

RVHEA Conference 2017 – Seminar Synopses and Speaker Biographies

Opening Session: Sanctuary

8:45-9:00: HSLDA Legal Update

Louise Frazer

Biography: Louise Frazer, Member Services Assistant at the HSLDA Quebec office, has extensive training in working with children and adults who have learning difficulties. Louise extended her education to include teaching English as a Second Language. Louise began homeschooling by removing her child from school in grade nine, so she understands what it is like to begin later and to deal with the school boards. Additionally, her compassion for single moms solidifies Louise's position as an HSLDA expert as both encourager and advisor to many homeschooling families. Louise's six children have all benefitted from homeschooling during their education journey.

9:00-9:15: From Homeschooling to MPP

Sam Oosterhoff

Biography: Sam Oosterhoff is the Member of Provincial Parliament for Niagara West-Glanbrook. His election to the Ontario Legislature in November 2016 made history and headlines across Canada, as he became the youngest ever MPP. Prior to his election, he studied Political Science at Brock University and worked in federal politics in Ottawa.

Sam grew up on his family's farm in the Niagara Peninsula along with his seven siblings. He values the blessing of his home education which gave him the opportunity to interact with politicians and to shape his thinking of great ideas – truth and lies, good and evil, God and man – all foundational to a comprehensive leadership role.

9:15 - 10:15: Keynote – Bigger on the Inside

Hal & Melanie Young

When we opened the door to homeschooling, we found much more than we'd counted on. From the outside, we saw well-behaved children who won contests and scholarships, but behind the door we found scary monsters, steep pathways, and distractions on every hand. There was more, though - we also discovered sweeping vistas, deep pools, and unexpected treasures. Join Hal and Melanie, veterans of two decades homeschooling their eight children, as they talk about slaying the dragons and planting your claim on the breathtaking country ahead!

Biography: Hal & Melanie Young are the award-winning authors of "Raising Real Men" and "My Beloved and My Friend: How to Be Married to Your Best Friend Without Changing Spouses" and their newest book, "Love, Honor, and Virtue". They are publishers, writers, bloggers, and popular conference speakers internationally known for their Christ-centered focus, practical application of Scripture, and transparent, real-life stories. They are the parents of six real boys and two real girls and live in noisy, messy happiness in North Carolina.

Session 1: 10:30 – 11:30

Sanctuary: Raising Real Men

Hal & Melanie Young

In spite of what the culture is telling us, boys and girls are different. Have you ever had a war break out in the middle of a playdate or had a single math lesson take three hours? Then, you're probably raising boys! If the world seems intent on gender-bending and forcing our sons into a feminized mold, Hal and Melanie, parents of six boys, explain the Biblical way out - and a better way to turn wild little dirt-lovers into strong Christian men!

Biography: see 9:15-10:00, Sanctuary

Room 2: Preparing Your Child for Life: Two Perspectives

Bill Stevens & Sam Oosterhoff

Attitude Counts but Relationship is Everything. The kid living in your basement may be a round peg looking for a square hole. My story: once I got out of the basement I found a world of square holes!

Inspiring your teens in an age of low expectations.

Biography: International award winning film and television producer, Executive Director of Christian Hit Radio Inc. and General Manager at CHRI-FM, professional musician, founding leader, lead singer and MC for Stevens & Kennedy show band, Chair/Director for numerous local, (United Way, Rideau Club), national, (Back To The Bible Canada) and international (National Religious Broadcasters) boards, Gold Medalist Team Canada, Powerlifting.

Biography for Sam Oosterhoff: see 9:00-9:15, Sanctuary

Room 3: Our Kids and Technology (for parents)

Cory McAree

This presentation will educate parents about the dangers and challenges of youth online activity and equip them to better protect their children. Topics will include: what youth are being exposed to online, social and criminal consequences of inappropriate internet use, dangers of revealing personal information online, and protecting the integrity of the young person.

