

# MHA

MINNESOTA HOMESCHOOLERS' ALLIANCE

**Saturday, September 24, 2011**  
**New Brighton Family Service Center**  
**8:30 a.m. To 4:30 p.m.**

**Featuring Keynote**  
**Rebecca Rupp**

The Minnesota Homeschooler's Alliance is pleased to announce our keynote speaker and presenter Rebecca Rupp. Becky Rupp has a Ph.D. in cell biology and biochemistry. She has published over 200 articles in national magazines on a wide range of topics, and nearly two dozen books, both fiction and non-fiction, for children and adults.

Titles for homeschoolers include *The Complete Home Learning Sourcebook* (Three Rivers Press, 1999) and *Home Learning Year by Year: How to Design a Homeschooling Curriculum from Preschool through High School* (Three Rivers Press, 2000). Among her children's books are the award-winning *Dragon of Lonely Island* (Candlewick, 1998), *The Waterstone* (2002), *Return of the Dragon* (2005), *Journey to the Blue Moon* (2006), *Sarah Simpson's Rules for Living* (2008), and – coming up this year – *Octavia Boone's Big Questions About Life, the Universe, and Everything*.

She is the Resource Editor for *Home Education Magazine*, a contributing editor for *GreenPrints*, and an educational consultant to the Vermont Center for the Book, for whom she organizes library-based children's science programs.

She and her husband homeschooled their three sons, all of whom still love them. And they all turned out just fine.

## **In addition to our inspiring keynote speaker, you'll...**

- receive an exclusive MHA zippered tote bag – perfect for park days, trips to the library or wherever your homeschool adventure may take you!
- have access to workshops and experienced homeschoolers
- get answers to all your beginning homeschool questions
- discover new ideas about how to teach academics
- learn more about homeschooling teens and struggling learners
- shop to your heart's content in our exhibitor hall

## **Conference Schedule**

8:30 – 9:00	Registration, browse exhibitor hall
9:00 – 10:00	Session 1
10:15 – 11:45	Keynote
11:45 -1 2:45	Lunch, Special Needs lunch
12:30 - 12:45	MHA Board Meeting
12:45 -1:45	Session 2
2:00 – 3:00	Session 3
3:00 – 3:30	Last Exhibitor opportunity, Door prizes
3:30 – 4:30	Session 4

# Session 1

## 9:00 - 10:00

**Homeschool 101 – Getting Started** – You've decided to homeschool your children. Now what? This workshop is chockfull of information for families just beginning their homeschool journey. Topics will include the legal requirements to homeschool in Minnesota (qualifications, reporting requirements, etc.) curriculum and testing options, participating in school sports, and many more. There will be plenty of time for questions so you can get the answers you need to successfully begin your homeschool journey.

*Jayne Wahlberg is the founder and administrator of HERO, a local homeschool organization, and MHA board member. With more than twenty years experience in the homeschool community, she has helped countless families on their homeschool journeys.*

**Homeschool 101 – Your Special Needs Child** – Can you homeschool your special needs child? Yes, you can! Whether you're just exploring homeschooling or you've filed your paperwork and are ready to get started, join us as we explore the basics of homeschooling your special needs child. We'll discuss homeschool laws in Minnesota and how to work with your school district to access services for your child. We'll review different styles of homeschooling and different types of learners, with the focus on special needs kids. We'll also explore unique techniques for teaching special needs learners. Lastly, learn how to find local organizations and resources available as you navigate the homeschool road with your special needs child.

*Roni Bergerson is a former MHA Board Member and currently homeschools her two special needs children. She is also a contributor at [www.currclick.com](http://www.currclick.com)*

**For the Love of Reading** – *Reading is a window to the world ~ Lynn Butler.* In this workshop, co-founders of The National Homeschool Book Award will help you learn how to find and create activities to tie in with great children's literature using the books you and your kids love. Discover how to use books as the building blocks for a complete homeschool curriculum. Learn the importance of reading aloud to your kids and how to extend your time together by providing activities that correspond with the books you read – and love!

*Valerie Geary and Michelle Dudley are co-founders of the National Homeschool Book Award, a reader's choice book award designed to recognize and celebrate current juvenile fiction that explores learning experiences occurring outside the traditional classroom setting and that resonates with homeschool readers. Valerie is also the founder of a Twin Cities area Book Club for homeschoolers.*

**PSEO** – Psst! Wanna know a secret? Minnesota has one of the best dual enrollment options available for homeschoolers in the entire country! Post-Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO) may seem intimidating but trust us -- you can do it! Join Jennifer King, the founder of ECHO-MN, as she explains the PSEO experience. You'll learn about the application process and programs homeschoolers can expect...and how to start gathering (and keeping) records for that all-important homeschool transcript. Other topics include an overview of the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum and the option of incorporating CLEPs as a way to gain even more college credit.

