

NDHSA Convention—Feb.15-17—Grand Forks Alerus Center

The View From My Window



From our office administrator, Mrs. Theresa Deckert

Well I have been at this homeschooling thing for over 30 years. One of the highlights of my year is attending the annual convention. I attended my first homeschool convention in 1990 and this WAS the first convention. It was held at New Song Community Church in Bismarck and the only speaker was Greg Harris. I have attended every convention since. I just cannot imagine homeschooling without this yearly encouragement.

Not only do you get to look at curriculum in the vendor hall and meet other homeschoolers from around the state and surrounding areas, but you get to listen to some wonderful speakers – in person!

This year we have a wonderful opportunity to hear Rachel and Davis Carman from Apologia Publishers. I have never heard them speak publicly, but had the opportunity of meeting them and some of their children at a national homeschool leadership conference. I have read one of Rachel's books and found it so encouraging and practical that I gave a copy to my daughter and daughters-in-law for Christmas!

I also relish the opportunity of meeting so many I have talked with on the phone. It is so nice to put a name, face and voice all together!

So I truly hope you will join us for this LIVE EVENT which is sure to encourage and help you in your homeschooling endeavor! You can do this ... we can help!

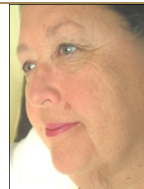
Convention on-line pre-registrations due by Feb. 10 to receive discount! Mail-in deadline is extended to Feb. 5!

Editor's Musings:

Whenever convention time comes around I immediately go into my "Thank you, thank you, thank you" mode because there was a time when it was my task to do all that was required to run a convention so I know very well that there is an enormous amount of work that goes into this event. Dozens of volunteers are needed, oodles of vendor contacts, the silent auction to organize, the art exhibits, the classes for children, etc. Then there is the logistics of it. What goes where, who needs this, how will this work, what was I thinking of! The thought and planning and prayer that goes into a successful event spans the entire year. It should not be taken lightly by any of us. It is an enormous job!

So when convention time rolls around I want everyone to know that I bless Karol Kapelle and Theresa Deckert for the tremendous amount of work they do to make these events really, really worth attending. Maybe you want to do the same.

Hope to see you in Grand Forks!
Gail M. Biby



Don't Forget!

Send clipped labels for **BOX TOPS for Education** to:

Laurie Morstad
9175 80th St. NE, Hampden, ND 58338
Check for expiration dates.

Box Tops income for quarter:
\$45.80

Bring labels to CONVENTION;
box will be at registration



NDHSA Homeschool Convention

Feb. 15-17, 2018

Alerus Center
Grand Forks, ND

Workshops, keynotes, art contest, children's sessions, TEEN stuff!, silent auction, fun, frivolities, conversations, used book sale and an all around good time!

www.ndhsa.org office@ndhsa.org 701.662-6347

The North Dakota Home School Association has been assisting parent educators since 1985.



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Davis and Rachael were married in 1986, and God has blessed them with seven children and one grandchild. They live in Waxhaw, North Carolina, where they enjoy the homeschooling adventure of a lifetime, complete with roller-coaster twists and turns and the occasional lazy river ride.

Davis is an international speaker and advocate for home education; he has a degree in mechanical engineering from Vanderbilt University and a master's degree from Purdue University. Davis is also the author of three illustrated children's books designed to instill a biblical worldview: *Good Morning, God*, *A Light for My Path*, and *In the Beginning*.

Rachael is a speaker and the author of *How Many Times Do I Have to Tell You?* and *How to Have a HEART for Your Kids*, where she challenges mothers to surrender their will and draw closer to their heavenly Father.

Together, Davis and Rachael own **Apologia Educational Ministries**, the #1 publisher of Creation-based science and Bible curriculum. In his role as president of the company, Davis' mission is to help homeschooling families learn, live, and defend the Christian faith.

NOVEMBER 2018

On-line pre-registration rates until February 10!

Do Two Halves Really Make a Whole?

By Thomas Clark

Author of "Algebra: A Complete Course" and "Geometry: A Complete Course" President of VideoText Interactive (www.videotext.com)

2018 convention speaker

Do Two Halves Really Make a Whole? Such a simple question! But is the answer that obvious? Not when it comes to high school Algebra! And I'm not talking about some new way to add algebraic fractions. I'm referring to the age-old practice of teaching two years of Algebra in high school which, presumably, make up a complete course in Algebra. They may have been called Algebra 1 and 2, or they may have been called Beginning Algebra and Advanced Algebra. In either case, the implication was that each comprised one-half of a complete Algebra course. However, if you look at the table of contents in any "2nd year Algebra" book, you will find that at least 50% of the book is a repeat of "1st year Algebra". So really, there are "no such things" as Algebra 1 and Algebra 2. These are courses (or names for courses) which came about as a result of school scheduling.

