



Inside SDH

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All contact info is now on page 7!



Spring SDH Music Recital

by Victoria M.

Our recital this Thursday, May 4th will be held at Christ Community Church beginning at 1:30 p.m. Christ Community is located on Pantano halfway between 22nd Street and Broadway at Kenyon. There is a light at Kenyon and Pantano. The Church is on the NORTHWEST CORNER. It is a huge (in my opinion) "campus." Our recital is in the OASIS CENTER. The best, most direct way to get to the Oasis is the park in the FAR WEST parking lot off Kenyon. Park when you can see the children's playgrounds with numerous play structures. Then walk by these structures (in an easterly direction) towards the center of

the campus. I will place signs out to lead you to the Oasis. If you do not follow these directions (as I myself perhaps would do if in a hurry or a forgetful moment with many children in tow) then just wander around until you find an office with a helpful person or happen on us accidentally. Try to arrive early to allow time to find the OASIS CENTER!

After our recital we will enjoy bountiful snacks and fellowship! If you have yet to call me about being added to the program, please do so soon!

All guests and friends are welcome. There is plenty of room.

SDH Parents' Planning Meeting

by Donna J.

Help map out another great year for SDH by attending our Parents' Planning Meeting, set for Monday, May 15 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Wilmot Branch Library, 530 N. Wilmot Rd. The purpose of the meeting is to schedule events for the coming year and to make sure each activity has someone responsible for organizing and announcing it. We'll also review the Who's Who List to see which jobs still need to be filled, added, or removed. If you have a planning item that isn't listed below, please let me know so I can add it to the agenda.

Dates to Set:

- First Park Meeting (August 15, 2006)
- Curriculum Exchange
- Fall and Spring Clothing Exchanges
- Talent Show
- Halloween Party
- November Event
- Fall and Spring Music Recitals
- December Event
- Valentine Exchange
- Group Photo
- Spring Event
- April Fool's Potluck
- Biography Dress-Up
- Child Recognition Day
- Last scheduled park day in May
- Parents' Meeting May 2007
- First Park Meeting August 2007

Space Day

by Donna J.

For those of you who may not have seen my post, I had to cancel the astronomy-related activities I had tentatively planned for May 4. Unfortunately, Flandrau's Star Lab was already booked through the end of the month. I'm still trying to organize a rocket launch event. But right now it too remains very tentative. If I can arrange something before the last park day, I will announce it at park and post the information. Failing that, these activities will go on my to-do list for the fall when Laura Coleman and I will be starting a science club. Sorry to all who expressed interest in this event. I'll keep working on organizing similar activities, at least I'll have a head start on next year!



Teen Night

by Christina and April B.

We were enjoying getting together at the bakery on Fridays with the teens, but we have not made it lately do to the time. We would like to start a teen night if teens are interested. We thought we would start with once a month—the first Friday of each month—starting with May 5. I know this is short notice, but we are completely flexible with any night schedule starting around five. The plan for this first night is to have any and all teens come to our house for pizza and games from 5pm to 8pm or 6pm to 9pm, based on your responses. Email or call to get more info and rsvp.

Puppet Show for SDH Kids

by Colleen H.

Altruus International of Tucson, a women's professional organization who does civic service activities, has contacted me to put on a free puppet show for homeschooled students exclusively for SDH. This group has a wonderful public service record and focuses their activities almost entirely on literacy now. They have a traveling puppet show of *The Three Little Javelinas* storybook. They will be putting on a presentation of the puppet show, and then give the books out to kids who come. They also have an introductory activity, like a craft, and refreshments. All of this is free!

A room at the Himmel Public Library Activity Room has been reserved on Saturday, May 13th at 10am. We have decided to focus on 4-7 year olds. Siblings are welcome, so entire families can accompany

the little ones—although only 1 book per family will be given out. Room space is limited and a head count is needed to help the group prepare the activity.

