

# Inside SDH

Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers • Tucson, AZ • March 2008



## CLOTHING EXCHANGE

by Christine S.

The spring clothing exchange will be at the park on Tuesday, March 4. As in the past, please bring your outgrown and/or unused clothing to the ramada closest to the playground. There will be one table for girls clothes, one for boys clothes and one for adult clothing. You do not need to bring something to take something. Take whatever you can use. I will be bagging up the excess at approximately 1:00 p.m. Any items left will be donated to a local family shelter.

## SDH GROUP PHOTO

We plan on gathering all the kids on Tuesday, March 4 after announcements for an SDH group photo. Please bring your kids and your cameras to participate.



## FREE CHAMBER MUSIC RECITAL

by Victoria M.

On Thursday, March 6 there is a free Arizona Friends of Chamber Music Youth Recital at 10:30 a.m. It will be in the Leo Rich Theatre in the TCC complex. This is a wonderful opportunity for our children to listen to live chamber music. Please call or email me if you are interested in joining us so I can let the ladies know how many we will be. Please arrive at 10:15 so we can be seated for the 10:30 show.

## ARIZONA THEATRE COMPANY (ATC)

by Donna J.

The next Arizona Theatre Company student matinee, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, is scheduled Thursday, March 6. If you have tickets, plan to meet me in front of the Temple of Music and Art at 9:30 a.m. I will send out individual email reminders with more specific information right before the event.

## UA presents

by Alica M.

Our last two shows are this month: Ronald K Brown/ Evidence a Dance Company on Tuesday, March 11 and Anoushka Shankar on Friday, March 28. For both shows we will meet in front of Centennial Hall at 10:00 a.m. Please leave time to park. We go in as a group so please try and be prompt. The shows begin at 10:30 and will end about 11:30. I have not received a refund check yet for the Nutcracker. I will ask them again about it.

## MAY MUSIC RECITAL

by Victoria M.

On Thursday, May 1st we will have our annual May Music Recital. All are welcome to come and listen or to participate. The recital starts at 2:00 p.m. at the Armory Park Senior Center in downtown Tucson just to the east of the Children's Museum across 6th Ave.

One of our talented musicians suggested that all of us learn "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" (if you don't know it already) in the KEY OF C. At the end of the recital we can all play it TOGETHER! You may want to arrive a little early so we can play it once through. For all the pianists, we'll have to see how many we can fit at the piano at one time!

Please call or email me to include your children on the program.



## MOM'S NIGHT OUT

by Donna J.

I will be organizing a mom's night out at the theater to see ATC's production of *The Clean House*. If we have at least eight participants, we will be able to get a group ticket discount. I will post more information in March on SDH-Discuss and have an article in the April newsletter. If you aren't on SDH discuss and want me to keep you posted by phone, please call me.

## ROOTS & SHOOTS AND EARTH SCOUTS

by Lara B.



### • GOAT FARM VISIT

We have been invited to visit a wonderful goat farm on the NW side. It rescues goats, and other animals too (and has a nice country store with handmade goat's milk soap, raw honey, natural lotions, and possibly some fresh herbs and veggies the day we are there, tee-shirts, etc for anyone interested). We will take a tour and find out how and why they rescue their animals, and see how the farm is run. There may be brand new goat babies too then! The friendly goats are free to roam and will come up and greet you, and may even decide they'd like to see what your clothes taste like! So, if your little ones might be nervous about that, you may want to mention it beforehand. (The goats which aren't as friendly are not roaming free.) Also, these animals have been rescued, so sometimes they come in not so great shape - so just letting you know in case you see an animal that is still being nursed back to health. There is no cost, but a small donation from each family would be greatly appreciated. It goes directly to the feed and care of the rescued animals. Also, something really fun for the kids; save up and bring vegetable cuttings and even carrots and apples and such to feed the animals, they love it, and again, super fun for the kids. This is appropriate for all ages and whole families. It will be fun for everyone! Here is the website: [www.hoofsnhorns.com](http://www.hoofsnhorns.com)

We will meet there at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 13. The farm is on the far NW side of town/Marana (not far from I-10). Please let me know if you plan to come so I can tell the approximate number. When it gets closer I will send out exact directions.

