

THE ECLECTIC REPORT

North Dakota Home School Association P.O. Box 1066 Devils Lake, N.D. 59301 701.662.6347 office@ndhsa.org www.ndhsa.org

January 2021

Vol. 12 Issue 1

Published by the North Dakota Home School Association

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Greetings,

Well, it will soon be convention time again. I have now attended every homeschool convention since 1991. What's my favorite part? The keynotes have been great. Workshops are so practical and necessary. Used book sale--I'm a bibliophile so you can guess what I think of that event. The art show and silent auction are much fun to participate in and I love the talent and creativity featured. We've sure enjoyed talent night over the years.

But my best-loved times at convention are the many opportunities to visit with folks.

Some I only see at convention time. Some I have been seeing for decades. Some I am meeting for the first time or maybe 'met' on FB. Whatever the connection, these are the times that strengthen and encourage my soul.

It takes planning and funding. And sometimes it seems more of a hassle than it might be worth. But, trust me, it's worth it. I hope to see many of you Feb. 18-20 at the Bismarck Event Center. I'll be there! Check out our website for all the info.

Grace and peace,
Gail M. Biby



The NDHSA is a 501c3 non-profit.
We rely on memberships
and donations to keep operating.

Homeschool Day
at the Capitol scheduled for
**Feb. 18, 2021, has
been CANCELLED!**
NDHSA Convention
Bismarck Event Center
Feb. 18-20, 2021



The VIEW from my WINDOW

Theresa Deckert, NDHSA Office Administrator



As I have been going about my tasks today I have been thinking about time. That is perhaps a timely subject with a new year before us!

One thought that goes through my head often is, "I don't have enough time." Such an interesting thought when realizing we all have the same amount. I am good at time management and also at multi-tasking. It helps me be organized and to get a lot done, but in my rush to get through the never ending list I often miss a lot.

A friend of mine said years ago that he wanted to spend his life (time) concentrating on the things that will last forever – the Word of God and souls of men. I guess all of our time management really boils down to what is important to us. It is so easy to get busy with the temporal (I don't mean the necessary, but the unnecessary).

As I get this side of gray I have noticed that some things are easier to put aside. My thinking has turned more to, "Hmmm, I know I probably don't have more than another 30 years left, do I really want to give some of my precious time to _____ (you fill in the blank)".

The chaos of the past year has taught us all a lot about what is truly important. I pray that in 2021 we won't forget those lessons. As you teach your children this remaining school year, remember that it is the life lessons, character building and time spent together that far outweigh getting every page of the 5th grade Math textbook completed! The memories made today with a small child will give them joy that will last their whole life.

"Yesterday is History, Tomorrow is a Mystery, Today is a Gift, that's why we call it the Present."

BOARD Column

We need support and fellowship. Yes, we do!

By Karol Kapelle, convention coordinator

I recently had the opportunity to reconnect with an old friend. We hadn't seen each other in quite a while and had only spoken sporadically over the last year. In all honesty, I didn't think I had missed her. But, after spending an afternoon together, I realized how much I missed her! I actually thought I was the one doing her a favor by providing transportation home from an appointment miles away, but as it turns out, she was the one that blessed me beyond measure.

I didn't know how much I needed the shared laughter and reminiscing. My spirit was lifted in appreciation of the heartfelt love and prayers she offered over me and my family's needs. Although she needed me in a practical way, I needed her much more in ways she will never know.

As a board, we have struggled with the difficult decision of whether or not to hold our planned convention scheduled for February. We have prayerfully tried to consider all scenarios, pros and cons, and have concluded that we will move forward with our plans.

One of the most compelling reasons for us moving ahead is the desire to offer fellowship and encouragement to those who may really be struggling to 'just hang on' during this very difficult season.

I remember the days of homeschooling several little ones and thinking I couldn't do it another day. I often suffered in silence thinking, "You chose this route so deal with it!" But, I NEEDED encouragement to just keep going! The annual convention always provided that for me. Even the times when I thought maybe I had this 'thing' under control for a change, I was so often pleasantly surprised at how God showed me just how much I needed the support and fellowship of others.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this article, I didn't think I had missed my friend. Maybe you feel that same about the convention. I encourage you to reconsider. Maybe there is an old friendship that needs rekindling or a new one waiting in the wings. Who knows what fun is in store!

We're doing our best to provide quality speakers and workshops to encourage, equip, and assist you as you lead your families, and we look forward to seeing you February 18-20 at the Bismarck Event Center!

Please note that the NDHSA recognizes and is concerned with the risks related to COVID-19. However, we trust our members to make responsible decisions for themselves and will not be adding any extra requirements or enforcing external mandates. Some vendors may require masks at their booths. If this is the case, please respect their wishes.

All convention info can be found at:

www.ndhsa.org

Homeschool Day at Capitol cancelled due to...well, you know why!

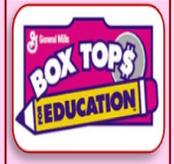
Here is a perk to our NDHSA members. There is a **FREE homeschool planner** on the member portion of our website. You can download as many as you want.

Memberships, donations and convention income is what keeps the NDHSA operational. If God so leads, a year-end gift will be greatly appreciated and carefully used on behalf of ND parent educators.

For legal assistance JOIN Home School Legal Defense Association. www.hslda.org

Find a support group near you at: www.ndhsa.org
Click on support groups.

