



## **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

### **Reaching Your Potential as a Homeschool Family**

Though the demands of daily life tend to hold us down, there are desires in all of us to reach higher than we thought we could. Yield to the call of adventure, passion and purpose that are keys to this great movement and be amazed by the power of vision in your lives.

#### **Building the Foundation for Success**

Homeschooling is about more than academics - it's about success in life! What does it take to be truly successful in life? Determination, confidence and wisdom! What better place to cultivate all three than in our homes. Find out how to strengthen, encourage and teach your children through the doors God opens and by His grace!

#### **Keys to a Strong Homeschool Curriculum**

Just starting to homeschool, or feel like you need to make some changes? Come to hear what makes a curriculum strong educationally, effective and motivating! Learn how to maximize the opportunity you have to make a plan that is perfect for your family!

Author, speaker, and educator Debbie Strayer is a co-author of the *Learning Language Arts Through Literature Series*, co-founder of *Homeschooling Today Magazine*, co-author of the *Trail Guide to Learning Series* and a longtime consultant to homeschool families. She has been married to husband Greg for 31 years, homeschooled for 16 years and is mother to two homeschool graduates. Debbie encourages homeschoolers internationally and in the US, passing along the common

### **Featured Guest Speaker**

#### **Shirley Solis**

Shirley, a dynamic and encouraging speaker, has touched the hearts of many around the country. With her delightful, upbeat personality and her convicting message, she shares her life experiences while inspiring and encouraging the Body of Christ to fulfill their God-given purpose.

#### **Real Life + Real Books = Real Education**

Can it be so simple? Time and again homeschool families have given their children a great education through real life experiences and a love of reading. Find out what works and how you, too, can enjoy this journey. Great seminar for beginning and veteran homeschoolers!

#### **Learning Naturally: An Insight into Charlotte Mason Education**

Inspire your children to learn naturally by introducing them to great classic literature, a love of nature, and an appreciation for music and art. A "how to" workshop based on the teachings of homeschooling pioneer, teacher, and philosopher, Charlotte Mason.

## **List of Speakers**

### **Classical Education Made Doable by Annmarie Fagot**

Throughout American history, how did sixteen year olds successfully teach multiple grades, multiple subjects, while we struggle at home with three students? Learn their secrets in this overview of classical education. Acquire tools and learn how to use them with your children. We will explain an overview of how Classical Conversations can assist parents in this eye-opening endeavor. Our programs consist of Foundations ~ K - 6th grade, Essentials of the English Language ~ 4th - 6th grade, and six levels in the Challenge programs, which are college prep seminars developed for junior high through high school.

### **Introduction to Florida Homeschool Law by Teri Diaz**

This workshop will explain Florida Homeschool Law/Statutes in simple, understandable terms. A time of questions and answers will follow.

Teri Diaz is a Florida State Certified Teacher, who has previously taught in the Broward County Public School System. She lives in Broward County, Florida, with her husband and five children. They have been home-educating for nine years and look forward to continuing through high school. She has been evaluating and consulting with homeschoolers for the past nine years, in between having and teaching her own children, evaluating curriculum, and performing all of the other many tasks a home-educating mom finds herself doing.

Her heart is to serve the homeschooling community through testing, evaluating, and consulting. Visit: [www.EducationalRCB.org](http://www.EducationalRCB.org) Email: [TeriDiaz@EducationalRCB.org](mailto:TeriDiaz@EducationalRCB.org)

### **Math Manipulatives For All Ages by Forrest Hobbs**

Come and be encouraged. See how manipulatives help us understand math. This will build your confidence and competence. You CAN teach math, from kindergarten through high school.

Forrest Hobbs, Air Force Academy graduate and father of two children homeschooled through high school, loves math and loves helping families see the simplicity of math. When he first saw Steve Demme demonstrate his (then new) math curriculum he became a Rep. on the spot. Forrest had been developing the same kind of system to teach his own children. Like Steve he was familiar with all the other programs because Forrest has always been tutoring someone in math. Forrest has been the Florida Rep. for Math-U-See more than a decade.

