



J O N A T H A N ' S ARROW

The Battle Five Families Fought

To Win Our Freedom To Home School In Tennessee

By *Claiborne & Lana Thornton*

In the fall of 1981, declaring their home school a private school, Charles and Susan Moffat of Etowah, Tennessee began home educating their daughter, Holly. In January 1982, warrants were issued for their arrest, criminally indicting them under the criminal provisions of the Tennessee Compulsory Attendance Law. They were charged with truancy and fined \$100.00 for every day they did not comply with the law. For two years their case crept slowly through the McMinn County Court system. Then on June 5, 1984, in a precedent-setting ruling, Judge Bebb of the Criminal Court of McMinn County dismissed the charges against them and struck down Tennessee's Compulsory Attendance Law by ruling it "unconstitutionally vague" such that parents could not realistically determine what constituted a legal private school.

Tom and Eve Finlin of the small town of Chuckey in Greene County in northeast Tennessee began home schooling their children, Tony and Honey, in 1982, using

Christian Liberty Academy. In December 1983, the Greene County Board of Education charged them with truancy and declared that their children were "dependent and neglected". These are frightening charges because children so charged can be taken from their homes by the state and put in foster care. The Finlins were told the charges would be dropped once they enrolled their children in the Greene County public school. They refused to stop home educating. Thankfully, in trial before Chancellor William Inman the charges against them were dismissed!

In January 1983, Ron and Diana Powell of McMinnville in southern Middle Tennessee withdrew their sons, Richard and Jesse, from their local Christian school to begin home schooling. For two months they home schooled in peace, but in March 1983, they received a phone call from the Warren County Jail telling them to come pick up their arrest warrants. Criminally charged with violating Tennessee Compulsory Attendance Law and charged \$250 bond to stay out of jail,

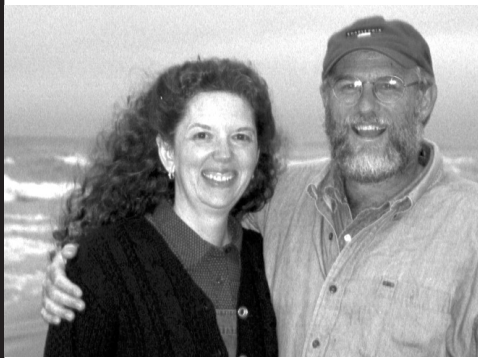
they appeared in court two weeks later. The Judge refused to decide a verdict, choosing instead to wait until the Tennessee state legislature determined the legality of home schooling.

In the early 80's, Dan and Laurie Sain of Bradyville, a small town in Coffee County in southern middle Tennessee began home schooling their five children, Franklin, Melanie, Joseph, Jason and Alison. Laurie has her Master's degree in Special Education and holds a Tennessee teacher's certificate. Their children's test scores proved the children were on track academically and their home school was working, but the Coffee County School Board did not agree. The Sains were told home schooling was not allowed in their home, but in a separate building it would be permissible! So, since Dan is in the construction business, he and his sons build a one-room school building in one week's time!

But the Coffee County School Board changed their mind and voted to crimi-

The Battle... continued on page 4

From Our Hearts



After many years of homeschooling, it is still a constant struggle to put together an entire week of uninterrupted schooling. I was recently talking to a mom who said that their school days had been reduced to Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Monday because of all the demands on their family. I spoke with another who lamented that her week had fallen apart again and that somehow schooling had to regain the priority that it deserved. We know that interruptions are many, including sickness, new babies, job changes, outside activities, and a myriad of others too numerous to mention. We have learned to be flexible in order to live this lifestyle into which we've been called. This, however, means we often accommodate interruptions rather than overruling them. This also means that there is a lot of pressure on moms to finish our year, thus producing stress and a lack of joy. Recently, we decided that we had had enough. With a little help from the Founding Fathers, we now have our own family's "Declaration of Independence". We thought you might be interested so here it is!

We the parents of the Flautt family, in order to form a more perfect family, establish order, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common good, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of education to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish these covenants for the Flautt family.

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one family to dissolve the bands which have ensnared them, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to

which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all families are created by God, and they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Education. - -That to secure these rights, Fathers are instituted by God, deriving their just powers from the decree of the Sovereign Godhead, - -That whenever any Form of Distraction becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the Fathers to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new plan, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect the security of education and happiness of instruction and instructors. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Government long established should not be disrupted for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that families are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the disruptions to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and distractions to the common good aforementioned, it is the Father's right, yea even his duty, to throw off such encumbrances, and to provide new guards for their future education. - -Such has been the patient sufferance of this family for many years; and such is now the necessity, which constrains this family to alter their former methods of education. The history of this present daily disorder is a history of repeated distractions and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of absolute tyranny over this family.

Therefore, believing in the complete Omnipotence and absolute faithfulness of Almighty God and trusting in the divine Superintendence of our loving Savior Jesus, we put our hand to the following resolutions:

There shall be no intrusions into the educational pursuits of this family prior to 1:00 p.m. of the afternoon on the days of Monday through Thursday. Appointments, errands, and outside pur-

suits, in as much as is possible, should be scheduled after 1:00 p.m. of the afternoon, Monday through Thursday, the ideal time for these various endeavors being Friday.

I needn't go on with the rest of our resolutions in order for you to get the gist. I believe that if we are to be transparent with each other, support and encourage one another, then we must admit our struggles. From my interaction with other homeschool families, I believe that many are fighting daily battles against the constant interruptions of daily life. We must persevere and not be defeated or discouraged. Many of the distractions can become part of the lessons plans of raising our children; other distractions will have to be endured and schedules rearranged. Still other interruptions will need to be prayed against as part of the spiritual battle we face with the enemy who seeks to destroy all that we would desire to accomplish for our family.

