

# The VIEW from my WINDOW



By Theresa Deckert, NDHSA Office Administrator

## Stay Involved!

So what should you do next? That is a thought I have rolled around in my head the last couple of years as many of my friends have graduated their last homeschooled student. This year I will cross that bridge as well.

I have long thought about establishing some sort of a mentorship program where seasoned, retired home educators could walk beside a young family and help them navigate the homeschooling waters. Does that interest you? Let me know at [office@ndhsa.org](mailto:office@ndhsa.org) if you have any ideas.

I would love to see retired home educators stay involved in the movement. That could happen in several ways, one being mentoring a young family. Other areas for continued involvement are through your local support group, volunteering at the convention, being involved in legislative efforts. When most of us were in the thick of homeschooling we just did not have time for these other pursuits.

When considering your local support group: do you have a talent you could volunteer in the form of a class? How about teaching a craft or culinary lesson? Does your support group need volunteers to monitor gym time or perhaps someone to watch little ones. Do you love drama or music? Perhaps you could choose and direct a play or begin a choir in your group.

At convention we always need volunteers for bag stuffing, helping at the registration table, manning the silent auction tables or assisting vendors when they have a presentation. Just contact Karol at [convention@ndhsa.org](mailto:convention@ndhsa.org) if you would like to volunteer.

We will be introducing a bill this session to address the 2007 Attorney General's opinion on parental qualifications. Do you have a testimony either written or oral that you could give? Maybe you could just take some time from your day to attend the hearings to show you support the bill. Of course you can also visit with your legislators and encourage their support!

Finally if you have grandchildren who are being educated at home you could help with a class from time to time or volunteer to watch the little ones. I have also known grandparents who make good use of the convention vendor hall by buying materials to help with the education of those precious grandkids.

I think once you become a homeschooler that always has a part of your heart so use that love and stay involved!

### Editor's Musings:

Greetings!

I have been abruptly reminded of the brevity of life this past month. On October 19 my brother, Lee, suddenly stepped off into forever. One moment he was chatting with my mom and the next he was gone. Yes, we knew his heart was weak and we knew he had physical ailments. Nevertheless, how surprised we can be at a loved one's sudden passing.

Our lives are like the grass; here today, gone tomorrow. We "Bring our years to an end with a sigh; they are soon gone and we fly away. So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom."

We have so many activities, numerous worthwhile duties, a host of good programs or ministries we could be involved in. But I propose that maybe we need more 'down' time. Maybe we require more quiet time to think, pray, and listen to God speak to us.

In the long run will it matter if your child can play outstanding hockey, or loves cats, or is a winner in the geography bee, or beats all comers in chess? If they have not grown to love the Lord God with all their hearts, souls and minds and their neighbors as themselves then they are not successful.

According to the Scriptures the whole duty of man is "to fear God and keep His commandments." And also in the Old Testament we are admonished to "do justly, love mercy, walk humbly with God." If you are a Christian family, are these truths part of your curriculum?

Continue on the course God has given you. Your homeschooling years will pass so quickly and the benefits you and your children reap will be lifelong. Don't quit your homeschool involvement...even when you have completed teaching your children. Mrs. Deckert's article has some excellent tips.

God has given you a hard course to follow, but He will be your sufficiency. In the hard times of life when you lose a loved one; when you complete homeschooling and deal with an empty nest; when you come to the end of your journey, there He will be...your all sufficient Savior. He has set your course. Trust Him. He will never fail.

Grace and peace,  
Gail M. Biby



[www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org) [office@ndhsa.org](mailto:office@ndhsa.org) 701.662-6347

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

The following article was first published in *The Homeschool Minute* online magazine. Used with permission. **Dara Halydier will be one of our featured speakers at the 2019 NDHSA Convention, Feb. 18-March 2 at the Jamestown Civic Center.**

## He Will Equip You

By Dara Halydier

“You are not qualified to teach your kids! Leave it to the school system.” Not all parents, grandparents, or other relatives are supportive of homeschooling, and some are quite verbal about it. What I found to combat the negativity, criticism, and doubt was information, time, and dealing with my own insecurities.

As my parents (both public school educators), in-laws, siblings, etc., learned more about homeschooling and what we were doing, they quit being so skeptical. I made a deliberate effort through newsletters and e-mails to let my family know what we were studying, what activities we were involved in, and how my kids were doing. I made sure to share statistics, pro-homeschooling articles, and the news of homeschool graduates succeeding in school and life. When I could, I would involve my family in home-schooling projects. My parents presented a chapter of life in the 70's to our kids and ate our deserts as we ate our way around the world for geography. They listened to recitations, watched plays, and were shown other visual projects that we did. When they lived several states away, I would video the kids doing their projects.

As our parents and grandparents saw that our children could read quite well, could discuss current events, would look them in the eye as they conversed with them, and were involved in outside activities, they became less skeptical and more supportive. As the children continued to offer polite and in-depth answers even as teenagers, our parents became pro-homeschoolers themselves.