### **“A Time of Encouragement”... The “God is Faithful” Message by Coach Rick Andreassen**

As a Motivational Speaker, Coach Rick Andreassen has been committed to encouraging Homeschool Parents throughout the Country for the past 12 years. In 1997 Rick founded the Christian Homeschool Athletic Association of Florida which currently reaches over 3,500 Homeschool Students throughout Florida, Texas, and Las Vegas, Nevada.

Rick has recently been inducted into the “Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers”, a national recognition to honor the most respected teachers in our country. He is the first Homeschool Educator to receive this award.

The heart of Rick’s message is “God is Faithful” and his prayer is that the Lord would inspire, encourage, and revitalize each and every parent, wherever they are at on the Homeschool journey!!! Coach Rick’s passion and enthusiasm to see young people become all that God has created them to be and his sincere love for the Lord will make this one workshop you don’t want to miss!

Whether you are a “First-Time” Homeschooler or a “Seasoned Veteran”...you are welcomed to **“COME AND BE ENCOURAGED!!!”**

### **Breathing Life into Language Arts by Rosie Watson**

Language Arts is a critical part of any student's education and yet working through spelling, vocabulary, grammar, writing, reading comprehension, critical thinking and character development can consume mountains of time and energy. In this workshop, Rosie will discuss how these subjects can be combined and brought to life through the study of great literature, while developing your student's ability to think, reason and communicate.

Rosie is a homeschool mother of 3, now out of college, and has been teaching for over 20 years. As a featured convention speaker, author, and teacher, Rosie brings to the homeschool community a wealth of knowledge and experience especially in the area of writing and language arts. She is the Texas representative for Total Language Plus, a literature-based language arts program, and is also the author and producer of the writing program, "The Wonder of Words". Rosie and her husband, Steve, have recently opened a one of a kind "Haven for Homeschoolers" in the Watauga, TX area combining a curriculum store with a coffee house and Learning Center.

### **The Power of Mnemonics by Tony Carboni**

Tony will explain the many ways to use mnemonics to help learn and retain large amounts of information. Additionally, Tony will share some very common and important mnemonics used both in math and science that families can use in their teachings. Tony will conclude the workshop with a method called "word association" that can be used to memorize large lists of items quickly and easily.

Tony Carboni has been a teacher / tutor in Broward County since 1988. During this time, he has helped thousands of students achieve great success with their schoolwork. For the last 10 years, Tony has focused most of his time on the Broward County homeschool population. In 2001, Tony founded the Sunshine Learning Center : Florida's largest center for homeschool study. At his center in Margate , he and his staff help hundreds of homeschoolers every year by providing professional classes in all subject areas. Tony and his staff approach this responsibility with great honor and dedication.

### **Practically Painless Report Writing by Karen Franklin**

Most academic courses and many occupations require written reports because they encourage research and demonstrate knowledge gained. Yet many students, and some parents, are overwhelmed by the prospect of writing one. How do you take all those notes and then organize them into a meaningful paper? Come learn a simple, step-by-step method that will work for reports of any length, at all grade levels, and will produce successful results every time.

Karen Franklin has more than 30 years experience teaching Language Arts to students of all ages. A former classroom teacher, she and her husband have been home-educating parents to their four children for 25 years. During that time she has tutored individual students, taught co-ops and small groups, led writing workshops for parents, and helped students prepare for the New SAT essay. She has background and experience in teaching Language Arts to students with various learning styles and special needs including gifted, LD, and reluctant readers/writers. As an IEW Accredited *Accomplished Instructor*, she currently teaches Middle-School English to home-schoolers in several Palm Beach County locations using curriculum from The Institute for Excellence in Writing.

### **How to Ace the SAT by Jean Burk**

Test-prep Guru, Jean Burk, will share her secrets of SAT success that have helped hundreds of students raise their scores as much as 600 points! Huge scholarships (like Bright Futures) can be achieved easily through a high score. Learn how to find shortcuts in test patterns and save time on all types of questions. Math, Writing, and Verbal sections are all covered in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. If you have kids in high school, you can't miss this seminar about preparing them for the SAT!

