

**NDHSA Convention**  
**March 20-22**  
**Jamestown, N.D.**



*A publication of the North Dakota Home School Association*

# *The Eclectic Report*

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March 2014

Greetings!

I am hoping that we will soon see the arrival of spring in the Red River Valley of the North. It seems like this time of the year causes a little strain in many relationships . . . we need some sun and fresh air and a walk along dusty gravel roads or out into the trees. We need the sound of the frogs croaking, birds singing, and the souging of a warm west wind through the trees. *We need encouragement* to persevere in the duty God has called us to . . . and that means homeschooling, too.

You have the opportunity to receive some much-needed encouragement (note the middle part of this word is *courage!*) at the NDHSA's annual **Christian home educators' convention in Jamestown, March 20-22.**

Go to [www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org) and register today!

Hoping to chat with you in about two weeks.

Grace and peace,

Gail

## **Taco-in-a-bag**

Thursday, March 20, supper will be available at the NDHSA convention. The price listed in the booklet was \$4.00, but (here's a first) the price is actually less - \$3.00. Sign up today!

## **Taco-in-a-bag**

**\$3.00**



### **The View from my Window**

By Theresa Deckert, NDHSA Office Administrator

This month you will get another dose of convention reflections.

Karol and I have been in a whirl the last couple of weeks as final convention preparations are made. We are in the same homeschool support group which has proved to be very helpful for NDHSA work. Our local support group meets every Tuesday for homeschool activities such as choir, phys. ed. and other enrichment opportunities. Karol and I usually huddle together for the first hour or so to work on convention items.

I am so thankful for each one that submitted art work for our logo contest. **Friday morning**, just prior to the keynote address, the **new logo will be revealed**. Board members have been working on a new banner, bags, brochures and the web page featuring this new logo. The website will change over to the new banner with logo at noon that same day.

On **Saturday morning** before the keynote speaker, the first inductees into the **N.D. Homeschool Hall of Fame** will be revealed. These early pioneers all paid a price so that we can enjoy our current homeschool freedoms. I am looking forward to seeing those who will be able to attend and for this opportunity to collectively say, "Thank you for your sacrifice." You won't want to miss this important presentation.

It is our plan to induct new members to the N.D. Homeschool Hall of Fame annually.

I am looking forward to visiting with many of you at the convention. Be sure to drop by the NDHSA booth and say howdy!

## **School Districts Get Volume Discounts** **Why Not Homeschoolers? Now We Can -- AND WE DO!**

### **Join these GroupBuys for big savings** **at the Homeschool Buyers Co-op:**

With over 100,000 families, the **Homeschool Buyers Co-op** is the world's largest buyers club for homeschoolers, founded and operated by homeschoolers just like you! (Membership is **FREE** and private.)

This month we have several popular GroupBuys™ with **HUGE savings** that will be expiring soon, so get your order in before they are gone!

Want to help your **legislators** better understand homeschooling?

**INVITE THEM TO THE CONVENTION!**

Take them out to lunch while there; introduce them to our board members. Won't they be surprised to see how 'normal' we are?!

## Competitive Sports for Homeschoolers

If your family was inspired by the Olympics, here's how to make competitive sports part of your curriculum. [Read More](#)



## Raising Great Leaders through Sports

by Brandon Detweiler

Retrieved from *Veritas Epistula* March 2014

It is no great secret that our world is lacking when it comes to great leadership. Every day has a new scandal from those that the masses look to for leadership, be it a politician, an actor, athlete, pastor, or CEO. Just open a newspaper and read about the latest "scandal." While this may be discouraging to most, it means that there is great opportunity to lead. The world is hungry for strong leadership, and we at Veritas Press want to fill this abundant need.

[Read more...](#)



## Common Core Information

**Check Out:** [Is Common Core Leaving Students Unprepared in Math and Science?](#)

**Read More:** [Common Core Implementation Will Be Worse Than Obamacare](#)

**From Researchers:** [Textbooks 'Aligned' to Common Core a 'Sham,' Researchers Say](#)

I don't know the story's theme; I don't know the characters or their names; I don't know the ending. BUT I know the author—an honorable man; a diligent, wise father; a loving husband. I can trust Chuck to write books I can read to my grandchildren without fear of offensive content or themes. In fact, I am guaranteed a well-written story useful for instruction in Biblical truths. We can be thrilled by the action, rejoice with the spiritual battles won and weep over battles lost. I'm ordering my copy!

**Coming out MARCH 18, 2014**

**by N.D homeschooling dad Chuck Black**

# Cloak of the Light

Book 1 in

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## If You Vaccinate, Ask 8!



