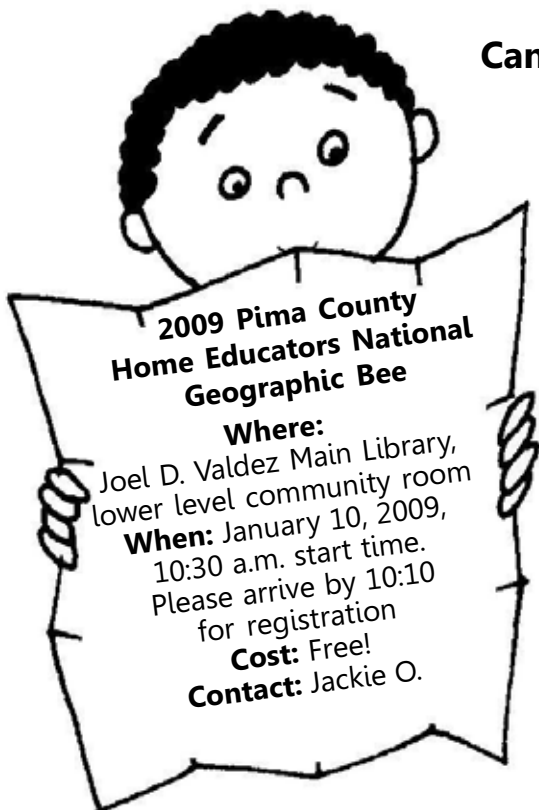
by Lara B.

The verdict is not yet in for Mom's Night staying at Ike's or not. Please keep an eye and ear out for an announcement of where January's Mom's Night will be held. Please also feel free to call or email me to find out. As always, it will be held on the last Wednesday of the month, which is January 28 at 7:30 p.m.



## Can you answer this question correctly?

*Which state has a climate suitable for growing citrus fruits—California or Maine?*



### 2009 Pima County Home Educators National Geographic Bee

#### Where:

Joel D. Valdez Main Library,  
lower level community room

**When:** January 10, 2009,  
10:30 a.m. start time.  
Please arrive by 10:10  
for registration

**Cost:** Free!

**Contact:** Jackie O.

The 2009 Pima County Home Educators National Geographic Bee is right around the corner — January 10th! If you're a homeschooling kid in grades 4 through 8, consider competing in the bee. It's a fun way to test your knowledge of our world, make some friends, and, maybe just maybe, make it all the way to the national finals mc-ed by Alex Trabek (with a first place prize of \$25,000 in scholarship funds!).

If you're interested but not so sure you'd like to compete, consider coming to the bee to check it out and encourage your fellow homeschoolers. A supportive audience is always welcome!

See the listing below for eligibility requirements. More information can be found at

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geographybee>

*Oh, the correct answer is "California." But you knew that!  
See, you SHOULD be in the bee!*

### Geo Bee Eligibility Requirements:

(edited from National Geographic's website)

1. Registration is open to students in grades 4 through 8 who will not be over the age of 15 by the time of the national competition at the end of May 2009.
2. A student may not be enrolled in more than three academic courses at the high school and/or college level during each school year of the competition.
3. Students enrolled in public or private schools, *including publicly-funded virtual academies and charter schools*, are not eligible to compete in the homeschool bee.
4. Also, to hold a competition there is a minimum participation requirement of six students and students must be present to compete.



### BOOK DRIVE

by Theo J.

Hi, I'm a teen member of SDH and also a member of the Volunteer Center of Southern Arizona's Youth Advisory Council (YAC). I'm working on a book drive with other YAC members for Emerge! Center Against Domestic Abuse. This agency includes the Tucson Centers for Women and Children, which has merged with another domestic violence shelter to create this new agency. If you have any books you would like to donate, I will have a collection box at park on Jan. 6 and Jan. 13. You could also call or email my mother, Donna, and I will pick up donations. Books can be used or new. Thanks to those who have already donated books and toys!



