



Inside SDH

Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers • Tucson, AZ • October 2006

FALL CLOTHING EXCHANGE

We will have the fall clothing exchange at our regular park day at Ft. Lowell Park on Tuesday, October 3. Along with any clothing you would like to pass on, this would also be a great time to bring costumes that you want to get rid of since our Halloween carnival will be coming up in a couple of weeks. Any clothes that are left over after the exchange will be donated.



WIZARD OF OZ

by Laura C.

Auditions for the SDH production of Wizard of Oz will be held on Tuesday, October 3 at the Bookman's at Grant and Campbell. Practices for the play will begin on Tuesday, October 10 and will continue each Tuesday at that same location. Bookman's has given us a practice space from 2:00 to 3:00 every Tuesday through December. So go buy books at Bookman's! Kids up to the age of 18 are welcome to participate (very young children at parental discretion). We will perform the play in January. Please contact me if you are interested in participating.

MUSIC RECITALS

by Victoria M.

Rest Home Recital

On Thursday, October 5 we will have a music recital at the Loving Hands Rest Home off Silverbell near Orange Grove. It will start at 9:45 a.m. They usually last about an hour or so and the residents are so happy to be with the children. If you would like to join us please contact me a call at 620-1095.

Winter Music Recital

Our Winter Recital this year will be on Thursday, December 7. The location is yet to be found, but I am working on it and will let you know. These recitals are open to all ages and all levels. We love to hear the children play. Please join us. If you would like to sign up, please call me.

PARK DAY - Every Tuesday

SDH members meet at Fort Lowell Park (Glenn and Craycroft) every Tuesday starting a 10:30 a.m. Announcements are held at 11:00 a.m.

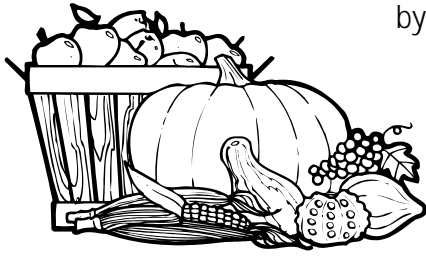
USED CURRICULUM SWAP / SALE

by Joy M.

We will have the fall used curriculum swap/sale at our regular park day at Ft. Lowell Park on Tuesday, October 10 after announcements. If you are selling, bring a table or blanket to set up on and don't forget to bring change. And if you are buying, come prepared to get some good deals on books, games, videos, and more!

ORGANIC PUMPKIN PICKING

by Heidi H.



Friday, October 13 we will be going to Forever Yong Farm in Amado to pick pumpkins. The farm is a little over an hour from Tucson and is the same farm we visited last year for pumpkins. The pumpkins are \$3 for any size (specialty pumpkins may be a little more) and John has honey and garlic for sale and maybe winter squash. John will also give a very short kid-friendly talk about pollinators.

We will meet at the Longhorn Grill at I-19 and Arivaca exit at 9:30 a.m. and carpool to the farm, which is about 15 minutes from there.

Everyone is invited to my house for lunch and sweets after. Please bring your lunch and some sweets to share. We have goats, chickens and a trampoline. Those brave enough may swim, but it's pretty cold. I need to give John an idea of how many kids are coming so please RSVP by October 9.

TEEN ACTIVITY

by Christine B.

We would like to plan a teen outing for Saturday, October 14 and would like to do either cosmic bowling or go to Nightfall at Old Tucson. Please contact me and let me know which activity you would prefer so I can organize a group rate or lanes or whatever is needed for the activity the teens want.

UApresents

by Alica M.

Inti-Illimani will be on Friday, October 20. We will meet in front of Centennial Hall on the U of A campus at 10:00 a.m. Please allow for time to park as it can be challenging. If you have any questions please contact me or find me at park. To find out more about the shows go to www.uapresents.org

UNSCHOOLERS DISCUSSION

by Debbie G.

I heard a great definition of unschooling — if you aren't sure what to call your style of homeschooling, there's a good chance that you are unschooling. Please join us for a relaxed and informal conversation about unschooling — what it is and how we go about it — on Tuesday, October 24 at the park after announcements.

ART CLUB

by Laura C.

We had our first Art Club meeting on September 28. Everyone had a great time and created some beautiful collages. We will meet again on Thursday, October 26 and learn about the art of mask making. We meet at 10:00 a.m. and I will serve pizza at 12:00 noon. There is no charge and all ages are welcome. Contact me for directions.

HALLOWEEN PARTY

by Laura C.

