

RVHEA Conference 2016 – Seminar Synopses and Speaker Biographies

8:45-9:00

Sanctuary: (HSLDA) Canadian and International Home School Legal Update

Shayne Wyler

Biography: Shayne Wyle is the Manager of Operations at HSLDA Canada. His experience as a business leader, speaker, author, and innovator has provided him opportunity to help people in many phases of life to set appropriate goals. As one of the HSLDA experts, Shayne is able to hear the needs of homeschooling families and then to direct them to appropriate solutions. Shayne and his wife, Shelley, homeschool their seven children.

9:00-10:00 Sanctuary: Keynote Speaker

The Family that Stays together---Stays together

Steve Demme

In this encouraging workshop, Steve shares his journey that he and his wife have experienced raising their four sons. With plenty of humorous illustrations, Steve shares tried and proven suggestions that have enhanced their family life. He is convinced there is hope for the family in the 21st century.

Biography: Steve and his wife Sandra have been married since 1979. They have been blessed with four sons (whom they have homeschooled from birth to high school graduation), three lovely daughters-in-law, and three grandchildren. Their fourth son John has Down Syndrome and lives with them in PA. Steve is the author of Math-U-See and the founder of Building Faith Families. Steve addresses a variety of topics at conferences to encourage parents as they seek to build families of faith. He has served in full or part time pastoral ministry for many years after graduating from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Steve is a former math teacher who has taught at all levels of math in public, private, and Christian schools.

10:00-10:30

Room 1: Fun and Fellowship: Youth Welcoming Activities (All Youth)

Matt Lemke

10:30-11:30

Sanctuary: Six Principles that will improve how you Communicate

Steve Demme

The basis for building relationships in your marriage and family is communication. In this workshop we will learn six techniques for speaking, listening, and how to operate in an atmosphere where parents and children feel safe and valued. Biography: see 9:00-10:00, Sanctuary

Room 1: Do YOU want a JOB? (Youth)

Bill Stevens

Nobody wants a job. We all want to do something worthwhile and hope to get paid for it. Bill will share lessons learned on his personal journey.

Biography: Bill is a high school dropout who built one of the largest multi-million dollar animation studios in Canada, led the most successful dance band in Ottawa's history performing for audiences in the thousands and heads of state from around the world, manages the number one Christian radio station in Canada and recently won a gold medal at the British Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships as a member of Team Canada. He has also chaired or sat on numerous local, national and international boards. Bill and his wife, Denise, have been married for 45 years. They have two children who are both married.

Room 2: Teaching Engineering with LEGO® and Robotics

Ian Dudley

Do you have LEGO®, Duplo or LEGO Technic at home? Considering a LEGO EV3 or NXT Mindstorms® set? Learn how all these tools can enhance your teaching in areas such as engineering, technology, math, science. Ian will offer an overview of how to use different types of LEGO for teaching. He will demonstrate a few projects for a range of ages, discuss software tools and robotic contest. Ian Dudley is not sponsored, authorized or endorsed by the LEGO® Group of companies.

Biography: "LEGO® guy" Ian Dudley of Orange STEM Education is a mechanical engineering technologist who has been teaching engineering and robotics using LEGO since 2002. With an extensive curriculum of hands-on projects for all ages, Ian and his

instructors offer LEGO workshops, classes and parties. In concert with First Avenue Public School, Ian organizes Ottawa's Robotics & Engineering Challenge for kids across the City.

Room 3: Pure Families, in a Porn-ified World

Joshua Gilman

Computers, Smartphones, Gaming Systems. We're living in a world of unending exposure to the wild west of information and misinformation. How do we raise our kids and navigate this ever increasing digital world? How do we live purely, in a porn-ified society? In this seminar we'll discuss both the ideas we need to ingrain in our families, and the practical steps we can take.