I am very excited to organize an event like this. It is quite a pleasure to know the woman from the group—an actual former public school teacher—who is quite excited to do something for homeschooled kids. Their enthusiasm is a pleasure. And the price is right too (FREE). Many have responded via email, and this is a reminder as well as a last call. We are already up to around forty people! If you have signed up already, don't forget the date and if not, you will need to contact me right away. Thank you to the group for your warm response. It will be great to have a good showing.

'tween Time

Sybelle V.

I need to apologize for having to cancel the potluck in April. I don't have anything planned for May. If your child is interested in getting together during the summer, please let me know at park, by phone, or by email. We can then think of some "cool" things to do.



Scholastic Book Sale

by Sybelle V.

The Scholastic Warehouse Sale will take place at the Four Points Hotel on Speedway and Campbell. The sale is set up in the Conference Center behind the hotel. The dates are May 16-19 10:00 am to 7:00 pm (Tuesday starts at 12:00). Most things will be marked down 50%. You can print a pass and a discount coupon at <http://www.scholastic.com/bookfairs/warehouse>

See page 7 for all contact information.

Annual SDH Curriculum Exchange

by Sybelle V.

Our annual curriculum sale will take place on May 9th during park day. Don't take the term curriculum too seriously: anything that helps kids learn can be brought. This includes games, books, music, movies, software, video games, toys, blocks, manipulatives, workbooks (you know, those that were only used for four pages...), and curriculum too.

I would like to wait to set up until after announcements. Bring a

table or blanket to set your stuff up on. Don't forget to bring some change if you're selling and money if you're buying. Traditionally we've had very reasonable prices, so it is fun to browse and see what everyone brings.

I will not be coordinating this next year. I have done it for several years and it is an easy job, so if you want to take it on, let Erin S. know, or better yet, come to the parents' meeting!

First Annual FAIR for Educators

by Debbie G.

- Wednesday, June 21
- 10:00 am – 6:00 pm
- Sheraton Hotel Ballroom
- 5151 E. Grant Rd., Tucson

Mark Wednesday, June 21 on your calendar, and be sure to attend the First Annual FA + IR for Educators. The FA + IR (Fantastic A + Instructional Resources) is coordinated by the Pima County School Superintendent's Office, and is sponsored by KB Home and Bookmans. It's a free day-long event with exhibitors and presenters offering information about learning resources in Pima County, and will be held at the Sheraton Hotel Ballroom, 5151 E. Grant Rd., from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm.

What can you expect to find at FAIR? Lots of information from exhibitors like Pima County Parks and Recreation; the De Grazia Foundation; UA Presents; A.C.M.E. Studio; Tucson-Pima Public Library; the T Rex Museum and Dinosaur Exploratorium; The C.A.S.T.; the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum; the Arizona Historical Society; Tohono Chul Park; the Pima Air & Space

Museum; the Southern Arizona Transportation Museum; the Tucson Children's Museum; Pima Community College Center for the Arts; Reading Seed; Pima Prevention Partnership/Pima County Teen Court; the Arizona State Museum; the Tucson Audubon Society; Tumacacori National Historical Park; and the UA Center for Middle Eastern Studies.

Plus free snacks! And door prizes!

Kim Fields, from the county school superintendent's office, invited me to serve on the fair's steering committee because she wanted a representative from Tucson's homeschooling community. A few details for the fair are still being worked out—I will have an update in the June newsletter (if there is one).

In the meantime, please visit FA + IR's registration page at <http://www.schools.pima.gov/FAIR/fair.htm> if you are interested in attending.



Game Day for Summer

by Colleen H.