Many years ago, when it was the norm to require only 2 high school math credits to graduate from high school, a study of Algebra was a natural beginning credit. Of course, since it was generally taught "mechanically", utilizing many formulas and rules, a lot of practice and repetition was involved and, in fact, the study was not even completed in one year. So, for another math credit, Geometry was taught for a year. It was considered "another discipline", involving a significant amount of logical reasoning and proof, and it gave students "another math experience". That took care of the required credits. Then, the next year, students interested in going further in their study of mathematics were offered the opportunity to continue, and finish, their study of Algebra. Of course, because of the "procedural" way it was taught initially, students simply didn't remember much of that first year. So, they started over, re-studying many of the same things. This time however, it was called "Advanced Algebra".

Something of a contradiction, don't you think? In fact, the word "advanced" is a relative term anyway. Chapter 2 of an Algebra book is "advanced", compared to Chapter 1, isn't it? This has been perpetuated through the years, primarily because of that traditional implementation. When you try to memorize rules, formulas, tricks, and shortcuts, without really knowing "why" they work, it will take a lot of drill and review, just to remember the material for a test. Yet, even today, that approach is often considered to be the "normal way" to teach Algebra. Therefore, I would suggest to you that one of the most fragmenting things we have done in mathematics education is to "forcibly insert" a Geometry course into the middle of an Algebra course. Algebra is a single course, a "complete" course, divided only by concept areas. It is the study of RELATIONS (equations and inequalities), and it develops by DEGREES (as defined by the exponents). It begins, very logically, with a study of FIRST-DEGREE relations (all of the exponents are "1"), and continues to develop by exploring other types of exponents.

Included are HIGHER-ORDER relations (with integer exponents), RATIONAL-DEGREE relations (with fractions as exponents), and LITERAL-DEGREE relations (when the exponents are variables, or "letters"). As such, **Algebra is the basic language of ALL upper level mathematics courses**, including Geometry. Not only is Geometry NOT a prerequisite for Advanced Algebra (whatever that is supposed to be), but you really need a good understanding of Algebra, as a complete course, before you can fully understand a complete Geometry course. That means there is a "disadvantage", from an instructional point of view, and from the viewpoint of subject integrity, when you study Geometry in the middle of an Algebra course. The analogy may be somewhat over-simplified, but it is a little like someone beginning to learn English, and before they reach a reasonable level of mastery in the structure and syntax of the language, we introduce them to a study of Classic Literature. They are just not ready for that yet.

Of course, all of this would be irrelevant if Algebra were taught analytically, without dependence on rules and shortcuts. If students were taught the "why" of algebraic principles, less repetition and practice would be necessary, and Algebra could be studied in one school year. Then, the two "halves" would truly make a "whole".

You can do this ... we can help!

Our convention theme this year is, “**You can do this...we can help!**” That really is the goal of the North Dakota Home School Association. We desire to encourage and assist you as you home educate your precious kiddos.

Some of you may not be familiar with the *NDHSA Statement of Purpose*. It declares that our purpose is:

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

The upcoming convention is a great way for us to offer our homeschooling families some much needed **encouragement** and also some **training and assistance** to make the journey a little easier. But, you more than likely, need more than just a weekend convention to help you with some of the day-to-day struggles you may be facing. Many of us are dealing with intense family situations, difficult health issues, mounting financial demands, etc. We need encouragement each day!

Ephesians 6:2 tells us to “**bear one other’s burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ.**” We’ll try to do that at the convention, but we must all be committed each day to lifting up each other in prayer, with encouraging words via a phone call, text, email or maybe even stopping by for a visit or meeting somewhere for coffee. Most of all, we need to run to our Lord Jesus and lay our burdens at His feet. Let His Holy Spirit bring comfort, wisdom, and victory for each situation!

Homeschoolers have chosen a sometimes difficult path. **We need each other**, too. The NDHSA hopes the convention will be a catalyst for you to reach out and offer support to your fellow homeschoolers or maybe to ask for some help in the struggles you may be dealing with. You really CAN do this...and we really want to help.

See you soon

Karol Kapelle, NDHSA Convention Coordinator

CONVENTION UPDATES

From convention coordinator Karol Kapelle
kaplan@gondtc.com

REGISTER: Please register for the convention ASAP; we need to pay the venue fees.

TEENS: True, there isn't a specific teen track but there are many great workshops designed for them. They are listed at www.ndhsa.org in the convention news under “Teens”.

CHILDREN’S TRACK: Our speaker had to cancel because of a life-threatening illness and will still be recovering at convention time. BUT, I was able to secure **Karl Krause and his CEF teams** to fill in all the sessions. So there will be a change in those sessions but we'll still be offering the same schedule.

HOTELS: Room block deadlines have passed so you probably won't be able to register under those blocks anymore. So, we're not guaranteed these room availabilities. But, if you mention the homeschool convention when making reservations at those hotels, they MAY still give us credit toward the complimentary rooms. Comp rooms are another way to help us keep our costs down. Worth a try, anyway.

REGISTRATION: Registration will **NOT** be open **Thursday night**. The *Used Book Sale* and *Family Meet and Greet* will be on the Upper Concourse; use Entrance #1 by the box office. *Teens* will be in Ballroom 3 by Entrance 5 during the book sale.

