

# North Dakota Home School Association *THE ECLECTIC REPORT*

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## Editor's Musings:

Greetings,

I was awake most of the night last night which allowed me to pray through the watches of the night and I thought of all the wonderful, truly wonderful, loving people God has brought into our lives. How in the world do folks without the Saviour and his dear sheep get through the hard things in life? I am amazed by this!

So I prayed through the 23rd Psalm and was struck again by the fact that it states the Good Shepherd "maketh" me to lie down in green pastures. Apparently (and I know this to be true in my own life) the sheep are too stubborn or stupid to even know enough to lie down in green pastures (heaven for sheep, I imagine).

The Chief Shepherd makes, leads, restores, walks, prepares and anoints. Amazing. Comforting. He does the work then the Psalmist ends by saying "Surely

goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life." After *He* does the work, then goodness and mercy follows *me*.



Well, that is worth pondering and I have found it to be true in my 70 years. My dear husband and I have more to be thankful for than we have time on earth to give thanks!

We choose to focus on God's goodness, His mercies (which are new every morning!), His slowness to anger, His righteousness (reminds us that all will be measured in the end), His faithfulness, and His everlasting love for His children.

Why, it's enough to make one lie down and sleep in peace...or lie down and pray in peace.

Grace and peace,  
Gail M. Biby

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## The VIEW from my WINDOW

From Theresa Deckert, NDHSA office administrator

I wanted to share a new opportunity the NDHSA board is excited about. We have **partnered with the International Association for Creation (IAC)** and all NDHSA members will be able to receive a discount to all of IAC's museums, zoos, tours and theme parks throughout the United States.

In order to redeem your discount you **must be a member of the NDHSA**. Simply print off a copy of your NDHSA membership card available on the member side of the website. Present your membership card and receive your discount. Discounts vary by season and location, but are good through 2019. **Check out the locations** at their website at <http://www.associationforcreation.org>

To become a member of the NDHSA, simply go to the website ([www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org)) and fill the request membership page underneath the membership tab. You can either send a check or pay online via PayPal.

The other item to consider this summer has to do with convention next **March**. We have had a number of folks contact us wanting us to bring **Generation Joshua** back to the convention. We will be doing that, but the expense is prohibitive. So the board is issuing a challenge to support groups or any homeschool family that would like to do a fund raiser to help defray the expenses. We have confirmed their participation so we really need folks to donate to this very worthy cause. Our goal is to have support groups or individual families help us reach the goal of \$3000. We will still have to charge for the program, but shouldn't go in the hole if we can raise this much up front.

So let's see how creative our families can be as we once again look forward to enjoying all that Generation Joshua has to offer our young people at the NDHSA convention!

**March 7-9, 2020**  
**NDHSA Christian Home Educators' Convention Jamestown, ND**



# BOARD COLUMN

Well, our homeschooling journey as we've known it has come to an end. We just graduated our last child. I reminisce about all of the wonderful memories and milestones as well as all the struggles and tears. I can't say that I ever questioned our decision to homeschool, but I sure questioned my abilities at times. With that in mind, I thought you might find the following article humorous as well as encouraging. Karol Kapelle, convention coordinator NDHSA

## All The Wrong Questions

Author: [Raquelle Sheen](#)

Published in: *The Times Examiner, Greenville, SC*

Published on: Mar. 26, 2004



It is unfortunate that cartographers never detected a certain small sea that is connected to the Balkan Sea by a modest tributary. It is known as the Balky Sea and is a remarkable body of water, bursting with an unusual rainbow of fish in all shapes and sizes. Our story begins on a deliciously murky day in the heart of the Balky Sea, where Mrs. Sea Cow was feeling grumpy.

Have you ever seen a grumpy sea cow? I haven't either. (I confess that I would like to.) It's easy to imagine—the bristly upper lip turned down dolefully, the appealingly ugly snout drooping dejectedly, the flippers folded sadly around the tubby brownish-gray body. Aye, it is enough to melt the hardest of hearts. And it certainly melted Miss Catfish, who was swimming by with her whiskers daintily arranged in little pink bows.

"What is the matter?" she inquired anxiously.

"Ohhhh," groaned Mrs. Sea Cow, "I'm so discouraged. Look at all those schools of fish out there!"

Miss Catfish looked. "Yes?"

"I saw an entire high school of sardines swim by," Mrs. Sea Cow said disconsolately. "They looked so *accomplished!* It put me in a quandary over what to do with my young calf next year. I homeschool, you know."

"I didn't know," said Miss Catfish politely. She quirked a pink-bowed whisker disapprovingly. "The schools do fine work, you know. You don't *have* to homeschool."