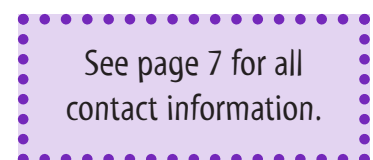
Game Day, a great SDH monthly tradition wonderfully carried out for a very long time by Sybelle V., is changing organizational hands. At the last minute, some rooms were able to be secured for the summer months. The invitation extends to all SDH, to old and new attendees for game play. Grown ups and kids play, there is a variety of games, and please bring your own to share for the day. The room is at Woods Public Library on First Ave and Prince (the one with the flying books on the marquis), in the smaller activity room, accessible only through the children's area of the library. Bathrooms are nearby, there is a sink in the room, and tables. There is even a little kids door next to the regular door. All ages welcome and activity is free! They were nice enough to book three months at once. If the room doesn't work, we can change it, but let's give it a try. Hey, it's summer and there is air conditioning—what else can we say. Bring games and a fun spirit—see you there!"

Dates & Times:

Thursday, May 18th, 1–4 pm
Thursday, June 22nd, 1–4 pm
Thursday, July 20th, 1–4 pm

Location:

Woods Library



When They're Too Old for Park Day

by Debbie G.

Here's a web page to visit if your child is nearing adolescence—*When They're Too Old for Park Day: MOOS*, at <http://www.redshift.com/~bonajo/moos.htm>.

"You need support like you did in the beginning, but where do you find it? Your kids are too old for park day, your local group is geared toward younger families, and you are way too busy to start a teen co-op. But you need support from people in the same boat."

Five women decided to meet one night a month, with the idea of creating a group that would provide them support for homeschooling their older children. Here is a quote about maintaining the group's focus: "Our focus is 'high school and beyond.' We try to always remember our focus. Our primary mission is not about parenting teenagers, arranging a social group for our kids, or getting a night out with the girlfriends. It's about homeschooling high school."

Mother Daughter Workshop

organized by Laura C.

I am interested in holding a one time interactive workshop for mothers and their daughters who are coming of age. I have contacted a very compassionate and gifted facilitator who has designed an interactive format for a two hour one time workshop. Rebecca Keogh is a graduate in English literature with a strong background in Jungian psychology and has 10 years experience in using storytelling to enhance workplace relations. Currently she owns her own business that guides people through story journeys. At this workshop mothers and daugh-



SDH parents of kids about 12 and up might be interested in starting a similar group. Parents of teenagers feel overwhelmed as it is, and when you add homeschooling into it, some sort of support network is probably essential to the parents' well being. A subgroup like this might be really useful for parents who wonder if they are up to the task.

If you have questions about homeschooling teenagers, please drop me an email—I'm the mother of a 22-year-old daughter, and three sons ages 20, 18, and 16, and they were all homeschooled. I don't make it to the park much these days, but I am happy to answer questions and share experiences!

ters experience one of her folk stories and learn some of the beginning archetypes. They will be asked to share stories from their personal lives so they can learn to identify the archetypes at play in their world. The goal of the workshop is to help girls recognize the strengths within themselves that will help them on their journey to become women. Rebecca is offering this workshop one time at the end of May and space is limited to 6 mother daughter groups. If this is of interest to you, please phone me for information about cost and location.

Is No News Good News?

by Jackie O.

As of this date, the position of SDH newsletter editor for next year is unfilled. It may still be moi — can't say for sure but I do know that I will be taking the months of June and July off. If any of you would-be publishers would like to give the newsletter a try for those two months, I'd be happy to answer any questions and pleas for help. The newsletter can be as complex or as simple as you would like and could be created in most any computer program with which you're comfortable. Running text in a Word document would do the trick. Even a single loooong email would work!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.



*If you bungle raising your children,
I don't think whatever else you do well
matters very much.*

—Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis

Happy Mother's Day!

See page 7 for all
contact information.

May's Featured Web Sites *by Debbie G.*

May Days! May Day and Cinco de Mayo

From Bry-Back Manor

<http://www.cstone.net/~bry-back/holidayfun/maydays.html>

Learn about the history and customs of these holidays, and try some craft and food projects relating to each day.