*Jennifer King is the founder of ECHO-MN, one of the leading homeschool support groups in Minnesota. She offers homeschool consulting services and workshops for homeschooling parents.*

**Explore Minnesota...Without Spending a Dime!** – You don't need a car to travel to the different biomes of Minnesota. Access to a computer is all that's required to explore the new curriculum offered by the Will Steger Foundation. This workshop will introduce you to the vast activities and lesson plans available in this nationally endorsed program on climate change and its effects. Learn how to develop and encourage your kids' curiosity and interest in their natural surroundings...and how they can be active, contributing participants in this pilot program.

*Kristen Poppleton manages the education program at the Will Steger Foundation and spent many years as a naturalist in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Oregon and Argentina.*

**A Waldorf-Inspired Co-op – Play and Learn!** – Launching a homeschool co-op is easy! Join Katherine Krueger, founder of the WHIM Co-op, and learn how to start your own Waldorf-inspired co-op. Topics will include everything from finding a location, deciding on costs, and sharing duties. New to the Waldorf approach to

homeschooling? Learn about the ideas behind a Waldorf education, including the basic elements of designing and leading “Circle Time.”

*Katharine Krueger is the co-founder of the WHIM Coop (Waldorf-Inspired Homeschoolers of Minnesota) and has been teaching homeschoolers for nine years. She is also the Founding Director of Journey of Young Women, a coming-of-age community for girls.*

# Keynote Address

10:15 - 11:45

**REBECCA RUPP**

*REAL LEARNING:*

*From Finns, Tiger Moms, and DIY to (Yes) Video Games*



Recent research in education has been a stunning vindication of all that homeschoolers do right. A common theme in children's books featuring homeschooled characters is that of a hapless and peculiar home-educated kid becoming a better person through school – but the data indicate that the truth is the other way around. In fact, studies show that the teetering public schools would be a whole lot better off if they functioned more like us.

*Becky Rupp will discuss the latest in kid-directed and inquiry-based education – especially as related to the sometimes tricky subjects of science and math – and will tackle the questions of standards and excellence in home education (without resorting to the screaming of Tiger Moms).*

## Session 2

### 12:45 – 1:45

**Confessions of a Real-life Homeschooler** – Did you sign up for this homeschooling gig – and are now wondering what you got yourself into? Do you feel guilty and confused about your role as a homeschooling parent? Did you think home learning would be smooth sailing...but instead you're experiencing a painful case of road rash? Welcome to the club! In this workshop, homeschooling mom Amy Dingmann will take a brutally honest – but ridiculously funny – look at her own Real-life Homeschooler's journey. Bumps discussed along the way include guilt, labels, dealing with naysayers...and why every homeschooler needs another homeschooler to complain to.

*Amy Dingmann* homeschools her two energetic boys in central Minnesota. She blogs at *The Hmmschooling Mom* ([thehmmschoolingmom.blogspot.com](http://thehmmschoolingmom.blogspot.com)) and is currently working on a book called *Dear New Homeschooler: I Just Wanted You To Know*.

**Encouraging Struggling Readers** – Reading and spelling skills don't come naturally to *all* children. If your child is a late reader or struggles with spelling, come learn how you can be your child's best advocate on the road to literacy. Based on ideas presented in her groundbreaking book, **Uncovering The Logic Of English**, this session by Denise Eide will include proven ideas for how to train visual muscle memory and prevent visual confusion; how to avoid oversimplification in a phonics-based approach; and concrete ways to teach to the strengths of visual, auditory and kinesthetic learners. Perhaps even more importantly, you'll learn how to guard the hearts of your struggling student.

*Denise Eide* is an educator, speaker and author of **Uncovering the Logic of English**, a nationally recognized book that has revolutionized the way English is taught in homeschool and traditional school setting alike. She homeschools her children in southern Minnesota.

**Components of a Complete Language Arts Program** – Both written and verbal skills are the building blocks to a successful education. In this hour-long session, learn how to put together a comprehensive language arts program for your home learners. Topics explored will include: phonics and phonemic awareness; grammar usage and mechanics, reading strategies, fluency and comprehension; and written composition. Learn about the extensive resources available and which ones are best suited for *your* child's unique learning style.

