

# Saints and Scholars 2001 Family Education Conference

**“Be not afraid, only believe” ~Mark 5:36~**

**Sponsored by School of Abraham**



## ***Conference Handbook***

*Presenters' Biographies*

*Class Descriptions*

*Class Schedule*

**“In my opinion, the teaching, rearing, and training of children requires more intelligence, intuitive understanding, humility, strength, wisdom, spirituality, perseverance, and hard work than any other challenge we might have in life. This is especially so when moral foundations of honor and decency are eroding around us. To have successful homes, values must be taught, and there must be rules, there must be standards, and there must be absolutes.”**

**~James E. Faust~**

**Bellevue Community College, Bellevue, Washington**

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## Schedule

**7:00 Vendors open**  
**8:30 — 10:00 Opening Remarks**  
**Keynote: Reed and May Benson**  
**“Home Education—The Wave of the Future!”**

Room Time	RED	YELLOW	BLUE
<b>10:10-11:00</b>	<b>David Albert</b> <i>Learning About Learning: Conversations with My Violin</i>	<b>LauraMaery Gold</b> <i>The Secrets of Using Free Resources</i>	<b>Marjorie Meyer</b> <i>The Mote, the (Balance) Beam, and the Resurrection: "I'm Already buried—How Can I Homeschool, too?"</i>
<b>11:10-12:00</b>	<b>Marianna Richardson</b> <i>Value Education: Implementing Religious Instruction in Every Aspect of Learning</i>	<b>David Albert</b> <i>Home Educating the Gifted Child</i>	<b>Paul Herrick</b> <i>The Ideals of the Founding Fathers and the Principles of the U.S. Constitution</i>
<b>12:10-1:00</b>	<b>Suzie Steiner &amp; Panel</b> <i>Homeschool 101 Q&amp;A</i>	<b>Jack Monnett</b> <i>Revealed Educational Principles and the Public Schools: Early Church Curriculum</i>	<b>Tari Cartwright</b> <i>Eternal Harvest: Wonderful Memories of a Life Well Spent</i>
<b>1:00-1:50</b>	<b>LUNCH AND VENDORS</b>		
<b>2:00-2:50</b>	<b>Sharla Dance</b> <i>Multiple Intelligences and Homeschooling</i>	<b>Paul Herrick</b> <i>How to Teach Your Child to Develop Critical Thinking and Logic Skills</i>	<b>Dan Hunter</b> <i>History Doesn't have to be Boring</i>
<b>3:00-3:50</b>	<b>Robert Newell</b> <i>Teaching Your Children to Recognize Divine Intervention In Major World History Events.</i>	<b>Doreen Blanding</b> <i>Mega Cooking, How to Cook Once a Month and Eat Like a Queen</i>	<b>Stephen Bertucci</b> <i>Homeschool Renaissance and the Great Books Movement: A Return to the Classics</i>
<b>4:00-4:50</b>	<b>Father's Roundtable</b> <i>To Each His Own: Why (Wise) Fathers are at the Head of Home Education</i>	<b>Suzie Steiner</b> <i>Learning Games: Why Enjoyment is Such a Powerful Learning Tool</i>	<b>Sharla Dance</b> <i>Family Making Music</i>
<b>5:00-closing</b>	<b>VENDORS</b>		

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# REED and MAY BENSON

Home Education—The Wave of the Future!

Keynote Address

Reed A. Benson is a professor in the Ancient Scripture Department at BYU and teaches a thousand students a semester. He has written for a national news magazine and lectured widely, with numerous TV interviews and press conferences. A former Air Force Chaplain during the Korean War, he was the President of the Kentucky, Louisville Mission. He served as Branch President in Oxford, England and in the Israel District Presidency. Oldest son of President and Sister Ezra Taft Benson, he is the father of nine children and grandfather to twenty-four.