What You Need to Know Before & After Vaccination

1. Am I or my child sick right now?
2. Have I or my child had a bad reaction to a vaccination before?
3. Do I or my child have a personal or family history of vaccine reactions, neurological disorders, severe allergies or immune system problems?
4. Do I know the disease and vaccine risks for myself or my child?
5. Do I have full information about the vaccine's side effects?
6. Do I know how to identify and report a vaccine reaction?
7. Do I know I need to keep a written record, including the vaccine manufacturer's name and lot number, for all vaccinations?
8. Do I know I have the right to make an informed choice?

Read entire article at: <http://www.nvic.org/Ask-Eight-Questions.aspx>

(This article does not necessarily reflect the views of the NDHSA board or staff. Informational only, you're smart enough to make these choices for your family.)

## Coming to convention?

- ☼ Do you have memories or even memorabilia (photos) of the early years of homeschooling in N.D.?
- ☼ Were you or your parents involved in any of the courts cases in the 1980s and early 1990s?
- ☼ Want to hear about some of the struggles, battles, and court cases?
- ☼ Interested in who was at the forefront of the struggle?

**Stop by the *Providential History of Homeschooling in North Dakota* project booth and chat with the researcher and author.**

**World** magazine has a great article on **Fargo**, on our sister congregation, River City Church, and on North Dakota in general. I was tickled. I rejoiced.

Also, this issue features a poignant article on **Elisabeth Elliot** whom I have considered a long-distant mentor for more than 30 years. Occasional correspondence with her always encouraged me and when she was no longer able, I would check in at the website or drop Lars a card to let him know that there are many American women who owe their growing maturity to the writings of Elisabeth Elliot.

Dementia has robbed her of most of her communication abilities, but Lars knows how to evoke a response, just quote Scripture. The photo in the magazine still shows a gleam in her sky blue eyes. If you are not familiar with EE and would like to know more, contact me and I will give you some ideas on where to begin reading.

I will continue praying for her until our dear Lord Jesus calls her home. I know beyond a doubt that she is *Secure in the Everlasting Arms* and though uncommunicative I can only guess that she is listening to *The Music of His Promises*. But I can't help but weep at our loss.

Subscribe to **World** magazine at [www.wng.org](http://www.wng.org) - a biweekly, current events (and much more!) magazine that keeps Christians knowledgeable about our culture, the church, and the world from a Christian worldview.

## Board Column – **SEE YOU THERE!**

Mrs. Ken (Llora) Knight

It is that time of year again, and I am sure you are hearing from everyone about it. It *is* or *can be* or maybe *should be* the highlight of your homeschool year. It's a time of fellowship, of freedom from the four enclosing walls of home in thirty below weather, of following up on previous plans, of finding great buys, and a time of fact finding and fantastic fun! What am I talking about? If you haven't guessed yet or maybe you have – it is the **HOMESCHOOL CONVENTION**.

This annual event, hosted by the North Dakota Home School Association, is a time and place for all of the above mentioned activities and a plethora more. If you have already registered – **we'll see you there**. This is an experience that everyone can walk away from encouraged, improved in some area, and empowered to stay the course and finish the job. If you haven't registered, but are thinking about it, let me say, "You won't be sorry if you come!" So **we'll see you there**. If you've thought about it but have run into complications, try your best to work them out so we can **see you there**. If you haven't even considered gracing us with your presence, talk to others who have attended then make plans to **see us there**. It is not too late to plan on attending!

In the early years, I attended the convention alone--no husband, no kids--and I got a lot out of it. While there I saw entire families from nursing babies to adult children and realized, "This is not just for me. I should bring the entire family." This changed my convention experiences. From then on the entire family attended. I still get a lot out of it although I admit I lose some of the workshop information, but what I gain in doing things with everyone is well worth the exchange. We have a wonderful time each year listening to the workshops and general sessions, shopping at the used book sale, perusing the vendor hall and art show, singing in the homeschool choir, renewing friendships, and discussing curricula and problems – not so unique to my homeschool.

Life as a homeschool mom is challenging but given the alternative there is no other possibility for my children. My yearly attendance at the homeschool convention has helped me meet that challenge. Invariably, I hear a workshop or general session about the struggle I am currently dealing with or I will get into a conversation with an old friend, or a new one, who is experiencing the same struggle. As we sit and visit--or listen--I am amazed to discover the solutions or steps toward the solutions. God is so gracious in this area!

There are hundreds of reasons to attend the homeschool convention but let me assure you the most important reason is that young one or those young and not-so-young ones you are teaching. The convention can equip you to continue the race, finish the task, fight the good fight and come out on the winning team as your children become godly, talented, successful, law abiding citizens. That's what it's all about and the convention gives us the tools-physical and spiritual-to achieve that goal.

**So SEE YOU THERE!**

## This-n-That

### ✿ **What Parents Can Learn from the Creationism vs. Evolution Debate**

Brent Rinehart

I'm not a scientist, debater, theologian or apologist. I'm a dad. How can the creationism vs. evolution debate help my kids?