Mrs. Sea Cow eyed her thoughtfully. Then she sighed. "Go your merry way and rejoice in your carefree youth, honey." She tepidly nibbled some sea grass and Miss Catfish swam daintily away.

"Yes, yes," Mrs. Sea Cow said to herself, "There's something fishy about all this. Homeschooling is just not what it's cracked up to be. It's a lot of work. It's no fun. All those fish out there whose little fishies are in schools have it easy. Their fishies turn out all right, don't they? It's not fair!"

"What's not fair, dude?" asked Billy Blowfish, breezing by.

"All those other fish out there whose little fishies go to schools," Mrs. Sea Cow lamented bitterly.

"Oh, you're right, man, that's like, not fair," agreed Billy Blowfish. "It stinks, man. Wow, I feel for ya!" He blew a few sympathetic bubbles and sped off.

*What a blowhard*, Mrs. Sea Cow thought. *He's doesn't have the faintest idea what I'm talking about.* A huge shadow glided over her and she looked up to see another notorious blowhard swimming by, a talented Killer Whale named Shampoo.

"Hey Mizzuz Sea Cow, how ya doin'?" boomed Shampoo. He popped up to the surface and spouted water out of his blowhole. Then he came back down. "I hear you're homeschooling. How's it going?"

"Well," faltered Mrs. Sea Cow, "I'm kind of discouraged. Homeschooling is a lot of work. Are my efforts really worthwhile? Doesn't everyone else have it easier? The fishies in the schools are probably getting an equal or better education, don't you think?"

"Could be, could be," Shampoo wagged his head agreeably. "Me and my wife, Suds—we wouldn't try homeschooling for anything."

"Why's that?"

"Too much trouble, too much trouble!" he spouted off, with a burbling roar of laughter. "We don't need the extra work! Too busy auditioning for Sea World!" He executed a neat back flip just for show and then zoomed away, stirring up a dizzying wake of sand and bubbles.

That settled it. Mrs. Sea Cow was on the verge of deciding to put her calf in a school next year, when suddenly a large, grizzled fish swam slowly towards her across the sea grass. "Now then, Mistress Sea Cow," he said crustily, "I have something to say ye. My name is Nautilus. I've been around. I've seen a thing or two. I've even been 20,000 leagues under the sea and I have some deep remarks for ye."

Mrs. Sea Cow waited expectantly.

"Ye're askin' all the wrong questions," he said bluntly. "I've ambled about these grasses the last hour and heard ye. I heard ye ask whether everyone else has it easier. I've heard ye ask whether yeer efforts were worthwhile. I've heard ye ask if the fishies in the schools are gettin' a better education. Haven't I?"

"Well...yes," said Mrs. Sea Cow reluctantly, feeling inexplicably guilty.

"Well, them's the wrong questions!" Nautilus announced firmly. "Ye just think about it! When ye started homeschoolin', didn't ye *know* it would be worthwhile? Didn't ye pray about it and feel peaceable-like about it? Didn't ye see disadvantages to all the various fishy schools and say to yeerself that homeschoolin' was a better option? Didn't ye decide it didn't matter if everyone else had it easier? So why are ye askin' these same questions all over again?"

"Well—I—"

"Ye need to quit homeschoolin' with one eye on the other options," he insisted sternly. "It just leads to questions that'll put ye in the dumps. *Quit thinkin' about it.* If ye're goin' to homeschool, set yeer snout like flint and say to yeerself, 'I'm goin' to make this work!' And then ask the real question ye ought to be askin'—*what do I need to do to make this work?*"

Mrs. Sea Cow thought about this. "But it's still a lot of work," she said lamely.

"Aye, and it'll be harder and heavier the more ye question it," Nautilus advised. "Ye know it's the right thing to do, don't ye? Then do it and don't ask the wrong questions!"

"No, don't do that, man, like, wow dude," agreed Billy Blowfish, zooming by again.

Mrs. Sea Cow ignored him and looked at Nautilus. "You're right," she said softly. "I'll ask the right question from now on—I'll ask what I need to do to make homeschooling work."

"Good girl," said Nautilus approvingly and effortlessly slid away in the murky depths. And they all lived happily ever after!

