



Nebraska Homeschool

The Home Educators Network, Inc.

Fall 2016

Volume 10, Issue 7



Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!
Philippians 4:4



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**Back-to-School
DOUBLE Edition**



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Scripture Version Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from NIV.

Columnists The views of guest columnists do not necessarily reflect the views of NH-HEN.

Submissions to newsletter must be received by the 20th of each month via email at hen.newslettereditor@gmail.com.

Sponsors & Advertisers please email info@nebraskahomeschool.org.



Notes from the Board...

As you may have noticed your newsletter is somewhat delayed this fall. In fact, we did not issue a September or October issue. First, let me extend a personal apology to all of our members for this lapse in your member benefit. We need to do a better job. Second, please allow me to share why this has occurred. Our board size decreased this summer and we have not been able to replace those who needed to depart. Additionally, current members of our board have experienced life events that have placed greater demands on their time and attention – all this on top of their everyday responsibilities and volunteer service to Nebraska Homeschool.

Nebraska Homeschool is an all-volunteer, nonprofit group. We serve because we see a need and it is our heart's desire to make the homeschool journey smoother, more enjoyable for all homeschoolers. Every one of our services is offered through the volunteer efforts of our members. As such, we try to respect the needs of our volunteers and adjust accordingly. We also ask all of our members to consider volunteering in some way. I'll be sharing more on volunteer opportunities in future issues.

So, please accept my apology and give us grace as we continue to serve you. I also ask that you lift us up in prayer, asking for the Lord to sustain us and guide us as we serve you.

In His hands,
Kathryn Dillow
President

Explore Bellevue University



Gina Ponce

Director
High School & Community Outreach

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bellevue.edu

Thanksgiving Always

As homeschool families, we have all studied the origins of our national day of Thanksgiving. The tradition was started by the early colonists. It became firmly ensconced in our national history when Governor William Bradford sanctioned a fall feast in the year 1621 for the Plymouth colony and invited the local Indians. Today we celebrate Thanksgiving Day on the last Thursday of November thanks to President Abraham Lincoln, with some slight deviations during the Franklin D. Roosevelt presidency. Regardless of when the day of thanks was to be celebrated, it was singularly focused on giving thanks to God for the bounty of His provision.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Paul writes, “Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” It’s relatively easy to give thanks when things are going our way, when life is abundant, and our hopes and dreams are being realized. It’s quite another thing to continue giving thanks when life becomes difficult, we encounter suffering, or feel that we cannot bear another moment. The colonists were intimately acquainted with suffering and acutely aware of the need to give thanks for the things they *did* have. They understood God was the source of their provision. Perhaps this is something we need reminding of from time to time.



Yet, while we are encouraged to rejoice always, let us not forget to couple unending prayer with our rejoicing. We need to lay down our anxieties and concerns before God so we can take hold of the promise of peace that is given to us,

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. (Philippians 4:4-9)

God bless you and know that we lift you up in prayer, making our corporate homeschooling and parenting needs known to God. We pray that you can dwell on the excellent and praiseworthy things. We give thanks for all of you and know when you focus on Him that God will bring peace to your hearts and minds in times of chaos.

Thanksgiving for...



REACT GenJ Club

See You At The Pole Sept. 28, 2016

for lifting us up in prayer.

Praise to God for our freedom.



Julie Knutson, Tricia Croushorn, and the Legacy Yearbook Staff for documenting our homeschool memories every year.



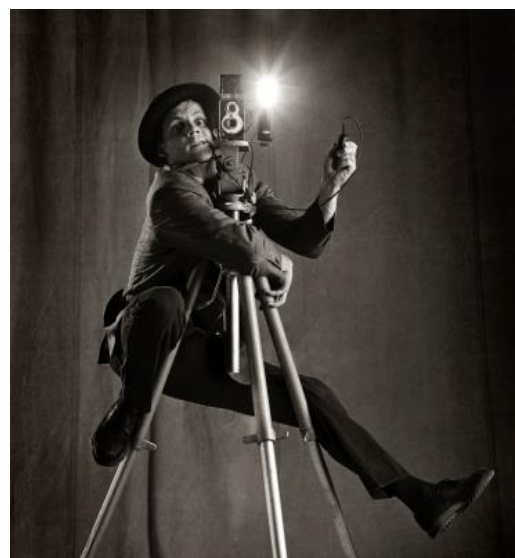
Sandy Larsen for managing our Scripps Spelling Bee for years!!