*Beth Ellen Nash* is the author of **Wings to Soar**, a spelling and handwriting program and is the Special Needs Consultant for Cornerstone Learning Connections. She teaches at Wings of Hope Academy, a private school in Wisconsin.

**Creative Curriculum for Teens** – Is your teen bored with boxed curriculum? Explore alternatives to the textbook doldrums! Learn how to incorporate DVD courses and PSEOs into your high schooler's homeschooling. Discover creative ways to utilize driver's ed, volunteering/job shadowing, career exploration strategies and much more as you break free of the textbook habit.

*Kim Jaworski* is a local homeschooler and independent Peabody tester. Her knowledge and experience in homeschooling led her to create and develop numerous workshops which she offers on a regular basis to Twin Cities area homeschoolers.

**Snap-Crackle-Pop Science!** – If you have a budding Louis Pasteur or Marie Curie in your house, this workshop is for you! Keynote speaker Rebecca Rupp will help you discover great resources and ideas for introducing kids to the wonderful world of chemistry. Get the scoop on chemistry sets and take home instructions for the best-ever experiments you can do at home (and a cool book list, too!).

*Rebecca Rupp*, our keynote speaker, holds PhDs in both biochemistry and cell biology. She is a regular contributor at [www.parentatthehelm.com](http://www.parentatthehelm.com) where she writes her popular "Resources, Resources!" column.

**Engaging Early Learners** – What should "school" look like for early years home learners? This fun and informative session will provide a comprehensive overview of learning styles as well as teaching methods specifically geared to pre- and elementary-aged children. Learn about curriculum options, fun games, and easy activities all designed to help parents think outside the box when it comes to "doing school."

*Nancy Bjorkman* has nearly twenty years experience as a homeschool teacher and is a popular speaker at homeschool conferences across the country. She and her husband own Heppner's Legacy, a local homeschool resource store and

catalog business in Elk River, MN, where they delight in ministering to the unique needs of homeschool families.

## **Session 3**

### **2:00 – 3:00**

**Boys Will Be Boys – Exploring Gender Based Learning** – And girls will be girls. That's what they say, anyway. As it turns out, there just may be a kernel of truth in that, especially when it comes to learning. Explore the ideas behind gender-based learning with Lawrence Hackett of The Gurian Institute. Learn how to identify the unique needs of your sons and daughters as well as ways to help them maximize their potential in their homeschool world...and beyond.

*Lawrence Hackett has been an educator for 50 years and is a national trainer for The Gurian Institute and the owner of ClubZ Tutoring.*

**Homeschool Dads Panel** – Choosing to homeschool is usually a two-parent decision. However, most homeschools operate with Mom as Superintendent, Principal, and Teacher. In this session, local homeschool dads will share how they involve themselves in the home learning process. Through candid conversations and open reflections, hear how these dads have coped with doubt and celebrated the successes in their homeschool journeys.

*Karl Bunday, Mike Forseth, and Steve Vrchota are local homeschool dads. Karl is a former President of MHA, Mike is the husband of current board member Jill Forseth and Steve is a teacher at a local co-op and coach of the 2010 award-winning FIRST League Minnesota team, made up almost exclusively of homeschoolers.*

**From Homeschool to College** – Calling all parents of teens! Is your soon-to-be homeschool graduate ready for college? Attend this workshop and learn ways *you* can help them: prepare for SATs and college applications; learn how to write exemplary college essays; and how to seek out financial aid and apply for scholarships.

*Joseph Koch has worked in Information Technology, Public Relations and as an educator in both the public and private sector.*

**The Logic of English** – Everyone says the English language isn't logical. Or is it? Join Denise Eide, author of **Uncovering The Logic of English**, as she reveals patterns and logic hidden within the English language – and how this has revolutionized reading and spelling across the country. As the President of the National Right to Read Foundation declares, “In less than 200 pages, and with clarity and simplicity, the solution to America's growing illiteracy problem unfolds.”

*Denise Eide is an educator, speaker and author of **Uncovering the Logic of English**, a nationally recognized book that has revolutionized the way English is taught in homeschool and traditional school setting alike. She homeschools her children in southern Minnesota.*

**Homeschooling Through Heartache** – As much as we want life to be perfect for our kids, sometimes it just...isn't. Circumstances we can't control – serious illness, divorce, adoption, bullying, – may inflict emotional trauma on both our children and ourselves. How do you homeschool through the hard times? Veteran homeschooler Stacy Manning is the mother of three adopted children and three biological children who has helped countless families navigate the hurdles associated with adoption and other emotional distresses during their homeschool journey. If you have a child who is struggling emotionally – regardless of the reasons – join us for this hope-filled workshop.

