

Get Ready for...

HOME
Convention
2020

30th Annual "Lead the Way HOME" 2020

Homeschool Convention

March 19, 20 and 21, 2020

It's **THE** Maine homeschooling event of the decade!

This year's event marks HOME's 30th year, and falls near Maine's 200th birthday (March 15), which gives us two great reasons to learn and celebrate! Lots of Maine Bicentennial themed activities and workshops have been planned, as well as the usual assortment of homeschool topics.

Are you...

- exploring the option of homeschooling for your family?
- a new homeschooler or just getting ready to begin?
- a seasoned homeschooler with several years experience?
- a pioneer who has been homeschooling for a decade or more?
- a homeschool mom and dad in need of a weekend away?
- a homeschooling family looking for an affordable winter getaway?

Mark your calendar now for the 30th Annual HOME Convention, where you'll find something for everyone!

- Information
- Curriculum and resources
- Guidance and support
- Educational enrichment opportunities
- Teen workshops
- Family fun
- Refreshment
- New ideas and strategies

Nationally known speakers, informative workshops and experts in the exhibit halls will help and encourage you in every way. You'll meet real people to answer all of your questions! In addition, there is the opportunity for lots of face-to-face interactions with others, which we so desperately need in today's technology driven world.

We are looking forward to our 2020 celebration, and hope that you will be a part. The schedule includes many practical and interactive programs and workshop sessions, plus inspiring general sessions and family entertainment. Start planning now to attend the Lead the Way HOME 2020 Convention!



Featured and Keynote Speakers

Ray and Charlene Notgrass

Ray and Charlene Notgrass are followers of Jesus and veteran homeschooling parents. They met in college and married in 1974. Ray has bachelor's and master's degrees in history and a master's degree in New Testament studies. Charlene has a bachelor's degree in political science. Ray and Charlene are lifelong history lovers and began writing homeschool curriculum in 1999. Since then they have written several full-year courses for Notgrass History, the publishing company which they and their family operate. Ray and Charlene enjoy classic literature, traveling together, and spending time with their children and grandchildren. Charlene encourages homeschooling mothers with new posts each Monday through Friday on her blog, Daily Encouragement for Homeschooling Mothers.

Scott Woodruff

Scott, a follower of Christ since 1971, earned his law degree from the University of Virginia. After working for John Ashcroft as an Assistant Attorney General for the state of Missouri, and later a major regional insurance company, Scott joined the HSLDA team in 1998. He is a member of the United States Supreme Court bar.

Over the last 20 years, he has assisted thousands of families in conflicts with social workers, police officers, truant officers, principals, superintendents, judges and prosecuting attorneys. He has testified before state legislatures to advance homeschool freedom in Maine, Virginia, Arkansas, Maryland, West Virginia, New Hampshire, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, South Dakota, Nevada, Idaho, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. He has helped write portions of the homeschool laws and parental rights laws of several states.

Scott and his wife Jane married in 1983. They have three adult children whom they homeschooled, one child still at home--a very special 6-year old they are homeschooling--and three grandchildren.

Marbles, Homeschooling, and Maine

By Charlene Notgrass

We began our homeschooling journey in Illinois in the fall of 1990. One of our main PE activities that year was playing marbles. Our children practiced marbles, they demonstrated marbles around town, and in the spring they geared up for marbles competition.

Marbles? Really? It all started like this. The previous spring, our son John had brought a flyer home from school. It announced that the Champaign-Urbana News-Gazette was sponsoring a local marbles tournament. First prize was a trip for two to the National Marbles Tournament in New Jersey. The newspaper would give that prize to the top boy marbles player and the top girl. The editor of the newspaper had been a marbles champion himself in his youth and wanted to revive interest in the game.

The flyer also encouraged children to come to workshops to learn how to play marbles. John was interested, so we began taking him to the workshops. On the day of the tournament, Ray took John, age 11, to the tournament. Bethany, age 8, and I had an all-day activity that Saturday, so our younger daughter, Mary Evelyn, age 6, tagged along with her dad and big brother.

When Bethany and I got home late that afternoon, we headed up the steps and found a sign posted on the back door: "Home to both marbles champions! On to New Jersey!"

John and Ray quickly explained what had happened. About 14 boys had shown up for the boys' tournament, and John had come out on top. Only one little girl had come to compete in the girls' tournament. A tournament organizer had coaxed Mary Evelyn to give it a try. Neither girl knew much about playing marbles. After a long game, the score remained tied. Finally, the official decided to have the girls "lag." In a lag, each player rolls a marble toward a line. Whoever gets closest without going over the line is the winner. Mary Evelyn won the lag -- and a trip for two to the tournament.