May Hinckley Benson was honored as Homeschooling Mother of the Year in 2000. She completed studies at the University of Utah, University of Maryland, and Cornell. With a great display of courage, for fifteen years she successfully home educated her nine adopted children in the early BSG\* days. She is a popular speaker, and a pioneer in the home education movement. Listening to her speak is like listening to your own "universal Grandmother". She provides the wise voice of experience to both veteran and novice home educators.

Come enjoy Reed Benson's wit and wisdom. His wit will make you laugh and his wisdom will touch you deeply. Using examples from his own experiences, Dr. Benson will discuss the many advantages and few disadvantages of homeschooling, legal questions, planning considerations, including curriculum and textbooks, and how to teach in your own home with confidence and faith. He will also share with us how to make the "Lord's library" the foundation of our home school books.

May Hinckley Benson will share how their "grand experiment" in homeschooling taught a fearful mother 10 simple principles that assure any mother that she can teach her own children with confidence. She will teach us the importance of being humble and being teachable, both as necessary spiritual qualities in the child and in the parent, and how an attitude of humility will naturally enable us to create a happy, successful family education environment.



*"Your most important friendships should be with your own brothers and sisters and with your father and mother. Love your family. Be loyal to them. Have a genuine concern for your brothers and sisters." (Ezra Taft Benson, The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson, p. 520)*

## David Albert

David Albert holds degrees from Williams College, Oxford University, and the University of Chicago, but says, "The best education he ever received he gets from his two amazing kids." As founder of New Society Publishers, he was both editor and publisher of John Taylor Gatto's *"Dumbing Us Down: The Hidden Curriculum of Compulsory Schooling"*, and more than 100 other titles. Author of *And the Skylark Sings with Me*, David is an active member of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). He will be a featured speaker at this year's WHO convention. See his web site, [www.skylarksings.com](http://www.skylarksings.com) for more information.

### **Learning about Learning: Conversations with My Violin**

**Red 10:10**

David Albert will contrast the rather strange principles that lie at the heart of public education with the actual learning process itself. Using the violin as an example, he will examine the five internal dialogues that take place in both children and adults when real learning is really happening. Lots of anecdotes, show-and-tell, and humor.

### **Home Educating the Gifted Child**

**Yellow 11:10**

Or, "How to talk so your child will think you have something worth listening to!" David emphasizes that home educating is not just for the kids, but for the learning family. He posits as a goal of all education "the responsible exercise of freedom." "Childhood is such a wonderful time in life. Kids have so much to explore, and often so much energy to do it on their own or in unusual ways. They will perform perfectly well without pressure. Gifted children may have an especially difficult time in finding themselves--they are often pushed to develop their gifts, rather than their passions. We don't have to think out of the box--our children will do it for us."



## Stephen Bertucci

Stephen Bertucci is a Socratic mentor for the Great Books Academy Homeschool Program, and Editor-in-Chief of the magazine *Classical Homeschooling*. Stephen Bertucci is a founder of The Great Books Academy, and the father of ten children.

He writes: "Homeschool parents know the difference between Homer Simpson and Homer; muzac and Mozart; sit-coms and Shakespeare; Mickey Mouse cartoons and Michelangelo; Ronald McDonald clowning and *The Divine Comedy*; between "neo-Stone Age men" and true gentlemen and young ladies." See [www.GreatBooksAcademy.org](http://www.GreatBooksAcademy.org) and [www.ClassicalHomeschooling.com](http://www.ClassicalHomeschooling.com) for more information.

### **Homeschool Renaissance and the Great Books Movement: A Return to the Classics**

**Blue 3:00**

Perhaps never before has an opportunity for genuine educational reform held such promise of success. Parents are increasingly seeking out classical materials and support for a return to the roots of Western culture. The Homeschool Renaissance is beginning in the homes of those who are willing and able to make the sacrifices necessary to educate their children in the classical tradition of Western civilization.

