



Inside SDH

Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers • Tucson, AZ • July 2007

SUMMER THURSDAYS

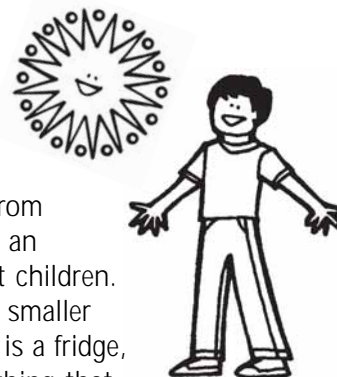
by Sybelle V. and Kristi G.

We now have use of an indoor space for the summer! The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of NW Tucson is generous enough to let us use their community building from 11:00 to 3:00 every Thursday in June, July and August. There are three rooms to use and an outdoor play ground and sandbox. There is also a nursery room with toys for the smallest children. One room is great for crafts, another is good for games, dancing, yoga, etc. and there is a smaller room with couches and a TV where some of the older ones could play video games. There is a fridge, microwave and stove, so we can have snacks and lunch there also. Just don't bring something that will leave bad spots if spilled!

If someone wants to organize an activity and use the space for that on a Thursday, or offer an ongoing series of activities, please contact Sybelle V. or Kristi G. We are thinking about having Art Trading Cards, other crafts, and boardgames every week. In addition, someone could offer family yoga, or teach a dance class, etc. It would be preferable if the activities stay free (other than cost of materials), so it is accessible to all in SDH. There will be a jar for donations for those who can afford to contribute a little towards the cost of A/C, etc. to give to the church.

We are very happy to have this available to us and would like to ask that those using the space be respectful of it. Please help clean up when you leave and watch/ talk with your children, so things will not be broken.

Address: 3601 West Cromwell Drive, Tucson, Arizona 85741 Directions: Cromwell Drive is 3/4 of a mile North of Ina Rd on Thornydale (1/2 way between Ina and Cortaro Farms Rd). Turn East onto Cromwell, at the flag pole at the fire station. Stay on Cromwell to the end and the drive is on the right.



ARIZONA OPERA STUDENT DRESS REHEARSAL PROGRAM 2007-2008

by Donna J.

It's not too late to sign up for opera tickets— just get your order to me by July 20. Students and their parents may attend the final dress rehearsal of three of Arizona Opera's productions this coming year. Tickets are \$6 each for students and \$12 each for adults. In addition, there is a free look-in, a glimpse behind the scenes, showing the work involved in creating an opera.

To sign up, let me know how many adult and how many student tickets you want for each opera and send a check to cover the entire cost of your order. Be sure to also include your phone number and email address. Mail everything to my home address, which you can find in the roster. Please make your check out to me, so I can consolidate our payments. If you have any questions, call or email me. For the first sign-up, **I must receive your order and ticket payments by July 20.** I will do a second sign-up in September if seats are available. All the dress rehearsals take place at the Tucson Convention Center Music Hall, 260 S. Church. For more information, go to Arizona Opera's website: <http://www.azopera.com>

- **Donizetti's Lucia Di Lammermoor** – Thursday, October 4, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

Bound by family honor yet secretly sworn to another, Lucia is forced to marry a man she does not love. With the signing of the marriage contract, her tragic fate is sealed. Set in 17th century Scotland, against the atmospheric Lammermoor Castle, love and deceit conspire to lead Lucia towards insanity.

ARIZONA OPERA STUDENT DRESS REHEARSAL PROGRAM

(continued)

- **Strauss' Die Fledermaus** – Thursday, November 8, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

Strauss' comic romp has been the toast of audiences since its debut in Vienna in 1874. As the sun rises after an evening of hidden identities and frivolity, the Bat's revenge is realized. Metropolitan Opera star, mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe returns to Arizona in the role of Prince Orlofsky.

- **Mozart's The Magic Flute** – Thursday, February 28, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

With the aid of a magic flute, Prince Tamino is guarded on his journey towards spiritual enlightenment. Layered with visual allegory and sublime lyricism, it awakens our visual and aural senses.

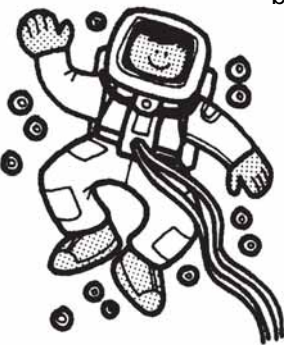
- **OPERA LOOK-IN – FREE!** – Saturday, March 1, 2008, 12 noon

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.



