



# Inside SDH

Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers • Tucson, AZ • May 2007

## PARENTS ANNUAL SDH PLANNING MEETING

by Lara B.

**Friday, May 18, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** at Bookman's East (Speedway and Wilmot) in the Community Room

All SDH parents are invited to come and help make the yearly SDH calendar and the Who's Who volunteer list. I will bring copies of the itinerary for everyone to use and make notes on. You may want to bring your daily planner/calendar to help with scheduling. This is also where new volunteers take over jobs from people who are giving them up.

If you know you are giving up a job please post it (along with what the job entails) to the discuss email list and also announce it at park so others can think about taking it over.

If you would like to take-over a job, please speak up! If you would like to start a brand new job from scratch or plan something, please do. That is what this group is all about!

If you can't come to the meeting, please pass on the information to someone who is, so it gets on paper.



## SPRING MUSIC RECITAL

by Victoria M.

Thursday, May 3 at 2:00 p.m. we will have our Spring Music Recital at Washburn Pianos on Broadway just east of Craycroft. All are welcome to come and enjoy the musical talents of fellow homeschool students.

## CURRICULUM EXCHANGE

by Jackie O.

Get ready to clean out your bookshelves; the SDH Curriculum Exchange is set for Tuesday, May 8! Bring your no-longer-used curricula to the park, set up a table or a blanket and see if you can pass on your discards to another homeschooling family (AND make a few dollars too!) Remember, it need not be just textbooks. Videos, games, puzzles, toys, anything that has helped your child learn and grow can be considered curriculum.

I am also inviting anyone in SDH who has a curriculum-related business to set up and display their wares too during the exchange. (No, Tupperware can NOT be considered curriculum!) Please wait until after the 11:00 announcements before setting out your goodies. And remember to hit the ATM yourself before you come to park. You might find just the thing to enhance your family's homeschooling experience.



Happy  
Mother's Day!

## HOMESCHOOL INFORMATION MEETING

by Laura C.

I am hosting a homeschool information meeting for Monday, May 14 at the Joel D. Valdez Main Library located at 101 N. Stone Ave. beginning at 10:00 a.m. Various resources for families looking into homeschooling will be offered such as information about SDH, how to register to homeschool, homeschool conventions, curriculum choices, etc. If anyone is interested in helping with this event please contact me. Whether you have suggestions or would like to come share your homeschooling experience with new homeschoolers, your involvement is welcomed and appreciated.





## BOOK DONATIONS

by Hannah V. (age 11)

My name is Hannah V. I am a Junior Girl Scout from Troop 1155. I am currently working on my Bronze Award Project. The Bronze Award Project is a way for girl scouts to give back to the community and to the world. My project revolves around literacy. I am in need of new and/or gently used books that are in good condition. I will be donating the books to two different Tucson organizations, one for adults and one for kids. In addition to donating books, I will be reading to young kids at El Rio Community Center. I love to read so this project is really fun for me to share my love of reading with others.

I will be at the park on May 8 and May 15. I will have a box under the ramada where you can drop off your books. If you have any books that you would like to donate, I would really appreciate it. Thank you.

## PLANT SALE by Alica M.

Our girl scout troop has grown plants from seed gotten from Native Seed Search and Seeds of Change. I will be selling them at park on May 12. They are all in one gallon pots and will be \$4.00 each. We have lettuce, spinach, tomatoes, peppers, basil, melon, squash, beans and more. If you have any questions please contact me.

## MOM'S BOWLING NIGHT OUT by Lara B.

We're doing it again! The no-smoking law has now gone into effect here in Tucson, so those of you that didn't want to come last time because of the smoke can come now! Come One - Come All, no pros necessary - it's all for fun! It will be at Fiesta Lanes on River & Oracle, on Monday May 14 from 9:00 to midnight. (You can come early to pay and get shoes, bowling is turned on right at 9:00.) Bowling with shoes is \$6.50. Because it's Half-Buck Night, the following are just 50-cents per; pizza slices, sodas, nachos, and hot dogs - for anyone interested.