Mother's Day Activities

from DLTk's Crafts for Kids

<http://www.dltk-kids.com/crafts/mom>

Links to craft projects for Mother's Day gifts



Celebrating Mother's Day

From Kids' Turn Central

<http://www.kidsturncentral.com/holidays/mothers/momday.htm>

Craft ideas, plus a page about dealing with Mother's Day when you don't have a mother around, or have many mothers.

Learn to Read at Starfall

From the Polis-Schultz family

<http://www.starfall.com>

"The Starfall learn-to-read website is offered free as a public service. We also provide writing journals and books at a very low cost that can be used with the website or separately. Teachers around the country are using Starfall materials as an inexpensive way to make the classroom more fun and to inspire a love of reading and writing. Primarily designed for first grade, Starfall.com is also useful for pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and second grade. Starfall is perfect for Home Schooling." Starfall is offered by the creators of Blue Mountain greeting cards. The site is aimed at 6 year olds who are learning to read.

Memorial Day

From the History Channel

<http://www.historychannel.com/exhibits/memorial/index.jsp>



"Memorial Day is much more than a three-day weekend that marks the beginning of summer. To many people, especially the nation's thousands of combat veterans, this day, which has a history stretching back all the way to the Civil War, is an important reminder of those who died in the service of their country. Uncover the interesting history of the holiday we now call Memorial Day."

Also... visit the SDH Featured Web Site page at
<http://www.hozho.homestead.com/ThisMonthsFeaturedSites.html>
and check out past collections at
<http://www.hozho.homestead.com/FeaturedSitesArchive.html>

SDH Monthly Parent opportunities

Every month of the year, SDH has opportunities for parents to meet, talk and get to know each other better.

Mom's Coffee Night

Currently Mom's Coffee Night is held on the last Wednesday of every month at Something Sweet located at 5319 E. Speedway. That's at the NE corner of Speedway and Beverly (the Office Depot store is on the intersection's NW corner and Live Theater Workshop is in the same plaza). We get together at 7:30 pm but don't worry if you can't make at 7:30—many of us stay until midnight! We chat, laugh, and generally have a great time. It is a great way to get to know others better and there is always a mix of parents of younger or older children so you can ask lots of questions. Contact Kim B. if you'd like more information.



Men's Coffee Night

Men's Coffee Night is the first Wednesday of each month. This is an opportunity for fathers to discuss homeschooling issues, as well as other topics. Please join us at Borders on Oracle, for coffee, tea, good company and conversation. This casual meeting starts around 7:30 pm. Contact Jeff O. for more information.

See page 7 for all contact information.

Parents' Book Discussion Group

A Parent's Book Discussion is held the 3rd Thursday of each month at Something Sweet, 5319 E. Speedway, 7:00 pm. Questions? Contact Lara B.

2006

- May: *The Final Solution: A Story of Detection* by Michael Chabon
- June: *If You Want Me To Stay* by Michael Parker
- July: *The Legacy of Luna* by Julia Butterfly Hill
- August: *The Prince of Tides* by Pat Conroy
- September: *The Death of Innocents* by Helen Prejean
- October: *Atlas Shrugged* by Ayn Rand
- November: *Protecting the Gift* by Gavin de Becker
- December: *Mapping Time* by E.G. Richards

2007

- January: *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: Each of the above books is in high demand at the library. If you plan to get a selection from the library you may want to put an early hold on it.

SDH Treasury Report

by Claire B.

March	\$1,179.10
new members 5 X \$5	25.00
pay outs	15.45
Total April	\$1,188.74

Do you like meeting new people?

Each month, SDH Newcomer Liaison Committee members take turns being available to meet newcomers, hand out newcomer packets and answer questions about SDH and homeschooling. Current participants are Heather M., Christine S., and Lori O. If you like meeting new people and helping SDH welcome new members, consider being a part of this group.

If interested, please contact Heather M.