## Doreen Blanding

Doreen says: "I hate to cook! But I after found out my children would starve if someone didn't feed them, I had to find a way to feed them and still "not cook." With Mega Cooking, I have time to enjoy my well-fed kids, the beautiful outdoors, and do something every homeschooling parent loves to do... READ! I believe mothers should actively learn, and be teachable themselves, and only then will they be able to effectively teach and guide their children. The most important book we all must learn from is the scriptures." Doreen is a Relief Society President and the mother of six young children. Her recipe for managing all the external demands on her time: "I scatter it through the day so it doesn't seem like too much".

**Mega Cooking:  
How to Cook Once a Month and Eat like a Queen  
Yellow 3:00**

After this class, you will never again need to open the cupboard and wonder to yourself "What should we have for supper?" (Well, we can hope for that day, anyway, right?) This type of cooking is sometimes called "Once a Month Cooking." But "Once a Month" still seemed like too much time spent in the kitchen, so Doreen started "Mega Cooking". She really cooks this way, and it really works!



## Tari Cartwright

Tari Cartwright is the author of *Eternal Harvest: An LDS Perspective for Homeschooling and Accelerated Learning*. Twelve years ago, Tari gave up owning her own computer programming and consulting firm and instead chose to educate her children. She will help you understand that the Spirit teaches our children truths that we can not teach ourselves. In this way, she says, the Lord individually tailors the child's quest for learning. Parents are mentors and facilitators. Tari moderates a number of online support groups, and lives with her husband, their three children, three dogs, a cat, guinea pigs, and an assortment of fish in Heber, Utah and Pleasanton, California. She says "The quest for learning and achievement is not ours as parents, certainly not the government's, but it is the child's own journey." See <http://eternalharvest.00books.com> for more information

**Eternal Harvest: Wonderful Memories of a Life Well Spent  
Blue 12:10**

Do you have your children study starting at a certain hour everyday? Give them certain assignments to complete? Allow them to work on whatever they are interested in? Try to fit in "educational activities" throughout the day so that they seem more natural? Or do you "do school" and your kids are off the hook when their assignments are complete?

Tari does all of the above for her children at various stages of their learning and life. She will show you effective ways to incorporate religious teachings and academics. Her family teaches from advanced texts as soon as the children are able to understand the materials. Two of her children began distance learning college at 14.

Knowledge is not merely the equations of algebra, the theorems of geometry, or the miracles of space. . . knowledge is that power which raises one into new and higher worlds and elevates him into new spiritual realms. . . Desirable as is secular knowledge, one is not truly educated unless he has the spiritual with the secular. The secular knowledge is desirable; the spiritual knowledge is an absolute necessity. Spencer W. Kimball, Conference Report, October 1968, pg. 129-131

## Sharla Dance

Sharla Dance has a degree in Music Education from Brigham Young University and has done her post graduate studies on how children learn. She has homeschooled each of her five children at one point or another in their lives and has used the multiple intelligence theory both with her children and every week as she teaches music to children. Sharla helps parents understand they don't have to know music for it to be enjoyable and learnable for their family. Music and movement can be used in teaching anything, even spelling and math. One mother who has attended her seminars wrote: "I will never forget Jason spelling with wind wands. It was something else. He has to use an !!! (snap) at the end of all the words."

### **Multiple Intelligences and Homeschooling**

**Red 2:00**

What is your child's greatest strength when it comes to learning? Are we guiding, offering opportunities to learn, and supporting our children in the ways our children learn best? What is a multiple intelligence approach to learning? We will answer these questions and more in this hands-on class dealing with the multiple intelligence theory. Resources, ideas offered, and real life experiences will be shared for learning all subjects in a multiple intelligence way.

### **Making Family Music**

**Blue 4:00**

Learn by doing and demonstration in this class about bringing music into your home. We will play with wind wands as we sing and dance to music, talk about research and the effect of music on the brain, do partner rhythms, hear songs made up for each child, learn hands-on chording through tone bells, bounce/tap/clap folk chants and songs, use rhythm instruments to create our own band, and more. Bring the wonder of music alive in your home with your family as the music makers.