ARIZONA SCIENCE CENTER GROUP TRIP

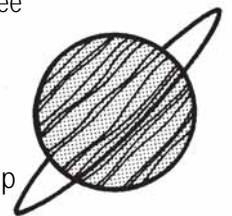
by Lara B.



The Arizona Science Center group trip is all set for Monday, July 30. It is \$6 per person for everyone 3 years old and older. (Under is free and completely welcome - strollers are welcome too.) If you would like to see either the Imax show (which for our group will be Deep Sea 3D at 1:15 p.m.), or any Planetarium shows (there are a few to choose from listed below based on interest and age), then it will be an additional \$2 per person per show (which is a huge savings from the regular price). There will also be a special exhibit, "CSI Insects", which is a walk-thru viewing at \$1 per person. I need payment by **July 9th**, so please send me a check, along with the number of paying people, and exactly what show(s) you are also signing up and paying for. There really is no maximum limit for our group, because we can go into whatever separate groups we'd like once we go in, but I do need to pay in advance. (Whoever is seeing the Imax and/or Planetarium shows will just need to make sure they get to those at the right time.)

Here is a list of the Planetarium shows that you have to choose from (everyone is welcome to see whatever ones they would like, regardless of the stated grade level):

- **Grand Tour of the Planets**, 10:15 a.m. - geared for 3-6 graders
- **Starry Story Time**, 11:00 a.m. - geared for preschool-2 graders
- **Arizona Skies**, 11:45 a.m. - geared for 2 graders and up
- **If Earth Were the Size of a Baseball**, 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - geared for 3 graders & up
- **Cosmic Coasters**, 2:30 p.m. - geared for 3 graders and up



You can bring your own lunch, or they have a cafe too (there will be a new cafe with a new owner and new food choices than what they have now). There are only two places where eating is allowed; an outside area, and an inside lunchroom. There is also an educational gift shop. The Science Center is fully accessible to wheelchairs.

Parking seems to change there depending on various things, so when it gets closer, I will post parking information. We will meet out front of the entrance at around 9:30 a.m. and then need to go in as a group **right at 10:00 a.m.** when doors open to each get our tickets. (For those who are going to the 10:15 Planetarium show, you will go to that first thing). They close at 5:00 p.m. and everyone is welcome to stay until then.

The website is www.azscience.org. There is a map there too (Google Maps is also a good place for info). It looks as if it will be about 1.5 hours to get there from Tucson. Please pre-gauge the time yourself, as it will vary according to where you live, and parking. If you want to participate in carpooling, either using your car if you have extra room, or wanting to ride with someone else, let me know and I will hook people up.

So, please send a check (made to me) with all information of exactly what you are paying for (my address is in the roster or call) then I will mark you as paid and you will be all set. I will also give you confirmation that I have received your payment. If you send a check, but don't hear from me, please contact me! I would hate to have a mix-up because I never received someone's check!

One more thing; a few of us have talked about possibly going to the Rainforest Cafe for dinner afterwards, so if you are interested in that, let me know and I will make a reservation. It is right off I-10 at the Arizona Mills Mall, www.rainforestcafe.com. I was thinking 5:00 p.m., but that is certainly open for discussion!

Thanks everyone. It will be fun!

ARIZONA THEATRE COMPANY STUDENT MATINEE SERIES

by Donna J.

Don't forget to sign up for Arizona Theatre Company's 2007-2008 Student Matinee Series. The season looks great, but there has been one change in the schedule since the June newsletter. The musical *Mask* has been cancelled. Instead, *The Pajama Game* will be the December student matinee. Student tickets are \$8 for each performance, except for the musicals, *George Gershwin Alone* and *The Pajama Game*, which are priced at \$10 each. Adult tickets are \$15 for the plays and \$18 for each musical.

To sign up, let me know how many adult and how many student seats you want for each performance and send a check 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 roster. Since ATC wants us to submit only one check, please make your check out to me, so I can consolidate our payments. If you have any questions, call or email me. For the first sign-up, **I must receive your order and ticket payment by July 20.** If seats are still available, I may do a second sign-up in September. But there's no guarantee, since many school groups attend these performances and spots fill up fast.

All performances take place at the Temple of Music and Art in downtown Tucson at 330 S. Scott Ave. Descriptions for each play are taken from an ATC flyer. The actors are available for discussions with the students after each matinee. For more information check ATC's website: <http://www.aztheatreco.org>.