If need be, I would encourage you to make your own "Declaration of Independence" this month. March is often one of the hardest months for schooling. It's been a long time since Christmas break and the end of the school year, for many, seems just around the corner. There's still so much yet to do it can be disheartening. Therefore, it's time to "dissolve the bands which have ensnared us" and "insure the domestic tranquility" that will provide the blessings of education for us all. Our founding fathers had the right idea in 1776. I think it's still valid today!

Meredith and Christy Flautt
Presidents MTHEA

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Jonathan's Arrow is published 11 times a year, monthly except for July.

Please submit all items for publication to be received by the 10th of each month for inclusion in the next month's newsletter.

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To gain access to the "members only" section of our website, please register online. To register, you will need the following information:

Password: family

MTHEA E-NewsGroup

To join our e-mail announcement list for MTHEA, simply send a blank e-mail to mthea-chat-subscribe@yahoo.com or contact the office at office@mthea.org.

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Classifieds

MTHEA Classified ads are \$5 for up to 10 words plus .25 per additional word. All prepaid ads received before the 10th of the month will appear in the next issue of JA and our website, www.mthea.org. Please send your ad to classifieds@mthea.org and your payment to the MTHEA office.

HEALTH HARVEST BUYER'S CLUB

Carrying 1000's of nationally recognized natural and organic products including locally raised meats & local and imported produce plus great local Tennessee and other specialty products. Contact Mita Pogue at Healthharvest@comcast.net <http://healthharvest.home.comcast.net> - Health foods and more without the store! Buying groups welcome: M'Boro, LaVergne, Smyrna, Antioch and surrounding areas.

CURRICULUM FAIR HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Reserve your room now for the MTHEA Curriculum Fair 2004. The Holiday Inn Express in Hendersonville has given us a great convention rate of \$79/night for a double or king. Please call David Neal at 615-824-0022 to make your reservations. This block rate is only available up until April 20th and there are only reserved 30 rooms, so first come, first serve.

MTHEA 2004 Fair Exhibitors

A Beka Academy and Books
Aaron Academy
Alpha Omega Publishing
Apologia Education Ministries
AVKO Dyslexia Foundation
Beginnings Publishing House
(the Rainbow Science company)
Bill Garrison Educational Products, Inc.
Bob Jones University Press
Book Gallery - Half Price Books
Bread Beckers
Championship Chess
Charity Ministries
Children's Books
Christian Brotherhood
Christian Liberty Press
Color The Classics
Creation Research
Creative Learning Connection
Creative Memories
Discovery Toys
Doorposts
For Such A Time as This College Prep.
Gateway Christian Schools
Golden Rule Books
Holy Cow Science
Home School Legal Defense Association
Homeschool Time
Homeschooling from the Heart
Institute for Excellence in Writing
K12
Kingdom Academy of the Arts
KONOS
Lamplighter Publishing
Landmark Freedom Baptist Curriculum
Lifeway Christian Resources
Logos Bookstore
Math-U-See
Merritt Park Press
Mikrut's Music
Miller Pads and Paper
Mountainwood Talking Letters
Nest Family
Notgrass Company
Power Glide Foreign Language
Rainbow Resources
Rod and Staff
Rushton Family Ministries
Saxon Homeschool
Shalom Store
Solomon's Secret's
Sonlight Curriculum
Swansbury/ BFH Handwriting
THEA
Total Language Plus
Usborne Books At Home
Video Text Interactive
Visual Manna

The Battle... *continued from page 1*

nally prosecute them under the Compulsory Attendance Law. They were arrested and required to post bond of \$1000! Then on June 25, 1984, Judge Ewell of the Coffee County Circuit Court ruled that home instruction complies with Tennessee Compulsory Attendance Law and, in agreement with the ruling in the Moffat case, that Tennessee's Compulsory Attendance Law was unconstitutionally vague. The Judge also dismissed the criminal charges against the Sains.

All of Dan and Laurie's children eventually returned to public school. In June 1988, at the high school graduation of their oldest child, the Coffee County School Board member whose vote led to the Sain's prosecution, asked Dan and Laurie to please forgive him for he now realized he had made a mistake!

Finally, we want to tell you about Steve and Debbie Cooper and their three children, Stephanie, Jennifer and Cory, who in 1984 were in their second year of home schooling in Chattanooga. The subpoena for Steve and Debbie's arrest was left on their front door step while they were out of town. Using A.C.E. curriculum, the Cooper's felt confident to represent themselves in court by explaining their Christian convictions for home schooling and showing the Judge their materials.

They appeared in Hamilton County Juvenile Court facing charges of child abuse and neglect based on truancy. Lectured by Judge Dixie Smith before he convened court, shaming them for appearing in his courtroom without a lawyer, he verbally condemned them for the terrible damage they were inflicting on their children by home educating.

Because of financial constraints, the Coopers determined they must accept a court-appointed attorney who was to use a brief prepared by A.C.E. for their defense. However, three different court-appointed lawyers informed them that Steve's job with TVA provided them

enough income to pay an attorney. Judge Smith then determined, against their wishes, that a separate court-appointed attorney would represent their children.

The children's attorney demanded to question the children without either parent present. Steve and Debbie refused. When they next appeared before Judge Smith, he asked the attorney if she had interviewed the children. The attorney answered, "No". Judge Smith halted the courtroom proceedings and ordered the attorney to question the children without the parents. The attorney's questions were not those of one working in the children's defense, but those of a prosecuting attorney. They included, "Are you allowed to have friends?" and "Are you allowed to play?".

Tragically, this precious Christian family was declared GUILTY of child abuse and neglect based on the truancy charge for home schooling. They lived in fear of arrest and made plans to take their children out of state so that Stephanie, Jennifer, and Cory would not be taken from them and put in foster care. Their case was appealed to the next higher court. This Judge refused to hear the case, declaring they could wait until the state legislature passed a new Compulsory Attendance Law or they could appeal to the State Supreme Court. They wisely decided not to appeal but wait for the new Compulsory Attendance Law. They did have over \$20,000 in legal fees they could not pay. Yet they gave God praise for His care in sustaining, protecting and comforting them through such a tumultuous, traumatic time.

