



# The Eclectic Report

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Greetings!

Isn't fall just luscious?! It has everything going for it: the beauty of leaves painted from dull beige to flaming red; the sound of combines in the fields; the gorgeous sunsets due to harvest dust in the air; cool, crisp evenings by a bonfire; caramel apples; no more hummingbird-size mosquitoes; and the end of summer work. Plus much more. Fall has only one detracting feature—it is followed by winter. And even this is anticipated by many—the cross country skiers, downhill snow boarders and skiers, ice skating and curling aficionados, and hockey fans. Our dear Lord has specially blessed North Dakota with 4 distinct seasons.

And before you know it, spring will arrive and once again we will take up the spade and hoe. And spring also brings the **Annual Christian Home Educators' Convention**, sponsored by the NDHSA. The 2014 event will be held at the Jamestown Civic Center, March 20-22. More info at the end of this publication. Keynote is Phil Downer. And the TRANSTROMS are back!

Also, take note of the **NDHSA art contest**. Here's an opportunity to show your artistry and to win some jingle for the vendor hall.

My favorite holiday is coming up this month—Thanksgiving. It is the one holiday that has not been completely overtaken by commercialism and it is a reminder to be THANKFUL. Ooh, how wonderfully, sometimes painfully, our dear Lord Jesus is teaching me the art of thankfulness.

Next newsletter is the December issue—how quickly the year has passed.

Grace and peace,  
Gail



## The View from my Window

By Theresa Deckert, NDHSA Office Administrator

**Mentorship.** It is a word you often hear in our day. I have thought of this term a lot in the last few years as I have watched friends graduate their last homeschooled child. Many of these (moms especially) go through a time of grief, wondering what is the next step in life. When you have spent the last x amount of years being directly involved in your children's lives, it is not surprising that the transition can be hard.

This is why I want to **challenge you not to retire** once you graduate your last child. God has taught you, given you skills, and possibly raised you up to walk alongside a young homeschool family beginning the journey. There are many ways this could be accomplished. You could continue coming to your local support group meetings, possibly volunteering your skills. We have one "retired" mom who comes periodically to our group to help a young man learn to play the trumpet and then she plays along with our homeschool band. Another mom did owl pellet dissection with our support group kids when her children were homeschooled. She came back to help younger students with this interesting project. I know a mom who wants to adopt a homeschool family and be a "grandma" to the children, giving Mom an occasional break.

At the last Jamestown convention, I visited with two homeschool families nearing the end of their active teaching years who were meeting periodically with a few young couples to encourage them along the way.

Perhaps you have learned something that could be shared in a convention workshop. Maybe you could be on a panel or sit at a table in the vendor hall to answer homeschooling questions. There are many ways to be a mentor.

My dream is that someday I will have a list of mentors from around the state to which I can refer new home educating families, to be a listening ear, gently guiding and praying for their mentee family. **This is**, simply put, **discipleship** with a little different twist on it. I hope I have given you a little food for thought and that some readers may actively look for ways to mentor those God puts in their paths.

Information on **2014 convention**  
on page 4—don't miss it!

## NDHSA ART CONTEST

We are excited to announce an **ART CONTEST** to create a new **NDHSA logo**. This must be the *original* artwork of the submitter and must be in digital form. The new logo will be unveiled at the convention and displayed on NDHSA materials, banner and website. The winner will be recognized at the convention and will receive a \$75.00 award.

So what describes North Dakota home-schooling to you? Design your logo to reflect it.

The following information was offered by an artist so consider this important item:

Don't forget about legal fonts for commercial use and *original* work. You must not use pirated clipart . . . your work must be original (Oh! Did I already say that? Well, it's important . . . *original* work only.)

We would like to know a bit about you when you submit your creation. Are you a home-schooling parent or student? How long have you been homeschooling? If student submission, please include student's age. For all submissions include address, phone and email.

The winning artwork will become the sole property of the NDHSA. NDHSA board members and their families are excluded from entering. **Deadline** for submission is Dec. 1. Send to [office@ndhsa.org](mailto:office@ndhsa.org)

## The NDHSA Board Column

From Jeff Deckert, NDHSA board member



Recently I was directed to an article that was written 27 years ago entitled "Home Schooling and the Future". This was an attempt by Rev. Clinton Birst to anticipate where homeschooling might go and maybe, more importantly, where it should go. Clinton states that there is a danger of homeschoolers, especially Christian homeschoolers, to become family centered.