- **George Gershwin Alone** – Tuesday, October 2, 2007, 10:00 a.m.

Music and Lyrics by George Gershwin and Ira Gershwin, book by Hershey Felder

Evoking Gershwin's famous radio broadcasts of the 1930s, this musical play explores the life, talent, and spirit of the legendary composer.

- **Touch the Names** – Friday, October 26, 2007, 10:00 a.m.

Conceived by Randal Myler and Chic Street Man, with original music by Chic Street Man

A deeply powerful tribute to the men and women whose names live forever on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the loved ones they left behind, taken verbatim from the letters and mementos left at the base of the wall each day.

- **The Pajama Game** – Tuesday, December 11, 2007, 10:00 a.m.

Music and Lyrics by Richard Adler and Jerry Ross

Book by George Abbott and Richard Bissell

Directed by David Ira Goldstein

Bright and brassy. Sexy and sassy. There's unrest at the Sleep Tite pajama factory when Sid and Babe sit on opposite sides of the negotiating table clashing over a seven-and-a-half cent raise. But love threatens to shut down the plant as the battle of the sexes plays out in this rollicking classic from the Golden Age of musical comedy. *The Pajama Game* is a hit parade of irresistible songs including "Steam Heat," "Hernando's Hideaway" and "Hey There (You with the Stars in Your Eyes)." Stitched together for ATC by the same creative team who delighted us with the sold-out hits *My Fair Lady* and *The Pirates of Penzance*, *The Pajama Game* is a rambunctious pillow fight full of jazzy songs, hot dance and exuberant laughter.

- **The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde** – Tuesday, January 29, 2008, 10:00 a.m.

By Jeff Hatcher, from the story by Robert Louis Stevenson

A story of inner demons and evil unchecked in a theatrically intense, intimate and fiendishly clever new telling receiving its world premiere at ATC.

- **To Kill a Mockingbird** – Thursday, March 6, 2008, 10:30 a.m.

Based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Harper Lee, adapted by Christopher Sergel

A great American classic and one of the most beloved coming-of-age stories ever written, this moving tale of life in rural Alabama during the Depression is filled with heartache and joy, conflict and conciliation.

- **The Clean House** – Tuesday, April 22, 2008, 10:00 a.m.

A mischievously comic look at the dark secrets we sweep under the rug. The New York Times called it, "One of the finest and funniest new plays you're likely to see this season." By Sarah Ruhl

TWEEN AND TEEN THEATRE DISCUSSION AND LUNCH

With such a terrific Arizona Theater Company lineup, including plenty of topics that should spark lots of discussion, how about an SDH Tween/ Teen discussion group? If enough kids sign up, teens and tweens could meet for lunch after the matinees and discuss the play— or whatever! There are plenty of wonderful, inexpensive, and casual restaurants in the downtown area, or maybe for one of the meetings a picnic spot could be found. I would be willing to chaperone. Mothers could drop off their teens, or the adults could have their own lunchtime discussion group at a separate table. If the Tween/ Teen group is a success, there could be some spin-offs. Maybe a movie discussion after a foreign film at the Loft, or a movie at the U of A. Let me know if you are interested.



HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA TEMPLATES

by Debbie G.

This is the time of year that Donna Young makes her diploma templates available for download from her web site <http://www.donnayoung.org/diploma.htm>. You can choose from .doc, .rtf or .pdf files, and there is also a link to a typeable .pdf version — she is trying this out to see if the file prints correctly even when a computer does not have those particular fonts installed (this version does not work properly with Macs).

I have used these templates to generate diplomas for each of my children. As Arizona homeschoolers, we have the right to grant diplomas certifying high school graduation for our children. And remember, you can call your homeschool anything you want.

Even if you are not printing a diploma now, you might want to think about naming your homeschool—it can be useful when requesting materials that require a school letterhead, plus you can also use the name on homemade ID cards for your children.

UApresents

by Alica M.

I have the schedule for the 2007-2008 UApresents. Seats are \$6 each. We meet in front of Centennial Hall on the U of A campus at 10:00 a.m. for each show. Shows are 60 minutes long. I will need your name, how many kids you are bringing to each show (only one adult per family), which shows you want to attend and a check made out to *The University of Arizona*. You can find my mailing address in the roster or contact me for more information. You must be or plan to be a SDH member to sign up. **Deadline for the second sign-up is August 28.**

To find out more information about the shows go to www.uapresents.org

- **Diavolo** – Friday, November 2, 2007
- **Ballet Tucson 'The Nutcracker'** – Friday, December 7, 2007
- **Frankly Ben The Science of Achievement** – Friday, February 1, 2008
- **Leahy** – Monday, February 11, 2008
- **Ronald K. Brown/ Evidence A Dance Company** – Tuesday, March 11, 2008
- **Anoushka Shankar** – Friday, March 28, 2008



HARRY POTTER CLASS

by Kim B.

