



Inside SDH

Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers • Tucson, AZ • June 2007

GAME DAY by Lara B.

Game Day is all set for Sunday, June 10 at the downtown Main Library (Joel Valdez). It will be 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the downstairs community room. Everyone is invited to come play games! All ages and abilities are welcome. Bring any games you'd like, the more to choose from the better. You can bring your lunch or snacks, please just pick up after yourselves. No RSVP, just come if you like!

SUMMER THURSDAYS

by Sybelle V. and Kristi G.

Starting Thursday, June 7 we will have the use of an indoor space! 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.

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 first sign-up is July 1.**

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



FAMILY CAMPING

by Lara B.

The camping trip is set for the weekend of June 22-24 (Friday through Sunday) at Peppersauce (backside of Mt. Lemmon). It is \$10 per family per night (you can do just one night if you wish). Arrive anytime - I will be there around noon Friday. If you know ahead of time that you are coming, let me know and I will reserve the large group site in advance. If not then each family will get a single site upon arrival.



One of SDH's homeschool dads will be taking whoever is interested on an outing thru the nearby caves.

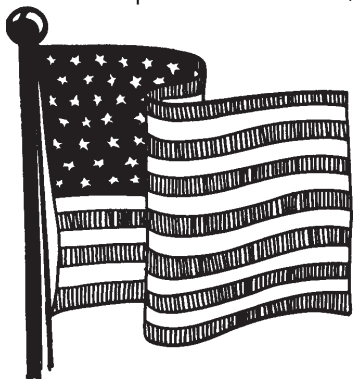
Peppersauce Campsite Info: "Located along the Control Road up Mt. Lemmon's north slope, this campground is tucked away in a shallow, tree-filled canyon cut by Peppersauce Creek through rolling foothills covered with grass, oaks and yucca. Campsites at Peppersauce are spread throughout a creekside oasis of enormous Arizona sycamores and Arizona walnut trees that cast deep shade in summer and a touch of color in autumn."

About 40 miles NE of Tucson: drive north on Oracle Road (US 89). Continue for 27 miles to State Hwy 77. Turn right (east) and drive 10 miles to the town of Oracle. Take the first Oracle exit and travel 4 miles through town to Forest Road 38. Follow FR 38 to Peppersauce Canyon. Facilities: (brick-building) toilets, water spigots, tables, and fire pits.

ARIZONA SCIENCE CENTER GROUP TRIP

by Lara B.

I am in the process of confirming a date for a group trip to the Arizona Science Center in Phoenix. It will probably be the second half of July so please keep an eye out for more information on that on the discuss list. It will be in July's newsletter too, but we could possibly be to our limit by then if there is a lot of interest. If you are not on the discuss list, or just want to make sure you get a spot, contact me and I will put your name on a first come list. Our price will be \$6 per person (instead of \$9 and \$7), with IMAX theater and planetarium each \$2 per (instead of up to \$5 and \$8 per). I won't know exactly what will be available on the day we go until the date is confirmed (ie - IMAX show, planetarium show, special exhibits and/or activities). We can easily set up carpooling! www.azscience.org



FAIR for Educators

by Debbie G.

It's almost FAIR time again... the second annual FAIR for Educators, that is. Come to the FAIR to discover learning opportunities and resources available to educators in Southern Arizona. With 115 exhibitors in the exhibition hall, break-out sessions, a lounge, free snacks, and plenty of parking, this should be a memorable and fun-filled day. This year, the FAIR will be held at the Holiday Inn Palo Verde, one of the largest venues in town, so there will be plenty of room for everyone.

When the concept of a FAIR for Educators was first being developed in late 2005, Kim Fields, program coordinator in the Pima County School Superintendent's office, invited area teachers and homeschoolers to join the planning committee — this is how I became involved. The committee's goal was to host a free event that would showcase free and reasonably-priced learning opportunities in the Tucson area, with the hope that it would grow into an annual event. FAIR stands for Fantastic A+ Instructional Resources, and each fair has been planned with those words in mind. Last year's FAIR was attended by over 700 educators; this year, we hope to top 1000.

This year's title sponsor is the Glassman Foundation, and the venue sponsor is the University of Phoenix. Other sponsors include Wells Fargo, K-LOVE, Bear Essential News for Kids, the Tucson Association of Museums, Elsberry Contractors LLC, and the Metropolitan Education Commission. Preregistration is available at <http://www.pimaregionalsupport.org/fair/index.htm>



FAIR for Educators
Thursday, June 21
Holiday Inn Palo Verde (4550 S. Palo Verde Rd.)
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
FREE!!