Sharla's *For Baby and Me*; a CD with traditional folk song, bounces, taps and claps, dances and chants to help enlarge baby's and one-year old's musical exposure; can be found at the School of Abraham's table in the vendors hall.



## Fathers Roundtable

Does your husband ever come home and tell you how "you" should be educating the children? Or does he counsel with you? Can you count on him to take the kids for an "field trip" and give you a break? Does he have a special skill or talent that he is teaching to the family? Will he willingly help carry the load of household chores? Dads (and moms) need to know that behind every successful home educator there's a ....Dad. Come listen to our panel of fathers talk to each other and answer your questions. You'll come away with at least one significant idea that will bless your homeschool, and the Dad at your house may never be the same.

**To Each His Own:**

### **Why (Wise) Fathers are at the Head of Home Education**

**Red 4:00**

OK, just one more time--tell me who it is that is called to do "home teaching" in the church? This class is not for Dads only—bring Mom along for "nudging." Panelists: Steve Blanding, Dru Pickering, Joel Black, James Meyer, John Monnett, and Dan Hunter.

## LauraMaery Gold

LauraMaery Gold writes a popular weekly Internet column for home educators and operates one of the largest home education lists on the Internet. She is the author of *Homeschool Your Child for Free*, *Mormons on the Internet*, *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Excel*, *A Writing Course For Non-Native English Speakers* and several other popular books on business, computers and the Internet. She is the former religion editor of the (Provo, Utah) Daily Herald, and has been a working journalist for more than 20 years. She is the mother of seven children, holds degrees in law and financial planning, and speaks Mandarin, French, and enough Spanish to order tacos at a Mexican restaurant. See [www.writerspost.com](http://www.writerspost.com) for more information.

### **The Secret to Using Free Resources** **Yellow 10:10**

LauraMaery will share her secrets for how to develop a comprehensive curriculum of free educational resources, from reading-readiness activities for preschoolers to science projects for teens. A wealth of not-to-miss resources.

Parents should not leave the training of children to others. Constant training, constant vigilance, companionship, and being watchmen of our own children are necessary in order to keep our homes intact and to bless our children in the Lord's own way. It is the responsibility of parents to teach their children.  
Spencer W. Kimball, Ensign, May 1979, p. 5

## Paul Herrick

Paul Herrick teaches philosophy full-time at Shoreline Community College. He holds a Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of Washington, and specializes in political theory, symbolic logic, and the philosophy of religion. He is the author of *Reason and Worldview: An Introduction to Western Philosophy*, and *The Many Worlds of Logic*. He is the founder of Classical eAcademy, an internet-based academy for home educators. He is the stepfather of one daughter, and the public-minded guardian of a cat named Peter. See [www.classicaleacademy.com](http://www.classicaleacademy.com) for more information.

### **The Ideals of the Founding Father and the Principles of the U.S. Constitution** **Blue 11:10**

The traditional concepts of liberty and "freedom"--the ideal of liberty proclaimed by the Founders--are under attack today in the academic world. Dr. Herrick will take you on a journey through the major philosophical principles underlying the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution.

The traditional concepts of Liberty and the Rule of Law are under attack today. Dr. Herrick will discuss the traditional principles underlying the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution, and how to teach them to young people today. Critical information for every parent to understand.

### **How to Teach Your Child to Develop Critical Thinking and Logic Skills** **Yellow 2:00**

"We cannot make ultimate sense of life without belief in God. Reason, when properly employed, leads the mind to God." Dr. Herrick has taught Logic at the college level for 20 years. He will present some of the basic principles of logic and critical thinking, as well as how to teach these principles to young people. The session will touch on modern logic, how to detect fallacies, and traditional Aristotelian logic. Logic--it may soon be your kids' favorite subject!