That sounds like a good thing because there are so many splintered families. Our country needs more strong families. We need mothers and fathers to step up and lead the charge for stronger families, but if our children think the world revolves around them, we are giving them the wrong impression. God must be the center. Clinton also revealed the danger of making education the center. Education for education's sake should not be the focus. We also need to be reminded that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. The education of our families must be centered on God and His holy Word.

Here is what Clinton believed was the NDHSA's role:

*Some may have gotten the impression that the NDHSA is about litigation and legislation. No, that's not what we are about. We are about the development of strategies, methods, and materials which will result in the education of children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Litigation and legislation are what we have to get out of the way so that we can be about our real mission.*

When I read these words, I was reminded that our focus has really stayed the same. The goal of the NDHSA is to help parents train, as well as educate, their children. May God give us the grace and wisdom to help in every way we can.

### From HSLDA

#### Specialized Newsletters from HSLDA

Our [Struggling Learners](#), [Toddlers to Tweens](#), and [High School](#) consultants all publish *free* monthly e-newsletters with practical information, advice, and encouragement to equip parents and build confidence. Families may subscribe to any or all; check out the archives, too!

#### FREE Membership for Parents of Preschoolers

We now offer a *free* membership for parents (whose oldest child is not yet age 5) who are exploring the possibility of home education. You can print the registration application or [sign up directly online](#).

### 5 Questions to Ask Before Posting on Social Media

Cyberspace is not only infinite, but eternal. No matter how silly, foolish, embarrassing our thoughts might be, they will be allowed to merge onto the information superhighway. But, all the off-ramps are closed. Believing the best defense is a, well, great defense, here are five things we ought to ask ourselves before posting anything on social media. 1. Ask yourself- if my mother, pastor, spouse, children were to read this, would they be ashamed of me? The point is not that our calling in life is to be certain no one is ever embarrassed by us. Indeed your mother, pastor, spouse, children could be wrongly embarrassed, embarrassed when they ought not to be. The point is instead is to be deliberate. Don't embarrass by mistake. 2. Ask yourself- where is this coming from? Posts that are fueled by anger are almost never good. Posts fueled by pride never are. Both... [Continue Reading »](#) <http://rcsprouljr.com/>

### Playing to Learn: Toys That Teach

Lindy Abbott (Snatched from CrossWalk.com *Homeschool Update*)

In reality, are educational toys the best toys? Or more precisely, are they toys at all? [Read the full article here](#)

### The U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

We have now received the information we've been watching for: **the supporters of the CRPD are moving ahead to ratify this dangerous treaty.**

It appears that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will hold two hearings on the CRPD, the first on Tuesday, October 29, and the second on Thursday, October 31. Please note that these hearings will not be "official" until they are posted on the [Senate Foreign Relations Committee webpage](#). We expect that they will be posted on Tuesday or Wednesday of next week.

We are hearing that Senate Majority Leader Reid, Secretary of State John Kerry, and President Obama **believe that their best chance to ratify the CRPD is in the next month or two.** They believe that their big victory during the shutdown/debt ceiling battle will translate into a victory on the CRPD. We need to prove them wrong.

In the next few days, we will start to send out our email action alerts nationwide, urging homeschoolers and all supporters of U.S. sovereignty, parental rights, and homeschool freedom, to call their two U.S. senators and urge them to reject the CRPD. **We ask that you please help us to get the word out** to every single homeschooling family and every single person who loves freedom.

Our [recently updated action page is here](#). You can use this page to find the many reasons for why the CRPD should be defeated.

William A. Estrada, Esq., Director of Federal Relations, HSLDA [william@hslida.org](mailto:william@hslida.org) or 540-338-5600.

**UPDATE: Vote scheduled for Nov. 5.** When you contact Sens. Hoeven and Heitkamp, you could use something like this language suggested by HSLDA:

"I urge you to oppose the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This treaty surrenders U.S. sovereignty to unelected UN bureaucrats and will threaten parental care of children with disabilities. Our nation already has laws to protect Americans with disabilities. This treaty is unnecessary and will hurt families by giving bureaucrats the power to decide what is in the best interests of a child with disabilities, not the child's parents."

You can **reach your senators** by calling the Capitol Switchboard at **202-224-3121** or by clicking on your state at [ParentalRights.org/States](http://ParentalRights.org/States)



North Dakota Aeronautics Commission is hosting another year of the international aviation art contest. The theme: "Flying Saves Lives". This is an activity to generate creativity and encourage more children to get involved in aviation. Students ages 5-17 may participate. The top three winners in each of three age groups will receive an airplane ride and a visit to the Capitol to meet the First Lady. Artwork will be showcased at the 2014 Upper Midwest Aviation Symposium. Artwork must be postmarked no later than Jan. 17, 2014. Visit <http://www.nd.gov/ndaero/contest/> for further details.