Vala's Pumpkin Patch

(Jan Vala with Kathryn Dillow, NH-HEN President)

for Homeschool Days every year and for recognizing our group, Nebraska Homeschool – HEN, on their website.



Tami Kolar for coordinating our homeschool Picture Days.



Excellence in our students
and dedicated parent educators.



Laura Wendt who manages our Box Tops Program.



Jennifer Sather
who manages our
Rose Theater
Tickets Program.



Linda Goodrich

who runs our High School & Beyond Program.



Debbie Nordstrom

who runs our New Homeschool Program.



Achievements of our children and
Tricia Croushorn for our Graduation celebrations.

As you can see, we are truly blessed, and we haven't even started to mention folks who have helped with our book sale, our summer conference, our Partners, or our member families.

It is a privilege to serve you and I am blessed to serve with a wonderful Board of Directors. **Debbie, Tricia, Jess—thank you** for all you do, in public and behind the scenes. Nebraska Homeschool is better for it and the homeschooling community reaps a great harvest from your labors.

Kathryn, President
Nebraska Homeschool

we are

ABLE

2016 Summer Conference



Thank you for hosting our conference!



Thank you, Sawyer Stockstill
for the great pictures of our 2016
summer conference Exhibit Hall.

Sawyer is an exuberant 14 year-old who enjoys cooking, reading, camping with Boy Scout Troop 26, gaming and spending time with friends. He aspires to be a chef and restaurant owner when he is old enough to sign his own lease, and a photographer on the side.





Nebraska Homeschool
The Home Educators Network, Inc.



ANNOUNCING OUR NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH A SPECIAL OFFER FROM DIVENTURES!



DiVentures is all about safety and fun in the water. We offer swim lessons for students of every age and skill level, and our small class sizes ensure the progress of our students. Our swim teachers are certified and utilize the latest swim curriculum and teaching techniques from Swim Schools International.

For Nebraska Homeschool members only, we are waiving the \$25 new customer registration fee.



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Your Monthly Calendar

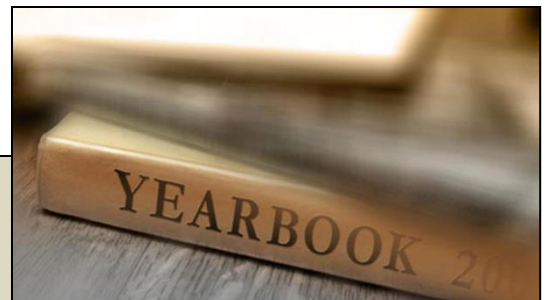
Accessing Nebraska Homeschool – HEN Website Calendar: Our calendar is now maintained on our website. This allows us to make more timely additions and updates. Visit www.nebraskahomeschool.org and click on the Calendar link in the footer or find it listed under the CONNECT tab in the main navigation bar.

When you click on the link to the NH-HEN calendar you will automatically be sent to the calendar in "Calendar" view. You may remain in this view (*see the entire month at a glance*) or you may change to a "List" view (*see list of month's events in chronological order*). You may view the entire calendar online or print a copy for yourself. Most items on the calendar are published to the Public, but occasionally an item will remain Private for NH-HEN members only. Members are encouraged to login to the website from time-to-time to view these Private events. You may also look ahead at upcoming months or search the calendar by topic if you are looking for something in particular.

Printing NH-HEN Calendar: There are several options available for printing the calendar. You may print the calendar from either view if you desire a hardcopy for your refrigerator or bulletin board. Print buttons are located just below the calendar/list.

- **Want a monthly overview?** If you want an overview of the month, print from Calendar view to get the month with the event names/dates.
- **Want a list of all events with details?** If you want a chronological list of events/dates, print in List view to get a *complete list with full details*.
- **Want single event details?** Click on the event. When you click on a particular item, a pop-up window will open displaying details about that event, to include location/time, instructions, and sign-up links (if required). At the bottom of the pop-up window is an option to print. Just click that button and it will print for you.
- **What if a pop-up window doesn't open?** If a pop-up window doesn't open, then the item listed on the calendar is merely a memory jogger for those interested in the item.