Jean Burk is the author of College Prep Genius and has published many articles about the SAT and PSAT tests, College Prep, and How to Get Free College. She has been featured as an SAT expert on Fox 4 (Good Day Dallas) and KXAS 5, (NBC Today) TXA21, CBS11 and the Homeschool Channel. She homeschooled both her children and they each received incredible scholarships because of their PSAT and SAT scores. Some of the benefits included full tuition, room and board, unlimited laundry and lunchroom passes, study abroad stipends, etc.

### **Investigate the Possibilities by Tom DeRosa**

Science can be fun! Creation Studies Institute's new curriculum, Investigate the Possibilities, is built on national science standards. Learn how you can teach your children (grades 3-6) good science using bible references, creation apologetics and easy-to-do, hands on activities.

Tom DeRosa is the Founder and Executive Director of Creation Studies Institute. He is a passionate speaker, and author. Tom is now involved producing creation based elementary age curriculum, "Investigate the Possibilities". Tom majored both in Education and Chemistry and received his Masters Degree from Florida Atlantic University. For twenty years Tom was an Adjunct Professor of Chemistry at Broward College.

### **Home School / High School Advantage Session 1 (How to Prepare your students for High School by Sue Purchferran**

This presentation will both encourage and inform parents and teens in their journey through homeschooling during high school. Topics discussed will include academic choices and requirements, portfolios, transcripts, diplomas, sports, social community, and more. This talk is for every high school, middle school and elementary school parent considering home education for high school. The opportunities and options available for high schoolers are exciting and rewarding in Florida. You won't want to miss this information. Sue and her husband, Rick have home schooled their four children ages 16-22 for over 14 years. Two of their sons are now in college and a son and daughter are still at home in high school.

### **Teaching Art at Home by Sharon Jeffus**

This workshop focuses on how to teach art to children at home at any age. How to teach appreciation, techniques and the vocabulary of the arts to children as young as four is presented. How to encourage creativity, what materials and supplies to use, mentoring, portfolios and more is also explored. This workshop will answer all your questions. How to save money is also covered and handouts are given.

Sharon Jeffus has a B.S.S.E. in Art Education from John Brown University and continued on in her studies to be certified to teach English from the University of Arkansas. She studied painting at Metropolitan in Denver and sculpting at Southern Illinois University.

She has written over twenty books and has the internationally known company Visual Manna. Sharon wrote her first book in 1992 and developed the Visual Manna teaching method where art is integrated with art appreciation, techniques, vocabulary and core subjects. Sharon is a regular writer for The Old Schoolhouse magazine and has written for a number of other educational resources. She has also written an Indian Arts and Crafts program that was rated outstanding by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Sharon taught in the public schools for ten years in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri. She then left the public school system to write books, travel and homeschool her two sons. Sharon and her late husband, Richard, started Visual Manna to encourage young Christians in the arts and meet the needs of visual and kinesthetic learners. Sharon and her husband Richard taught art to thousands of homeschoolers across America. Sharon taught Intensive English as an adjunct lecturer at the University of Missouri-Rolla and has given presentations on teaching art to college classes including Azusa Pacific University and Columbia College and the Audubon Society.

Sharon recently developed and presented workshops in coordination with Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Bass Pro on art and science. Her materials are recommended by Montessori.

### **Abacus-Based Mathematics by Ann Meola**

Can you use the time-honored abacus to teach math? Absolutely! See how the AL Abacus fosters quantity recognition and develops addition strategies. Investigate place value in a crystal clear format. Discover the simplicity of multiplication. The AL Abacus is a perfect supplement or is the focal point of RightStart Mathematics!

Ann Meola has been homeschooling for eight years. When her now college-aged daughter was 12, Ann began her homeschooling journey. Her 11 year old son has been homeschooled from the start.

Ann worked with thoroughbred horses her whole life. She spent five years as a traveling groom and assistant trainer. She met her husband Nick, also an assistant trainer. They quit traveling with the horses when their daughter was born. Ann and her family go biking, running, and camping and she enjoys gardening and reading.

### **Becoming Your Wife's Leader by Gus Solis**

Gus' main goal is to encourage husbands and fathers to be involved with their families by leading and ministering to their needs. With a heartfelt message, no man will be the same after hearing him share his testimony and vision.