Like dozens of other families, the Coopers worked and lobbied for the passage of the best possible law for home schoolers. On September 21, 1984, Debbie Cooper gave a very moving testimony describing their family's legal struggle before our State Legislature's Joint Senate/House Study Committee investigating home schooling in Tennessee. This Joint Study Committee was charged with

the responsibility of making a report with recommendations on compulsory attendance, including private and home schooling, to the full legislature by February 1985. In May 1985 then-Governor Lamar Alexander signed the new law that made home schooling clearly legal in Tennessee. We can now home educate without threat of prosecution as these five families faced. Never take for granted that their courage and over-coming faith laid a foundation on which your freedom to home educate firmly rests.

With their cases in the forefront, THEA was formed in Nashville in January 1984 at the first state-wide home school meeting. At that event, Dr. Raymond Moore simply said, "You can either band together or they will pick you off one at a time." So we banded together and now twenty years later, God has given us success, growth and vibrancy beyond our greatest dreams and prayers! To Him be the glory!

See you at Rally Day!

RALLY DAY 2004 **March 23, 2004**

Join together with the Tennessee homeschool community to support our right to home educate.

Encourage families, support groups, co-ops, and group classes to come to Nashville & join with home schoolers from all across Tennessee. Show our lawmakers that we support home education as a viable educational alternative!

Lots of special activities are being planned for this day! Don't miss it! Contact your THEA Area Coordinator if you wish to participate in planning and preparations for this event. Please visit www.tnhea.org for more information.

Change

by Steve Bates

Without it, life as we know it would not exist. It is built into the structure of our universe by our creator.

Day and night.
Summer, winter, spring, fall.
Growth.
Metabolism.
Metamorphosis.
Life, death.
Redemption.

What would happen if things never changed? Suspend the scientific fact that life on this planet could not be sustained without some types of change and look at the daily functions of your life and of society. What would life be like if change had perpetually been resisted throughout history?

What if Moses had decided he was content to herd sheep?

What if Jesus had decided he was too comfortable to leave His Father's side?

What if the disciples had refused the Holy Spirit?

What if the Apostle Paul had decided that missionary work was simply too demanding?

What if Columbus had feared the unknown?

What if Martin Luther had decided that the established church was too big for him to fight?

What if the Pilgrims had cowered to religious tyranny?

What if our nations forefathers had settled for a system of government that already existed?

What if Martin Luther King had not followed his dream?

What if twenty years ago, five families in Tennessee had decided that the shame and humiliation of being charged with truancy, neglect and abuse was more than they could bear? Or that it was too difficult to try and change the compulsory attendance laws in their state and pave the way for home schooling to become a legal alternative for families to educate their children? This year's Rally Day will celebrate their choice.

In his book and Bible study, *Experiencing God*, Dr. Henry Blackaby says that a key to experiencing all that God has for us in this life is to "find what God is doing and join Him in it." In other words, we don't simply change for the sake of change, nor do we resist change for the sake of our personal comfort. Rather, we follow God.

Recently, a bill was introduced that can change the face of home schooling in Tennessee. While the leadership of THEA and MTHEA are not opposed to change, they do oppose changes that will be detrimental to the freedoms for which we have fought these past twenty years. Thus, we stand at a fork in the road; something has to change. Will it be the freedom to educate our children as we see fit or will it be our apathy toward being involved in the process of maintaining that freedom for future generations? We can participate by making phone calls, sending letters or e-mails, supporting our state and regional organizations who fight for us daily, and by attending Rally Day on March 23, 2004.

In my personal experience, I resist change for one of three reasons:

1. Fear
2. Laziness
3. The change will result in evil.

Two of these obviously don't count as valid resistance.

Fear is a powerful motivator. However, it is not an appropriate motivator for a child of the King who is committed to be

about his Father's business. Remaining in our comfort zone is really not an option for those who passionately serve God.

Nothing worthwhile is ever easy. When we face change, it can appear to require an overwhelming amount of time, energy and effort. The easy thing to do, is to do nothing; especially if we are comfortable with the status quo.

Not all change is good. There is an enemy whose purpose is to steal, kill and destroy. He must be resisted at every turn. We must fight evil with every fiber of our being. We must remember that inconvenience, difficulty and discomfort are not synonyms for evil. They are often a part of the process that leads to the completion of God's will.

Bottom line, we must be willing to follow God, regardless of the change it may bring in our lives. Each of us will either affect change in our world or be effected by the changes around us. May we each passionately follow after God to affect His change in our lives, our families, our culture and our world.

And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. — Matthew 18:3

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KELLER WILLIAMS
R E A L T Y

2nd Annual Statesman's Dinner

March 23, 2004 • Nashville, TN

Christian Communicators of Tennessee and Tennessee Home Education Association are pleased to invite you to attend the Second Annual Statesman's Dinner. It will be held at Lifeway Christian Resources, One Lifeway Plaza, Nashville, Tennessee.

Join us for an evening of fine dining and excellent entertainment where you will have an opportunity to meet and dine with your Tennessee State Legislator. The Statesman's Dinner allows Tennessee's home education students to interact with those individuals who are responsible for making the laws that directly effect us. It is an opportunity for our students to show our Tennessee lawmakers that home education is a success.

The evening's entertainment will be provided by home education students from each of the three grand divisions of our state. One of our guest speakers is Ned Ryun, a graduate of home education and

a political activist, who leads Generation Joshua, HSLDA's new organization for home educated young people.

Registration for this event has been extended until March 15, 2004. Seating, however, will be limited so we encourage all who are interested to complete their registration forms and return them to CCT as soon as possible. To register for this event, please visit www.cctennessee.net where you will find more details regarding cost, time, and attire. You can also register online at www.joyoftournaments.com/ncfca/statesmans

Both Christian Communicators of Tennessee and Tennessee Home Education Association are excited about this upcoming event. Please don't allow this opportunity to pass. Come and join us for a wonderful evening that will be remembered for years to come.