With the doubt and criticism flowing in, I often took a defensive position trying to argue my point. This was not

productive and caused a rift in my relationship with my parents. When I finally understood that homeschooling was my call from God and that I only had to please Him, I was able to listen more, be less defensive, and respect my parents' right to disagree. I was able to apply grace to our relationship. I no longer felt inadequate and insecure which gave my parents more confidence in my homeschooling efforts. This made a bigger impact on their questions and criticism than anything I could have done to convince them.

It is important to deal with your feelings of inadequacy and insecurity. God says that He will equip you to do that which He calls you to do (Hebrews 13:20-21). He will be your competency, your sufficiency, your adequacy (2 Cor. 3:5). Trust in Him and He will guide your path (Prov. 3:5-6).

Know that you were called by God to teach your children at home, be in agreement with your husband, and homeschool with joy! When naysayers strike, be confident, open, and have some facts available. It's hard to disagree when your children go on to succeed in their various endeavors. That's when your family will be singing your praises.

*Dara Halydier is an author, speaker, and mom of five grown boys! She homeschooled for twenty-one wonderful years and is now encouraging other homeschooling families.*

*She is the executive director of Abiding Truth Ministry and the author of the Practical Proverbs series and other books. Dara has learned life's lessons the hard way—experience! The lessons she shares come from truths that she has learned from dealing with chronic pain, having moved thirty-three times, having four boys with learning disabilities, and having overcome a past of abuse to proclaim God's grace, forgiveness, and freedom. Find out more at*

[www.abidingtruthministry.com](http://www.abidingtruthministry.com).



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## Celebrate the West Art Competition

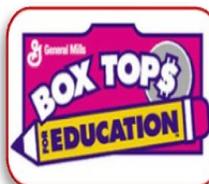
The Western Governors' Association's 4th Annual "Celebrate the West" regional art competition challenges high school students to create works inspired by their state.

High school students are welcome to submit artwork used for other contests or assignments. Students' artwork will be returned, and shipping will be paid for by WGA. Easy to enter; students only need to email a photograph of their artwork with the entry form found on our website.

Contact: Christine Ogsbury, Western Governors' Association at 720-939-0444.

Visit here for more information: <http://westgov.org/celebrate-the-west>

The entry deadline is April 28, 2019.



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

For legal assistance  
**JOIN**  
**Home School Legal**  
**Defense Association.**

[www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org)

Find a support group near you at:  
[www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org)  
 click on support groups.

**NDHSA Convention**  
**Feb. 28--March 2, 2019**  
**Jamestown Civic Center**  
**Keynote: Dr. Brian Ray**

The **Minot Symphony Orchestra** invites 4th and 5th grade students to attend **FREE Children's Concerts** Friday **February 1, 2019**, at 9:30 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. Seating is limited - first come, first served. The 2019 children's concert theme will be **Decomposing Composers**. These concerts feature the following:

- **Efrain Amaya:** Angelica
- **High School Competition Winner:** TBA
- **Nathaniel Stookey: *The Composer is Dead***-text by Lemony Snicket Narrated by Jay Davis of the Hometown Radio Group – WGO, the Zoo and Sunny 101.9

To help prepare your students for the concert, the MSO has been awarded a grant through Verendrye Electric's Operation Round Up to purchase *The Composer is Dead* books (up to 50) to use as a preparation tool for your students.

Rotation between main floor and balcony seating based on last year's seating assignments and availability at time RSVP is received.

Brought to you in part by the Minot Symphony Association, Xcel Energy, North Dakota Council on the Arts, the City of Minot, Minot Area Council of the Arts, Minot State University and Generosity by Signal.

Contact Ellen Fenner, Executive Director, at 701-858-4228 or [minotsymphony@minotstateu.edu](mailto:minotsymphony@minotstateu.edu) with any questions.



## LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE CONTEST

The 2018-19 **Letters About Literature** contest starts soon! Entries accepted online **November 1, 2018 through January 11, 2019**.

Visit the *Official Letters About Literature* website: [http://www.read.gov/images/banner\\_lal\\_tagline.jpg](http://www.read.gov/images/banner_lal_tagline.jpg)

Teachers, librarians, and homeschool parents should know there are resources available to them to guide their student participants. A video series has guidance for students on participating in **Letters About Literature** and writing their letters.

The **Letters About Literature** Teaching Guide provides activities teachers can use to guide their students through the book discussion and letter-writing process. The guide addresses the LAL teaching strategies and ways in which the program can dovetail with curriculum for teaching, reading, and writing. Also included are worksheets for duplication and assessment checklists.

**Letters about Literature** is a national reading/writing contest sponsored by the Library of Congress for students in grades 4-12. Students read a book, a speech or a poem, and write to an author (living or dead) about how the book affected them personally.

There are three levels – Level 1 is Grades 4, 5 and 6. Level 2 is Grades 7 and 8. Level 3 is Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12. Each level will have prizes! \$150 for first place, \$100 for second and \$50 for third.

Questions? Call the State Library 1-800-472-2104 or email [ssandwick@nd.gov](mailto:ssandwick@nd.gov).