Our annual Halloween carnival will be at the regular park day on Tuesday, October 31. Children (and parents) are invited to come in costume and participate in the parade of costumes. I would like to respectfully request that we remember the little folks and keep the gore and horror out of this event, as we want it to be fun for all ages.

Parents, if you have a Halloween/ harvest activity or game please bring it to share as part of the carnival. And everyone is asked to please take some time during and after the day's fun to pick up any trash that may be left.



AIT : ATHLETES IN TRAINING

by Jaimie L.

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. Ages 7 and up

10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Ages 4 to 6

Parents need to fill out a health questionnaire/ waiver and sign a code of conduct agreement. Please arrive at least 15 minutes early to fill out paperwork and make payment. Costs are: \$16.00 first child, \$12.00 second child, \$8.00 third child, and \$8.00 for each additional child.

Please remember 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.



NORTHWEST PARK DAY

by Ester S.

For those in the northwest, we meet on Thursdays at Richardson Park between Orange Grove and Ina on Cmo. De lat Tierra from 10:00 to about noon. If the weather will be too uncomfortable (rain, mud etc.), you can find us at the Nanini Library just off Shannon.

OCTOBER PUMPKIN FESTIVAL

by Heather H.

Every Friday through Sunday in October there will be a Pumpkin Festival at Agua Linda Farms (it's organic). There will be hay rides, food pickin', a petting zoo, and a hay maze. On certain weekends there will be activities too, like build your own scarecrow, pie eating contest, and pumpkin carving contest. The Loew family will also be offering burgers made from their own cattle (grass fed) and salads made from their own organic greens.

Admission is \$6.00 a car full. The farm is out in Amado, so it is close by. You can visit their website for more information: <http://agualindafarm.net> It sounds like a lot of fun, and a way to support a local organic farmer. Also, the Co-Op on 4th Avenue will be offering their produce now. (all info obtained from the Co-Op newsletter)



MEMBERSHIP and RENEWAL DEADLINE OCTOBER 17

Fall membership deadline is October 17, 2006. Memberships will be accepted after this date but will not be included in the fall roster. Current members not renewed by the deadline will be removed from the roster. Please fill in the membership form and turn it in!

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Membership cards will be distributed to new members based on the parent name on the membership form. If you would like additional cards, please notify Michelle D. If renewing members need a replacement card or additional cards, also let Michelle know.

ARIZONA OPERA

by Donna J.

Did you forget to sign up for Arizona Opera's Student Dress Rehearsals? There still may be time to get your tickets — dependent on availability. I will be doing second sign-ups for the operas listed below. Tickets are \$4 for students and \$10 for adults. I must receive your order and payment by the deadlines noted. (But don't forget the sooner you get your order in, the more likely tickets will still be available.)

To sign up, let me know how many adult and student tickets you want for each opera 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 you can find in the roster. Please make your check out to me, so I can consolidate our payments into one check. If you need to contact me, please note my new email address on the contact information page.

In addition to the dress rehearsals, there is a free look-in. All events take place at the TCC Music Hall and we meet as a group 30 minutes before each performance. For more details, see SDH's June newsletter or go to www.azopera.com for a synopsis of each opera and study guides— just click the "Learn" link.

- **Giuseppe Verdi's Macbeth** Friday, Oct. 6, 7 p.m.

Order deadline: Oct. 3. I'll be at the park on the 3rd to take orders.

- **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's The Marriage of Figaro**

Wednesday, Nov. 8, 7 p.m. Order deadline: Oct. 31

- **Opera Look-In: Madama Butterfly** Saturday, Feb. 3, 12:00 p.m.

Free- Sign-up deadline: Jan. 16

The look-in is designed to give the audience a glimpse behind the scenes. Students will be introduced to Arizona Opera professionals and shown demonstrations with sets, lighting, sound, special effects, costumes, wigs and make-up. This approximately hour-long program ends with a performance by one of AZ Opera's main-stage singers, followed by a question and answer period.

- **Andre Ernest Modeste Gretry's Beauty and the Beast** Thursday, March 1, 7:00 p.m.

Order deadline: Feb. 13

ATC STUDENT MATINEE SERIES

by Donna J.

I will be doing a second, final sign-up for Arizona Theatre Company's 2006-2007 Student Matinee Series. The deadline for all orders is Tuesday, October 31. Performance information and costs are listed below. Please note two changes that occurred after I was given information by ATC this summer: 1) The cost for the "Ella" has increased. If you submitted your order this summer, don't worry about it. But this is the price for new orders. 2) ATC has added an additional play, "Souvenir." No one ordered tickets for "Jitney" during the first sign-up, so I have dropped it from our list. (We must meet a ten-ticket minimum.)