Registration

Second Annual Statesman's Dinner
Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Location: Lifeway Christian Resources
One Lifeway Plaza, Nashville,
Tennessee 37334

Date: March 23, 2004

Time: 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Attire:

Gentlemen

Business Suit or Sport Coat and Tie is required. Tuxedo's are acceptable.

Ladies

Modest dressy dress is required. Modest evening gown is acceptable. Please no low cut dress or gown that has slit(s) above the knee. Strapless dress and spaghetti straps are only permissible provided a shawl or shoulder covering is worn the entire evening.

Age:

There is not a minimum age requirement for this event. If you have young children who you feel will be able to sit well-mannered and quietly through a formal dinner and perhaps 1 1/2 hours of after-dinner entertainment, please feel free to have them attend. We do ask that there be no infants, toddlers, or strollers. Highchairs will not be made available.

Cost: \$30.00 per individual

Deadline

All monies must be *received* by CCT no later than Monday, March 15, 2004. Please mail payments to:

Christian Communicators of
Tennessee (CCT)
P. O. Box 405
Sweetwater, TN 37874

Registrant Information

Please mail this form with your check

Name: (Student) _____

Age _____

Address: _____

City: _____

County: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Parent(s) Attending: Name: _____

Other(s) Attending: _____

NASHVILLE NOTES BAND CAMP

Band camp is a wonderful opportunity for your home-educated child, 5th grade and older, to learn the basics of playing an instrument and preparing for playing in a concert band. Dr. Steve Rhodes, the director of bands at Lipscomb University, will conduct the camp again for us this year. Your child will learn to assemble and care for their instrument, read music, count, and get ready for band in the fall. Band camp will take

place in the band hall of the music department on the Lipscomb University campus. Dates are the weeks of May 10 and May 17, Monday - Friday. Time: 10:00 - 11:00 AM. The cost is \$110 per child. The fee includes the book that will be used by Nashville Notes in the fall. For further information or to register call Jean Miller at 615-333-0705 or Monica Jett at 615-459-9578. The cut-off date for registration is April 30, 2004.

Imagine your 5-year-old reading at a 2nd grade level!

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| Vocabulary | Birth to 3 years |
| Math & Logic | Birth to 4 years |
| Music | 3 to 10 years |
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| Language | Birth to 10 years |
| Second Language | Birth to 9 years |

* Newsweek, Feb. 19, 1996

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Chessica is a kindergartner who reads at a 3rd grade level, performs double-digit addition and subtraction, and enjoys solving word problems. She reads at least two books every day.



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What's Happening Around Town

DAVIDSON COUNTY

MTHEA SCIENCE FAIR - March 6 - Open for grades K-12 and will be held in the Chemistry Department at Vanderbilt University. Check the MTHEA website at www.mthea.org for more information.

Bellevue Home School Enrichment - It is not too late to join our group! Our program is a pre-k through 12th grade program. We also have a special needs class for downs syndrome children as well as the autistic! We are a Christ-centered, nondenominational group which meets on Mondays throughout the school year. We are an academic program and also a wonderful group offering lots of activities for every age. We have a science fair, art exhibit, public speaking contest, yearbook staff, student board, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Teen Club, Triple F Bible Club for teens, and holiday parties just to name a few. We offer tutorials and enrichment classes at the most affordable rate around and are nonprofit and incorporated. Our hours are 9 until 3 on Mondays and we meet in Pegram, just 6 miles from Bellevue, at the Pegram Church of Christ. If you'd like more information or would like to schedule a visit please call Lavonne Redferrin, Executive Director at 446-8623. If no answer leave a message. Your call will be returned. You can also email us at ranimalfriend@aol.com.

THE HOMESCHOOL ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS is looking for actors ages 5 and up to produce an Improv Showcase as a warm-up act for the spring musical. Rehearsals will be held each Friday beginning March 19. **NO EXPERIENCE OR AUDITION NECESSARY!**

Interested students and their parents need to attend orientation on March 19 at 11:00 AM at Bellevue Christian Church, 7201 Old Harding Road. After orientation, students will be divided into rehearsal/performance groups based on age and skill level. Each group will perform before

ONE performance during the run of "Godspell" (May 6, 7, 8, 13, 14 or 15).

If you have any questions or if you'd like to reserve a spot to participate, please call 364-5480 or email jamie@homeschoolacademy.org.

PLEASE JOIN THE HOME SUPPORT GROUP for an afternoon with the Notgrass family. Parents and children will enjoy A Walk Through American History in Story and Song and A Side Show of the Big Show: Sam Watkins and the War Between the States. Parents have the opportunity to stay for a seminar by Ray Notgrass. During the adult seminar, children ages five and up may stay with parents or attend a class with the Clay Lady for \$5.00 per child. There is no charge for the seminars. Notgrass curriculum and homeschool helps will be available for purchase after the seminars.

Where: Grace Church of the Nazarene - 2620 Pennington Bend Rd., Nashville

When: March 12, 2004

1:00 pm: Walk Through American History in Story and Song

2:00 pm: Sam Watkins and the War Between the States

3:00 pm: The Blessing of Home - Clay Lady Class

Cost: \$5.00 for Clay Lady project

Contact: Peggy Brisbon - 773-1708 or Michelle Gill 868-7679

Please pre-register for the Clay Lady by March 5th.

HOME SCHOOL DAYS IN 2004 AT ADVENTURE SCIENCE CENTER

Adventure Science Center continues the 2004 school year with special programming days for home school families. Each date is brimming with programs, workshops, labs, and guest presenters. All participants are required to pay the special

rate listed below to enter the Science Kaleidoscope programs. If a family member does not wish to attend programs, the fee charged will be the normal entrance fee to the science center. Events begin at 9:30 with doors opening at 9:00 a.m. Check the advance reservation date below and then call 615-862-5177 to hold a place for your family.