### • EARTH DAY PARADE AND CLEAN AIR DAY

At our planning meeting, we decided that our theme for the Earth Day Parade this year is going to be awareness of what plastic waste does to sea creatures - from the tiny bottom feeding krill that end up eating the plastic micro beads that are found in many body and face soap scrubs, to the floating swirling plastic grocery bags and bottles that in one 'spot' alone covers the size of Texas in the pacific ocean. Everyone is invited to participate - you do not need to "sign-up" for R&S or Earth Scouts! Just come and participate if you are interested!

Our procession will be an ocean, and the kids will be the ocean creatures. We will have a group get together to make parade stuff on Monday, March 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (if you can't come for the whole thing, come for whatever time you'd like) at the Grant and Campbell Bookmans.

The parade is on Saturday, April 19, so there is a lot of time before and after our get-together to start and/or finish anything that people are creating (people are welcome to do stuff completely on their own at home if they wish to do that too). We will use material and old sheets to create the ocean - two looong pieces on each side being waved to make the waves! Then kids and adults can each be an ocean critter (a fish, an octopus, a squid, etc.) while carrying a tall stick/dowel with a plastic garbage something-or-other hanging from the top. (ie a group of those six-pack holder rings dangling down, a couple milk jugs, a bunch of plastic grocery bags, empty bath soap w/ scrubbing beads containers, etc.) So if you would like to get started, go right ahead! Also, come on the 17th and we can work on everything there. Bring (or give to me ahead of time) anything you have that you would like to contribute to the parade stuff. Also bring whatever you need to make your sea creature costume if you are making one that day. Be creative, and do whatever you'd like to do! Please call if you have any comments or questions!

### • CAMPING AND HIKING

We've set up a camping and hiking trip up in the Colossal Cave area. There are bathrooms and running water in the campgrounds there. It is Friday, Saturday, and Sunday - May 2, 3 and 4. (Please note that the dates have changed from my announcement at park.) It's \$5 per car (up to 6 people) per night, and you can come for one night (Fri or Sat), or both. You need to be in by 5:00 p.m. (Fri and/or Sat) as that is when they close the gates for the night. Sunday at 10:00 a.m. is our Cave Day Hike and is \$5 for 13yo and up, and \$3 under. It is completely optional, but I will need prepaid reservations for it. There will be an on-site option of a gem and arrowhead sleuth of \$7 per, or 2 people for \$12. (I do not need reservations or payment for that, you can decide and pay then for that there if you are interested.) For the camping and cave hiking, I need sign-ups and payments by April 12. I will take sign-ups and payments at park each week, or you can send it through the mail. Please just add up the one or both nights you'd like to stay, and if you are doing the hike, total it and send it off. I will give exact directions when it gets closer. If you have any questions, please call or email or see me at park!



## **HARRY POTTER CLASS BOOK 4**

by Kim B.

A new session of the Harry Potter class will start on March 21 and go until May 23. This session will focus on Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire. Class is Fridays from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. This class will be held in two different locations. On March 21 and March 28 we will be in the Community Room at the Bookman's on Grant/Campbell. Starting on Friday, April 4 and continuing until the end of classes we will be in a classroom at the Providence Institute, which is located at 3400 East Speedway.

This class is designed for kids who are familiar with the book. We will read through it again, but familiarity is a must (even if it's watching the movie). We may discuss things out of order that could spoil the plot for those unfamiliar with the book. The kids can read the books in any format. Listening to an audio book or having a parent read is perfectly acceptable. The age limit is 9 and up. The class is long at 1 1/2 hours and we spend a lot of time discussing the book. We also spend time doing a "close" reading of the book; picking out themes, studying characters, and understanding plot.

I also plan to have the students write one paper. I will help them learn to write an essay and we will use the book to give us ideas. The length and breadth of the paper will depend on the age and ability of the students. It may vary from a couple of paragraphs to two pages. If your child does not write then he/she can transcribe the paper to a parent.