To sign up, let me know how many adult and student tickets you want for each play 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 you can find 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 me or email me. Please note my new email address on the contact information page of the newsletter. Orders must be received by Oct. 31. And, of course, tickets are dependent upon availability, which I cannot guarantee. ATC performances are held at the Temple of Music and Art, 330 S. Scott Ave., and we meet there at 9:45 a.m. and are seated as a group. For more information on each play, see SDH's June newsletter, which is archived on our web site, or go to ATC's web site: www.aztheatreco.org.

- **Ella** 10:30 a.m., December 12, Cost: \$10, students; \$18, adults

- **Souvenir by Stephen Temperly** 10:30 a.m., January 30, Cost: \$8, students; \$15, adults

The true story of Florence Foster Jenkins a would-be opera singer with a heart of gold and an ear of tin.

- **Molly's Delicious** 10:30 a.m., March 30, Cost: \$8, students; \$15, adults

Arizona Theatre Company's Twelfth Night A Breeze
By Isabella L.

Shakespeare at the beach.

One might think that a Shakespeare play set on an island in the 1950s would be quite confusing at times, but except for a few scenes, the Arizona Theatre Company's production of *Twelfth Night* pulls it off quite well.

True to Shakespeare's original work, the tale begins with Viola, a shipwrecked maiden, who dresses as a man, Cesario, in order to work for Orsino, the Duke of Illyria. Orsino is passionately in love with the beautiful countess Olivia. Olivia, however, is decidedly not in love with the Duke, but instead falls in love with Cesario (Viola) when she comes to woo Olivia for her master. To top it all off Viola begins to fall in love with Orsino.

If you think things can't get more confusing than that, the appearance of Sebastian, Viola's presumably drowned twin brother, who looks exactly like Cesario, will prove you wrong. Hugh Landwehr's set gives the impression of a sunny, breezy beach, and the shimmering background suggests heat waves rising off the sand. Unfortunately, the stage is not used to its full extent. Most of the action happens downstage, and only near the end of the performance does much happen anywhere else on the stage.

David K. Mickelsen's costumes are wonderful, reflecting the personality and role of each character. They range from bright Hawaiian shirts, to beautiful dresses, and several styles of bathing suits. The cast, which is full of talent and all different levels of experience, is well rounded.

Lisa De Mont plays Olivia with an invigorating zeal, and her mile wide smile is enough to draw any audience in. Brenda Withers is wonderful as Viola, she gives a sense of believability to the character, and makes Viola easy to relate to.

Although the main characters are impressive, the supporting cast is at the heart of the production. Eddie Levi Lee as Sir Toby Belch, Olivia's drunk and fun loving uncle, and Everett Quinton as Sir Andrew Aguecheek, a bumbling past suitor of Olivia, have amazing chemistry together. Quinton's Aguecheek is endearing at times, as a winsome, flamboyantly energetic character, but at other times his over the top performance is almost too much to bear. Janis Dardaris as Maria, Olivia's waiting woman, is a pleasure to watch, because it is evident that she enjoys her character. Jeff Steitzer as Malvolio, Olivia's steward, is the embodiment of all butler characters throughout time. He elicits laughs from the audience with his first line, which isn't even funny. He is haughty and pompous, yet he secretly longs to be loved by Olivia, and when Sir Toby and Maria play with that longing, he is tricked into looking like a fool. Near the end of the play it is easy to feel sorry for this humiliated, misguided man.

One of the most memorable performances is by Michael Medeiros as Feste, Olivia's fool and minstrel. He takes the stage with his witty humor, and his three songs, skillfully self-accompanied on the acoustic guitar, are beautiful, captivating, and full of passion.

All parts of this production run seamlessly together, and the laughter of the cast is contagious. If you have ever wanted to visit a paradise island, and have a mighty good time while you are there, go see ATC's *Twelfth Night*, and I guarantee you won't forget it any time soon.

Arizona Theatre Company's *Twelfth Night* plays at the Temple of Music and Art, 330 South Scott Avenue, Tucson, through September 30th and at the Herberger Theatre Center in Phoenix from October 5th to the 22nd. Arizona Theatre Company's second production, *Jitney*, runs October 22nd through November 11th. For a schedule of performances and to purchase tickets, call 520-622-2823, or go to www.arizonatheatre.org.



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."

<http://tucsonhomeschoolers.org>

info: sdhtucson@yahoo.com

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GEOGRAPHY CLUB by Donna J.