COST:

\$10.00 per person for ASC members
\$13.00 per person for non-members

Science Kaleidoscope Three

May 18, 2004

Planet Earth and Beyond

Call for advance reservations after April 1

Adventure Science Center is located at 800 Fort Negley Boulevard, Nashville, TN, 37203. For information about programs and other events go to our website at www.adventuresci.com.

TRAVELLERS REST HOME SCHOOL DAYS

April 2, 2004 - The World of the Plantation

For more information:

www.travellersrestplantation.org

ANNUAL HOME SCHOOL EGG HUNT - Fun Day at Miller Academy. Friday, April 2 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. What to bring: Two dozen plastic eggs per egg hunter filled with toy or wrapped candy, brown bag lunch and drinks for the family. Any child who would like may bring something to show: Bible memory or reading, science, reading, music, speech, etc. up to three minutes per child. Location: Tiffany Miller's home, 270 Holt Hills Road, Nashville. Phone 615-833-5805.

DICKSON/HICKMAN COUNTIES

MOM'S NIGHT OUT - Tuesday, March 9 at 6:30 PM. Directions: Take Hwy 46 out of Dickson toward the interstate. Go to the

What's Happening Around Town

traffic light past Lowes and turn right on Pomona Road. Figures and Shapes will be on the corner where you turn. Go until you come to the stop sign where the road ends and turn left on West Grab Creek road. You will go past the Meadows subdivision and past the Dead End sign and the road will turn into a gravel road. You keep going about 8/10's of a mile on the gravel and our house is on the right. It is a white house with green roof and shutters, #1988. My phone number is 615-740-9878. Hope to see lots of you there, Julie Turner

RESTORATION GROUP: Open to everyone! We meet the first Friday of every month at Restoration Church in Dickson, off of Hwy 70, down from the Dickson High School. For more information or activities contact Loni Styer 615-789-3275 or e-mail lonistyer@aol.com.

CHILDHOOD GAMES GROUP: We have now had 2 meetings and they have been wonderful. For all of you who are a part of the group - thanks for your participation. We have had a lot of fun and the kids seem to really love playing the circle games and making new friends. As of now, we are still meeting every other week on Mondays from 10:30-12:00. We are an open group. The group is primarily for preschool/K/1st/2nd grade/aged children - If you are interested in participating, it's fun, educational and free. For information e-mail Kristie Perry kristieperry@yahoo.com or e-mail Allison Schnarrenberg inhollar@bellsouth.net.

ARE YOU OVERWHELMED...tired....not certain you can make it to the finish line? You CAN home school all the way through high school- with fabulous results! Please join us for an all day seminar. Our aim is to encourage the fainthearted and equip those facing the upper grades. The job looks big, but you can eat an elephant one bite at a time!!

HOMESCHOOLING ALL THE WAY...JUST

DO IT!! HOMESCHOOL SEMINAR: A Balanced Approach to Homeschooling with Emphasis on Middle and High School. Karen Costello of Franklin, TN and Linda Bradley of Dickson, TN are home school consultants with a total of 34 years of combined home school experience. EVERYONE WELCOME!

SATURDAY April 24, 2004 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM doors open at 9:00. Location: the Dickson County Library in Dickson TN 206 Henslee Drive (between Union Planter's Bank & Dairy Queen, across from Kroger's), hosted by Whole Heart of Dickson 441-4734. Cost: \$25 for seminar & handbook if registered by April 16 or \$30 at the door. Please pre-register to guarantee a handbook

To register or for more info, call Linda Bradley 615-412-3377 or Karen Costello 794-9892 or send your check to: Linda Bradley, 605 Bob Hollow Rd, Burns, TN 27029

MAURY COUNTY

THE ANNUAL WISDOM QUEST NEW AND USED CURRICULUM SALE will be held at St. Catherine Church in Columbia on Saturday, April 17 from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Families who wish to sell used curriculum may reserve a 6 foot table for \$10.00. Please contact Amy Banks 108 N. Cherry St., Mt. Pleasant, TN 38474 or call 931-379-0325 for more information. Directions to St. Catherine Church: From north: proceed on Hwy 31 South - 412 Business until you reach the center of town (Do not take 412 By-Pass) Turn right on Hwy 412 (West 7th Street) Take left fork onto Hwy 243 at 4th traffic light (Hwy 412 is right fork) Immediately after passing Maury County Regional Hospital (on your right), you will come to a big, busy intersection (Pearl Vision/Taco Bell, etc). Proceed through the intersection. At third traffic light past the hospital intersection, turn right onto Cayce Lane

(Marathon gas/market on your right at corner). The church is the second building on your left after turning onto Cayce Lane (3019 Cayce Lane, Columbia, TN)

ROBERTSON/SUMNER COUNTIES WHITE HOUSE HOMESCHOOL USED CURRICULUM SALE - Thursday, May 20, 1 PM -5 PM and Friday, May 21, 9 AM to 11 AM at 3449 Calista Road, White House, TN. Participants are invited to a pre-sale and keep 80% of the sale. Call Jennifer Kirk at 615-672-2075 or email at momo3704@juno.com.

RUTHERFORD COUNTY

HOME SCHOOL SKATE at Smyrna Skate Center on the second Friday of each month, 1:00 - 3:30. Smyrna Skate Center is offering some great deals to help us out including free prizes every month and a lunch special of pizza and a coke for \$2.00. The price for skating is \$3.00 per person with a family max of \$10.50. (You may bring your own skates, including Fisher Price). This is a great time for moms to visit and network. Come join the fun! Shawnah Shingleton 793-2792.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY

THE ANNUAL FRANKLIN NEW AND USED CURRICULUM SALE will be Saturday, May 15th, from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM. The sale is once again located at the Clearview Baptist Church located at 537 Franklin Road (Hwy. 31). Families selling used curriculum may reserve a table by sending \$8.00 per table to Dawn Taylor, 417 Murfreesboro Road, Franklin, TN 37064-3221. Call 615-794-2236 for additional information.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY HOMESCHOOL GROUP is established to support homeschool families in the county. All field trips, activities and events are made possible by moms in the group who are willing to coordi-

What's Happening Around Town

nate them. To sign up, please send your first and last name and e-mail address to WCHomeschool@comcast.net.