[Read the full article here](#)

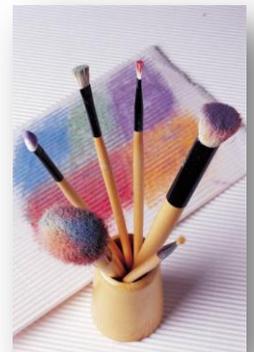
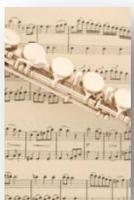
### ✿ **Beauty is Truth: Fine Arts at Home**

Leigh A. Bortins

Until reading Gene Edward Veith's *State of the Arts*, I had not considered that art was ordained by God in the Old Testament.

[Read the full article here](#)

### ✿ **Introducing Your Children to Classical Music**



# PRAY without Ceasing . . .

- **Pray** for our board of directors: **Ken & Llorra Knight, Jeff & Theresa Deckert, Pas. Jeff & Karol Kapelle, Sue Huntington, Neil Toman, Pas. Brian & Bev Skaar and Troy & Kristin Durham.** **Praise** God for them and their cheerful service.
- **Pray** for our Christian brothers and sisters in Syria, Ukraine, Southern Sudan and other countries of persecution.
- **Pray for all involved with the March convention. Volunteer if you are able – [convention@ndhsa.org](mailto:convention@ndhsa.org)**
- **Praise** God for the ways Home School Legal Defense Association has advanced homeschooling in America. **Praise** God that HSLDA is a Capitol Hill watchdog particularly on issues about U.N. treaties and parental rights.
- **Praise** God that the Romeike family of Germany can remain in the U.S.
- **Pray** for other homeschoolers in foreign nations under hardship from their governments. **Praise** God for HSLDA's service to them.
- **Pray for homeschooling mothers and fathers** in your support group. Be a source of encouragement.
- **Intercede** for those with physical ailments; ask God to give them the measure of health that will most glorify Him.
- **Pray** that we will be known as Christians by our love for one another.
- **Pray** diligently for your Pastor that our Lord will keep him faithful, honorable in all areas of his life, and filled with wisdom from above.
- **Thank** our heavenly Father that almost 30 years ago He called a few brave families to pioneer homeschooling in N.D. Remember the Larsens, Lunds, Reimches, Dagleys, Birsts, Huntingtons, Tomans . . . Thank you, thank you, Lord Jesus!

**For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Heb.4:15-16, ESV**

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

## NDHSA Board of Directors

**Ken Knight**, president and **Llorra Knight**, west region support group coordinator, 701.880.6126 or [knight\\_publishing@hotmail.com](mailto:knight_publishing@hotmail.com)  
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**Troy and Kristin Durham**, directors, 701.298.3414 or [tkdurham@ideaone.net](mailto:tkdurham@ideaone.net)

## NDHSA statement of faith

Trusting in Jesus Christ as our Saviour, we believe in Almighty God, the author of all creation; the Bible as the inspired Word of God, complete in 66 books and the basis of faith and practice; the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, the death of Jesus Christ for our sins, His bodily resurrection and His personal return; and regeneration by God, the Holy Spirit.

## NDHSA Statement of purpose

1. Encouraging and assisting Christian families in the education of their children according to Biblical principles;
2. Providing to home educators and the general public information pertaining to the Biblical, academic and legal aspects of home education;
3. Entering into activities, in filling out contracts necessary, incidental or beneficial to the accomplishment of the nonprofit purposes of this corporation.

## The Eclectic Report

Gail Biby, Editor

*The Eclectic Report* is published monthly by the NDHSA and is provided free to anyone who asks. The NDHSA is a Christian 501(c)(3) organization funded by the gifts of interested parties. No substantial part of the activities of the NDHSA is used for the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, promote any political campaign, or on the behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Legal

aspects of home education; 3. Entering into activities, in filling out contracts necessary, incidental or beneficial to the accomplishment of the nonprofit purposes of this corporation.

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 [billbivy@msn.com](mailto:billbivy@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 Lamplighter 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: [billbivy@msn.com](mailto:billbivy@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.hsllda.org](http://www.hsllda.org) Receive an HSLDA discount if a member family of the NDHSA.

**Membership MATTERS!**

## NDHSA Christian Home Educators' Convention

March 20-22, 2014, Jamestown Civic Center

**Keynote speaker:** Phil Downer, Discipleship Network of America (DNA) Ministries <http://www.dnaministries.org/>

**Featured speakers:** Paul Downer also of *DNA Ministries* and our children's program will be taught by *JANDY Ministries* (Will present Thursday night keynote for the whole family!).

**Activities:** Used Book Sale (UBS), Art Show, Silent Auction, *Mentor Tables, Business and Crafts* on upper concourse.

**Workshops:** Practical helps.

**Registration:** Visit [www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org) for information or to register for the convention.

Find us on Facebook at: [North Dakota Home School Association](http://www.facebook.com/NorthDakotaHomeSchoolAssociation)

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