Do you long to travel the world? Love maps and learning more about our planet and its many nations and cultures? Then explore the globe by joining SDH's Geography Club. The new group's first meeting will be a Geography Games Day, which will be held in November. Look for meeting notices in next month's newsletter and on the SDH discussion board. In addition to playing geography games, we'll take a moment to brainstorm and gather ideas for future club activities. (The games day event had been tentatively set for Oct. 19. I had to reschedule, since I'll be out of town on that date.)

Planning has also begun for SDH's National Geographic Bee, tentatively set for January 6. Study sessions will be held in December. For study aids and to find out more about the competition, go to the national bee's web site: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geographybee>

If you have any questions about Geography Club, or have ideas for club activities, email me. If you're interested in participating, it would also be great to hear from you, so I'll have an idea of the ages of club members, and activities can be planned accordingly.

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY by Donna J.

Looking for an exciting way to help your child learn more about history and at the same time hone their research and writing skills? National History Day (NHD) offers plenty of opportunities to do just that. Despite its name, NHD isn't just a one-day event or competition. It's a yearlong education program that includes regional, state and national competitions. Students in grades 4-12 may participate.

Beginning in the fall, students select and research topics related to the theme. "Triumph & Tragedy in History" is this year's theme. Students in grades four and five participate by creating and presenting posters. In grades 6-12, students may choose to compete in one of five categories: documentaries, exhibits, historical papers, performances, or web sites. The regional competition is March 10 in Tucson with state finals on April 14 at the state capitol in Phoenix. Students must register for the competition by February 4.

An NHD information meeting for SDH members will be held in November, so look for announcements in the newsletter and on our discussion board. Meanwhile, for anyone interested, great information is available on the state's NHD web site: <http://www.nhdarizona.org>. Click on the "2007 Arizona Theme Supplement" link on the left side of the site's homepage for all the details on how to pick a topic, research it, and compete. Also a must-see for anyone thinking of participating is the national web site: <http://www.nationalhistoryday.org>

Last year, two SDH students went to the state finals, and one went to the nationals at the Univ of Maryland. In addition to learning a lot and having fun, they won some wonderful prizes, including cash awards— a super incentive for any student! Several area schools, including Arizona Virtual Academy, had groups of students competing at the state finals. They spent the day in Phoenix, competing and cheering each other on. Some picnicked on the state capitol grounds and then went on to win awards at a ceremony held in the capitol building. It would be terrific to see an SDH group do the same this coming year.

SDH SCIENCE FAIR AND CLUB by Donna J.

Planning has already started for the 2007 Pima County Home Educators Science Fair set for Saturday, February 24. An information meeting will be held in November. Watch for announcements soon and look for all the details in the November newsletter. In addition to the science fair, we'll discuss potential activities for SDH's science club, including a rocket launch. Several parents and students have expressed interest in SDH participating in team science competitions. I have been researching several of these and will also be presenting information on these programs, as well as the Southern Arizona Regional Science and Engineering Fair (SARSEF).

The Pima County Home Educators Science Fair is a wonderful opportunity for students in grades K-12 to share their science research and study projects with the community and other homeschoolers. It's also great preparation for those planning on competing at SARSEF. Participants in the home educators fair may compete individually or in groups and there's a category for family projects. For more information about the fair, go to SDH's science fair web page: <http://www.hozho.homestead.com/ScienceFair.html> For information about SARSEF and general information about science fairs, as well as links to other resources, go to SARSEF's web site: <http://www.sarsef.org>. If you have any questions or suggestions about the science fair or club, please email or call me.

ART TRADING CARDS

by Sybelle V.

I am hoping to create some interest in a phenomenon Bibi and I recently discovered. It is called ATCs, short for Art Trading Cards. Most people are familiar with sports trading cards and Pokemon cards for trading and the like. ATCs are also cards - of always the same size - that are traded. These cards are made by the person trading them. As a matter of fact they are made by anyone who likes to, which includes children as young as four and adults. It is something that was started in Europe and is now done all over the world. Anything you like to do to decorate a small size card is okay. And the fact that cards are made by both adults and children and traded by both also, makes it very non-intimidating to do. Everyone is an artist! Trades are done in person, during a trading event, but also through on-line groups.

Here are the basic rules for the cards: Size is 64 x 89 mm. Cannot be sold, only traded. You trade one card for another card with a person or group. The cards are usually made of cardstock, but people have been known to try sculpey, plastic and other firm materials.