### CYT WINTER SHOWS

by Laura N.

The next two CYT school days shows will be ***Narnia*** on Wednesday, February 18 and ***Oliver!*** on Thursday, March 19, both are at noon at Crowder Hall on the U of A campus. If you would like to attend either or both of these shows, please contact me. I need to have a list for *Narnia* by this week. (January 6 at the very latest!) Tickets for school days showings are \$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 meet as a group at the theater (no actual tickets issued) and go in to the play as a group.

See [www.cyttucson.org](http://www.cyttucson.org) for more information about CYT.

## ARIZONA OPERA

by Donna J.

Make a resolution to check out Arizona Opera this year. There's still time to sign up to attend the last student dress rehearsal for the 2008-09 school year. *Don Giovanni* is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Friday, February 20 at the Tucson Convention Center Music Hall. Tickets are just \$6 for students and \$15 for adults. One important note, Arizona Opera doesn't recommend *Don Giovanni* for young children — tweens and teens only, please. To sign up, let me know how many adult and how many student seats you want and mail a check to me to cover the entire cost of your tickets. Be sure to also include your phone number and email address. Mail everything to my home address, which is in the SDH roster. Make your check out to me, so I can consolidate our payments. I must receive your order and ticket payment by January 27. Please call or email me with any questions.

## ARIZONA THEATRE COMPANY

by Donna J.

For those already signed up to see the student matinee performance of *A Raisin in the Sun*, please remember there has been a date change. (You should have already received an email from me about this change.) The original date, announced this summer, sold out. But ATC has scheduled additional performances and we're now set to see the play on Tuesday, January 27 at 10:00 a.m. I will send a reminder with additional information soon. SDH's ticket orders for our other two student matinees have been confirmed with no changes. We are set to see *Henry V* on Wednesday, April 1 at 10:00 a.m. and scheduled to see *Beethoven, As I Knew Him* on Tuesday, April 28, also at 10:00 a.m. Email reminders will be sent before each event. If you have any questions, please call or email me.

## DEBATE CLUB

by Katrina O.

Have you heard of the book How to Win Friends and Influence People? Do you desire to be able to express your opinion effectively? Then come to the Debate Club. We will study together the skills of effective reasoning. We will learn how to construct a logical argumentation. Finally, we will practice the Lincoln-Douglas debate and other forms of debate to sharpen what we have learned.

The first Debate Club meeting will be on Wednesday, January 7 at the Eckstrom-Columbus Branch Library (4350 E. 22nd Street) from 11:00 a.m. to 12 :00 noon.

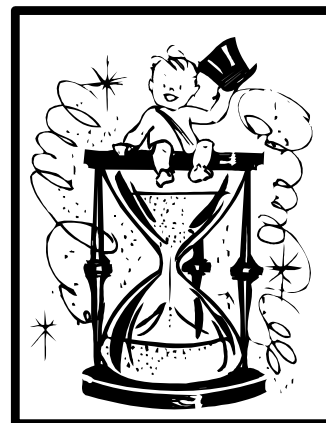
We will meet weekly at this library on Wednesdays except for January 28. There will be a club fee of \$1.00 each meeting. If you are interested or with any questions contact me, or come to the first meeting.

## 2009 TUCSON HOMESCHOOL SPELLING BEE

The 2009 Tucson Homeschool Spelling Bee will be held on Friday, January 23 at First Southern Baptist Church, 445 E. Speedway (west of UofA). It will be in the chapel. Parking is on the backside of the church.

Schedule: 9:15 Jr. Spelling Bee check in  
9:30 Jr. Spelling Bee begins  
10:00-10:30 Refreshments for all contestants  
10:15 Spelling Bee check in  
10:30 Spelling Bee begins

CHET-SE is hosting the spelling bee this year.



## YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE CLASS

by Kim B.

This spring I will be offering a Young Adult Literature class. We will read six books — three classics and three contemporary books. We'll spend approximately two weeks reading and studying each book.