## Dan Hunter

Dan Hunter is the author of *The World Before Christ: An LDS Perspective*, *The World After Christ: An LDS Perspective*, and *United States History: An LDS Perspective*, and the founder of Living History. Living History books portray secular and religious history in story form, and include time lines, historical maps, scripture citations, quotations from church leaders, relevant videos, historical novels, and bibliographies. This series of world and United States history books will eventually include nine volumes. Dan is the homeschool father of five children. Write to: [livinghistory@bigplanet.com](mailto:livinghistory@bigplanet.com) or visit [www.schoolofabraham.com/living\\_history.htm](http://www.schoolofabraham.com/living_history.htm) for more information.

### **History Doesn't Have to be Boring**

#### **Blue 2:00**

To make history interesting and easy to teach and learn, parents can teach it in story form, with student involvement. Dan will show us how to involve children in creating their own history notebooks with historical maps, timelines, classical literature from the time being studied, and how writing about people and events will make history come alive.



## Marjorie Meyer

Marjorie Meyer is the Founder and Director of the School of Abraham. She graduated valedictorian from Brigham Young University with a degree in Psychology. She completed graduate studies in Instructional Science at BYU and at the University of Utah in School Psychology, prior to serving a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Portugal. She is an enthusiastic advocate of classical education, and moderates several family education email support groups. As the mother of six children, she is currently enrolled in Life's University, where she finds the coursework to be the most challenging she has encountered. The key to successful family education, she believes, is "having a brain, a heart, and Courage!" -- and understanding that 'There's no place like home.' See [www.SchoolofAbraham.com](http://www.SchoolofAbraham.com) for more information.

### **The Mote, the (Balance) Beam, and the Resurrection: "I'm Already Buried--How Can I Homeschool, too?"**

#### **Blue 10:10**

To make the commitment to home educate we first must acknowledge that the Lord has placed mothers at the headwaters of life, in the home. We eliminate the unnecessary and spiritually distracting from our lives, and commit to our spiritual role as the essential shapers of the next generation. In the process, we will be figuratively "resurrected" emotionally and spiritually - and come to know ourselves and our children more fully than we ever have before. Our children's spiritual survival may depend on what we choose to do with our own life, our time, and our talents.

"The greatest man is he who chooses the right with invincible resolution; who resists the sorest temptations from within and without; who bears the heaviest burdens cheerfully; who is calmest in storms, and the most fearless under menace and frowns; and whose reliance on truth, on virtue, and on God, is most unfaltering." William Ellery Channing

## Jack Monnett

Jack D. Monnett holds degrees in education from Brigham Young University and a Ph.D. in the Historical Foundation of Education from the University of Utah. He has taught in the LDS Church Education System as well as in public schools and currently teaches part-time for the LDS Institutes of Religion. Author of *Revealed Educational Principles and the Public Schools*, he is the father of thirteen children. He is the owner of Archive Publishers, which specializes in reprints of rare and out of print writings from the early history of the church. See [www.spectre.com/ldsarchive](http://www.spectre.com/ldsarchive) for more information.

### **Revealed Educational Principles and the Public Schools: Early Church Curriculum Yellow 12:10**

Do you know what curriculum was used by the church schools in the Utah Territory? What was the focus in learning? Dr. Monnett will discuss the history of LDS-based education and how the principles taught in the early church schools can be applied to our home and private schools today.

You know that your children will read. They will read books and they will read magazines and newspapers. Cultivate within them a taste for the best. While they are young, read to them the great stories which have become immortal because of the virtues they teach. Expose them to good books. Let there be a corner somewhere in your house, be it ever so small, where they will see at least a few books of the kind upon which great minds have been nourished. Gordon B. Hinckley, *Ensign*, November 1975, p. 39



## Robert R. Newell

Robert R. Newell, Ed.D., author of the three-volume work, *World History for Latter-day Saints*, holds degrees from the University of Utah and Brigham Young University. He has served in both public and private educational systems as a teacher, junior and high school principal, university professor, and college administrator. He was professor of education at the BYU-Hawaii Campus, administrative assistant to the president of the College of Eastern Utah, and Director of Personnel and Institutional Research. He is the father of eight sons and four daughters

### **Teach Your Children to Recognize Divine Intervention in Major World History Events Red 3:00**

Join Dr. Newell as he discusses the principles of love, agency, and foreordination, and the many examples of divine intervention throughout history. He will open the door to helping you teach your children to understand man's struggle for the preservation of his inalienable rights against tyrannical government, the rise of freedom in America, and preparations for the restoration of the Gospel.