Send clipped labels for **BOX TOPS for Education:**
Laurie Morstad
9175 80th St. NE,
Hampden, ND 58338
Check expiration dates.



With SchoolhouseTeachers.com, you don't need anything else. We offer [Preschool Playground](http://PreschoolPlayground) for the littles, and many options for the rest of your children all the way through [12th grade](http://12thgrade)! Science to language arts and everything in between, we've got you covered. Every subject, every grade, every student.

YOUR History Matters

By Gail M. Biby

“History Via Your Family Tree” by Melissa Williamson, appears in the Winter 2020 issue of *Practical Homeschooling* magazine. I have been researching my family history through Ancestry.com, family items and my mom so this article really caught my eye. Our family documents, unfortunately, ended up in the hands of someone who will not grant me access to them or provide any copies. But the real bonanza for my brother Glenn and I has been the many stories my mom told me during the last three years of her life. Gathering up the details has been so worth it! I put them into booklet form.

Williamson's article is geared toward studies for the middle school years but her advice will be helpful to all. Her children love hearing the stories told by their grandparents. Record those stories, if possible. Don't think they don't matter; they do. Help your children develop some questions to ask Grandpa and Grandma. There may be other older relatives that you and your children can interview. Do so. Record them. Williamson states, “Interviewing loved ones shows respect towards them and gives your children deeper connections.”

Another good tip: “...encourage your kids to begin preserving their memories for future generations.” One can only imagine the thrill of reading a diary from an ancestor. My maternal grandmother kept a

daily diary. Oh, how I would love to read it. I have kept more than 40 years of journals/diaries/calendars.

Williamson recommends writing a few sentences each day about ‘the quarantine’. How did it affect you? What special activities were enjoyed by your family? How did you reach out to others? She states, “I personally am keeping a scrapbook of all our activities during this time....”

She includes some tips on handling all those family photos. Sorting, labeling, digitalizing etc. She mentions the fun of observing not just the people in the photos but also the clothing, hairstyles, automobiles and other age-defining characteristics.

Williamson includes a section on dealing with difficult histories. She recommends doing this project within the family rather than in a co-op. There are all sorts of things one may discover. I found a number of 1st cousins I didn't know about-this was delightful. But it may not have been so if, for example, we discovered great uncle John Doe was a murderer. We also discovered some unknown parentages.

I have searched for the thread of Christianity that flows through my family and have found it in many places. Knowing the names of one's ancestors from 1642 will certainly set a soul to thinking. Their history mattered. Your history matters.

www.home-school.com

Practical Homeschooling

NDHSA
Home Educators Convention
Feb. 18-20, 2021
Bismarck Event Center

Keynote Speaker: Jared Dodd



- Inspiring speakers
- Teen sessions
- Children's workshops
- Kids' Program
- Used Book Sale
- Curriculum vendors
- ...and much more!

Cabin Fever Family Camp

Crystal Springs Camp - Medina, ND

January 29-31, 2021

ACCOMMODATIONS: Dorm room for each family. Men's and women's bathrooms and showers. **BRING YOUR OWN** bedding and toiletries.

MEALS: Provided *Friday supper through Sunday Brunch*. Bring snack to share for Saturday afternoon. We do not provide gluten, nut, dairy, or other wise allergy-free foods. Kitchen is available in the boys dorm if you need to prepares meals. **CLEAN UP** after yourself!

ACTIVITES: Basketball, volleyball, dodge ball, rock climbing, outdoor winter fun, and organized group games. Play-dough, carpet ball, and bead stringing for the wee ones.

ALSO: Fellowship and worship evening and morning.

DON'T FORGET: Camp has a no pets policy; schedule given at registration; arrival time begins at 1:00 p.m. Friday and; please dress modestly, no tight, short or low-cut clothing.

NDHSA Board of Directors

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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. 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 billbiby@msn.com.

Gail M. Biby is the publications editor for the NDHSA and has been joyfully working with parent educators for almost 30 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: billbiby@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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www.ndhsa.org office@ndhsa.org

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www.ndhsa.org Instagram link: <https://www.instagram.com/ndhsassociation/>

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
- 2020** Leroy and Ann Nelson, Greg Lange, esq.



PRAYER

- **Beg God** for mercy for America!
- **PRAY** for those facing Christmas without a dear one.
- **ASK GOD** to strengthen those who are weary; ask Him to renew the homeschooling mom's courage and perseverance. Pray for those who are thrust into the role of homeschooling.
- **REMEMBER** the lost.
- **INTERCEDE** for your spouse, your pastor and family. Pray we will be faithful, obedient, and willing to throw away all excuses that keep us from denying self, taking up our crosses, and following Jesus.
- **PRAY** for all who are confined in nursing homes and not allowed visits. Pray for the safety and comfort of those confined.
- **ASK GOD** to give strength to Doug Berntson and daughters Angela and Charissa, after the death of Ruth. Long-time homeschoolers and convention vendors. Doug now resides at Villa Maria in Fargo.
- **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 for homeschoolers.
- **REMEMBER** the suffering Church around the world. They are giving their lives for the sake of the Gospel. Nigeria, Egypt, Kenya, Cameroon, Sri Lanka. Pray for those in Beirut. Ask God to end the polio outbreaks in Africa due to the vaccine.

BLESSED New Year Greetings!