### Join 20,000 others...

The HSLDA [Curriculum Market](http://market.hsllda.org) is buzzing with activity! Save money on new and used homeschooling materials, or sell your extras at: <http://market.hsllda.org/auction/xcAuction.asp>

### Common Core—Bad for America

Yah, yah, I know I wrote several newsletters ago that there would be no more on the Common Core, but the more I study the issue the more important I think it is to be, at the very least, somewhat knowledgeable about another government attempt to usurp the rights of parents, teachers, government and private schools.

Why is the Common Core Movement Bad for America? Read more at: <http://www.ncll.org/>

### Romeike Case

I guess if you want to homeschool in Europe, Germany would be a really bad place to live. Makes the restrictions current in the U.S. seem rather negligible (Well, maybe except for NY and PA). Read more on the Romeike family's nightmare. Pray for them. <http://www.hsllda.org/legal/cases/romeike.asp>

### Frugal Living

Used with permission.

Are you overwhelmed with tips and suggestions for frugal living? How should homeschoolers practice a frugal lifestyle? Find 5 tips for no-condemnation frugality and discover truth in realizing that the heart of frugality is contentment that's revealed in the stewardship of our resources. More great resources and information can be found in the September/October issue of *The Old Schoolhouse® Magazine*. Read it on your computer at [www.TOSMagazine.com](http://www.TOSMagazine.com) or download the FREE app to use while you are on the go at [www.TOSApps.com](http://www.TOSApps.com).

# PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

- **Pray** for our board of directors: **Ken & Llor Knight, Jeff & Theresa Deckert, Pas. Jeff & Karol Kapelle, Sue Huntington, Neil Toman, Pas. Brian & Bev Skaar and Troy & Kristie Durham**. Praise God for these servant-hearted men and women who live lives that mirror our dear Lord Jesus' command to love God with heart, soul and mind.
- **Pray** for homeschool families facing financial challenges.
- **Praise** God that He continues to conform us into the image of His dear Son.
- **Praise** God for the ways Home School Legal Defense Association has advanced homeschooling in America. **Praise** God also that HSLDA is a Capitol Hill watchdog particularly on issues about U.N. Treaties and parental rights. **Praise** God for the many years of service that Dee Black has provided to N.D. homeschoolers.
- **Praise** God for the generous mercies He pours down on us every day.
- **Pray** for homeschoolers in foreign nations under hardship from their governments. **Praise** God for HSLDA's service to them.
- **Thank** God for homeschooling moms who lay down their lives everyday to do God's will.
- **Intercede** for moms who are exhausted, discouraged, and ready to give up homeschooling. **Ask** our dear Lord Jesus to send them a season of refreshing and renewal of purpose. Help them if you can.
- **Pray** for Dr. Brian Ray as he continues providing research on homeschooling. His ministry is a blessing to all.
- **Pray** diligently for your Pastor asking God to protect him, to give him wisdom, to hedge in his family and to keep them unsullied by the world.
- **Pray** for Sven Carlson, Jr.-age 2 ½. His cancer is the most aggressive form and untreatable. Pray for his whole family. Sven has good days and bad, but still makes sure to unload his toy grain cart in the evening--a farmer through and through. Sven is the grandson of Gail and Wilgoth Carlson and Rick and Sharon Ziegler. Both families are homeschoolers.
- **Pray** for family L. just moved to ND from Kansas. Looking for adequate housing; 7 children; live within 50 miles of Minot in a camper. Family will be church planting with the Reformed Church; limited budget.
- **Thank** our heavenly Father that He has called Mrs. D. to administer the NDHSA office. Her gentle, positive, wise, Christ-like interactions with homeschoolers and officials are a blessing from God.

Send your prayer requests to [office@ndhsa.org](mailto:office@ndhsa.org) or [billbiby@msn.com](mailto:billbiby@msn.com)

## NDHSA Board of Directors

**Ken Knight**, president and **Llora Knight**, west region support group coordinator, 701.880.6126 or [knight\\_publishing@hotmail.com](mailto:knight_publishing@hotmail.com)  
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issues are for instructive purposes only and do not constitute the giving of legal advice. If you need legal advice concerning homeschooling, contact Dewitt Black, HSLDA attorney of reference, if you are a member family, or contact an attorney familiar with homeschool law. Any comments or opinions are those of the editor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the NDHSA board or staff members. Bylined articles ditto! Advertisements likewise. If you have something that may be of interest to homeschoolers, or if you have comments or corrections, send them to the editor at [billbby@msn.com](mailto:billbby@msn.com).