## ART CLUB by Laura C.

Art club will be on Thursday, May 31 starting at 10:00 a.m. The activity will be painting with watercolors. Celeste W. will be demonstrating. Art Club takes place at my home and homemade pizza is served for lunch. Please RSVP for directions and so enough supplies and pizza can be provided.

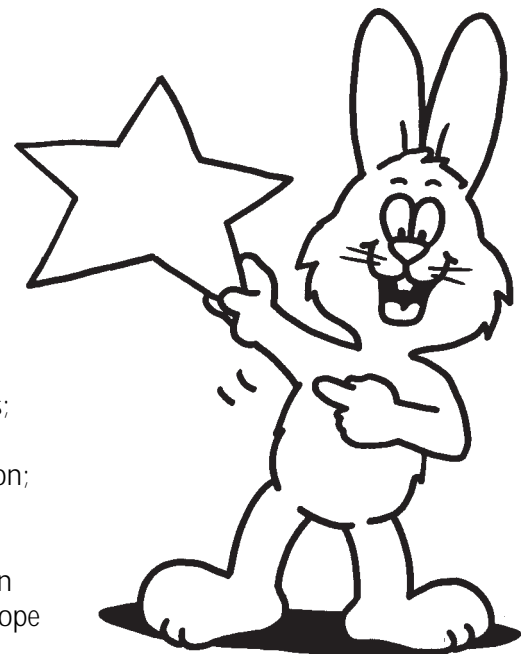
I had said May will be the last Art Club until September 2007, but a wonderful opportunity fell into my lap, so in June we will do Japanese stamp art. I will post details in the June newsletter.

## COUNTY FAIR RESULTS by Theresa W.

Congratulations to everyone who had entries at the county fair. Here are the results for our group:

- *Ashlen Brennan*: Pottery - red ribbon
- *Ali Brennan*: Pottery - white ribbon
- *Shalyor Brennan*: Batik scarf - blue ribbon
- *Sarah Burton*: Painting - red ribbon
- *Heidi Herrington*: Bread - red ribbon; apple pie- red ribbon
- *Danni Herrington*: Cookies - red ribbon
- *Emma Holms*: 2 photographs - both blue ribbons
- *Tala McKenna-Johnson*: Drawing - red ribbon; sewing project - white ribbon
- *David, Michael, and Matthew Orvek*: Lego structure - blue ribbon
- *Keagan Walker*: Lego construction - 1st place
- *Donovan Walker*: MaiaSaura diorama - 1st place
- *Briana Wilford*: 10 photographs - 3 blue ribbons and 7 red ribbons; Mardi Gras table setting - blue ribbon
- *Kyle Wilford*: Lego structure - red ribbon; K'nex structure - red ribbon; welding project - blue ribbon
- *Brian Wilford*: Mixed wood jewelry box - blue ribbon; purple heart wood jewelry box - blue ribbon and best in class ribbon

I will definitely do this again next year, so start working on things now. I hope we can have even more entries next year. Great job everyone!



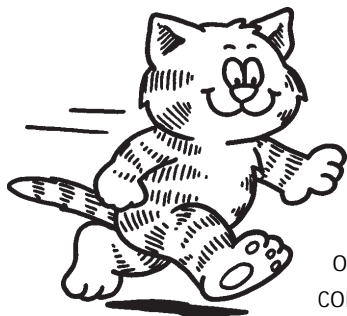
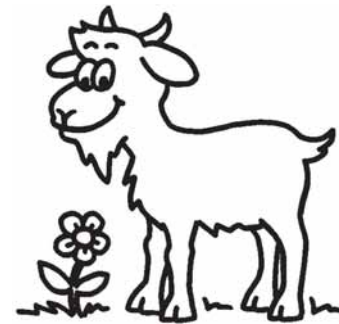
## ROOTS & SHOOTS

by Lara B.

Thanks to the families that participated in the Earth Day Parade. We won First Place.

Roots & Shoots is on hiatus until fall (unless something comes up that we feel we must do). Please think about any activities that you would like R&S to do, and even ones you would like to plan yourself are ALWAYS welcome and encouraged! In the fall we will have our annual get-together to plan some of the things you would like to do.