Biography: Cory is a husband and a homeschooling father of four, two girls and two boys. He worked for the Roberts/Smart Center as a Youth Counsellor for several years before joining the Ottawa Police Service in 2006. He specialized as a School Resource Officer and was the liaison for the High Priority School in Vanier/Overbrook area. He now works as a detective in the Ottawa Police Youth Section, focusing on Gangs and Group Homes

Room 4: Preparing an Educational Philosophy

Diana Rolston

Do you feel like you're running around without any direction? Every field trip and homeschooling activity sounds fantastic? You're feeling worn out? This is not what you had in mind when you signed up for homeschooling! During this biblically based, honest discussion, you'll learn how a well-defined educational philosophy can direct your homeschooling decisions and give you the assurance that you're on the right track.

Biography: Diana has been homeschooling her three teens for over ten years. She describes her homeschool environment as relaxed while exploring her children's passions and delving deeply in these areas. Diana is a recent Teacher's College graduate who loves to learn. Her greatest desire is to awaken her children to the unique gifts God has given each of them and help develop these for His glory.

Room 5: The Preschool Years

MaryAnne Brown

MaryAnne encourages a relaxed approach to homeschooling during the preschool years. For her family, it is a time for bonding, fostering a love of learning, exploring learning strategies and interests, establishing sound discipline methods, and allowing ample time for imaginative play. MaryAnne will speak to a homeschooling style that acknowledges and promotes the spiritual, emotional, social, intellectual, and physical dimensions of the human person. She will explore the building blocks of preschool homeschooling and share practical tips on how to ensure these early, precious years lay a strong foundation for the future.

Biography: MaryAnne is married to Patrick and is the mother of four young children. MaryAnne was raised in a devout Christian home and attended public school. She completed both an Honours Degree in Religious Studies and Teachers College at the University of Western Ontario. Her experience as an educator includes four years as a high school religion teacher and two years as a chastity speaker. More recently, MaryAnne completed a nutrition program at the Canadian School of Natural Nutrition and is now a Registered Holistic Nutritionist. MaryAnne began homeschooling her eldest child three years ago. She is passionate about her faith, fellowship, health and wellness, outdoors, gardening and lifelong learning.

Room 7: Choosing and Using Books

Susan Laird

How do you feel when we say – "BOOKS!!"? Delighted? Depressed? Depends? Reading is a gift from cradle to adulthood. Join Susan as she explores ideas to assist our trips to the library and our book purchases. What criteria should be considered for choosing books that are consistent with our family's values and worldview? How can we help our children evaluate a book for themselves? How can we make better use of books? Susan will discuss a wide variety of ways to incorporate academic assignments into our homeschools while still nurturing a pleasure for reading. This session will encourage you if your homeschool is a bit reluctant to reading or is new to enjoying literature, and will hone your passion if your homeschool already delights in using Good Books.

Biography: Susan Laird home educated two daughters for 16 memory-filled years, launching them through graduation to post-secondary and work. The many bookshelves in the Laird household still attest to the fact that books enjoy a top priority in their home. The physical activity Susan implemented due to homeschooling has now become a daily way of life as she enjoys activities such as hiking, kayaking, skiing and more, on a regular basis. She and her husband, Ben, live in Burlington where Susan continues to use her education background serving in the homeschool community by leading classes and tutoring students. Her heart's desire is to mentor and encourage families as the Lord leads them on their homeschool journey.

Session 2: 1:00-2:00

Sanctuary: How to be Happily Married While Homeschooling

Hal & Melanie Young

Everyone says homeschooling is a lifestyle, not just an educational choice. If so, why are we surprised when it affects our marriage? Find out how wives can have something left for their husbands at the end of the day, and husbands can understand the burdens their wives face. Let's make sure homeschooling makes our marriage stronger.

Biography: see 9:15-10:00, Sanctuary

Room 2: Amazing Things Youth Can Do

Jason Lindsay

God gives us all certain skills and abilities that we can use to honor and glorify Him. Not everybody will be great at everything, but most of us can be better at something than we are. And, we can be better at a younger age than most of us believe. Join Jason Lindsay, owner of Young Entrepreneurs of North America, as he explores the amazing things that youth are capable of when following Biblical principles - from starting their own business, to preparing for marriage, and more! I welcome and encourage all parents of youth to attend.