*Raquelle Sheen was homeschooled all her life and is currently pursuing her college degree at home also. She and her family have been active in the homeschooling community for many years, having served with state homeschool organizations in several states—but not in the Balky Sea. (c) Copyright 2006 by Raquelle Sheen. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission. For reprint permission, e-mail editor@homeschoolfamilyforum.com.*



**Household Rules for Better Atmosphere in the Home**  
 From Karen Andreola's *Charlotte Mason Companion*

1. Brothers and sisters are comrades and shall not be permitted to give constant critic.
2. Parents are the tutors and rulers that will judge with Christian kindness.
3. When one deems another person in the wrong, try to find out how he feels himself in the right, before you show anger towards him.
4. If you find the subject has two sides to it, then you shall agree to differ but not attempt to make differences agree.
5. To steal another's credit or praise shall be dealt with as stealing.
6. Never let an opportunity pass of doing a kind action, or saying a kind word.
7. Charity or love begins at home, and is the key to household peace.

**Zechariah 2:5 - For I, saith the Lord, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her.**

**LEAVE IT TO ME**

Leave it to Me, child, leave it to Me,  
 Dearer thy garden to Me than to thee.  
 Lift up thy heart, child, lift up thine eyes,  
 Nought can defeat Me, and nought can surprise.

Leave it to Me, child, leave it to Me,  
 Trust in the wall of fire, look up and see  
 Stars in their courses shine through the night.  
 Both are alike to Me--darkness and light.

Leave it to Me, child, leave it to Me.  
 Let slip the burden too heavy  
 for thee.  
 That which I will, My Hand  
 shall perform.  
 Fair are the lilies that  
 weather the storm.



Amy Carmichael, *Whispers of His Power*

**Great Quotes**

- Grown-up homeschoolers understand politics, vote in larger percentages than the rest of us, and are contributing to the communal life in our society. [Dr. Brian] Ray's study [Home Educated and Now Adults] disconfirms, then, what critics have long said: that without the institutionalized socialization of attending an organized school, kids would be limited in their futures, their education, their well-being, their civic engagement, and their happiness. Not true, for education begins, grows, and continues throughout life, at home.

*Bruce S. Cooper, Ph.D., Chair and Professor, Division of Educational Leadership, Administration, and Policy, Fordham University Graduate School of Education, New York, NY.*

- I began to wonder, reluctantly, whether it was possible that being in school itself was what was dumbing them down. Was it possible I had been hired not to enlarge children's power, but to diminish it? That seemed crazy on the face of it, but slowly I began to realize that the bells and the confinement, the crazy sequences, the age-segregation, the lack of privacy, the constant surveillance, and all the rest of the national curriculum of schooling were designed exactly as if someone had set out to prevent children from learning how to think and act, to coax them into addiction and dependent behavior.

*John Taylor Gatto, Dumbing Us Down The Hidden Curriculum of Compulsory Schooling. He was named [New York City Teacher of the Year](#) in 1989, 1990, and 1991, and [New York State Teacher of the Year](#) in 1991.*



You can get copies of all the workshops and keynotes from the 2019 NDHSA Convention by contacting: [www.Alliancerecording.com](http://www.Alliancerecording.com)  
 The NDHSA receives a share of the profits.




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Find a support group near you at:  
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Chuck Black is pleased to announce his new book **Nova** will be coming out within the next year! *Nova* is the first book in a whole new series called **The Starlore Legacy**, a biblical science fiction allegory!



Episode 1 of *Nova*: Daeson Lockridge was born of Ror blood, and all of his plans are falling into place now that his performance flying the legendary Starcraft at the academy places him as the second ranking cadet in his class. Only his cousin, Prince Linden Lockridge ranks higher. But a chance encounter with a lowly Starcraft mechanic shatters his perfect plan. The mysterious Raviel intersects his life and everything he thought he knew about himself, his family, his planet, and his galaxy seems a lie. With no one to trust he must flee the mighty Jyptonian fleet and search for the truth...a truth that will change his life and the future of the galaxy forever, for the Immortals are watching.



Watch Chuck's Facebook page and website for more updates in the future!  
<https://www.facebook.com/ChuckBlack.Author>