**Contact information
available to
SDH members only.**

May 2006 SDH Calendar of Events

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
	1	2 SDH Park Day 10:30am at Fort Lowell Park • May Day event	3 Men's Coffee Night 7:30pm at Borders on Oracle	4 SDH Music Recital 1:30pm at Christ Community Church, NW corner Kenyon and Pantano	5 Teen Night see page 2 for more info	6
7	8 Rocks and Ropes Camp 9am-12:30pm at Rocks and Ropes, 330 S. Toole Ave.	9 SDH Park Day 10:30am at Fort Lowell Park • Curriculum Exchange	10 Rocks and Ropes Camp 9am-12:30pm at Rocks and Ropes, 330 S. Toole Ave.	11	12 Rocks and Ropes Camp 9am-12:30pm at Rocks and Ropes, 330 S. Toole Ave.	13 Puppet Show <i>The Three Little Javelinas</i> 10am at Himmel Library
14	15 SDH Parents' Meeting 6-8pm at Wilmot Library	16 SDH Park Day 10:30am at Fort Lowell Park Scholastic Book Sale 12noon-7pm at Four Points Hotel, Speedway & Campbell	17 CYT Matinees <i>Snow White</i> 9:30am or 1pm at Crowder Hall, UofA Campus Scholastic Book Sale 10am-7pm at Four Points Hotel, Speedway & Campbell	18 Scholastic Book Sale 10am-7pm at Four Points Hotel, Speedway & Campbell Game Day 1-4pm at Woods Library Parent's Book Discussion 7pm at Something Sweet	19 Scholastic Book Sale 10am-7pm at Four Points Hotel, Speedway & Campbell	20
21	22	23 (the last) SDH Park Day 10:30am at Fort Lowell Park	24	25 SDH newsletter deadline 12:00midnight	26	27
28	Memorial Day 29	30	31 Mom's Coffee Night 7:30pm at Something Sweet			

Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers FAQs

About SDH

SDH is a home education network serving homeschoolers throughout Tucson and Southern Arizona.

- SDH was founded in January 1999.
- Over the years, an average of 95 families are SDH members, with children from infants through teenagers.
- SDH meets on Tuesdays at Fort Lowell Park, from mid-August through mid-May at 10:30 am. Group announcements begin at 11:00 am.

What are the benefits of joining?

Every month, the Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers newsletter, *Inside SDH*, will be sent to you either electronically or by mail.

- Get the SDH membership roster, plus regular updates.
- Participate in SDH-discuss, an e-mail list restricted to current members of SDH.
- Participate in and help organize SDH group activities for your children and children of all ages.

What does it cost?

\$10 per year (after January, the fee is reduced to \$5 for the remainder of the year—SDH years run August through July)

How do I join SDH?

To join, come to the Tuesday park meeting—you can submit the form below plus the fee to a newcomer committee member in a yellow SDH t-shirt or to Treasurer Claire B.

More questions?

Send to: sdhtucson@yahoo.com

New and renewing members: Submit this form and \$10 **cash** (\$5 after January 1st) to either a Newcomer Committee member in a yellow SDH t-shirt or the SDH treasurer, Claire B.

Parents' Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone Number _____

SDH maintains an e-mail discussion list as well as providing electronic delivery of *Inside SDH*.

e-mail address _____

If you do not have an e-mail address, *Inside SDH* can be delivered by snail-mail. Please check this box if you would like to have your newsletters mailed to you.

Child(ren)'s Name(s) and Birthdate(s) (mm/yy)

If provided, this information will be included on the SDH roster. The roster is available *only* to SDH members and is never sold or used for any solicitation purposes.

Every attempt is made to record payment and personal information correctly. If you provided an e-mail address, you will receive an invitation to join the online discussion list and newsletter group. If you did not provide an e-mail address, you will receive the next published newsletter by mail. If you have any questions regarding your membership, please see the treasurer.

Spring Membership deadline is March 21, 2006.

Memberships will be accepted after this date but will not be included in the spring roster.

Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers

<http://tucsonhomeschoolers.org>

Info: sdhtucson@yahoo.com

Newsletter: sdhnewsletter@yahoo.com



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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."