Biography: Jason Lindsay currently resides in Nova Scotia, Canada. He has been married to his beautiful wife, Christina, for more than six years now, and together they run "Young Entrepreneurs of North America", a company dedicated to working with youth and teaching them various skills that they can use to honour and glorify God in their lives. Jason has been in business for the last fifteen years working as a financial advisor, a university tutor for accounting and finance courses, and a bookkeeper, in addition to his work with Young Entrepreneurs of North America.

Room 3: Science and the Scriptures

John Janssen

Christians will be encouraged in their faith as they hear how scientific evidence supports what the Bible says, particularly the book of Genesis. When we see that Genesis can be trusted in everything it says, including science, it builds faith in the entire Bible. Come out and hear that science actually supports the Bible, ask some questions and explore ways to teach your children that the Bible can be trusted in all that it says.

Biography: Having been introduced to Biblical Creation and Biblical Authority a decade ago, John decided to study further and became a volunteer for Answers in Genesis. He has given many presentations in churches and different groups on topics such as 'Races', 'Dinosaurs and the Bible', 'Relevance of Genesis' and 'Noah's Ark and the Worldwide Flood'.

Married to Melanie for 15 years, father to 7 children, John presently works as an Air Traffic Controller at Toronto Pearson International Airport. He enjoys working in the garden with Melanie and building their little hobby farm. He plays a lot of sports and now loves to teach and play those same sports with the children.

Room 4: What It Feels Like Having Reading Difficulties

Ingrid Poupart

Students who can't read feel shame and embarrassment. Parents can't understand why their child can't pick up the reading skills. Come and find out how reading works in the brain and why students might not be able to pick up the skill. This interactive seminar allows the audience to experience what their struggling student goes through on a daily basis.

Biography: Ingrid Poupart, a long time educator, has worked in Montreal's public school system for 25 years. Growing up with learning difficulties, Ingrid witnessed first-hand that sometimes the one-on-one reading and literacy programs did not help. When she returned to the academic world as a professional, she was able to use this intimate knowledge to discover why traditional methods did not always help and was introduced to her first brain training program. So her passion then became to find out why and how she could help her students and their parents more directly. With the understanding of the student's needs, Ingrid decided she needed to spread awareness to the public; that there should be no shame in being dyslexic or having learning differences! Ingrid sought to increase public awareness of dyslexia, and other reading difficulties and also felt the time was right to bring a different approach to her community.

Room 5: Homeschool 101

Ellen Hackett

Are you considering homeschooling or have you just started and wonder what your priorities should be? Do you only have preschoolers, or are you thinking of taking your children out of school and aren't sure where to begin?

During the workshop we will consider these questions and other concerns new homeschoolers have such as:

Are there Biblical directives that are relevant to homeschooling?

How will your family function socially and academically – how can I, as a mother, teach when I am not a “teacher”?

Does the public school model work well in the home?

What are the essentials to teach your child?

We will also address general principles of homeschooling such as goal setting, scheduling, curriculum, and maintaining a balance in your life. We will leave ample time to address your questions.

Biography: Ellen Hackett has been active with RVHEA since its inception. She has homeschooled children from kindergarten through to post-secondary and also homeschooled grandchildren for a season. Seeing children as a gift from God, she has been convicted that parents are accountable first to Him for the manner in which they are being instructed.

Room 7: Strong-willed Treasures

Susan Laird

Watch out world: there is a strong will in the house! How do you face the challenges when you have a child who resists learning, questions everything and wants to do things their way? With grace and humour and lots of prayer watch YOUR life grow as you parent, teach, guide and encourage. YOU will be transformed as you allow the Lord to lead you through these turbulent years, and so influence a life. Susan taught and trained her strong-willed daughter from birth through high school graduation. Now she stands amazed as she watches this young lady achieve so much because of the inner determination which propels her through life. Come to learn the practical do's and don'ts when you've been entrusted with one of these treasures in your homeschool family.

