

# THE ECLECTIC REPORT

North Dakota Home School Association P.O. Box 1066 Devils Lake, N.D. 59301 701.6626347 [office@ndhsa.org](mailto:office@ndhsa.org) [www.ndhsa.org](http://www.ndhsa.org)

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Editor: Gail M. Biby

[billbibi@msn.com](mailto:billbibi@msn.com)



## Editor's Musings:

Greetings,

Feels an awful lot like Fall these days. I admit that Autumn is a lovely season in North Dakota. The problem for me is that it is followed by winter. I love those gentle warm days and cool, crisp nights of Fall. I love bonfires and s'mores; I love the harvest dust in the air producing glorious sunsets. The sound of geese overhead and the loud chatter of red-winged blackbirds gathering for the trip south always fill me with a kind of sadness though.

I formerly thought it was simply because I am a summertime gal. But I'm beginning to think it has more to do with an end of things. When we enter our 70s we are likely in the Autumn of our lives (at the very least). Is that why Fall makes me sad?

Or is there another reason? Do I feel a sense of ending here and beginning there? Am I really homesick for heaven?

Jesus said, "In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am there you may be also."



There are so many lovely things about our journey on earth. There is so much beauty in God's creation. Yet I am confident it is nothing compared to what awaits us in heaven. And despite the glorious beauty that awaits us, something even more astounding is in store for those who belong to God. We will live forever with the Lord Jesus.

Maybe that is why Fall makes us nostalgic for something. Something eternal where the season never ends. Where life never ends. Where we are no longer bound by time.

A home in the heavenlies with Christ Jesus where we will never sin again! Where we will never feel homesick, because we are finally home.

Grace and peace,  
Gail M. Biby

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

**March 5-7, 2020**

**NDHSA Convention**

**Jamestown, ND**

**Keynote:**

**Chuck Black**



**NORTH DAKOTA**  
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## The VIEW from my WINDOW

By Theresa Deckert NDHSA Office Administrator

A number of years ago our family started to home church. One of my sons and his family are part of our group. One day they had arrived before everyone else. My grandson was looking out the window and as people arrived he said, "Here comes the church." Boy did that little guy have it right even though he was only three! He understood that the church is not a building, but it is the people.

This also makes me think of homeschooling. How many times do we try to make our home look like a schoolroom right down to the desks in a row, chalk board on the wall and American flag in the corner? That is exactly how we started our homeschool journey. It took many years for this old gal to relax and realize that learning is taking place during all of our waking hours (our kids too)!

At our recent Mom's Chat group, one of the Moms shared she had thrown out the curriculum and was just doing guided, directed learning with her children through lots of reading aloud, writing, creative play and hands-on-activities. What a wonderful, enriching education those children are getting by not confining their learning to the four walls of a classroom.

I get many calls into the office from people who want a list so they can check off and show that their child learned everything a fourth grader should know. Who says a child has to learn about bugs in the fourth grade? Why not the first grade or the fifth grade?

This leads me to my second point. If you have several elementary children, why not do subjects like science, history and health together? The children's learning will be enriched as they discover together and Mom's job will be a lot easier.

I admit that I am talking mostly about the elementary years as high school probably needs a bit more structure. But if your child has had the joy of discovery learning, that will carry over into their whole life! So let's make this year one of joyful discovery rather than sitting at a desk and filling out workbook page after workbook page. Even if your child likes filling out those pages, their education will be enriched by discovery learning!



# BOARD COLUMN

By board member, **Melanie Joerger**

Labor Day weekend was filled with fun and family until Sunday morning brought an eerie and unfamiliar flash in my right eye which caused me concern. Visual floaters developed in my eye during the day. When we arrived home that evening I texted my optometrist and was advised to come in immediately.

After a lengthy exam with multiple dilations, I received the good news that the retina had not detached but that the vitreous was coming detached and had started to do so near the retina which caused all of the optical issues for me. Because of the location of vitreous detachment, it is still possible that it can tug on the retina and it will become detached. For approximately two weeks I will analyze my vision and try to detect any change in clarity, floaters or shadows. The Dr. encouraged me to call anytime day or night and took time and extreme care on a Sunday night to do every test possible to ensure that the retina had not detached in any location.

As we begin our homeschool year are we examining all that we do to make sure that the heart of our homeschool is attached to our Heavenly Father?

Are we attached to Jesus Christ through His Word and through prayer?

Are we praying for our families and searching our hearts to see where we have fallen away from God's leading.

Are there floaters in our vision that are distracting us from the object of our faith, Jesus Christ?