If your child is interested, please let me know by March 14. I will need to have an idea of how many students to expect. The limit will be 20 students. Also, if your child was in my previous class I will still need to be notified if he/she wants to attend again. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

## **FUNHOUSE MOVEMENT THEATRE SCHOOL MATINEE**

by Heidi H.

The Funhouse Movement Theatre will present a show on Thursday, April 10 at 10:30 a.m. at the Pima Community College Proscenium Theatre (West Campus). This will be a modern dance production and Hanna Herrington will have a part in it with her dance school. We will meet in front at 10:00. The show lasts about 90 minutes. If interested e-mail me and let me know how many or let me know at park. I have 30 seats available.

## **ANNUAL PARENTS PLANNING MEETING**

by Lara B.

Just an early heads-up that the Parents Planning Meeting for the 2008-2009 SDH year is set for Monday, May 19. I will open doors at 5:30 p.m., and we will start promptly at 6:00 p.m. and can go until almost 8:00 p.m. when they close. It will be in the big lower-level community room at the Joel Valdez Main Library. We will decide dates for the annual activities and go over each job that needs a new volunteer to do it. If there is a job or something that you would like to add, this is a great time to do it. If you already have a job that you would like to give up, please post it and announce it ahead of time if you can, so that someone else can think about it and volunteer for it either before or at the meeting.

If someone has something that they'd like to add to the meeting, but cannot come, please let someone who is going know, so that it is passed on there. I will make the standard agenda to pass out, so if you have something that you'd like added to it beforehand, let me know! There will also be a period of time at the meeting that we go over last-minute stuff that does not make it onto the list.

## **GEOGRAPHY CLUB** by Donna J.

Since I am helping to organize the Medieval Fair and will be working on that in March and the fair itself will be held in April, I am not scheduling any geography club meetings in the next two months. I am planning one final meeting for this year in May, which will also be an opportunity to discuss possible activities for next year.

## **SCIENCE FAIR STUDY SESSION CANCELED** by Donna J.

I didn't hear from anyone planning to participate in the Southern Arizona Regional Science Fair (SARSEF) this year, so I am canceling the March 8 project evaluation study session.

## **NORTHWEST PARK DAY** by Joy M.

The Northwest Park group meets regularly at Richardson Park on Thursday's from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Some of us may arrive earlier or later. Be sure to bring plenty of water, sunscreen and snacks and a chair. Directions: Richardson Park is located behind Richardson School, 6901 North Camino De La Tierra 85741. Cmo. De la Tierra is half mile east of Thornydale Rd. Take Ina Rd. or Orange Grove Rd. to Cmo. De La Tierra. The school and park are located half-way between these streets on the westside. On occasion, the group decides to not meet or relocate at another park, please contact Joy for further information.





## MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL

by Heather H.

The grand Medieval Festival is scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, at the park. Come one come all and join in the fun. We are still in the planning stages, but we do have the SCA coming for sure and are trying to get someone to do a falcon demo. There will also be an art show and science show going on at the same time. (see below)

All families are encouraged to participate. Some ideas are cross stitching, eliminated letters, castle building done with legos or wood or cardboard or whatever (realistic or fantasy), herbal demonstrations, building medieval weapons (trebuchet, catapult), poetry, clothing, knitting, sewing, quilting. Pretty much anything is open and encouraged! The more people who do something, the better the Festival will be.

We are trying to get some tables and "tents" to put up to help with all the demos. During the next few weeks there will be things for the children to do that can be used at the festival (such as making a coat of arms, eliminated letters, etc.) if you have any art supplies that you would be willing to donate, please let me know.

Our homeschool website has a great resource page <http://hozho.homestead.com/MedievalCenter.html>. The public library also has many books on medieval times with loads of information and crafts.

Also during the festival there are plans for a potluck lunch. It would be interesting to see how much we could make that used ingredients they used back in the medieval times (800 AD to about 1500 AD).

I also want to encourage everyone to dress up. It would be loads of fun to see all the kids and parents into the spirit!

As a side note there was medieval history going on all over the world! We don't need to just stay in Europe. If you know anyone who knows anything about what was going on in Asia, the Middle East, the Americas or Africa at that time, have them come and do a talk or a demonstration.