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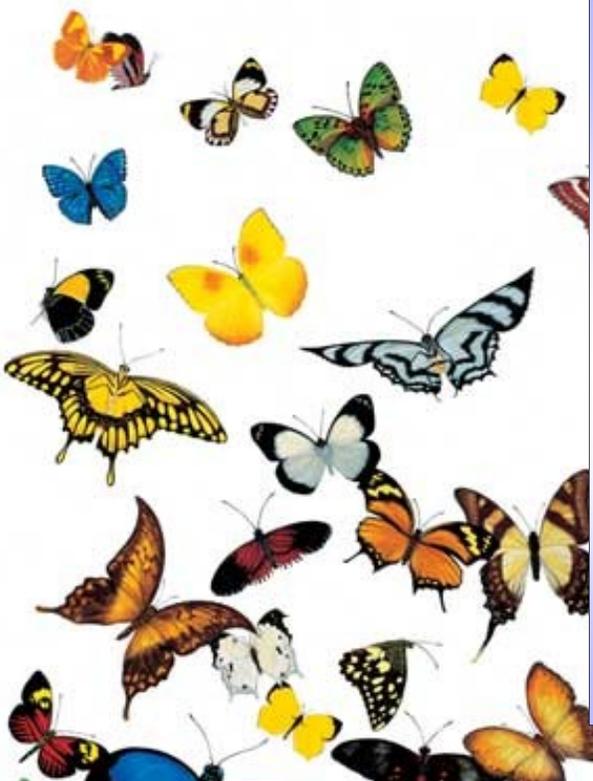


The Summer 2019 issue of *Practical Homeschooling* magazine has a great article entitled "Charlotte Mason in the City: 10 Ways to Experience Nature Study and Outdoor Life in an Urban Homeschool" by Caterina Fusca.

Here's the list:

1. Look at the world through the eyes of your child (trees, birds, weeds along the sidewalk).
2. Look for nature in unexpected places (neighbors' flower beds or fruit trees; urban rabbits and wild turkeys).
3. Go prepared (camera, sketch book, identification book).
4. Bring your homeschool outside (backyard read-alouds, writing in the sand).
5. Focus on the sky (clouds, birds, constellations at night).
6. Focus on the small (bugs, worms).
7. Use all of your senses (see, touch, smell).
8. Use your city's resources to fill in the gaps (museums, science centers, planetariums).
9. Bring nature into or near your home (potted gardens, bird feeders).
10. Loving and caring for a pet.

For more on this and other great articles subscribe to: Practical Homeschooling, P.O. Box 1190, Fenton, MO 63026 or go to [www.home-school.com](http://www.home-school.com)



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#### 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. Bynlined 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 [bilibiby@msn.com](mailto:bilibiby@msn.com).

Gail M. Biby is the publications editor for the NDHSA and has been joyfully working with parent educators for more than 29 years. She has served on the advisory board for Lamplighter Publishing, writes a 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: [bilibiby@msn.com](mailto:bilibiby@msn.com) She is blessed beyond measure and once had a very long bucket list. She now prefers buckets of June berries.

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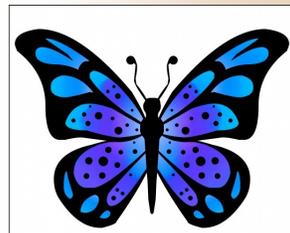
#### North Dakota Home School Hall of Fame Inductees

- 2014 Rev. Clinton & Judi Birst, Mark & Lynette Dagley, Dr. Ray & Rita Larsen, Gerald & Sheryl Lund  
 2015 Neil and Chris Toman, Dr. Graef Gannon, Rev. Edward and Sue Huntington  
 2016 Michael Farris J.D., Rev. Thomas & Peggy Patzer  
 2017 Bill & Gail Biby, Morris & Jackie Conklin, Allen & Barb Entzel  
 2018 Linus & Anna Evinger  
 2019 Dr. Brian Ray, the Sack-Headed Anonymous HSer



# PRAYER

- **PRAISE** God! He is abounding in steadfast love.
- **PRAY** for those in spiritual need. Some are in your support group; some are in your church fellowship; they are at your grocery store; meet them at the clinic when your wee one is ill; find them at STOP lights and YIELD signs; see them in the homeless men; know they are in your closest friends and family. It's you, too.
- **ASK GOD** to help homeschoolers truly enjoy the summer months with their families.
- **REMEMBER** the forsaken, those still outside the fold, many who are lonely and afraid, the disillusioned and disheartened, friends who have lost loved ones this past year, and those who are discouraged. Do more than pray...help if you are able.
- **INTERCEDE** for your spouse, your pastor and family, and loved ones yet unsaved.
- **PRAY** for those in prison. Especially for Christians.
- **ASK GOD** to strengthen our resolve in all manner of godly living.
- **PRAY REGULARLY** for the NDHSA board of directors as they continue to provide vision and wisdom.
- **PRAISE GOD** for Home School Legal Defense Association; for Daniel Beasley, HSLDA rep for ND; for their continued careful monitoring of federal legislation; for their continued work to expand freedom for homeschoolers.
- **REMEMBER** the suffering Church around the world. Often. Nigeria, Egypt, Kenya, Cameroon, Sri Lanka. Christians are dying daily.



**Pray without ceasing.**