Gail M. Biby is the publications editor for the NDHSA and has been joyfully working with parent educators for more than 23 years. She writes a regular column for *Eternal Encouragement* magazine (a magazine by and for Christian women), serves on the advisory board for Mark Hamby's Lampighter Publishing, writes a women's newsletter for her church gals, and volunteers with Caring Hearts Jail Ministry. She lives a modestly agrarian lifestyle in the Red River Valley of the North with a prince of a man, her husband Bill, and right next door to their daughter Aimee, son-in-love, Ray, and their six children. Contact her at: [billbby@msn.com](mailto:billbby@msn.com)

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**Not a member yet of NDHSA?** Family membership fee only \$35. Once you have given your tithes and offerings to your local church, why not consider a donation to the NDHSA. All funds are used to continue the work of the Association and will be used with great frugality and wisdom. But even if God doesn't lead you to donate, we hope that you will pray for the work of the NDHSA, the board of directors, and staff. **CHECK OUT NEW features at our website.**

### Join Home School Legal Defense Association

to protect your right to homeschool in North Dakota and to support their work for us on Capitol Hill. Go to: [www.hslda.org](http://www.hslda.org) Receive an HSLDA discount if a member family of the NDHSA.

**Membership MATTERS!**

## Information on the NDHSA Christian Home Educators' Convention

March 20-22, 2014

Jamestown Civic Center

- Keynote speaker: **Phil Downer** of DNA Ministries <http://www.dnaministries.org/>
- Featured speakers: Paul Downer of DNA Ministries and our Children's Program will be *JandY Ministries*. They look great! Look up their website for more info.
- Used Book Sale (UBS), Art Show, Silent Auction
- **New this year** . . . no home businesses and crafts at the UBS, BUT we will have special booths for them in the upper concourse open from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. each day. Let's see some young entrepreneurs especially!
- Also **new this year**, we will have *Mentor Tables* in the vendor hall for newbies (or oldies) that just need some one-on-one advice, encouragement, etc. from a seasoned homeschooling mom (still teaching or done). If you are interested in being a mentor during the convention, contact Karol at: [kapklan@gondtc.com](mailto:kapklan@gondtc.com).
- **Nancy and Gene Transtrom** are coming back as speakers this year! Whoo Hoo! They may even get their kiddos together to do some special music for us.
- The *JandY Ministry* will be doing a Thursday night keynote for the whole family.

### Who is Phil Downer and what is Discipleship Network of America?

**Phil Downer** serves as President of Discipleship Network of America (DNA), a nationwide network of people committed to following Christ's life of winning and discipling others to become disciple makers. The spiritual reproductive ministry of DNA flows out of the lives of people focused on Christ in their work, marriage, family, neighborhood, and church.

Phil is a popular national speaker at men's events and speaks to all branches of the U. S. military at voluntary chapels on leadership, core values, and the truths he has learned that have transformed his life. Phil also speaks at couples events with his wife, Susy, and at family conferences. He has been featured twice on Focus On the Family and, along with Mike Wilkins, is the subject of Day of Discovery's 2010 documentary, "The War Within: Finding Hope For Post-Traumatic Stress." He is the author of *Eternal Impact: Investing in the Lives of Others, A Father's Reward – Raising Your Children to Walk in the Truth, Optimize Your Marriage, Just An Ordinary Man: Principles of Godly Leadership, Brave, Strong, and Tender*, and a coauthor of *From Hell To Eternity: Life After Trauma*. He and Susy are coauthors with David and Teresa Ferguson of *Unlimited Partnership: Building Intimacy & Teamwork Into Your Marriage*. Phil is also the editor and coauthor of *Effective Men's Ministry*, published by Zondervan.

A former machine gunner who served in Viet Nam with the United States Marine Corps in 1967 and 1968, Phil received a Bachelor of Business Administration from Southern Methodist University in 1972 and a Juris Doctor from Emory University School of Law in 1975. Phil was a successful lawyer before being led to Christ and disciplined by fellow professionals. He left his position as senior partner of a 50-attorney law firm, with offices in Atlanta, Washington, Dallas, and San Diego, to serve as President of CBMC for a decade. Phil is on the Steering Committee of the National Coalition of Men's Ministries, a former elder of his church, and a member of CBMC.

<http://www.dnaministries.org/>