*Stacy Manning is the co-founder of Journey Co-op and founder/director of Hope Connections, an organization dedicated to helping families homeschool through emotional distresses and traumas.*

**The Story of Doubt – And How to Rewrite Yours!** – The biggest hurdle in homeschooling is not finding the perfect play group, deciding on a level of structure, choosing curriculum, or convincing skeptics. It's the story of doubt we tell ourselves. Maybe you're new to homeschooling and feeling queasy; maybe you've lost motivation or are feeling burned out; maybe you're convinced you are 'ruining your children.' Behind these experiences is uncertainty and an ensuing anxiety. In this session, veteran homeschooling mom Jackie Jeffery will share the strategies and perspective that saw her through twenty years of homeschooling – which included more than a few moments of doubt. If you're looking to renew your

*motivation, regain your footing and move ahead with confidence, please join us for an inspiring, informative presentation.*

*Jackie Jeffery is an experienced unschooling mother of four, former Grapevine editor, and Life Coach.*

## **Session 4**

### **3:30 – 4:30**

**Ready...Set...TEST!** – We all know we *have* to test. But what are the test options available to us? Is there one test that is “better” than the others? Kim Jaworski, certified Peabody tester, will share insight on the different tests homeschoolers can utilize to fulfill the testing requirement. Not all tests require a #2 pencil and a fill-in-the-bubble answer sheet. Learn what test is best suited for your child...and when the best time is to complete your testing (hint: it might not be the end of the traditional school year!).

*Kim Jaworski is a local homeschooler and independent Peabody tester. Her knowledge and experience in homeschooling led her to create and develop numerous workshops which she offers on a regular basis to Twin Cities area homeschoolers.*

**I Just Forgot! – Helping Kids With Memory And Attention Difficulties** Homeschooling a child with memory or attention difficulties can make you feel like you're pedaling backwards. There's hope! In this workshop, explore the different types and functions of memory and the possible breakdown points. Discover the fourteen areas where memory can be a problem. Finally, learn about the Concentration Cockpit, a unique tool that helps students understand and manage their attention and memory issues.

*Beth Ellen Nash is the author of **Wings to Soar**, a spelling and handwriting program and is the Special Needs Consultant for Cornerstone Learning Connections. She teaches at Wings of Hope Academy, a private school in Wisconsin.*

**Embracing Your Child's Multiple Intelligences** – Do you have an early reader who struggles with riding a bike? How about a child who can draw intricate designs but struggles with math facts? Welcome to the wonderful world of multiple intelligences! Join Michele Wolf, founder of **Intellego Unit Studies**, for this hands on, interactive workshop where parents will explore the multiple intelligences of their own children. You'll leave with a new understanding of your children...and how to incorporate multiple intelligence theory into your own homeschooling experience.

*Michele Wolf is the founder and president of Intellego Publishing and the homeschooling mother of two. Currently on the faculty of four universities, her background is in educational policy, theory, and alternative education.*

**Out of the Mouths of Teens** – Come one, come all to this workshop with local homeschool teens. Our panel discussion will include teens' real-life experiences with co-ops, PSEO, driver's ed, (as well as highlights of their homeschool experiences). They will share what they've learned along the way...and what they *wish* they would have known as they embarked on their homeschool high school journey. A must workshop for parents of tweens and younger teens.

*Morgan Carriveau, Kayla Fodor and other panel members are all local homeschool teens*

**Science Outside the Box** – Think you need a fancy laboratory set-up to teach science? Think again! Jane Snell Copes, founder of Science Outside the Box, will share easy, hands-on activities that will get you and your kids excited about science. Learn what materials you can use at home to create simple, effective experiments that will have your kids embracing science – and begging for more.

*Jane Snell Copes is the owner of Science Outside the Box and regularly offers fun workshops to share her love of science.*

**Fun With Field Trips** – No homeschool is complete without 'em. Field trips are the perfect way to explore new places and to experience learning in concrete, tangible ways. But where do you go? What kinds of places are there to explore in the Twin Cities and surrounding areas? Join *Homeschool Adventures* founders Vanessa Stephan and Nic Rosenau as they share the best-kept secrets to finding and planning successful field trips. Do you have a hidden gem of a place to share? There will be time for that, too, in this sharing and brainstorming workshop.

