



TEXARKANA ORGANIZATION FOR RESOLUTE CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOLERS

He hath made every thing beautiful in His time...

Ecclesiastes 3:11

A NOTE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

I feel like letting out a breath, because of all the activity we had in December, and yet our family is getting set for a new venture as our eldest daughter comes back from the mission field to get married and set up housekeeping in Texarkana. I am so thankful to see her become engaged to a good Christian young man, and look forward to seeing what God has in store for them. This has been just one of the blessings of homeschool and keeping my children unspotted from the world.

During our monthly meeting this month, Cindy Elkins will be showing us parents what our children have accomplished in Toastmasters. We are going to get to sit back and watch our young men and women have a public speaking contest.

We all enjoyed our trip to the Mid-American museum this month. We had wonderful weather to travel in and thrilled that the museum offers a special homeschool day. Thanks Kerry for getting this together for us.

During our **February Meeting** we will be having a few people come and speak about gardening. One of our own, Melissa Martinez has had success in her gardening. I am hoping she helps me and you with her gardening tips. She also has plans for a field trip to a garden center in the near future, which I look forward to attending.

I thank all you who are getting these activities together.

Your President,

Kim Bragg

EVENTS CALENDAR

Mark your calendar for March 9th for the Four States Auto Museum field trip.

Culture Club is held the last Friday of the month. **See calendar for more details.**

Every Tuesday the Baptist Bookstore offers story hour (games, skits and crafts) beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Thurs, February 2 nd	3:00pm-5:00pm	Keepers/Contenders/4-H Meeting	Landmark Baptist
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4H and Keepers at Home/Contenders for the Faith meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month from 3pm-5pm at Landmark Missionary Baptist Church.

Sat, February 4 th	7:00pm-9:00pm	Book Club	Martinez Home
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This month's Book Club meeting will be at the home of Melissa Martinez. The address is online. For directions you may call Melissa at (903) 733-1616. We will be discussing the book for this month that was chosen by Ally Bolch and is: "Riven" by Jerry Jenkins.

Book club is about fun, fellowship and discussion of a good read. Book selections are limited to Christian books, classics and those approved by the group. Anyone who wants to participate may join in at any time, and guests are welcome.

Tues, February 14 th	12:00pm-3:00pm	Park Day	Grady T. Wallace Park
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On the 2nd Tuesday of each month weather permitting we meet at Grady T. Wallace Park for Park Day from 12pm-3pm. Bring your lunch and eat under the pavilion. Parents visit while the children play.

Wed, February 15th 1:00pm-3:00pm Bowling College Bowl

The 3rd Wednesday of each month is bowling at College Bowl, located on College Drive. Cost is \$2 per person/per game and includes shoes.

Thurs, February 16th 3:00pm-5:00pm Keepers/Contenders/4-H Meeting Landmark Baptist

4H and Keepers at Home/Contenders for the Faith meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month from 3pm-5pm at Landmark Missionary Baptist Church.

Thurs, February 23rd 1:00pm-3:00pm Valentine Party Landmark Baptist

Our Valentine Party will be held on Thursday February 23rd at Landmark Baptist Church. As in prior years, teens are encouraged to do a game for the younger kids. Every family is asked to bring snacks and each child should bring Valentines to give out. The Son family will be doing a CUP CAKE walk. We would appreciate any Valentine coffee mugs that you have to donate, please see LaRona for more information.

Also, there will be a Valentine Box contest. Have your children make their own Valentine Mailbox that the Valentines they receive can be put into. There will be prizes for the most artistic among the little kids, and among the teens. Questions can be directed to Becky Teer or Angelina Simmons. Thanks!

Fri, February 24th 11:00 am Culture Club Edwards' Home

Culture Club **meets on the last Friday of each month at 11:00 a.m. at the Edwards' home. See calendar for study topic.**

Mon, February 27th 7:00pm-9:00pm Monthly Meeting/TOASTMASTERS Landmark Baptist

The 4th Monday of each month is our support group meeting. We meet at Landmark Missionary Baptist Church, 401 Vernal, Texarkana, AR, 71854 from 7pm-9pm. Each month there is a topic of interest to homeschoolers, a special event, or a guest speaker.