Submitting Items to NH-HEN Calendar: If you or your group is interested in submitting an item to the NH-HEN calendar, please email info@nebraskahomeschool.org. Be sure to place "Calendar Submission" in your email subject line and include full details in the body of the email. We ask that all submissions be made as early as possible so we have time to contact you if we have any questions about your submission. Submission is not a guarantee of posting and NH-HEN holds full discretion on which items to post.



Legacy Yearbook 2016/2017

Submit your homeschool photos at
anytime: hen.legacyyearbook@gmail.com

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Brent and Michelle Myers
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TeenPact's mission is to train youth to understand the political process, value their liberty, defend their Christian faith and engage the culture.



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Even though National Learning Disabilities Month has passed, we still wanted to share this article with our member families who are educating children with learning disabilities, or as Laurie Detweiler would phrase it, "learning aspirations."

We invite you to read her article from Veritas Press and be encouraged. Please let us know how Nebraska Homeschool can support you in fulfilling your role as parent educator to your precious baby.



Someone's Precious Baby

*by Laurie Detweiler **

October is National Learning Disabilities Month. It is a time when our focus is shifted to education, specifically on raising awareness about learning disabilities and the achievements those with these differences have accomplished. I wish we called it Nation Learning Aspiration Month.

Not a week goes by that I am not asked by one of our customer service representatives to call a despondent mother who wants to pull her child out of a school because it seems that the teacher just doesn't "get" him. The truth of the matter is that the teacher probably doesn't. Many children end up in situations where not only are they misunderstood, but they are not encouraged to become the person that God created them to be.

The Psalms show us that God is the one who created each of our precious babies, in fact, He is the one who knit them together. God MADE each of your children exactly how He wanted them to be made.

"For You formed my inward parts;
You covered me in my mother's womb.
I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
Marvelous are Your works,
And that my soul knows very well." (Psalm 139:13-14 NKJV)

If you have a child that struggles, it not only causes heartache for the child, but also the parents. We all have dreams for our children. We want them to have it better than we did. But the reality is that may not be what our heavenly Father has planned.

If I were to list for you those who have gone before us who had some kind of disability, you might be surprised:

Albert Einstein	Leonardo da Vinci
Galileo Galilei	Thomas Edison
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	Charles Schwab
Henry Winkler	Hans Christian Andersen
Walt Disney	Nelson Rockefeller
Winston Churchill	Gen. George Patton
Henry Ford	Agatha Christie
Stephen Hawking	John F. Kennedy
Jules Verne	Auguste Rodin
Alexander Graham Bell	Dustin Hoffman
Woodrow Wilson	Pete Rose

All of the people in this list have had a huge impact on society. In fact, in some cases had they not been in the right place at the right time, you would be reading a different story in your history books.

Often times it was their parents who made a difference in their lives by believing that they could achieve something when everyone else tossed them to the side. Did you know that at the age of six Thomas Edison burned down his family barn? Have any of you had any experience with boys that have done things like this? Then at age eight, his mother actually removed him from school. The schoolmaster believed that he was incredibly stupid and intractable. I am certainly glad that I am not that schoolmaster and so grateful that his mother had the courage of her conviction to remove him from the situation.

We live in an age where one size fits all. If your child doesn't quite fit in, suddenly they have a problem. Learning disabilities or disorders are just a label on the way God wired your child. If I say that my child has a small frame no one thinks anything about it. But, if I say they have a large frame, depending on your perspective, this might be seen as offensive. The same is true of labels attached to learning disabilities or disorders. If I tell a stranger that my child has dysgraphia, they may suddenly get frightened wondering if this is some disease their child might catch. But to someone who understands, this helps them know how to relate to your child. It lets the Sunday school teacher know not to have your eight year old come up to the board and write out an answer, but to answer orally.

When I talk to a parent who shares with me that their child has Aspergers, a form of autism, I get so excited. You see, these children are THRIVING in our online classes. The classes work for them because the computer takes out some of the social aspect of the classroom for that child. (It doesn't for all kids, but for these kids it allows a buffer.) When I hear that my child has Aspergers, what I think is "unlocked potential." I believe these kids have the chance to change the world—maybe more than *any* others.