*Vanessa Stephan and Nic Rosenau are the co-founders of Homeschool Adventures, the premiere site for homeschoolers to advertise and locate field trips in the Twin Cities area.*

## **TEEN Workshops**

### **Session 1**

**Artist for a Day** – Whether you're an accomplished artist or strictly a stick-figure kind of kid, this workshop is for you! Join Larry the Art Guy as he shows you how to complete a drawing – from start to finish – using his tried and true method. Teens are guaranteed to leave this workshop with a beautiful work of art – and a renewed belief that an artist resides in each of them!

*Larry Weinberg is the owner of Rum River Art Academy, an Anoka art studio that provides a variety of art classes geared to homeschool students.*

### **Session 2**

**Rites of Passage** – You don't have to go solo in the wilderness to experience a rite of passage. We all face rites of passages as we move from the teen years to adulthood. Some are universal: getting your driver's license and first job, going to your first dance, graduating. Others are specific to *you*. Join us for this workshop and learn how to identify *your* particular rites of passage, their significance, and how to recognize and celebrate them. The possibilities are as unique as you are – so embrace them!

*Katharine Krueger is the co-founder of the WHIM Coop (Waldorf-Inspired Homeschoolers of Minnesota) and has been teaching homeschoolers for nine years. She is also the Founding Director of Journey of Young Women, a coming-of-age community for girls.*

### **Session 3**

**Social Skills 101** – Fully 85% of your success in life will be determined by your social skills and how well you get along with others. Join Julie Frantz, owner of Everyday Etiquette, and learn the 5 S's of meeting others, the 8 R's of getting along at home, and the best ways to be a good friend. Learn skills that will help you now and as you move into adulthood.

*Julia Frantz is the owner and instructor of Everyday Etiquette, and conducts presentations on manners and social skills. She has worked in television, radio, fund-raising, promotion and public relations.*

### **Session 4**

**Into the Great Wide Open** – Is college on your horizon? Are you starting to think about SATs? College essays and entrance exams? And...ahem...how you're going to pay for those four + years of higher learning? This workshop will introduce you to the basics of what awaits as you graduate high school...and how to best plan for success on your road to the future. Presenter Joel Koch will share SAT and essay writing tips as well as ideas to find financial aid and available scholarships.

*Joseph Koch has worked in Information Technology, Public Relations and as an educator in the public and private sector.*

# Registration Form

Registration	First & Last Name	Postmark before 9/11	Postmark after 9/11	Lunch Choice	Lunch \$7/each	Amount
Individual Member		<b>\$10.00</b>	\$35.00			
Partner		<b>\$10.00</b>	\$25.00			
Individual Non Member		<b>\$40.00</b>	\$50.00			
Teen		<b>\$5.00</b>	\$5.00			
Teen		<b>\$5.00</b>	\$5.00			

MHA Membership	Include \$25 for a new Membership, or \$20 for a renewal
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	Checks payable to MHA	<b>Total Due:</b>	
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Mailing Address:	
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Email Address:	Required for email confirmation
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Phone Number:	
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**REGISTER ONLINE! [WWW.HOMESCHOOLERS.ORG](http://WWW.HOMESCHOOLERS.ORG)**

## Boxed Lunches

Annie's Cooking Tonight has boxed lunches available for \$7.00 each. *Annie's was voted "the Favorite Caterer for small parties" by the Min-neapolis StarTribune and named "Top Caterer" by CitySearch.com*

**All boxed lunch options are in whole wheat wraps, and includes a fruit salad and a brownie for dessert.**

**T = Turkey Club** Smoked Turkey, Bacon, Cheddar, Lettuce, Tomato, Dijon and Mayo

**H = Ham Wrap** Ham, Swiss Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato, Dijon and Mayo

**R = Roast Beef** Roast Beef, Cheddar, Lettuce, Tomato, Dijon and Mayo

**A = Albacore Tuna Salad** Albacore Tuna with Mayo, Green Onions, Radish, Capers with Cheddar, Lettuce, Tomato, Sprouts, Dijon

**V= Veggie Wrap** Hummus, Cheddar, Cucumber, Tomato, Avocado, Red Onion, Sprouts, Spinach

<b>Guest Name</b>	<b>Session One Workshop Title</b>	<b>Session Two Workshop Title</b>	<b>Session Three Workshop Title</b>	<b>Session Four Workshop Title</b>