The class will be every Wednesday afternoon from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Classes start on February 4 and end on May 6. We'll meet at Laurie C.'s house which is near Mountain and Ft. Lowell. I have room for 7 students. There will be a charge for the class of \$100 per student. If this is a hardship for anyone you can talk to me and we'll see if we can work something out. Also, if you have more than one child there will be a discount. If you are interested, please contact me by January 28.

Students will be expected to read the material assigned for each class and be prepared for class discussions. We'll discuss the books during each class. We'll discuss the themes, symbols, and ideas that come up in the books as well the structure of the writing. Everyone will be expected to be respectful of other student's opinions and thoughts.

Students will be asked to keep a reading journal. The journal will be for the student to keep track of his/her thoughts and ideas on the books while reading. It is informal, but is not meant to be private. I will want to at least see the journal and make sure work is done; if the student wants it to be private occasionally I will respect that privacy.

Each student will also be required to write one 3-5 page paper which will be due at the end of the session. This can be based on one of the books or a combination thereof.

This class is for at least middle school age and up. After all these are young **adult** books. The subject matter of the books is not meant for young children. The books contain some bad language, mild sexual suggestions, moderate violence, references to rape (in a courtroom), and some disturbing scenes. Here is the reading list (the library has them all):

To Kill a Mockingbird, by Harper Lee

A Separate Peace, by John Knowles

Lord of the Flies, by William Golding

The Hunger Games, by Suzanne Collins

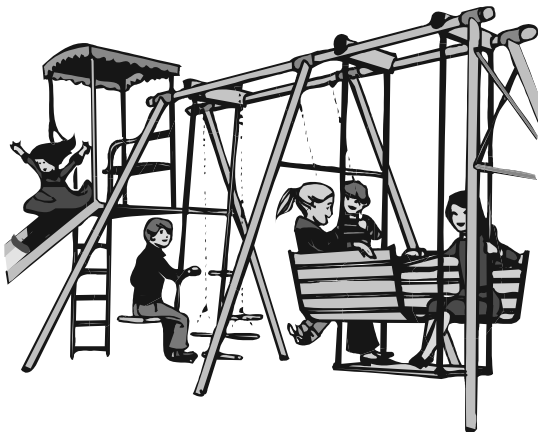
The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian, by Sherman Alexie

The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks, by E. Lockhart

What I plan to do is to pair one classic with one contemporary book that has a similar theme. For example, To Kill a Mockingbird and The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian both deal with race and prejudice. They do so in different time periods and with different groups of people. The narrators are different genders and ages. The other pairings are Lord of the Flies and The Hunger Games; and A Separate Peace and The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks.

I also tried to have a balance between books written by men and women and books with male and female narrators. With the exception of To Kill a Mockingbird, all of the books have teenaged narrators.

If you have **any** questions as to whether your child is ready for this class or about the books or the class or about me, please feel free to contact me by phone or email.



SDH PARK DAY  
is every Tuesday.  
For January we will  
continue the trial run of  
McCormick Park.  
(see page 1)  
Announcements  
are held  
at 11:00 a.m.

## **SDH MONTHLY PARENT OPPORTUNITIES**



### ***Parents' Book Discussion Group - January 20***

The book discussion group meets at the regular park day, on the third Tuesday of each month. It starts at 12:00 noon and goes until we are finished, likely around 2:00 p.m. People are always welcome to join whether they've read the book or not.

- January: *Nineteen Minutes* by Jodi Picoult
- February: *Why Good People Do Bad Things* by James Hollis
- March: *Mercy* by Jodi Picoult
- April: *The Post-American World* by Fareed Zakaria
- May: *The Happiness Myth* by Jennifer Michael Hecht

**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 - January 28***

Held on the last Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. For January, we do not yet know the location, it will be announced when known. Also please feel free to call Lara B. for info.

### ***Dads' Coffee Night - January 7***

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



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## **Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers**

<http://tucsonhomeschoolers.org>

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