## Learn About Wolves

Are you looking to give your students the feel and experience of a field trip without the time and cost commitment? The IWC's **WolfLink** programs can do just that! The IWC's WolfLink virtual field trips can **live stream educational programs** directly into any classroom. We have various programs for all grade levels.

The IWC is located in **Ely, MN**. We house 7 ambassador wolves that serve as a link between hu-

mans and the wild.

The International Wolf Center advances the survival of wolf populations by teaching about wolves, their relationship to wild lands and the human role in their future.

These programs are simple to set up and are time and cost-effective for those with limited field-trip budgets. Our current rates range from \$50-\$75 per program and are offered through the Tandberg system as well as Zoom. Zoom only requires an internet connection and a computer. **Wolf Discovery Kits** are also available to rent and provide tangible items for participants to experience.

**Contact:** Chad Davis - WolfLink Marketing Coordinator

**Office:** 218-365-4695, Ext. 125

**Email:** [cdavis@wolf.org](mailto:cdavis@wolf.org) Website: [www.wolf.org](http://www.wolf.org)

*International Wolf Center-1396 Highway 169-Ely, MN 55731*

## NE Regional Science Fair

Home school students are eligible to enter the NE Regional Science Fair March 12, 2019. If your student is in grades 6-12 they are eligible to enter. The project must be science or engineering experiments. More information at website under the "Quick Forms and Rules Reference Page" link on the left of the page.

<https://sites.google.com/a/mygfschools.org/north-dakota-northeast-regional-science-fair/>

Lorraine O'Shea, NE Regional Science Fair Director

Mark Sanford Education Center-2400 47th Ave S,-Grand Forks, ND 58201- [loshea270@mygfschools.org](mailto:loshea270@mygfschools.org) - 701.746.2200 - © 218.230.4594

## AmazonSmile is increasing the donation rate 10x from Oct 29 - Nov 2

Thanks to customers shopping at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), AmazonSmile has donated over \$100 million to charities around the world! To celebrate, we're launching our biggest bonus donation to date — **5% for 5 days**. From Oct 29 - Nov 2, we're donating 5%, ten times our usual rate, on all eligible smile.amazon.com purchases. Click [here for details](#).

Through Nov 2, AmazonSmile is donating 5% (ten times the usual amount) to **North Dakota Home School Association** when you shop at [smile.amazon.com/ch/36-3452370](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-3452370).  
#AmazonSmile #StartWithaSmile

[www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org)

## JOIN TODAY!

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](http://www.ndhsa.org) and discounted convention fees.

Often there is nothing of sacrifice in our task of bringing up children. But our Lord Jesus knew what it would cost Peter to feed His lambs, and He knows what it costs some of us. He overlooks nothing, forgets nothing. And He says of each hidden sacrificial act, "Ye have done it unto Me." (Matthew 25:40)

*Whispers of His Power, Amy Carmichael*

## HOMESCHOOL DAY at THE CAPITOL

### March 25, 2019

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Great field trip!

## Give THANKS with a GRATEFUL heart!



### Sip Family WINTER CAMP

**Dates:** January 25-27, 2019 and we are only registering full weekend guests.  
**Costs:** Family-\$225 Couples-\$120 Children:13-17-\$40 7-12-\$32 6 & < Free  
**CONTACT:** Wendell Sip Family at: [wbsip@gmail.com](mailto:wbsip@gmail.com)  
Space limited; first come, first served; register ASAP!

### NDHSA Board of Directors

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- ~Pas. Brian, director & Bev Skaar, convention choir director 701.247.2875 [walkalongdeut6.7@hotmail.com](mailto:walkalongdeut6.7@hotmail.com)

#### 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](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 28 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: [billbivy@msn.com](mailto:billbivy@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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Like us on FB: [North Dakota Home School Association](https://www.facebook.com/northdakotahomeschoolassociation/) Visit us at:

[www.ndhsa.org](http://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

### 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, and Pas. Brian & Bev Skaar.**

**PRAY** for Christians worldwide. Pray for the missionary family from Cameroon whose father/husband was recently murdered.

**SUPPORT** your local support group in prayer and volunteer to help.

**INTERCEDE** for those wavering in faithfulness and duty.

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

**REMEMBER** to pray for North Dakota political races...that God's will be done. Not yours, not mine, but GOD'S!

**PRAISE** the LORD for the nurture and love of church families and the blessing of belonging.

**PRAY** for your Pastor and his family. Pray for him, his wife, and children regularly and encourage them. **ASK** God to protect them from evil.

**PRAISE GOD** for homeschooling dads who participate in this adventure.

**REMEMBER** this: **PRAY** for those in prison. It is a hard life for Christians.

**PRAY** for wisdom as you homeschool. **ASK** God to help you see what is *necessary*.

**PRAISE** God that we live where we have the freedom to homeschool. Pray for those in countries where no such freedom exists.

**May grace and peace  
be multiplied to you  
in the knowledge of God  
and of Jesus our Lord.**