When time for the tournament came a few weeks later, we paid for Bethany's airline ticket and all five of us flew to New Jersey. When we got to the tournament, held on the beach beside the boardwalk in Wildwood, New Jersey, we all felt like country mice visiting the city mouse for the first time. Other teams had lots of experience; some even had coaches. Here we were, our little family of five with only a few weeks' experience with marbles!

The tournament organizers treated the players wonderfully with sports bottles and bags and free tickets to boardwalk activities. Our children were out of their league in the competition, but the newspaper had us send reports back to the hometown paper. We called in our daily sports reports on old-fashioned pay telephones so the newspaper could publish them. We were thrilled when John received the tournament sportsmanship award and when the Associated Press picked up a photo of Mary Evelyn, the youngest participant in the tournament. A friend's parents saw her picture in a newspaper in Pennsylvania!

When the tournament was over, we returned to Urbana. Over the summer, we made the decision to leave the public school and begin homeschooling. We began helping the newspaper to encourage children to play marbles. Our children gave marbles demonstrations at local events. Our daughter Bethany started practicing, too.

When time came for the next local tournament, John, Bethany, and Mary Evelyn all competed. That year John won the boys' tournament, and Bethany won the girls'. However, the newspaper's efforts to increase interest in marbles had not been successful. Participation in the local tournament was even less than the first year.

Other teams in New Jersey had more than one competitor in the national tournament, so the organizers allowed Mary Evelyn to compete as well. We asked the newspaper if they would give us mileage money instead of airline tickets for the 1991 national tournament in New Jersey. They agreed. After the tournament, where the children all did well, we made our first trip to Maine and to the rest of New England. The mileage money the newspaper gave us, combined with careful penny pinching, made that trip possible.

We saw the rocky Maine coast for the first time and drove up to Kennebunkport. An American flag flew over the Bush's vacation home, indicating that then-President George H.W. Bush was there that day.

The newspaper had tried for two years to get children playing marbles. They decided not to sponsor the tournament after that. We laughed and told our friends that they were tired of sending the Notgrasses to New Jersey. Actually, we appreciated God giving our family with our limited income two surprise vacations. The story of our brief entrance into national marbles competition became one of the many outlandish stories about how we took our children to each of the lower forty-eight states.

Years later, after we had moved home to Tennessee, time came for our daughter Bethany to graduate from homeschool. We headed northeast for her senior trip. In her choices of where to go, Bethany included places we had gone when she was a girl, including a visit to the marbles rings on the beach in Wildwood. This time, instead of a quick foray into Maine, we drove all the way through it and into Canada. One morning we drove to the top of Cadillac Mountain in Acadia National Park to watch the sunrise. On a near-dusk drive through a vast Maine woods, we saw a moose by the side of the road. For us Tennesseans, that moose was a dream come true.

Every good thing given
and every perfect gift is from above,
coming down from the Father of lights,
with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.
James 1:17

Charlene Notgrass and her husband, Ray are speakers at the 30th Annual HOME Convention 2020. Charlene is a Christian and a veteran homeschooling mother. She develops homeschool history curriculum for Notgrass History. She is the author of America the Beautiful for grades 5-8 and co-author of Our Star-Spanned Story for grades 1-4, From Adam to Us for grades 5-8, and Uncle Sam and You for grades 5-8. Charlene encourages moms with posts each Monday through Friday on her blog, Daily Encouragement for Homeschooling Mothers.

What You Need to Know About Convention 2020

HOME is dedicated to promoting homeschooling. All who are homeschooling or are interested in homeschooling are welcome! You are sure to find encouragement and information regardless of your homeschool approach or style. Our hope is that the Convention will be a blessing to all who attend. (Christian values are sometimes reflected in vendors, speakers, workshops and general sessions. However, this event is open to all! There is something for everyone.)

Exhibit Areas

Unlimited admission to all exhibit areas is included as a benefit to those who have paid for a full event registration! "Exhibit Hall Only" passes are also available to the general public on Thursday from 2:30pm - 5:30pm, Friday from 1:00pm - 4:00pm and Saturday from noon - 3:00pm. The cost of an Exhibit Hall Only pass is \$15/Adult and \$8/Children, per day. One FREE Exhibit Hall Only pass may be used for either the Thursday or Saturday time slot. Choose a second or third time slot at the regular price to extend your shopping time!