The email address for Kristin, in the **Art Show** Director, is incorrect in the pre-convention book. It should be: tkdurham@centurylink.net. If you sent an email to Kristin to the wrong addy to register for this event, better resend!

JOIN!

The NDHSA depends upon the gifts and memberships of interested parties to maintain their current staff and services. Membership allows you access to member-only sections of www.ndhsa.org and discounted convention fees. Go to the website and join today.

Yes, it matters.

50TH KEEP NORTH DAKOTA CLEAN ART CONTEST

The annual art contest is for pre-k-8 and is open for entries until March 14, 2018. The artwork is to reflect our responsibility to maintain our state and water resources. Monetary prizes offered for first, second and third place. Winner will have artwork made into billboards. Entry forms and information (lots of it!) available at www.keep-nd-clean.org. For questions contact: 701.328.5364 or kstankiewicz@nd.gov

Finances:

Dec. Income: \$4,468.00

(reflects vendor registrations)

Dec. Expenses: \$2,945.69

There is snow because God cannot be contained in one season alone--or one anything alone. He is a lion, a lamb, an eagle. He is shepherd and door and vine. He is the warmth and new life of spring, the rich fruition of summer, the gentle warning of fall, and the promissory slumber of winter. And if snow was the antagonist in C.S. Lewis's Narnia stories, it is only because winter would not give way to spring.

From Won't Let You Go Unless You Bless Me, Andree Seu Peterson

NDHSA Board of Directors

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knight_publishing@hotmail.com

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~Susan Huntington, director 701.663.7858 sooznh@gmail.com

~Jeff Deckert, director & Theresa Deckert, office administrator &
E region spt.grp. coord. 701.662.4790 jntdeck@gondtc.com

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701.247.2875 walkalongdeut6.7@hotmail.com

~Troy Durham, conv. vendor hall coordinator & Kristin Durham, conv. art exhibit
director 701.730.4159 tkdurham@centurylink.net



NDHSA Statement of Faith

We believe in Almighty God, the Author of all creation, eternally existing in three persons, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit; the Bible as the inspired, infallible, written Word of God, complete in 66 books and our sole basis of faith and practice; the fallen state of man, guilty by nature and by act and therefore condemned before God; the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, except without sin, the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ on the cross for our sins, His visible bodily resurrection demonstrating His power over death and sin, His personal return; and regeneration by God, the Holy Spirit when we accept His free gift of salvation by His grace, through our personal faith, and not by any works we can do.

Mission statement

To provide a comprehensive home education information system to support, train and protect every willing North Dakota individual, family and church in the methods of privately funded, parent-directed home education.

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 M. 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 and memberships 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 issues are for instructive purposes only and do not constitute the giving of legal advice. If you need legal advice concerning homeschooling, contact Daniel Beasley, Home School Legal Defense Association attorney of reference for North Dakota, 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.

Gail M. Biby is the publications editor for the NDHSA and has been joyfully working with parent educators for more than 26 years. She serves on the advisory board for Lamplighter Publishing, writes a women's newsletter for her church gals, and volunteers with Caring Hearts Jail Ministry and Metropolitan Prison Pen Pals Ministry. She and her husband Bill are recipients of the 2017 NDHSA Homeschool Pioneer Award. Contact her at: billbivy@msn.com She has been blessed beyond measurability and once had a very long bucket list.

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[North Dakota Home School Association](http://NorthDakotaHomeSchoolAssociation)

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Prayer Reminders:

ASK God to continue to give wisdom in all governance affairs of the NDHSA to our board of directors: **Ken & Llorra Knight, Jeff & Theresa Deckert, Pas. Jeff & Karol Kapelle, Sue Huntington, Pas. Brian & Bev Skaar and Troy & Kristin Durham.** Pray they will be strengthened and encouraged by the Lord to continue faithfully in the work God has given them.

PRAY for those with health issues that we may realize that God will grant to each the measure of health that will bring Him the most glory.

SUPPORT your local support group in prayer.

PRAY for NDHSA convention and all that is necessary to make this event happen. Pray especially for Mrs. Kapelle, convention coordinator, and Mrs. Deckert, office administrator.

INTERCEDE for those experiencing indescribable loss of a loved one. God alone is the Author of all Comfort!

PRAISE God for Home School Legal Defense Association and for our attorney, **Daniel Beasley.**

REMEMBER those still outside the fold.

PRAISE the LORD for good friends ... and be one!

PRAY for your Pastor and his family. Encourage, support, and assist them as the Lord leads. Imagine having to oversee such an unruly mob of sheep!

INTERCEDE for homeschooling dads, that God will strengthen their resolve and show them how to lead and participate with devotion and grace.

REMEMBER these words of Jesus, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." John 7:37-38

PRAY for those in prison. It is a hard life for Christians.

PRAY for the convention attendees. May God be glorified in all activities.

From the Book of Hours, 1514

God be in my head, And in my understanding;
God be in mine eyes, And in my looking;
God be in my mouth, And in my speaking;
God be in my heart, And in my thinking;
God be at mine end, And at my departing.

From the Psalms

One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts. I will speak of the glorious honor of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works.