ADULT BOOK GROUP

by Lara B.

At this month's book discussion group we will make our new book list. If you have any books that you would like to suggest the group read, please come and let everyone know your picks! Book is always the third Thursday of the month, and you are welcome to come whether you've read the book or not. See page 5 for details.



ARIZONA OPERA

STUDENT DRESS REHEARSAL PROGRAM 2007-2008

by Donna J.

Arizona Opera is giving Tucson students an opportunity to attend the final dress rehearsal of three of its productions this coming year. Tickets are just \$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.

If you are interested in attending any of this coming season's student dress rehearsals, now is the time to buy your tickets. 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.

- 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.



SDH WHO'S WHO LIST

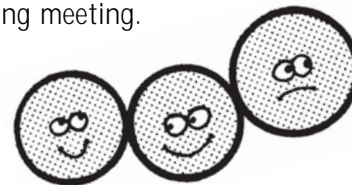
by Lori O.

To see who is signed up for which SDH jobs, please go to

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SDH-newsletter/files/>

The Who's Who list was created at last month's planning meeting.

Please email me if you see any errors, would like to volunteer for any open positions or or if you have any trouble reading the files.



ARIZONA THEATRE COMPANY STUDENT MATINEE SERIES

by Donna J.

It's time to sign up for Arizona Theatre Company's 2007-2008 Student Matinee Series. This season looks great, especially for tweens and teens. Student tickets are \$8 for each performance, except for the musicals, George Gershwin Alone and Mask, which are priced at \$10 each. I will be confirming the price of adult tickets since this information wasn't included in the announcement packet. However, I believe they are set at \$15 for each seat for all performances. I will post this information as soon as I get it. Before you mail payment to me, please call or email me to confirm prices.

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.

- **Mask** – Tuesday, December 11, 2007, 10:00 a.m.

Book by Anna Hamilton Phelan, music and lyrics by Barry Mann and Cynthia Weil

A new musical headed to Broadway starts its journey on ATC's stages. Created by some of the Great White Way's most acclaimed talents and based on the award-winning film. Contains Mature language.

- **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.

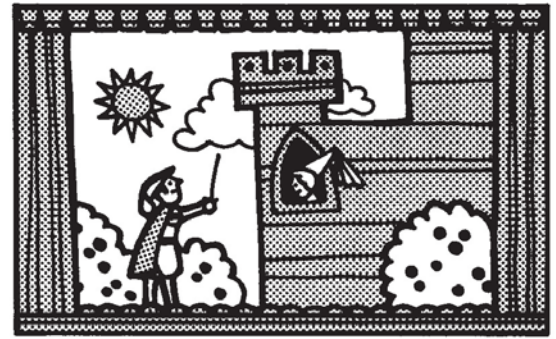
- **To Kill a Mockingbird** – Thursday, March 6, 2008, 10:30 a.m.

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.

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.

No cost. You will need a copy of Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone. A library copy is fine with me as long as you don't plan to write in it! If you think your child will be interested, please let me know. I will need to have a general idea by September in case I need to make copies or have props of any kind. Thanks!

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

SDH MONTHLY PARENT OPPORTUNITIES

Parents' Book Discussion Group - June 21

At June's book discussion we will make our new book list. If you have any books that you would like to suggest the group read, please come and let everyone know your favorite picks! Book Group is always the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m., and you are welcome to come whether you've read the book or not. We meet at Denny's (3655 E Speedway - two blocks west of Alvernon)

- June's book: *The Tipping Point* by Malcolm Gladwell
- July: *Freakanomics* by Steven Levitt

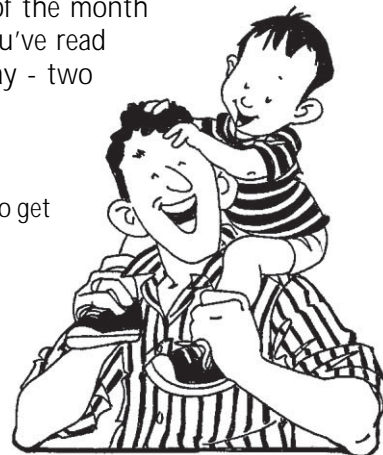
Note: Some of the books may have a waiting list at the library. If you plan to get a selection from the library, you may want to look into putting an early hold on it.

Moms' Coffee Night - June 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 - June 6

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



"It is a wise father that knows his own child."

William Shakespeare



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."