Parents of Preschoolers Program

In an effort to promote homeschooling in Maine, HOME offers free admission to families who meet the following criteria:

1. Must have only children of preschool age (aged 6 or under at the time of the event),
2. Must have never attended a HOME Convention before, AND
3. Must submit a written recommendation from a HOME Regional Representative to the HOME Office, along with a completed convention registration form (on the back page of this mini magazine).

Please contact your HOME Regional Representative for more information (see our website for contact information for your Regional Representative). Contact HOME if you are not able to reach your HOME Representative.

Getting Started in Homeschooling, Homeschooling High School 101, and The Importance of Developing Good Study Skills Workshops

These three workshops are scheduled on Thursday at 2:30pm and/or Saturday at 1:00pm. Admission is FREE for these three workshops ONLY. Pre-registration is not required. Please register at the door on Thursday or Saturday. To attend all other aspects of the convention, please refer to the registration fees and information on our website at <https://www.homeschoolersofmaine.org/events/annual-convention/register/>.

Are You the Member of a Local Support Group?

Are you grateful for the vast amounts of time and effort that your support group leaders invest in you and the others in the group? Would you like a real great way to show your leader that he/she has your support?

The HOME Annual Convention is a wonderful opportunity for training. Top notch, national speakers, much local talent, an extensive exhibit hall, uplifting music and awesome fellowship—all rolled into one weekend!

Consider recommending them for a support group leader waiver! They give so much—give back a little to them! Not only will they benefit, but you will too. It's a great way to say thank-you.

Bottles and Boxtops

Bring your boxtops and empty returnable bottles to the HOME Convention or Used Curriculum Sale & Expo! HOME will deliver bottles to Hanaford, and funds will be deposited in HOME's Clynk Account. Funds raised will be used for Homeschool Kits for Kids and HOME Convention, Used Curriculum and Portfolio Review Scholarships!

Volunteer!

Volunteers make all the difference. A smile, a helping hand, and caring ear are sometimes all it takes. As the saying goes, people do not care what you know, until they know how much you care. Would you consider helping HOME care for others during the event? There are many ways to help! Contact HOME for more information: homeschool@midcoast.com or 207-763-2880.

P.S. Volunteers committed to working a total of 3 hours throughout the event, are eligible to shop early at the Volunteer Pre-sale, the kickoff to our Used Curriculum Sale & Expo held annually in Augusta each spring. The Volunteer Sale is scheduled before the sale is open to the public. YOU will have the first choice of items!

Top Reasons to Attend the HOME Convention This Year

What does the HOME Convention offer you?

- 1. Books, books and more books!** The HOME Convention is a place to see, touch and ask questions about all those homeschool products that you have seen online and in homeschool magazines and catalogs. Knowledgeable experts and experienced veterans will be standing by to help you find your way through the curriculum maze!
- 2. Bargains!** Many exhibitors offer special discounts during the convention. HOME offers a wide selection of used curriculum and resources, as well!
- 3. Inspiration!** Speakers, workshops and panel discussions bring you education and new information to use in your homeschool. Encouragement and support fosters enthusiasm and a renewed spirit. Your family deserves to have you at your best!
- 4. Family fun and fellowship at a great resort location!** We want you to enjoy your time at the HOME Convention, so we offer plenty of family friendly activities, and lots of time to socialize with other homeschoolers! Where else can you find such a reasonably priced family or winter getaway with something for everyone?
- 5. Connections!** Attend year after year to build enduring, mutually beneficial relationships. You will continually connect with new people and cultivate existing relationships. Building strong networks with other homeschoolers is vital to your success!
- 6. Time alone with your spouse!** For some couples, this event is the only time during the year that they have a chance to be together to reconnect as a couple, and refocus on specific needs and goals for their children.
- 7. Motivation!** This is just the place to fill up your tank and get going again. Don't stay stuck in a rut. Get to the HOME Convention!
- 8. Hands-on Activities!** Many exhibitors at the HOME Convention offer family friendly hands-on activities to engage convention goers, young and old alike.
- 9. Educational Programs!** Workshop tracks especially for families and teens, as well as other special programs are always a part of the event. Everyone learns and grows at the HOME Convention!
- 10. Volunteer Opportunities!** For some families, the HOME Convention offers the chance to give something back to the homeschool community. For others it provides an opportunity to develop new skills or build on existing experience and knowledge.

Our exhibit hall will be filled with vendors ready to answer your questions and share their products designed with homeschoolers in mind! Come shop with us!

2020 Exhibitors

(So far! More to Come!)