SKATE DAY is the second Friday of each month from 1:00 to 3:00 PM at Brentwood Skate Center. Admission is \$3. Bring your own skates or rent regular ones for \$1.50 or in-lines for \$3. All homeschool families are welcome to come for great Christian music, games and roller skating. Sponsored by Williamson County Homeschool Group.

PARK DAY is every Wednesday at Pinkerton Park from 1:00-3:00 PM.

LIBRARY DAY is every Monday at Brentwood Library and every Friday at Williamson County Library. This is an informal time where homeschool families can meet up. Moms can find a quiet place to chat and watch their younger ones enjoy puzzles and board books while school-aged children can work alongside each other. Come at 9:30 or whenever you can, and, if you wish, enjoy picnicking outside together before you leave.

WILSON COUNTY

FREE EYE SCREENING - Dr. Carol Ballard of Centerville is offering her annual free eye screening for homeschoolers. The hours are between 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM and 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM on Tuesday, March 30. Give her office a call to schedule your appointment at 931-729-2190 . . . and don't forget to thank her for her support of homeschooling!

HOMESCHOOL TUTORIAL - We are pleased to inform you of a new homeschool tutorial forming in the Mt. Juliet area right off of I-40. New Life Academy will meet on Mondays and will offer the following classes: 7th and 8th grade English, Grammar and Composition, American Literature, British Literature, Life Science, Earth Science, Physical Science, Biology, Chemistry, Pre-algebra, Algebra I and II,

Geometry, Tennessee History, Geography, US History, World History I and II, American Government and Economics, Spanish I and II, Photography, Art, Drama and Home Economics.

New Life Academy exists for the purpose of providing Christ-centered teaching experiences in a small group setting for homeschool families. If you have questions, would like more information, or are interested in teaching for us, please call Debbie Mynster at 449-6928 or Connee Bates at 773-4309. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

ALL AREAS

WONDERFUL WEEKEND FOR WOMEN

This year's conference theme is "The Virtuous Woman." The main speaker is Lisa Whelchel (formerly Blair on "Facts of Life"). She is a homeschool mom and will have a session on Saturday dedicated to homeschool topics.

Also Marcia Ware from WAY-FM will be doing music. Kathy Peel will be sharing on time management.

Dates are Friday and Saturday, March 5 and 6 with registration at 5:00 PM Friday and beginning at 6:30 PM. The cost is \$52 at the door. Call 931-380-2811 or 931-379-9694 for more information or to register.

MTHEA TEEN BANQUET - Friday, April 30, 2004 at Woodmont Hills church of Christ on Franklin Road. This year's theme is "Reflections." Ticket information and registration forms are available in this JA. This event is open to all 9-12th graders, their family and friends. This is a great night to honor our graduating seniors, enjoy awesome entertainment by our own homeschool teens, and feast on a delicious meal. Make plans now to attend!

MTHEA TEEN BANQUET AUDITIONS - Audition tapes for the 2004 MTHEA Teen Banquet

are now being accepted! Come share your talents on April 30th at Woodmont Hills Church of Christ. Past talents include bands, monologues, short plays, singers and dancers. Send a tape or CD of the song or other talent you would like to perform by March 31 to:

Melinda Butner
687 Harding Place
Nashville, TN 37211

Include your name, address, phone, and e-mail of contact person. Every act must be available for a sound check at noon the day of the banquet. If you have questions, please email mtheabanquet2004@aol.com.

MIDDLE TN HOMESCHOOL HIGHSCHOOL PROM 2004

May 14, 2004 at The Banquet Hall of Nashville
(www.Banquet-Hall-Nashville.com)

Tickets Now On Sale!
\$45 each before March 31, 2004
\$50 from April 1 to May 10, 2004
\$55 at the door!

For a reservation form or more information, e-mail:
Midtnhomeschoolprom@yahoo.com or mail: Mid TN Homeschool Prom, P O Box 11323, Murfreesboro, TN 37129.

Buffet of hot & cold items provided. Father/daughter, mother/son dance for all in attendance to kick off the prom, followed by a presentation of the seniors. Chaperones and professional security on site. Professional photography available. Friends are encouraged, dates optional. No offensive music, dancing or attire. ALL high school age teens welcome!

Note: New moms with 9th-11th grade students needed to help carry on the Prom tradition in future years. Contact Dolores Reed at the above address for more information.

What's Happening

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP AND POTLUCK SUPPER with Carla Emery, author of "The Encyclopedia of Country Living."

Potluck Supper
Friday, March 12

Bring a dish and enjoy some time with Carla Emery and her husband! After supper Mrs. Emery will speak on "The History of Homesteading" and will have a book signing. Her book will be made available for purchase at this event. There is no charge to attend but everyone is asked to contribute \$5.00 toward hotel expenses for Mrs. Emery.

Creative Writing Workshop
Saturday, March 13 - 9 AM to 3 PM
Admission: \$20.00 per family
(Bring a sack lunch!)

This event will be tailored for all students K-12. Mrs. Emery gives much attention to each child; helping them to develop better writing skills, showing them the importance of writing well and inspiring them to meet goals. A book signing and sale will be held after the workshop.

The place for these events is still being finalized but will be in Paris, TN or close to. It is VERY important to contact Heather Mabbott ASAP if you would like to be included in one or both events. For more information, contact Heather Mabbott at 731-644-2671 or chatgirl3252001@yahoo.com.

RALLY DAY 2004 - Mark your calendars and make your plans now for our special day on Capitol Hill, Rally Day 2004, Tuesday, March 23, 2004. It's a great time for home educating families to take a stand together to support our right to home educate.

Encourage families, support groups, co-ops, and group classes to come to Nashville & join with home schoolers from all across Tennessee to portray to our lawmakers our support of home education as a viable educational alternative!