We will probably do a long-weekend camping trip to Peppersauce again in June (about an hour or so from Tucson, around backside of Mt Lemmon), so keep an eye out for that if you are interested. There is a nearby cave, and the campsite is very pretty and cool with lots of trees. There is water and bath(toilet)rooms, and the cost is modest. (You could even come for just the day if that is all you are interested in.) I will give all the information when it is planned.



## SELF DEFENSE AND KARATE CLASSES

by Holly H.

I am putting together two different classes with Ultima Self Defense and Fitness, located at 7649 E. Speedway (between Kolb and Pantano). This is the group that came to our Multi-Cultural Day and gave us a demonstration. <http://www.ultimselfdefense.com/>

We have enough people signed up for the Self Defense for Kids and Parents class, but can also add more. It will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. starting on May 22. It will cost \$40 per month for each participant. Participants should be willing to commit to six months for this class to run. Depending on how many people sign-up, there will either be a combined adult/child class, or they could run two classes at the same time with

younger kids in one class, and adults and older kids in the other.

The class will be taught by Alan Dankwerth, their senior instructor and co-owner. He is an expert in self defense for kids and in Krav Maga, an adult self defense. The first part of class will consist of warming up, cardio, etc. The body has to be warmed up to then transition into the techniques that will be taught, such as: knees, elbows, punches, kicks, wrist releases, defending against bully pushes, defending against choke holds, how to get off the floor if a fight goes to the ground, how to de-escalate a potentially dangerous situation.

The second class we are trying to put together is Karate for Kids. It could meet Wednesdays and Fridays from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. or we could possibly schedule it at the same time as the Self Defense for Kids and Parents class, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. It will cost \$40 per month for each participant. We need at least 6 people who are willing to commit to six months for this class to run.

The karate classes are based on the Chun Kuk Do system of teaching karate. Chun Kuk Do, Karate (translated, "The Universal Way") will be taught by Ashley Bale-Fehrenkamp, 1st degree black belt. The classes stress the inner growth of each child by concentrating heavily on self-control, self-discipline, focus skills and respect for themselves and others. Children will learn katas (commonly known as 'forms'), how to load, punch, stand, kick, knee, and eventually spar (when they become yellow belts and above). We would like to start this class in the second half of May.

If you are interested in either class or have questions or suggestions, please contact me.

## SUMMER SEWING CLASS

submitted by Victoria M.

Learn to sew! Make cool stuff and have fun learning a creative, productive skill that will last a lifetime! Small, informal classes for beginners, maximum of 6 students per class, ages 12 and up. Taught by Amy Bright, an award-winning quilter with over 25 years of sewing and teaching experience.

Session I: June 11-15 Make potholders and a pillowcase while learning all the basics.

Session II: June 18-22. Make an apron and a placemat while learning all the basics.

Session III: July 9-13. Same as session I.

Session IV: July 23-27. Same as session II.

Classes meet 9:30 to noon, Monday through Fri. \$100/session. The location is near Roller Coaster and LaCanada. Call for registration form to be mailed to you:

887-1494 or email [abrightidea@earthlink.net](mailto:abrightidea@earthlink.net).



**"The mother's heart  
is the child's  
schoolroom."**

Henry Ward Beecher

## NORTHWEST PARK / ACTIVITY DAY - Thursdays

Several families meet at various locations on the northwest side on Thursday mornings. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Ester S.

## EASTSIDE PARK DAY - Mondays and Wednesdays

We meet on Mondays and some Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. at Purple Heart Park in Rita Ranch, also referred to as Rita Ranch Park, on E. Rita Road off Houghton. Usually we are by the main parking area where the blue and orange play structure is. If no one is there by about 11:30 then people can walk over to check the west end of the park by the purple play structure to see if we are there. There are days when none of us can go, so contact Celeste W. by phone or e-mail first to make sure you have someone to meet there.

