November 30, 2010

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SCHEA NEWS AND UPDATES

Registration is open for our New York City trips this May and June. We'll visit Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, walk the Brooklyn Bridge, explore Times Square and watch a Broadway play, get a great view of the city at Rockefeller Center's Top of the Rock, play in Central Park, and have time to explore a museum or other site - your choice. Our groups will be smaller this year, so early registrants will have a better chance of having confirmed spots for their preferred weekend. Come join us!Read more about all of our trips at -

http://www.carolinahomeschooler.com/travel.htm If you'd like to receive updates about this trip or any of our other trips, please subscribe to our Traveling Homeschoolers newsletter at -

http://www.carolinahomeschooler.com/lists.htm Carolina Homeschooler was created in 2004 as a statewide support group for South Carolina homeschoolers. Our trips, however, are open to homeschooling families across the United States and beyond. We are not a travel agency - we just enjoy traveling and meeting new families along the way. Happy Traveling, Dianna

Midlands Home School Band upcoming concert: The Midlands Home School Band is performing a Christmas concert, December 14, at 7 pm, at the Cornerstone Presbyterian Chuch, 5637 Bush River Rd. Irmo, SC. All are invited to attend. The concert is FREE. Any questions, contact Adam or Ellen Nagelvoort adamandellen@windstream.net

I am a Midland, Michigan homeschooling dad. If you are the type that likes to be really organized and are currently using some sort of planning calendar or planning system (FranklinCovey, for example), you might be interested in a website that I put together called **MyPlanningSystem.com**. My planning approach is based partly on the principles outlined by David Allen in his book titled *Getting Things DONE – The Art of Stress-free Productivity*. In addition to Allen's principles, I have integrated the best of all my education, training, career and life experiences. I believe this website offers the best practice approach to help someone get life done in a smooth and more stress-free way. I am currently offering free lifetime access to the website for anyone who signs up before the end of the year with the following passcode: MPS. The website offers both a paper-based and spreadsheet-based planning system that can be Downloaded. In addition, there is step-by-step video training on how to use the system at home or at work. If you are looking for a unique half credit high school elective, there is a curriculum within the Toolbox on the website. Sincerely, George Klement

I would like to set up several Creative Writing classes, for various age groups. It will mainly be for home schooled students but will also be open to any adults or parents who are interested: it is never too late to start writing! We will study a variety of writing styles and go over the fundamentals of writing, to include grammar, spelling, etc, although the emphasis will be CREATIVE writing. As a home schooling parent, I know schedules are full, although (mercifully!) also often quite flexible. If those interested in taking this course could contact me with times that they would be available, then I can attempt to find a time that will suit everyone. The class will run for SIX weeks, and I would like to meet TWICE a week, for a total of 12 classes, lasting an hour to an hour and a half, depending on people's schedules and how much we can get done. The cost will be \$100 per student, \$75 per student for families with multiple members who would like to sign up. In the main class, I would like to take students from 12 years old and up. If there are any parents who wish to sign up a child under the age of 12, please let me know. My belief is that it is also never too early to start developing your child's imagination, and once he or she knows how to read and write, the sky's the limit! Depending on how many students I have, and their ages, I expect to be teaching 2 to 3 classes a week. The number of classes and the ages in each class is also flexible, depending on how many people are interested. I am willing to try to work out something to please most everyone's schedule, if at all possible! I would like very much to get started by mid-November, if I can. I am very excited about this project, as I strongly believe that a rich imagination is essential to a child's development! As a dear friend said to me just recently, "If we choose to stifle our children's imagination, how can we ever expect them to accomplish their dreams?" Hope Ott 992-2898 hope ott@hotmail.com

We have been invited to join the High School league to participate in their varsity bowling program in the spring. Anyone who is interested can contact Darren Goude at darren.goude@sefl.com. This S.C. homeschool bowling league will be for students in grades 7-12. We will have an organizational meeting and tryouts sometime in early January.

Homeschool Leaders: Please pass along the information in this newsletter to your group. If your Group has an announcement of educational events, activities, or performances which homeschool families would be interested in knowing about, **please e**mail SCHEA by **DECEMBER 25 so the** information can be sent out on the e-chain for JANUARY. We want to hear from ALL regions of South Carolina. Thank you. schea.update@gmail.com