Continued on page 14



NEW LOCATION: 319 N. 72ND ST.
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Photos by Jim Williams

And heaven forbid I say my child has ADHD. An outsider might think, “Well you didn’t have to tell *me* that.” Parents with kids that have ADHD fear that outsiders will question their parenting ability. And many times they probably do. But I’m telling you to hold your head up high. You are not a terrible parent. God chose you to parent a child that was going to require more than most people could handle. He knew with His help and dependence on Him that you could handle it. But, how you handle it is your choice.

Let’s go back to Thomas Edison. You see, his mom got it. When she took young Thomas out of school, she did not do it to make his—or her—life easier. She did it to push him to his full potential. She realized he was not going to learn in the classroom and she took it upon herself to push it. And push it she did. She gave Thomas materials that were way beyond his years and guess what he did with them.

Too many times these children end up not getting what they need. It might be because of the enormous amount of effort it takes to teach them or because of processing issues or because you can’t keep their attention long enough to teach them something. If you decide to educate your precious child, know that it is going to take a herculean effort. But an effort that will have rewards way beyond what you can imagine.

Fast forward to your child as an adult, are they going to call you all the time? When they invent something or maybe become president of the United States, are they going to credit you and our heavenly Father for not ever giving up on them? I hope so. Don’t despair; rejoice. I’ll be real, I know there will be days when you shut yourself in the bathroom and weep because you just can’t face anyone. Do not be discouraged! Hold your head up high: your neighbor wasn’t given this gift. You were. Remember this is your precious baby.

For further information and help for learning issues please call Veritas Press at 800-922-5082 and somebody will be glad to assist you. We also recommend <http://nild.org> National Institute for Learning Development.

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RESOURCES

- National Institute for Learning Development at www.nild.org
- HSLDA Struggling Learner Program at www.hslda.org/strugglinglearner
- Autism Society-Nebraska at www.autismnebraska.org
- Nebraska Dyslexia Association at www.nebraskadyslexia.org
- Exceptional Family Member Program Coordinator at Offutt Air Force Base (active duty military families only) contact Caroline Olson (402) 292-4329



Eta Sigma Alpha National Home School Honor Society



Attention High School Students!

Are you pursuing excellence in your high school career? Are you looking for recognition of your accomplishments? If you answered YES to either of these questions, then the National Home School Honor Society is for you.

Joining Eta Sigma Alpha, *Chi Zeta Chapter* allows your accomplishments to be independently verified and recognized by an impartial third party. The standards for entry and application forms are available at www.nebraskahomeschool.org.

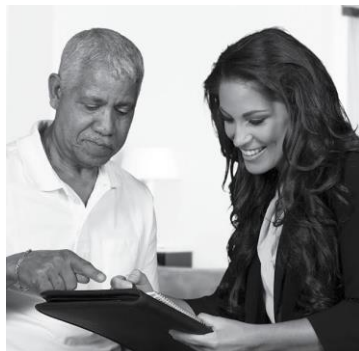
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@RESONATE2016



A DISCIPLESHIP EXPERIENCE OF
COVENANT CEDARS BIBLE CAMP



Strengthening the
homeschooling community
one *family* at a time.

Christmas Formal

Friday, December 9, 2016

As in days of old, celebrate Christmas in style!

*Arbor Hall
14040 Arbor Street
Omaha, NE 68144*

*9th-12th Grade
Homeschoolers and
Non-Homeschool Guests
Presents for all!*

*7:00 - 11:00 p.m.
(doors close at 8 p.m.)
Cost: \$25 - Non-refundable*

ONE FORM PER STUDENT – PLEASE MAKE A COPY FOR EACH ADDITIONAL STUDENT

Student: _____ Grade: _____ Student Email: _____

Parent: _____ Parent Email: _____

Parent Phone: _____ Student Phone: _____

If non-homeschooled, guest of: _____

Christmas Formal Protocol

Dress Code: It's Christmas time! Celebrate with style! Be stunning! Be beautiful! Be dashing! Be considerate! Be modest! If you think it may be inappropriate, it's inappropriate. Celebrate!

Conduct Code: There will be no public display of affection, no immodest or inappropriate dancing, no foul language, no alcohol or tobacco.

Our intent is to glorify God in all we do!