## AIT : ATHLETES IN TRAINING

Athletes in Training (AIT) meets on Tuesdays at Fort Lowell Park. AIT is a physical education/fitness program taught by trained coaches. Each month will have a specific sport or activity. Classes are in two age groups and at two times: 9:15 -10:15 a.m. for ages 7 and up; and 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. for ages 4 to 6

Costs are: \$16.00 first child, \$12.00 second child, \$8.00 third child, and \$8.00 for each additional child. This is not a drop-off class. Parents must be present and close by when their children attend PE (or have another adult there who is responsible for them.) Children should be dressed appropriately for the activity and wear sneakers.

There's no way to be a perfect mother  
and a million ways to be a good one.



## FEATURED WEBSITES

by Debbie G.

QuarkNet from Fermi National Laboratory <http://quarknet.fnal.gov>

This site is designed for high school students, but in the Online References section, there are links to sites like the BaBar Particle Physics Teaching Package that might be interesting to a younger range of children.

Fermilabyrinth from Fermi National Laboratory <http://ed.fnal.gov/projects/labyrinth/games>

Challenging interactive physics games designed for middle school students.

Science Education Teacher Resources from Jefferson National Laboratory

<http://education.jlab.org/indexpages/teachers.php>

Extensive collection of hands-on activities; printable worksheets, puzzles, and games; online games and puzzles; workbench activities; and an assortment of odds-n-ends.

Center for Science & Engineering Education Resources for Teachers and Students

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory <http://csee.lbl.gov/WebBased.html>

These resources were developed at the lab to make cutting-edge science accessible to students.

Take a look at the Virtual Frog Dissection Kit!

Virtual Visitor Center from Stanford Linear Accelerator Center <http://www2.slac.stanford.edu/vvc>

Be sure to visit the High Energy and Cosmic Rays ...and the Sun page,

<http://www2.slac.stanford.edu/vvc/cosmicrays/crsun.html>

to see a beautiful photograph of the Aurora Borealis (and if you are interested seeing more photos, here is the link to the photographer's page: <http://www.ptialaska.net/~hutch/aurora.html>).

Resources for Teaching from CERN

<http://public.web.cern.ch/Public/Content/Chapters/Education/OnlineResources/Games-en.html>

Some of the interactive games are available in multiple languages.

This is the last collection of web sites that I will put together for SDH. I have enjoyed searching for these sites, and have learned a lot while exploring them. If anyone is interested in continuing the monthly Featured Sites section of the newsletter and has any questions about how to find sites, what to look for, or what to avoid, just let me know. I really think that bringing learning materials to kids is important!





## **SDH MONTHLY PARENT OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Parents' Book Discussion Group - May 17**

The April book discussion was postponed until May, so this month discussion will be on both the April book (*Straight Man*) and the May book (*Zero*).

Also a heads-up; at June's book discussion we will make our new book list. So 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. **Please note that we have changed the location of the meeting. We now meet at Denny's (3655 E**

**Speedway - two blocks west of Alvernon)**

- May's books: *Zero: The Biography of a Dangerous Idea* by Charles Seife and *Straight Man* by Richard Russo

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

**Note:** Some of the above 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 - May 30**

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). **PLEASE NOTE that we no longer meet at Something Sweet, but now meet at Denny's.**

### **Dads' Coffee Night - May 2**

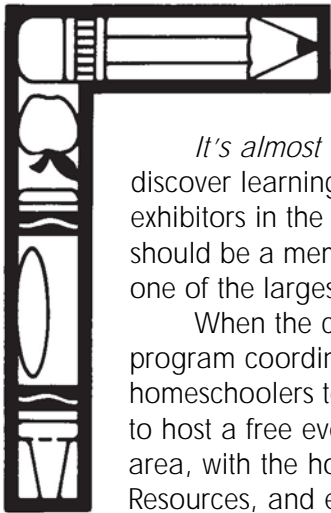
Held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Borders on Oracle.

## **PARK DAY - Every Tuesday**

SDH members meet at Fort Lowell Park (Glenn and Craycroft) every Tuesday starting at 10:30 a.m.

Announcements are held at 11:00 a.m.

Our last park day until fall will be Tuesday, May 22.  
Happy summer!



## **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> .

If you have any questions, please contact me.

**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!!**