Harry Potter: A Literary and Mythological Treasure Hunt. Following the clues from the Harry Potter books to find the magical treasures of our own world. September 7 through December 14, 2007. Class meets every Friday from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. at Bookman's on Grant/Campbell in the Community Room.

We will be using the Harry Potter books as an entry into literature and mythology. This class is designed for children who have read or are familiar with the Harry Potter series. We will read through them again as we look for our literary and mythological clues, but familiarity is a must because we may do things that require knowledge of aspects of the books that are ahead of what we will be reading, especially during the first few classes.

There is no age limit for this class. Parents can join too! The class is designed for children who can understand the books and the many themes and characters from literature, mythology, and history we'll be researching. Students will be asked to read the books, but this can be done in any form available (a parent can read aloud or the student can listen to an audio book). I actually recommend the audio books because the reader is terrific!

Children attending the class must be able to sit through a 1 ½ hour class which may include lecture and discussion. Students may also be asked to write short papers (transcribing to a parent is fine), or give oral reports, or do projects. Homework may be given (but not much!). We may watch parts of the movies as well for comparisons with the books.

This class is something that I'm working on as a teacher, so it may change as the weeks go by. So, if you or your child is attending, please bear with me! I am not sure how many of the books we can cover, but it should be at least the first book. If it works well and the kids like it, we'll continue on with the subsequent books.

There is no cost. You will need a copy of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. A library copy is fine as long as you don't plan to write in it! If your child is interested, please let me know. I need to have a general idea by September in case I need to make copies or have props of any kind. Here's what I have planned for the first class: Students create their own houses (like at Hogwarts) including names, attributes, and history. I will help provide ideas, sort students into houses, begin lecture journey of the archetypal hero (using Harry as an example), discussion, and give out reading assignment. If you have any questions please contact me.

SDH MONTHLY PARENT OPPORTUNITIES

Parents' Book Discussion Group - July 19

At June's book discussion we made our new book list (see below). Book Group is always the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m., and you are welcome to come whether you have read the book or not. We meet at Denny's (3655 E Speedway - two blocks west of Alvernon).

- July's book: *Freakonomics* by Steven Levitt
- August: *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life* by Barbara Kingsolver
- September: *What Was She Thinking?: Notes on a Scandal* by Zoe Heller
- October: *Middlesex* by Jeffery Eugenides
- November: *Tomorrow's Children* by Riane Eisler
- December: *Liquid Jade: The Story of Tea East to West* by Beatrice Hohenegger
- January: *The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness* by Simon



Wiesenthal

Note: Middlesex has a very long waiting list at the library, you will need to reserve it NOW to get it in time. (I own it and can lend out that copy, and, I am also on the waiting list so that I can lend out that copy when I get it.) A couple of the other ones will need to be reserved as well, so please do that ahead of time if you plan to read that book.

Moms' Coffee Night - July 25

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 - July 4

Held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Borders on Oracle. Since this month's falls on July 4th, Dad's may want to reschedule.



NORTHWEST PARK GROUP - THURSDAYS

by Joy M.

The NW Park group is on a break until late August. There may be an occasional activity located on the northwest side. If you are interested in participating with this sub-group, go to:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nwtucsonhomeschoolers>

SDH WHO'S WHO LIST

by Lori O.

To see who is signed up for which SDH jobs, please go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SDH-newsletter/files/> Please email me if you see any errors, would like to volunteer for any open positions, or if you have any trouble reading the files.

Hi,

This is Hannah V. from Girl Scout Troop 1155. I want to thank everyone for all the wonderful books donated during the month of May and June. With your help I was able to collect 226 children's books and 100 adult books.

I donated the children's books to El Rio Medical Clinic. They provide medical services to over 30,000 children annually in the Tucson area.

I will also be volunteering at their Reach Out and Read program. I will be reading to young kids in the clinic once a week for a few hours. I am very excited to start.

Again, thank you for helping me achieve my goal.

Hannah

A simple line drawing of a young girl with long, wavy hair, wearing a dress with a collar. She is sitting and reading a large book. The drawing is enclosed in a rectangular frame with a decorative border.

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."