I agree to the above: _____ Student signature _____ Parent signature _____



Price per ticket: \$25 (postmark by 12/1/16) Non-refundable

Make checks payable and mail to:

Julie Knutson, 4604 N 78th Ave., Omaha, NE 68134

Questions?

Call: Julie Knutson 402-571-8562

Or email: omahahomeschoolfallformal@gmail.com

Have You Been Missing Your Etree?



Network News

The HEN Etree was renamed the *Network News* when we stood up our new website. We are mailing the *Network News* to our subscribers through a service called MailChimp, so please check your spam file if you haven't seen it lately. If you aren't receiving it, please subscribe if you wish to be on our subscription list.

The *Network News* is a free service provided to the entire homeschool community. Anyone may subscribe by clicking the "*Subscribe to Network News*" button at the bottom of our web page at www.nebraskahomeschool.org.

We have also added a new feature to the *Network News* – a Members Only section. This section will feature information and promotions that are offered exclusively to our members. Some items may require members to login with the password before viewing.

DID YOU KNOW??

NH-HEN Members enjoy a \$20 savings on Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) membership when they use our *Discount Group* number. Login to the member website or email us for the number at info@nebraskahomeschool.org.

Joining HSLDA for the first time? Using our *Referral Affiliate* number will save you \$20 and help our group at the same time. Applies to first-time membership only. Must complete application online and enter Referral Affiliate number at that time.

Referral Affiliate # 2291040

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homeschool families



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THE ROSE THEATER
Homeschool Field Trip Schedule 2016-2017

Prancer (2 hour show, Main Stage)

Performance: Wednesday, November 30 at 9:30 a.m.

Reservation deadline: Wednesday, November 16

Thumbelina (45 minutes, Hitchcock Theater)

Performance: Friday, January 27 at 10 a.m.

Reservation deadline: Friday, January 13

The True Story of the Three Little Pigs (60 minutes, Main Stage)

Performance: Wednesday, February 8 at 10 a.m.

Reservation deadline: Wednesday, January 25

Huck Finn (70 minutes, Main Stage)

Performance: Thursday, March 9 at 1 p.m.

Reservation deadline: Thursday, February 23

Harold and the Purple Crayon (60 minutes, Main Stage)

Performance: Tuesday, April 4 at 10 a.m.

Reservation deadline: Tuesday, March 21

Stellaluna and Other Tales (60 minutes, Main Stage)

Performance: Wednesday, May 3 at 10 a.m.

Reservation deadline: Wednesday, April 19

Seats for the following productions at the Rose Theater (2001 Farnam Street) are \$4.82 per person. The Rose gives one free teacher seat per family per production. Children two years old and under are free if they sit on laps. For age recommendations and a synopsis of each show, please visit

www.rosetheater.org.

Send a ***check made payable to Nebraska Homeschool*** for the total seats that you require (less the free teacher's seat) by the reservation deadline indicated. **Please include your name, the name of the play(s) you will be attending, the number of seats needed, and your e-mail address.**

Mail to:

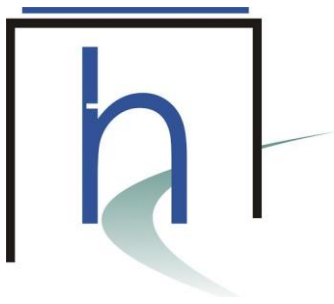
Jennifer Sather
5815 Lake Street
Omaha, NE 68104

jennifer.lea42@gmail.com
402-659-2467 (cell)

Next Issue:

The Road Ahead – year in review and plans for the future of Nebraska Homeschool.

Military Child With Special Education Needs – resource sharing from workshop.



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Nebraska Homeschool

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If you're interested in joining the **Nebraska Homeschool** and receiving our Newsletter in your mailbox - join.

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www.nebraskahomeschool.org

2. You can also request an application by emailing us at:

hen.membership@gmail.com

Just send the form and payment to:

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New homeschool support, mentoring, high school & beyond workshops, national honor society, graduation ceremony, spelling bee, picture day, yearbook, weekly mailers, newsletters, used curriculum sale, annual conference, member exclusive benefits & discounts, group collaboration, community networking, representation in the local community and with the Nebraska Department of Education. All of this and more! Join us and support homeschool freedom across Nebraska!

Did your membership expire?

Renew online at www.nebraskahomeschool.org or email info@nebraskahomeschool.org for help.