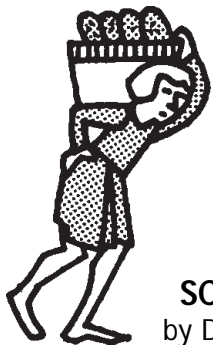
Please contact me so we can set up times so there is no overlapping and everyone can see everything. Like I stated above, the more people that participate the better this thing will be!



## BIG ANNUAL POTLUCK EVENT

by Lara B.

We have decided to do a combined themed event on April 8 this year. It will be Medieval (see Heather H's announcement), Science (see Donna J's announcement), and Artist's Day. For the Artist's part, everyone is encouraged to bring something they've made to display, or set up and do a performance (performing arts). Be creative, don't be shy! Let's see your artistic side!!! This is also potluck! Again be creative; something Medieval related, Science related, or Arts related.



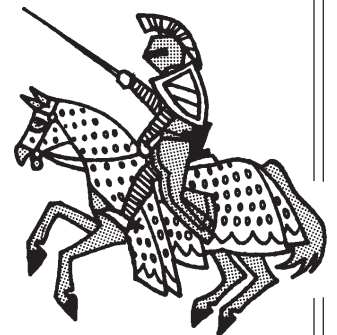
## SCIENCE FAIR

by Donna J.

If you have been following the posts on SDH's discussion board, you know I have made some big scheduling changes and the fair won't be held on April 22, as originally planned. Since there was such an enthusiastic response to having a Medieval Festival, this year's science fair will instead be held during the Medieval Festival, set for April 8 during park day.

Merlin the Wizard will be on hand with some cool science fair demonstrations to show the kids. I will also set up a table so our kids can display their own science creations during the Medieval Festival. They may exhibit any type of science project, experiment, demonstration, report, or collection, such as a rock collection. The topics don't have to relate to the Medieval time period. But feel free to have fun with that theme, if you want to. Possible science fair projects that relate to the Middle Ages could include ideas like constructing a catapult, showing how herbs were used during that time period, or maybe even constructing a water mill. If you liked the previous Earth Day theme, that still could inspire some great projects too.

Since I must set up display tables, please let me know if you plan on exhibiting a science creation. If you have any questions, please call or email me.





## **SDH MONTHLY PARENT OPPORTUNITIES**

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

The Book Group discussion has a new time and place! It will be at the regular Ft. Lowell park day, on the third Tuesday of each month. It will start at 12:00 p.m. and go until we are finished, likely around 2:00 p.m. For the summer months of June, July, and August the book group will still meet on the third Tuesday of the month, but instead of at park it will be at the Borders on Oracle (across and a little south of the Tucson Mall) from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. The Cafe is open until 11:00 p.m. and should be perfect for sitting outdoors!

People are always welcome to join whether they've read the book or not!

- March: *The World Without Us* by Alan Weisman
- April: *Next* by Michael Crichton
- May: *Nineteen Minutes* by Jodi Picoult
- June: *The Bookseller of Kabul* by Asne Seierstad
- July: *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult
- August: *Citizen Vince* by Jess Walter
- September: *The War of Gifts* by Orson Scott
- October: *A Complaint-Free World* by Will Bowen

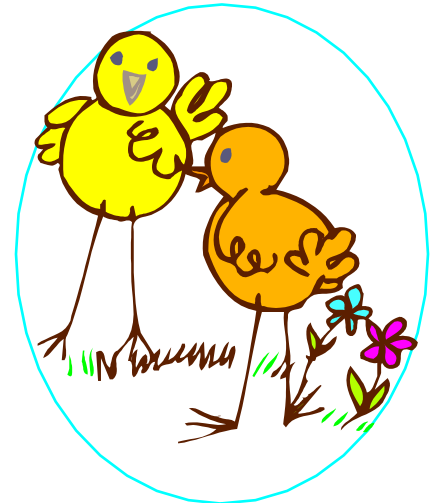
**Note:** Some of these books have long lists at the library, so you might want to get on the list asap if you plan to get them from there.

### **Moms' Coffee Night - March 26**

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 - March 5**

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



## **Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers**

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