As we begin our homeschool year, let's examine our homeschools and our hearts and seek His plan for our families as we fix our hearts and eyes on bringing glory to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2**



## **The Old Schoolhouse Magazine**

This is one of if not the most comprehensive homeschool magazine on the market. Each publication is loaded (and I mean loaded!) with articles from folks who know what they are talking about. For example, the summer 2019 issue featured: article by

Dr. Brian Ray on homeschooling and individualized education programs; feature by Jessica Hulcy on teaching multi-levels; ideas for teaching grammar and math; an article on your child and social media; tips on middle school electives; column on the distracted child; a great piece on the nomadic homeschooler; a whole section featuring several articles on oceanography; and lots more. Each issue has more than 125 pages and is published quarterly. Contact them at [www.TheOldSchoolhouse.com](http://www.TheOldSchoolhouse.com) or call 1-888-718.HOME. I save all of mine and use them as resource materials.

## **Answers Magazine**

I have subscribed to this magazine for decades. Why? Because it is filled with articles, illustrations and commentary to help me understand the absolute necessity of seeing everything (and I mean everything) through the lenses of Scripture. Worldviews are held by everyone. As a Christian I want mine to jive with God's Word. For example, the recent issue features the following: Can We Trust the Bible Is True; Why Is Creation Such a Big Deal?; feature article on the Hawaiian islands birds; an epigenetics column on the complexities in secondary DNA language; a great piece on rocks and the Grand Canyon; featured animal is the ugly naked mole-rat; how to make an ocean in a box; a *Bible & Culture* section on the state of abortion in the states; a thought-provoking section (with a variety of articles) on "The Biology of Gender". I read it from cover to cover and store them for future reference. I have used them in the classes I teach for some darling homeschoolers. Each edition has a stand-alone section with something just for the wee ones. The recent one featured giant reptiles. At only \$18/yr. (5 mags/yr.) it is a bargain. Contact them at [www.answersmagazine.com](http://www.answersmagazine.com)



## North Dakota Poetry Out Loud

High school age students belonging to the ND Homeschool Association may participate in the **ND Poetry Out Loud** program, a national arts education program that encourages the study of great poetry by offering free educational materials and a dynamic recitation competition to high schools.

The program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about literary history and contemporary life. The program is flexible, accessible, and designed to meet the needs of all students, including EL learners, homeschoolers, and students with disabilities. You can read more about the National POL Program [HERE](#).

In addition to free resources and support, [North Dakota Council on the Arts \(NDCA\) Poetry Out Loud](#) offers non-matching grant funds for poet visits to schools registered in the POL Program. A total of \$12,000 is available each school year and are allocated on a first-come first-served basis. Maximum grant request cannot exceed \$2,000. Our highly professional poets are qualified to work with students from various cultures and learning situations. For more information see [Poets in Schools](#).

SCHOOL REGISTRATION DEADLINE Nov. 1, 2019

POETS IN SCHOOLS APPLICATION DEADLINE Dec. 15, 2019

SCHOOL CHAMPION STATE COMPETITION REGISTRATION DEADLINE Feb. 1, 2020

ND STATE POL COMPETITION Feb. 24, 2020

NATIONAL POL COMPETITION April 2020 Washington, DC

For more info contact:  
Rebecca Engelman  
Arts in Education Director  
701.328.7593  
[rengelman@nd.gov](mailto:rengelman@nd.gov)  
[www.nd.gov/arts](http://www.nd.gov/arts)  
<https://www.ndpol.com/>



8/22/19 This week 6th graders across the U.S. will receive 1-2 weeks of instruction in World History class about "Lucy," the famous australopithecus fossil icon

that leads the charge for the "evidence for supporting human evolution." Students will make dioramas, life-size posters, and learn about Lucy's kind in the line-up with homo habilis and homo erectus, leading to humans.

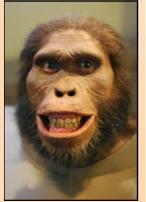
For many students this teaching sows seeds of doubt that later results in the student leaving their faith. That's why we started our ministry. We see kids like this all the time in our sessions, and we also talk with disillusioned parents who wish they had stayed in front of what their kids were learning in the world.

Fortunately, there are solutions. At a minimum, please [watch our short Lucy video and download our free Lucy book here](#).

You can also buy our complete "Debunking Evolution" (6-lesson program) or Lucy book and DVD [in our store](#) and use our 30% off using thebacktoschool2019 code. Sale ends September 3!

Be sure to subscribe to us on our YouTube [channel](#).

Editor's note: She doesn't look even remotely like anyone I'm related to!