Biography: see session 1, room 7

Session 3: 2:30-3:30

Sanctuary: Homeschooling Is Not Enough

Hal & Melanie Young

“Because none of it will matter if they don't follow Christ.” Many homeschoolers hope and pray that because they've homeschooled, their children will turn out all right, but unfortunately, we are seeing a number of homeschooled children turning away from God in rebellion. We can't make our children serve Christ, but we can make sure we aren't standing in the way! Find out about the power of delighting in your children and loving them as Christ loves us. Hear how to point them to the Savior and teach them to serve Him!

Biography: see 9:15-10:00, Sanctuary

Room 2: The Art of Teaching in the Homeschool

Nancy Schriemer

Homeschooling is a challenging calling that can sometimes overwhelm us. However, remembering the Bible's view of education gives us guidelines, vision, and hope whatever our homeschooling approach and whatever the ages of our children. Making it practical, I will share what we have learned over two decades of homeschooling toddlers to teens, trying out various methods, exploring curricula, learning from others, and making mistakes. We have learned what we need to do every day and what to avoid, what to streamline and what to emphasize. An annotated resource list will be provided.

Biography: Except when their children went on the ultimate field trip to a ‘real’ school for two or three days, Henry and Nancy Schriemer have always homeschooled all five. Three are currently in university and two are doing high school at home. Having made her fair share of mistakes in the past two decades, Nancy is excited to pass on what she has learned so far as a homeschooler. Although juggling ages, stages, subjects, curricula, and personalities is challenging, God gives grace and strength in weakness. With this in mind, she loves to encourage Christian homeschoolers.

Room 3: Stress-free Homeschooling: Getting It All Done and Enjoying It

Robin Gilman

Drawing from her experience of homeschooling ten children, Robin Gilman will encourage parents in their own homeschooling journey. She will provide practical tips to help in the daily walking out of this glorious, but sometimes challenging, task. Not only can we homeschool successfully, we can and should also enjoy it!

Robin will address common stresses, practical running of our households, the academic aspect, scheduling, cultivating a spirit of thankfulness, and so much more. Robin Gilman, wife of Bible Teacher Alan Gilman, has had the privilege of homeschooling all ten of their children, eight of whom are graduated and living exciting lives as adults, making a difference in the world in a great variety of ways.

Biography: Robin has been married to Bible teacher Alan Gilman for almost 37 years. They have ten children who have all been

home educated. Eight are now adults who love God and others and are contributing to society in a variety of ways, from a missionary in the Dominican Republic to full-time pro-life work to many other interesting jobs/ministries. Robin still enjoys teaching their two remaining children. Seeing the fruit of home educating her children, Robin loves encouraging moms to “not grow weary in well doing,” testifying that this calling is extremely worth it!

Room 4: Dad’s Session – Two Perspectives

Stephen Priddle & Stephen Shew

Two Stephens (Shew and Priddle) will share about their homeschooling journey and philosophy. This will include what convinced them to home educate, the family and marriage dynamics, and things they learned through the experience that they would like to share with others.

Shew has three girls who started in the public system and has one finishing home education, with the children’s post-secondary focus being fine and vocal arts. On the other hand, Priddle has three boys and a girl and has completed their home education, and the children’s post-secondary studies have been applied (accounting, engineering, electrician trade).

Biography: Stephen Priddle and his wife Yen home schooled their three boys and one girl from K through Gr. 12. They have been married nearly 28 years. The older two kids are married and they have three grandchildren. Stephen is passionate about teaching applied biblical truth as a lay speaker. He works as a financial executive with a technology company and is also a business speaker and writer.

Stephen Shew has been married to Renée for 26 years and they have three daughters. They homeschooled their girls from about grade 7 through 12, with the older two presently studying at the University of Ottawa. He has a financial role on the board of his church’s denomination and is fascinated by Trinitarian theology. He works on standards in a telecommunications company and is an inventor. Stephen enjoys photography, hunting, puns, and pneumatology.

Room 5: Tackling the High School Years

Mike & Linda Lemke

You have mastered the teaching of the A-B-C’s and 1-2-3’s and now it’s time to face the High School years. Perhaps your child is of High School age and you are considering homeschooling for the first time. Whatever your situation, High School can seem like an overwhelming challenge.