Alpha Omega Publications

BJU Press

Christian Light Education

CLYNK

Dirigo HOME

Heart of HOME Bookstore

HOME Curriculum Consulting

HOME Inventory Clearance Sale

HOME Short Story Contest

Homeschoolers of Maine

Paparazzi Accessories

Teaching Textbooks

The Look Book**

Wilson Museum**

** These exhibitors will be providing interactive booths. Opportunities for hands-on activities for children and families will be offered throughout the event during times when the exhibit halls are open.

2020 Event Bag Contributors

American School

A Special Thank You Goes to Our 2020 Event Sponsors

(You'll want to stop by the Sponsors' Booths in the Exhibit Hall and see all they have to offer!)

Classical Conversations

Gordon College

Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA)

Notgrass History

University of Maine Augusta

Your hotel stay during the Convention will be relaxing, refreshing and convenient when you stay at the beautiful Samoset Resort!

The HOME Convention can provide you with an opportunity for personal retreat, a couple getaway, a moms' time out or an affordable family vacation! By choosing to stay at the Samoset Resort, you will be "down the hall and around the corner" from each workshop and the exhibit areas. All accommodations include many extras (including in-room refrigerators), and are convenient for convention breaks, naps and meal preparations. Use the resort pool and other amenities, too! Make your stay comfortable, convenient and enjoyable by staying at the Samoset Resort!

For reservations, call the Samoset Resort: (800)341-1650. Please mention Homeschoolers of Maine and our group code (HSM19) to receive the discount rate OR make your reservation online using the Special Code (031620HSMA). Be sure to choose Group/Block under Special Code to see current room availability. Contact Samoset Reservations above if you need assistance. The 2019 reservation deadline is February 18, 2020.

Standard Room (Garden View) - \$133.00
Standard Room (Ocean View) - \$143.00

Additional Nearby Locations
Ledges By the Bay, Rockport
Country Inn, Rockport
Strawberry Hill, Rockport



WHY WAIT?

Pre-Register before **March 5**, for Convention 2020 & Save!
March 19, 20 & 21

Please Print Legibly!

Parent(s) _____

Children and/or Grandparent(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Do you wish to receive HOME's E-mail updates?

Yes _____ No _____ Already Do _____

By registering for the HOME Convention, you agree with the terms and conditions listed on our website at the following link: <https://www.homeschoolersofmaine.org/events/annual-convention/terms-conditions/>.

| Convention 2020 Registration | | Early Bird Before Feb. 1 | Pre-Registration | At the Door | How Many | Cost |
|---|---|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------|------|
| First Person in the Family | | \$35 | \$40 | \$45 | | |
| Each Additional Family Member | Living in same household or grandparents | \$10 | \$15 | \$15 | | |
| Parents of Preschoolers—First Convention/Children 6 and under *A HOME Regional Representative recommendation is required HOME Reps are listed on the Contact Us page at the HOME website. | | FREE | FREE | FREE | | FREE |
| Exhibit Hall Only Pass | Friday 1:00—4:00pm Children under 12 \$8, children under 2 free | \$15/8 person/day | \$15/8 person/day | \$15/8 person/day | | |
| Friday Performance Only— American Folk Dances | Adults \$10, Children under 12 \$6, children under 2 free (Free with full convention registration) | \$10/\$6 person | \$10/\$6 person | \$10/\$6 person | | |
| PNS Maine STEM Teen Track - \$10.00 | (At least one parent or guardian must be a registered convention attendee.) | \$10 | \$10 | \$10 | | |
| Scholarship Donation (so that others may attend) | | | | | | |
| Join HOME for Savings & Benefits!* Lifetime Families \$1000+ (free convention pass for a family of 4) VIP Families \$500+/yr (free convention pass for a family of 4, 15% off each addtl) Founding Families \$100-\$499/yr (10% Convention Registration Discount) Defender of Families \$50—\$99/yr. (5% Convention Registration Discount) Friends of Families \$25—\$49/yr Subscriber Family \$10—\$24 /yr Affiliate Family—FREE *For more information on joining and other benefits visit: www.homeschoolersofmaine.org and click on JOIN, or call 207-763-2880. | | | | | | |
| Discount Amount | | | | | | |

Please complete form & return with payment to:
HOME, Convention 2020 Registration
PO Box 159, Camden, ME 04843-0159
Checks can be made out to: **HOME**

"In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned."

Titus 2:7-8

Total Amount Enclosed (U.S. Dollars)



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| \$ |
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