### **Homeschooling Made Easy: With Guidance, Great Books and Good Times! by Sheila DelCharco**

If you are homeschooling because you want a better way, come find out from a 10-year homeschooling veteran how award-winning Sonlight Curriculum can help! Sonlight has well-laid out daily lesson plans that free up your time so you can get to the business of teaching instead of planning. The great literature selections, including biographies, historical fiction and award-winning titles, will captivate both student and teacher thereby creating eager learners. Reading together builds family bonds, equips students to think, and inspires a passion for God... and it comes with an 18-week guarantee!

Sheila DelCharco has homeschooled her three children since 2000 when her oldest child was beginning Kindergarten. She used Sonlight Curriculum that first year and was hooked. She began working for the company as an assistant in the Sonlight booth in 2002 and became a consultant in 2004. She received her Master's degree in Secondary English Education from the University of Florida in 1991.

### **Teaching Art to Special Needs Children by Sharon Jeffus**

Teaching art to special needs children is much more than just teaching them fine motor skill development. Although that is very important, art allows them to learn core subjects by doing it "hands on." When drawing, sculpting, and painting, children with learning disabilities learn basic concepts used in mathematics, such as the importance of lines, spatial relationships, contrasts, geometric shapes, size, etc.

In other core subjects such as science, as they make a rainbow in art, they can also hear about the science of the rainbow. Encouraging creativity is also very important. Art is a way children with learning disabilities can succeed and not be frustrated by having to produce to a certain norm.

### **La Clase Divertida- Now The Answer To All Of Your Foreign Language Needs For ALL Grades PK 4 -12<sup>th</sup> Grade ! by Dale Gamache**

Come join Sr. Gamache in a lively workshop to see how your family can comprehensively learn Spanish together in a fun non-intimidating way through conversation, songs, games, crafts, cooking, and cultural stories. See how FUN Spanish can be! The program is designed for families with students aged PK4 through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. We start out slow and easy in Level I with the basics of pronunciation and conversation as we work systematically into high school level grammatical structure by the time we get to Level III.

And this year we're continuing to teach HIGH SCHOOL SPANISH I + II LIVE via webcam teleconferencing for High School Credit! Finally we have an answer to the oft asked question "What do we do about High School Spanish?"

## **The Value of Astronomy by Jay Manifold**

Why should your children learn about astronomy?

If it is taught well enough, astronomy can first of all give children an understanding of their physical place in the Universe; show them that as inhabitants of it they are unique and significant; give to them a vision of its orderliness and majesty; demonstrate how science as a human institution operates; and draw them into a hobby where amateurs are helping professional scientists make discoveries.

Jay Manifold is a member of the Board of Directors of the Astronomical Society of Kansas City and the chair of its Education Department. He has been an amateur astronomer since childhood, and frequently volunteers at Powell Observatory in Louisburg, Kansas, and at Warkoczewski Observatory at the University of Missouri at Kansas City.

He is a project manager at Sprint, where he has worked since 1989, and a member of Covenant Chapel Evangelical Presbyterian Church, where he assists with Men's Ministry.

## **Home School / High School Advantage Session 2 (How to prepare your high schooler for college) by Sue Puchferran**

Sue is a co founder and vice-president of the Home Education Enrichment Day, Inc. (HEED) & the Home Education Connection (HEC) and a board member of the Home Education Foundation (HEF) with Brenda Dickinson. You can be ready for college. This talk will discuss the ways home educated students can not only be prepared for college, but be pursued by colleges. Topics discussed will include: earning college credits in high school, academic acceleration, test prep and the SAT, transcript preparation, college applications, sports, scholarships, financial aid, and web sites galore to assist you. You will be encouraged and won't want to miss out on their information concerning the incredible opportunities for our graduating Florida homeschoolers.

### **Brenda Dickenson**

HEF was established in 1991 to raise support and direct lobbying for home education in Florida. HEF exists to safeguard existing legislation and evaluate future legislation.

Craig and Brenda Dickinson were among the pioneers in the home education movement. There were no laws in Florida legalizing home education when they began in 1981. Registering as a private school was the only legal option. However, some families who were registered with private schools were being charged with truancy and threatened with loss of custody.