Join us as we look at practical ways to tackle the three T’s of High School: Teaching Curriculum, Transcript Construction, and Transitioning Post-High School.

Biography: Mike and Linda have been married for 26 years and the Lord has graciously allowed them to have homeschooled their two children from day one. Mike is a professional engineer largely specializing in engineering management while Linda’s formal training is as a teacher. Their daughter Mikaela is now completing her second year in BSc (Nursing) studies at the University of Ottawa while their son Matthew is completing high school.

Room 7: Get Active! Physical Education in the Homeschool

Susan Laird

Physical activity was more a necessity than an interest when Susan began to homeschool her two very different children. The results benefited both students and mum! Children of all ages do better when they can move, and homeschooling is an excellent setting to learn to be active and healthy. Come hear how Phys Ed can be as simple as enjoying an activity or as complicated as learning all the rules. You will discover how easily Physical Education can be incorporated into life and into a full-looking transcript credit, once you begin to explore all the opportunities. It does not need to cost a lot! Join Susan as she leads this discussion covering many options to Be ACTIVE in our homeschools and beyond.

Biography: see session 1, room 7

Youth Track (13+)

8:45-9:00 Sanctuary: HSLDA Update

Louise Frazer

Biography: Louise Frazer, Member Services Assistant at the HSLDA Quebec office, has extensive training in working with children and adults who have learning difficulties. Louise extended her education to include teaching English as a Second Language. Louise began homeschooling by removing her child from school in grade nine, so she understands what it is like to begin later and to deal with the school boards. Additionally, her compassion for single moms solidifies Louise’s position as an HSLDA expert as both encourager and

advisor to many homeschooling families. Louise's six children have all benefitted from homeschooling during their education journey.

9:00-9:15 Sanctuary: From Homeschooling to MPP

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9:15-9:45 Room 1: Fun and Fellowship

9:45-10:45 Room 1: Meaningful Leadership

Sam Oosterhoff

What does leadership mean in the 21st Century? How can youth meaningfully lead in a millennial age? The place of virtue ethics in 21st Century leadership.

Biography: see 9:00-9:15 Sanctuary

11:00-12:00 Room 1: Youth Can Do Amazing Things

Jason Lindsay

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Biography: Jason Lindsay currently resides in Nova Scotia, Canada. He has been married to his beautiful wife, Christina, for more than six years now, and together they run "Young Entrepreneurs of North America", a company dedicated to working with youth and teaching them various skills that they can use to honour and glorify God in their lives. Jason has been in business for the last fifteen years working as a financial advisor, a university tutor for accounting and finance courses, and a bookkeeper, in addition to his work with Young Entrepreneurs of North America.

12:00-1:30: LUNCH

1:30-2:30 Room 1: Standing Your Ground

Cory McAree

This seminar will discuss the difficulties youth face today in peer pressure and group dynamics. We will talk about real life examples of students who faced negative peer pressure and the consequences of their actions. We will think about what a friend really is and how to recognize that in a person and online, and what God has to say about friendship and individual identity.

Biography: Cory is a husband and a homeschooling father of four, two girls and two boys. He worked for the Roberts/Smart Center as a Youth Counsellor for several years before joining the Ottawa Police Service in 2006. He specialized as a School Resource Officer and was the liaison for the High Priority School in Vanier/Overbrook area. He now works as a detective in the Ottawa Police Youth Section, focusing on Gangs and Group Homes

2:45-3:45 Room 1: Taking Risks for Jesus

Alan & Naomi Gilman

Bored? Scared? Have trouble making decisions? Come out and hear from this father and daughter team about how following Jesus is an invitation to embark on a Great Adventure of faith, not just a matter of being good people who obey a set of rules and principles. Find out what the Bible says about it and be challenged by real-time examples.

Biography: Alan Gilman is a veteran homeschooling father of ten children, most of whom are now grown. Alan is a Bible teacher and writer who seeks to draw others into the Bible's Big Epic Story. Naomi Gilman, one of his daughters and a homeschool graduate herself, has traveled the globe doing ministry, and currently co-owns a Christian business in Ottawa.