Children should learn how to share, to help do the housework and the yard work, to plant gardens, to plant trees, to pick fruit, and to do everything that needs to be done, because that makes strong characters out of them and builds their faith and character. We want you parents to create work for your children. Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball, p. 360

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## Marianna Richardson

Marianna Richardson is the mother of twelve children. She holds a B.A. from Brigham Young University in English Literature and an M.S. from Johns Hopkins University in Special Education. She is new to homeschooling and has enjoyed learning about how best to implement it with her children. She is the founder of a private school called Cedar Springs Academy, a vehicle to homeschool her children and also to provide a home extension service for other homeschool families. She enjoys teaching, especially teaching the gospel, and implementing religious instruction in every aspect of learning.

### **Value Education: Implementing Religious Instruction in Every Aspect of Learning**

**Red 11:10**

As homeschoolers, we teach our religious values to our children as we teach all other curricula. Literature, science, history, sports, even math can have religious applications. We should help our children see that secular learning and religious learning are not separate; both allow us to understand truth. The child with special needs can receive help understanding what his religious beliefs have to do with his daily life.



## Suzie Steiner

Suzie Steiner is the co-director of the Spokane County Homeschoolers and the Secretary for Latter-day Family Scholars. She also owns her own business called Baby Things. A lifelong homeschooler, she is the mother of two gifted children. Her favorite saying is: "If at first you do succeed, try and hide your astonishment." Suzie is also a speaker at the WHO convention this year. See [www.homeschooling-online.org](http://www.homeschooling-online.org) and [www.eccs-com.net/babythings](http://www.eccs-com.net/babythings) for more information.

### **Homeschooling 101 Question and Answer session**

**Red 12:00**

No one travels the homeschooling road alone, at least not when so many have gone before to show the way. If you are new to homeschooling, or just thinking about it, come join us for Homeschooling 101 with Suzie Steiner. Suzie has an extensive background in getting folks started off on the right foot. (Dancing shoes not required). You'll be reassured and empowered to make the initial step in home education.

Question and Answer Session: Panelists include Heike Smith, Jacqueline Gelotte, Gloria Pickering, Robin Goddard, and Cheryl Black.

### **Learning Games: Why Enjoyment is Such a Powerful Learning Tool**

**Yellow 4:00**

In this carefully thought-out presentation, Suzie will condense her research on learning, motivation, and how to achieve educational goals without telling your children that's what you are doing. This is one presentation that can definitely be called fun.

Learning that includes familiarization with facts must not occur in isolation from concern over our fellowman. It must occur in the context of a commitment to serve them and to reach out to them.  
Spencer W. Kimball, Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball, p. 385

The School of Abraham seeks to foster spiritual and moral development in an environment of academic rigor, with a commitment to the lifelong education of the parents as well as their children.

We hope you will consider seriously our invitation to participate with us again next year, as we celebrate our opportunities to advance in wisdom and knowledge.

The School of Abraham extends a warm invitation to parents of all faiths, and we hope that the commonality of our beliefs in strong families, moral values, and Christian principles will unite us in furthering our goal of a better education for our children.

Whether you are a veteran homeschooler looking for a fresh start, a new homeschooler searching for help and ways to implement ideas, or a non-homeschooling parent, who wants to help your child in school and in life, we're here to help the *you*--one of the most important folks in the entire universe--to succeed!

~~The Nice Folks at School of Abraham~~

[www.SchoolofAbraham.com](http://www.SchoolofAbraham.com)

## **School of Abraham**

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*We are dedicated to the greatest and most eternal pursuit of all: raising our children, a covenant generation, to develop their minds and talents in righteousness and faith.*