For a good explanation of what ATCs are and how to make them see this website:

<http://www.cedarseed.com/air/atc.html>

This site has a little of the history (it is the original ATC site):

<http://www.artist-trading-cards.ch/index.html>

For some examples see this website (don't be intimidated by the beauty of them):

<http://homepage.mac.com/dentan10/PhotoAlbum19.html>

I would like to organize a day to trade, after people have had a chance to make some. I'm hoping do our first trade after announcements at park on October 24. I may bring blank cards for people to make some on the spot to trade if they don't have any. If you have any materials to share for making cards that day it would be fun to have those. Leftover scrapbooking materials are great, so are bits of wrapping paper, cute magazine pictures, stamps (both rubber and used postal stamps), stickers, markers, glue, etc. Remember, this is for both adults and kids.

Bibi and I did our first trade at the Live and Learn conference. It was a blast! When I get back from our travels I will bring my cards to park for people to see.

CYT "ALICE IN WONDERLAND"

by Laura N.

As we have in the past, we can get a group rate for the next CYT performance, which will be "Alice in Wonderland." I will be taking sign-ups for the school day showing to be held on Wednesday, October 25. If you haven't seen a CYT performance yet, you are in for a treat. The cast is made up entirely of kids ages 8 to 18 (including many homeschoolers). "Alice in Wonderland" is described as a delightful musical containing music from the 50's, 60's, the disco era, country western and gospel! You will be thoroughly entertained with lots of music, dance and fun! For more info. see www.cyttucson.org

You can choose from two showings: Wednesday, October 25 at 9:30 a.m.
or Wednesday, October 25 at 1:00 p.m.

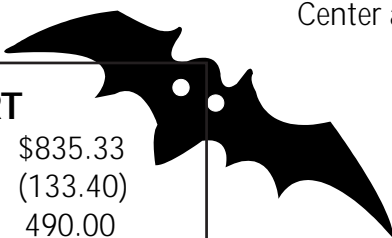
The location of the show will be the Berger Performing Arts Center at the AZ Schools for the Deaf and Blind at 1200 E. Speedway (just west of I-10).

The price is \$4.00 per person.

I will need all names and payments by Tuesday, October 10.

TREASURER'S REPORT

July/August	\$835.33
Pay out (web page)	(133.40)
New members (49 x \$10.00)	<u>490.00</u>
Total for September	\$1,191.93



SDH MONTHLY PARENT OPPORTUNITIES



Parents' Book Discussion Group - October 19

Held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Something Sweet, 5319 E. Speedway. (NW corner of Speedway and Beverly east of Craycroft).

2006

- 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

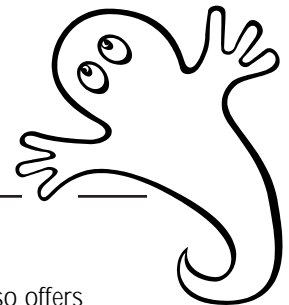
Note: Some of the above books may have a waiting list at the library. If you plan to get a selection from the library, you may want to look into putting an early hold on it.

Mom's Coffee Night - October 25

Held on the last Wednesday of every month at Something Sweet, 5319 E. Speedway (NW corner of Speedway and Beverly east of Craycroft) from 7:30 p.m. to midnight (or any time in between)

Men's Coffee Night - October 4

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



FEATURED WEBSITES

Test Your Geography Knowledge from Lyndsey's Mania

<http://www.lizardpoint.com/fun/geoquiz>

Interactive geography quizzes created by Lyndsey McCollam, owner of Lizard Point . Lizard Point also offers interactive arithmetic quizzes and arithmetic worksheet generators at <http://www.lizardpoint.com/math/mathsheet.html> .

MIT OpenCourseWare from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

<http://ocw.mit.edu/index.html>

Free and open educational resources for educators, students, and self-learners around the world. These college-level classes are offered by 34 departments, including various engineering departments, architecture, literature, foreign languages, sciences, and history. A master course list is at <http://ocw.mit.edu/OcwWeb/Global/all-courses.htm> . This page includes links to curriculum guides, video guides, and supplemental materials.

How Halloween Works from HowStuffWorks.com

<http://people.howstuffworks.com/halloween2.html> Learn about the history of Halloween and All Saints Day, customs and traditions, how to bob for apples, and the controversy about celebrating Halloween

Days of the Dead from GlobalGourmet.com

<http://www.globalgourmet.com/food/egg/egg1096/daydead.html>

Discussion of history and traditions of Dia de los Muertos. It includes a link to a recipe for Pan de Muerto, Bread of the Dead.

Holiday Fun: Ramadan from PrimaryGames.com

<http://www.primarygames.com/holidays/ramadan/ramadan.htm> Site designed for younger children to learn about Ramadan.