TOASTMASTERS runs concurrently with the monthly meeting.

Please bring a drink and snack to share.

What is TORCH Gavel Club?

TORCH Gavel Club, is a Toastmasters Club. Participants practice and learn skills by filling a meeting role, ranging from giving a prepared speech or an impromptu one to serving as timer, evaluator or grammarian. Each speech and meeting is critiqued in a positive manner, focusing on what was done right and what could be improved.

What is 4H?

4-H in the United States is a youth organization administered by the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, with the mission of "engaging youth to reach their fullest potential while advancing the field of youth development." The name represents four personal development areas of focus for the organization: head, heart, hands, and health.

The goal of 4-H is to develop citizenship, leadership, and life skills of youth through mostly experiential learning programs. This organization was typically thought of as an agriculturally focused organization, however, as a result of its history, 4-H today focuses on citizenship, healthy living, and science, engineering and technology programs. Today, 4-H and related programs exist in over 80 countries around the world. Each of these programs operate independently, but cooperatively through international exchanges, global education programs, and communications.

What are Keepers/Contenders Clubs?

"Contenders for the Faith and Keepers at Home are scouting type clubs where boys and girls can come together to learn spiritual and practical skills to benefit them for life.

Keepers of the Faith Clubs provide wholesome, fun-filled learning experiences while building character. The children learn basic skills of caring for their immediate environment, such as home care for boys and homemaking for girls. Hand skills, crafts, and projects are learned. Spiritual skills and habits are developed. Physical fitness is developed through outdoor activities. Knowledge is gained through learning about leadership, culture, and nature. Spiritual priorities like Bible reading and memory work are stressed, and there

is also a strong emphasis on meeting the needs of "others." Children learn to make such traits an integral part of their lives through a number of "others-oriented" activities.

Keepers of the Faith Clubs permit every child to achieve without competing against each other. Success is not dependent on brains, talent, or speed. Hard work, character, and perseverance are the requirements for achievement in this ministry, as in life.

Keepers of the Faith Clubs promote parent-child relationships, family, and God's design for a masculine man and a feminine woman. We have a mission from God to teach our children. Let us minister together to train them to be strong, godly adults who are independent of the world, and yet fully dependent on God."

MEMBER RESOURCES

Be sure to check out the **TORCH Website** at www.homeschool-life.com/tx/torch. FINANCIAL REPORTS are available on the TORCH website.

Contact Information

2011/2012 TORCH Board Members

President:	Kim Bragg	870-653-6204	siskimberlyn@gmail.com
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TORCH is a local homeschool support group serving Texarkana, AR/TX and the surrounding area. Organized and operated by parent volunteers, our mission is to support and encourage those pursuing the choice of homeschooling for the education of their children.

TORCH is a Christian group, operated on the basis of Biblical principles and living faith; we uphold traditional Christian values while welcoming members of all races, nationalities and backgrounds who subscribe to The TORCH Ideals. Our common bond is our concern for the education of our children.

TORCH Monthly Meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month from 7pm-9pm at Landmark Missionary Baptist Church, 401 Vernal, Texarkana, AR 71854. Guests are welcome, and may call our President, Kim Bragg 870-653-6204 for more information. Each meeting covers upcoming events, a special topic or guest speaker of interest to homeschoolers, and pertinent legal issues.

TORCH
PO Box 3446
Texarkana, TX 75503
www.homeschool-life.com/tx/torch

MY NOTES:

Arkansas side families: Arkansas Testing information has been sent out. The last day to sign up is March 9th and the test is at the Texarkana Reformed Baptist Church on April 2, 2012. If anyone needs any information you are welcome to call Kim Bragg 870-653-6204.