Lots of special activities are being planned for this day! Don't miss it! Contact your THEA Area Coordinator if you wish to participate in planning and preparations for this event. Please visit www.tnhea.org for more information.

SECOND ANNUAL STATESMAN'S DINNER - Christian Communicators of Tennessee and Tennessee Home Education Association invite you to attend the Second Annual Statesman's Dinner on Tuesday, March 23, 2004.

Lifeway Christian Resources
One Lifeway Plaza
Nashville, Tennessee

Join us for an evening of fine dining and excellent entertainment where you will have an opportunity to meet and dine with your Tennessee State Legislator. For more information, please visit www.cctennessee.net.

NASHVILLE OPERA ASSOCIATION PRESENTS:

Rossini's "The Barber of Seville" - A 45 minute reduced version in English designed for children of all ages. We invite you to attend the following FREE community performances:

Monday, March 1
6:30 PM: Cherry Auditorium, Columbia State Community College - Columbia, TN

Saturday, March 13
11:00 AM: Barnes and Noble of Cool Springs - Brentwood, TN
4:00 PM: Barnes and Noble at Opry Mills - Nashville, TN

Saturday, March 20
10:00 AM: Belcourt Theatre - Nashville, TN
2:30 PM: Williamson County Public Library - Franklin, TN

For more information and a complete OperaNET performance schedule, please contact Kelly Corcoran at 615-832-5242 or kcorcoran@nashvilleopera.org.

*Hands-on-Clay
Workshops and Classes
taught by professional
Potter and teacher Jenny
Lee. Lessons taught in
Franklin, TN or will travel
to students.*

Call Jenny for details and
schedules 615-403-6146

WILLIAMSON COUNTY 4H EAGLE CLUB NEWS

The new officers for the Williamson County Eagles 4-H Group are:
President - Kent Willis
V. President - Elizabeth Berk
Secretary - Bethany Parker
Reporter - Heather Stitt
Recreation Leader - Colin Bodayle

SMILE — YEARBOOK PICTURE DAYS!!

Mark your calendars now to have your students' pictures taken on the following dates:

Franklin/Brentwood area: Wednesday, March 31, 8:00 - 4:00, at the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home, 1310 Franklin Road, Brentwood.

Dickson area: Monday, March 22, 9:00 - 2:00, at the Restoration Church, Henslee Drive, Dickson.

Please call Lori McGahey for an appointment at 931-670-6263. Drop-ins are welcome, but appointments will be taken first.

If you live in the Lebanon, Mt. Juliet, Old Hickory or Hermitage area and would like to have your own picture day, please notify Evanne Nehlig at rimshot@wol.com and we will try to coordinate one in that area provided we can find someone willing to be in charge. It would be great to have that segment of our homeschool community included in the yearbook! If you have any questions, or would like to purchase a yearbook from the 2002-2003 school year, please e-mail or call Evanne at 615-790-2047.

President's Fitness Challenge – Now Ages 9-18 — Meeting Set for March 17

The President's Fitness Challenge Program is under way and we are Expanding the age range to include ages 9-18. There will be a meeting on March 17 at 2:00 PM that will include a full explanation of the program, participation options, demonstration of the events and a pre-test of all students present to determine their current level of fitness. The information and the pre-test are FREE.

The meeting will be held at the Olympia International Gymnastics Center in the Cool Springs area. The address is 7106 Crossroads Blvd., suite 226 in Brentwood. To get there, exit I-65 going West on Moore's Lane (exit 69). Go left at the second traffic light, which is Mallory Lane. Then go right at the first traffic light, Seaboard Lane. After you pass Cosco and Baker Bridge Road, take the second entrance on the left and you will see the Olympia International Gymnastics Center.

Their phone number is 377-1214.

Please let me know if you plan to attend. Contact me, Steve Bates, at execdir@mthea.org or by calling 615-794-3259. Contact me today!

COMING IN SPRING 2004- MTHEA SOCCER - DEADLINE EXTENDED

MTHEA is teaming with the Harding YMCA and the Cobra Soccer Club to offer several soccer opportunities this spring. Leagues will be formed for High School Boys, High School Girls, Middle School Boys and Middle School Girls. We are focusing on the recreational tier this season, however, if there is enough interest in tier two and three we will do our best to accommodate. (For an explanation of the tiers, see the December JA or the article on the website) Once again, we need an indication of the level of interest that exists. Please contact us now if you

are interested in playing, coaching or managing a team for the spring season. This is another great opportunity for support groups, co-ops and tutorials to pull a team together and join in the fun. Roster size will be adjusted to match the numbers of interested students. My guess is that this first season we may be playing either 3v3 or 6v6, but that is still open for discussion at this juncture.

The middle school girls' team featured in the December JA will continue to play at the competitive level (tier 3). Anyone interested in trying out for that team should also contact us very soon and indicate that you are interested in that particular team.

Let us know that you are interested today! Contact Steve Bates at execdir@mthea.org or call 615-794-3259 by March 14 to sign up or enter your team.

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(From I-65, exit #65, Rte. 96 West to Franklin, 2nd light turn left on Royal Oaks Blvd., 1st light turn left on Riverside Dr, Yong In is located behind Publix next to Home Depot)

There will be an organizational meeting of the Home School Alumni Association in Nashville on Rally Day afternoon, March 23, 2004

An alumni association will offer a means for alums to stay involved with the home school movement and to preserve the freedom to home school without restrictions.

We will be a division of THEA (Tennessee Home Education Assoc.) and will serve under their umbrella and direction. We will pay THEA dues.

Please come, share your ideas, and help us in this exciting new endeavor. Rally Day begins at 9:30 AM at the War Memorial Building Auditorium (just below the State Capitol), 7th Ave. and Charlotte.

SPECIAL INVITATION TO ALL HOME SCHOOL GRADUATES PAST AND PRESENT AND THEIR FAMILIES TO OUR 20th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION MARCH 23, 2004, IN NASHVILLE

The Tennessee Home Education Association will celebrate its 20th anniversary at Rally Day, March 23, 2004, at the War Memorial Building Auditorium (just below the Capitol Building) 7th Avenue and Charlotte Ave. in Nashville.