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

Laurie Morstad  
9175 80<sup>th</sup> St. NE,  
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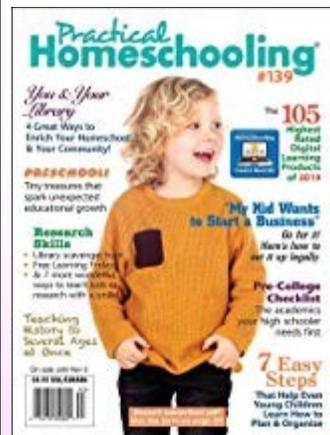


For legal assistance  
**JOIN**  
Home School Legal  
Defense Association.  
[www.hslda.org](http://www.hslda.org)

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

## CHECK THIS OUT

Do you have a high schooler you are homeschooling? Need tips on creating transcripts, report cards, etc.? Check out [www.MySchoolYear.com](http://www.MySchoolYear.com) They offer visual tracking, calendar, rescheduling, reading logs, attendance, lesson generators, reporting, extra-curricular, student logins and much more! Might be worth a visit.



## TIPS for the COLLEGE BOUND

(Snatched from *Practical Homeschooling* magazine; article by Dr. Kuni Beasley.)

Dr. Beasley recommends the following courses if your child is planning on college: 4 yrs. English, 2-4 yrs. each of math, social science, science, a fine arts or speech credit, a foreign language and electives. He wisely states, "Most colleges have become homeschool-friendly and will accept your homeschool transcript as long as your SAT/ACT scores reflect your GPA."

In regards to AP and SAT subject exams Dr. Beasley says these are "the best validation for the rigor of your high-school education...." He mentions the numerous materials available for preparing for these exams and recommends [www.rea.com](http://www.rea.com) and [www.BarronsBooks.com](http://www.BarronsBooks.com).

Here's a good tip from Dr. Beasley: Colleges have differing policies on dual credit, CLEP and DSST, so check with your prospective colleges before you go this route." When it comes to AP and subject exams he recommends at least one English AP, U.S. History and World History AP and at least one Science AP.

I found this surprising in Dr. Beasley's article: Most high school and college students read the same way they did in the sixth grade. The only changes are the vocabulary got larger and the print got smaller. Then he went on to explain the four levels of reading: Elementary, Inspectional, Analytical, and Syntopical. This was news to me. He recommends reading *How to Read a Book* by Mortimer Adler. I best look into that as I still read between 55-65 books a year.

His final thoughts included the following tips: Learn a new word every day. Maintain a persona portfolio of thoughts, ideas, information, references, and links. Ask good questions. Find the answers. Write it down. Dr. Beasley's regular column in *Practical Homeschooling* is always worth the read.

Subscribe to PH at: [www.practicalhomeschooling.com](http://www.practicalhomeschooling.com)

## Purpose of Homeschooling

From *Hope for the Children*, Gene & Nancy Transtrom

We wanted to raise children who would love Jesus and become productive adults able to follow the Lord Jesus in all He directs. It is very important they be fluent readers, understand the principle parts of grammar and be good in the basics of math. We tried to help them to be able to function in several different settings so that they would be flexible.

Every child has certain gifts. This was another area we really tried to pay attention and help them develop the gifts God had given them for His honor and glory.

As our children became teenagers we encouraged them to stay in groups and enjoy getting together with boys and girls. Many times we had families come and visit so the children of different ages could play and have fun together.

Many people warned us through the years how horrible it was going to be when our children became teenagers because of the rebellion in teens these days. Instead of encountering rebellion, however, we thoroughly enjoyed our teenagers. This is what happens when you nurture and discipline your children at a young age. They will respect and honor you even if they don't necessarily agree with you. You can peacefully work through disagreements until a conclusion is reached.

Motto of Charlotte Mason  
College, Ambleside, England

Of the three sorts of knowledge proper to a child, the knowledge of God, of man, and of the universe,--the knowledge of God ranks first in importance, is indispensable and most happy-making.

From *For the Children's Sake* by Susan Schaeffer Macaulay

### NDHSA Board of Directors

~Ken Knight, president & Llorra Knight, W region spt.grp.  
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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 [biliby@msn.com](mailto:biliby@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: [biliby@msn.com](mailto:biliby@msn.com) She is blessed beyond measure and once had a very long bucket list. She now prefers buckets of June berries.

NDHSA P.O. Box 1066 Devils Lake, N.D. 58301 701.662.6347

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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 for His immutability. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.
- **PRAY** for those in spiritual, physical, emotional need. Then do what the Lord directs regarding them.
- **ASK GOD** to strengthen those who are weary; ask Him to renew the homeschooling mom's courage and perseverance.
- **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 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. Remember Melanie Joerger as she deals with visual problems.
- **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. Don't forget.

The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit. Psalm 34:17-18