

Put On Your Dancing Shoes

Gentlemen, are you ready for some great food, fun, dancing, and oh, did I mention great food? Then you need to sign up for the annual Austin area Homeschool Christian Formal.

Registration for girls has filled up, but there are spots available for guys for this year's dance, to be held April 24 at the Doubletree Hotel on IH-35. About 15 girls are on the waiting list, and they will not be able to go until more guys sign up.

"Students often shy away from dances or formals because of many unknowns," said one of the event's organizers, Kim McGorty. "Students attending the formal can approach the dance floor with confidence because they have attended mandatory dance classes. One gets a lot of experience as well as the opportunity to meet new folks when partners are swapped."

"It would be tons of fun to learn how to dance because I have not had dance lessons before," said One Day Academy student Laura Peisker. "My brother went last year and he told me all about it. He still uses what he learned at the dance lessons when he

goes to a dance at college.

"I think other people would like to go because their friends might be there and it is good to know how to dance. Most of all, it is a lot of fun!"

ODA student Zack Short said, "I do want to go. I think it would be cool to learn how to dance."

"I think it would be fun to go to the formal and be with friends," said Sam Westenhover, a student at ODA. "I heard from kids last year that it was really fun, and they got to know other people by dancing with them."

Mrs. McGorty said, "From the website, students get etiquette guidelines that take the mystery out of the 'formal' part of the dinner dance. Each table has table hosts or hostesses who help keep the conversation flowing at your table.

"Dance cards are created by our team to guarantee that all attendees dance the night away. If you do happen to bring a date, you still get a dance card, but every third or fourth



Students line up to dance the Macarena at the 2008 Homeschool Christian Formal. Photo courtesy of Josh Fowler Photography

dance belongs to your date. Throughout the evening we also provide many 'free dances' where you can take a break or ask someone of your choice to dance."

If you are a guy and are interested in going to the formal and would like more information about it, visit www.christianhomeschoolformal.com. Registration ends March 8; cost is \$90 to attend, with an additional fee for dance lessons.

-Maverick Moses

Was It Always Ribbons and Lace?

Did you know that approximately 110 million roses in America are sold and delivered within the three days surrounding Valentine's Day? One billion cards are exchanged, making Valentine's Day the second largest seasonal card-sending occasion of the year.

Many people have debated the beginnings of this holiday that brings us candy and cards. Unfortunately, history provides several legends and no documented history for the origin of Valentine's Day.

The most well-known story contends that St. Valentine was a priest who served during third century Rome. When Emperor Claudius decided that soldiers would be better without wives and children, he outlawed marriage—but St. Valentine continued to marry couples in secret. Eventually the Emperor found out and sentenced St. Valentine to death. While in jail, the couples whom he had married came to him with cards and flowers showing their gratitude. The legend also relates that the first valentine was sent by St. Valentine himself. While in jail, St. Valentine fell in love with his jailer's daughter, and before his death on February 14, he slipped a letter to her. It was signed, "from your Valentine." A tradition was born.

Our modern Valentine's Day has evolved into one of the most celebrated holidays on the calendar. A grand total of almost 14 billion dollars is spent for the February 14 holiday. The first commercial Valentine's Day cards were made by Esther A. Howland in the 1840s. Howland is known as the Mother of the Valentine. She made her extravagant creations with ribbons, real lace, and colorful pictures known as "scrap."

- Michaela Hood

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Recycling with Green Bags

Recycling is not just putting all your cans, newspapers, and bottles in a bin to be taken away by a truck. You can recycle and be more eco-friendly just by doing simple things around your house.

Green bags are great eco-friendly and inexpensive alternatives to using plastic or paper bags. Most major stores such as HEB sell bags (and they are not just green-colored) for people to use. Other stores like Target and Home Depot sell them, too. Not only are they good for the environment, they are a lot bigger than plastic bags and will not break when you fill them up.

Using paper is probably not some-



Green bags can be used for groceries, but they can also be used for many other purposes, such as carrying crafts or books. Photo by Sami Shamard

thing we can stop doing, but we all can reduce the amount of it we use. We often print out pages from internet

websites, use them for two minutes, then toss them out. Try using the other side of the paper next time you use your printer. You can save not only a tree and a piece of paper, but money too.

Try giving scrap cardboard or other items to school children for projects. My neighbors have three little kids who always need boxes and other odd items, and I feel like I have contributed to a good cause.

These are only a few things that anyone can do to be just a little more eco-friendly. It may not seem like much, but, in reality, every little bit counts.

-Sami Shamard

What is Your Passion?

"It's the driving force in me that gives me hope in each day."

Each of us has a passion—something we love to do more than anything else.

Kim Behrman continued her thoughts on her driving force: "My passion is to know the Lord more and more everyday and to be able to share the revelation of who He is with others and to bring others into the Kingdom, and to pursue the singing ministry that is in my heart." Kim also wants "to help other men and woman have an increased understanding of their gifts and abilities in Christ."

"I have a passion for horseback riding and I have been doing it for one year," said Bailey McGill, "I like it because it helps me calm down."

"I feel relaxed when I read," said Kelly McGill, "I like reading because I get to go to other places without actually having to go there. I like to read Christian fiction books because they have good stories from a Christian point of view."

"I love to read because it is peaceful, and it gets me to focus on something," said Daniel Monroe. "My favorite kind of book is a thriller book. I also like books that get me thinking."

"I enjoy creative writing and computer programming," said Eden Doonan. "Whenever I write I feel like I am living the story that I am writing. I am really excited when I am programming, I am really eager to do it and finish it."

-Maverick Moses

Clipboard

One Day Academy Registration for returning families begins March 1. Open registration begins April 1. Go to onedayacademy.com for registration forms, schedules, faculty information, etc. Two new campuses will be available, with one opening in Leander and another capstone campus opening in Southwest Austin. Capstone campuses are targeted for older high school students.

One Day Academy open houses are scheduled for late March. Learn more about what is in store for the next school year. For more information, go to onedayacademy.com.

Generation Joshua is a national organization that equips youth who want to make an impact in our nation in the civic and political arenas. Local contact is Kari Reinhardt at 512-244-1844. Meetings are the second Friday of each month from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. For additional information, go to: www.generationjoshua.org.

Teen Court is a chance for teenagers to participate in the justice system. Contact Jaime Solis at 512-615-7411 or Edna Staudt at 512-260-4210 or go the website: www.ymcagwc.org/teen_court.php.

Join **Psalm 91 Ministry** and pray for One Day Academy, its faculty, and staff. Contact Tom Schoeneck at 512-785-9897 or t.schoeneck@onedayacademy.com.