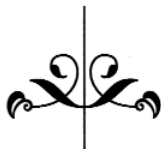
All home school graduates (past and present) and their families especially are invited to attend and be recognized.

THEA particularly asks each past home schooler to write a letter telling about their home school experience (including grades homeschooled and the number of years); the year you graduated from high school; what post high school education you chose; your job experience; what you are doing now; do you intend to home school your children? Include a photo from your younger schooling years as well as a current photo, if you desire. Please also indicate if you grant permission to use your letter in the anniversary scrapbook, parts of the letter in press releases, or in the Rally Day display. We need this information no later than March 12th.

Please send your letters to:
THEA, P. O. Box 681652, Franklin, TN 37068
We are looking forward to hearing from you.
Robert and Elizabeth Hall, Alumni Coordinators
931-839-6019 phone/fax

SUPPORT GROUP LEADERS

Please note the items about the ALUMNI ASSOCIATION and the ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION and call, e-mail, or fax the information to all the alumni you know. Also, please ask all those in your group to do the same. This is a wonderful opportunity for those whose children are grown to share their wisdom, experiences, and love of homeschooling with others still in the trenches! We need you! We also really want to honor our alumni at Rally Day so, please, get the information out quickly. We apologize for the very short deadline, but this information was not available prior to the deadline for the February JA so it had to go in the March issue. Could we beg for your quick action? Thank you for your help. The Alumni Association will be an extremely valuable group for all of us in Tennessee.



A SEMINAR WITH
CAROLE JOY SEID
A Literature Based Approach to Education

WHEN | Saturday, March 27th, 2004
9:00 am to 5:00 pm

WHERE | Clearview Baptist Church, 537 Franklin Road
Franklin, TN, 37069

COST | \$35 advance registration (postmarked by March 15th)
\$43 after March 15th, or at the door

QUESTIONS | Mary Jane (615) 595-9392
or Janet (615) 776-2421



For those who register, your spouse & teens may accompany you at no additional charge.

Download a registration form at WWW.CAROLEJOYSEID.COM

REFLECTIONS

MTHEA Teen Banquet 2004 Friday, April 30th 9-12th grade

Woodmont Hills Church of Christ, 6 p.m.

Cost: \$30 MTHEA members; \$35 nonmembers

Reservation Deadline: March 31, 2004

All high school students are invited to attend this annual event.
Families of seniors are always welcome.

The evening includes a formal dinner, recognition of graduating seniors, entertainment by homeschooled students, and lots of fun! Photograph packages will be available for purchase,

Seating priority is by earliest postmarked reservation forms.

Please! No phone calls to the Woodmont Hills office!
For additional information or questions, please email mtheabanquet2004@aol.com,
or call Lisa Steele at 367-1397

Send form and payment to: Cathy Collins, 6256 Beckwith Rd., Mt. Juliet, TN 37122

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Amount Enclosed _____ (Make checks payable to MTHEA c/o Lupe Veloz)

Seniors: Please include a head picture of yourself (non-returnable) and information about your interests, activities, years homeschooled, post-graduation plans, and any interesting facts about yourself.

An earnest effort will be made to seat requested groups of up to 8 people. Please attach a separate page with names in the group and include all payments for the entire group in one envelope.

The 20th Annual MTHEA Curriculum Fair

May 21-22, 2004 at Hendersonville First Baptist Church

Family Registration Form

Please complete this form and submit your payment.
Please feel free to copy and share with non-MTHEA member families.

Mail by May 10 to:
P.O. Box 147
Old Hickory, TN 37138

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address: _____

County in TN _____

Home Phone: _____ May we contact you next year to serve as a volunteer? Y or N

E-mail: _____ If joining MTHEA, may we add you to the email group? Y or N

Years in Homeschooling _____ Beginning to homeschool this fall? Y or N

Considering homeschooling this fall? Y or N

No. of children in family _____ Post High _____ Teens _____ School-age _____ Pre-school _____

No. of children you're teaching _____ Post High _____ Teens _____ School-age _____ Pre-school _____

How did you hear about the fair? Jonathan's Arrow MTHEA Website Friends Other newsletter
 Other Website Community TV Radio

Who is attending the fair? (check all that apply)
 father mother teens # _____ school-age # _____ preschool # _____
 grandparent(s) other

Are you a Support Group leader? Y or N Are you in a support group? Y or N

Name of Support Group _____

Name of Leader _____ Leader's Phone #: _____

For Office Use Only

Fair Admission Calculation

Join MTHEA for 2004/2005 School Year \$35 _____

Fair Entry Fee for MTHEA-member family \$15 _____
or for THEA-member family
or for out-of-state family

Fair Entry Fee for non-THEA-member family \$25 _____

CASH \$ _____ CHECK \$ _____ Check No. _____ Rec'd by _____

New Member:
Membership packet explained _____

Returning Member:
Membership card received _____

Membership packet received _____

MTHEA Email Directory

MTHEA Executive Director
execdir@mthea.org

MTHEA President
president@mthea.org

MTHEA Vice President
vicepresident@mthea.org

MTHEA Secretary
secretary@mthea.org

MTHEA Treasurer
treasurer@mthea.org

MTHEA Office
office@mthea.org

Area Support Groups
supportgroups@mthea.org

Convention Information
fair@mthea.org

Jonathan's Arrow
ja@mthea.org

Membership Information
membership@mthea.org

Special Events Information
specialevents@mthea.org

Yearbook Information
yearbook@mthea.org

Website Questions/Feedback
webmaster@mthea.org

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931-593-3180 or email kdamick@hifo.net

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2003-2004 MTHEA MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

MTHEA & THEA membership through June, 2004 — \$35.

Send this form and check made payable to MTHEA to: MTHEA Membership, P.O. Box 147, Old Hickory, TN 37138



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