Biography: The one thing Josh could always do was communicate. Several years as a commercial writer taught him how to communicate quickly. Two years as a radio news anchor and reporter taught him how to make sure news was heard right, and a couple years spent as a Pastoral Assistant trained him to listen and not just speak. Josh is the executive director of "Strength To Fight", a ministry dedicated to fighting pornography

Room 4: Overcoming Resistance in Your Home School

Diana Rolston

We've all experienced resistance in our home school environment, but it doesn't have to be that way. In this session, Diana will explore reasons for student frustration, distress and disengagement and you will learn some surprisingly easy solutions to make your home the relaxed learning environment you wish it to be.

Biography: Diana has been homeschooling her three teens for over ten years. Her Style of homeschooling is 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: Why Homeschooling a Child with 'Unique Needs' is a GREAT CHOICE!

Diane Geerlinks

Every child is special, but some children have needs that are considered 'extra special' - the labels range from Autism to Down's Syndrome, from ADHD to Vision Impairment to Auditory Processing Disorder. Is it really possible to teach your own child in these circumstances? In this workshop, we will discuss the pros and cons, hear real life stories and glean some great tips for the journey!

Biography: Diane Geerlinks is a Certified Educational Therapist, Director of NILD Canada (National Institute for Learning Development) and operates GeerLINKS Learning Centre. Her educational experiences range from homeschooling her own 5 children for 23 years, to teaching other children with a variety of learning disabilities, including auditory processing, ADHD, autism spectrum disorders, and developmental delays. Diane is passionate about finding ways to help ALL kids learn, developing their strengths and improving their weaknesses. She loves to share her passion with others and has spoken at many conferences across Canada.

Room 7: Preschool

Ellen McAree

When does learning at home 'officially' begin? What can it look like? This interactive seminar will discuss common questions about preschool ages at home and share information about research on early academics vs. play, creating a rich home learning environment, how to respond to outside pressure about preschool, and ideas for day to day early childhood learning.

Biography: Ellen's homeschool experience began early, as she was the oldest of five children in a homeschooling family. She then attended the University of Ottawa. Ellen has been married to Cory for ten years and is now homeschooling their 4 children.

1:00-2:00

Sanctuary: Math You Understand

Steve Demme

With a unique and humorous approach, Steve demonstrates how to use hands-on manipulatives to illustrate math concepts such as algebra, place value, exponents, regrouping (carrying and borrowing), double digit multiplication, fractions, and factoring. Biography: see 9:00-10:00, Sanctuary

Room 1: Technology and Youth (Youth, Not Recorded)

Cory McAree

Today's youth live in a world that increasingly operates through technology. How can a teen wisely and safely interact with peers and others online? This seminar will discuss some social media apps and their use, laws related to technology use, how to handle cyber-bullying, and how the wisdom of God's Word should impact online interactions.

Biography: Cory was born and raised on Prince Edward Island and trained as a Child and Youth Care Worker. He worked with Roberts/Smart Treatment Center until he was hired by the Ottawa Police Service in 2006. Cory spent 4 years as a School Resource Officer in Vanier Urban Priority schools and is now a Youth Investigator with the OPS Youth Section. He has been married to Ellen for 10 years and they homeschool their 4 children.

Room 2: Beyond Memorization: The Importance of Critical Thinking

Diane Geerlinks

It's one thing to teach facts. It's another thing to have our students understand concepts, explain them and then defend their answers. This is the crux of higher level thinking – to guide them to think outside of the box! How can we as homeschool parents be intentional about developing these critical thinking skills in our children? In this workshop, Diane will share some educational insights and tools for making this leap in your teaching.

Biography: see 10:30-11:30, Room 5

Room 3: Ideas and Encouragement for Teaching High School

Stephen Priddle

This session will cover encouragement on why teach high school, transitioning from elementary thinking to high school thinking, some thoughts on how to teach this level, record keeping and what universities and trades are looking for.

Biography: Stephen has been married to Yen for nearly 27 years. Three of his four children have graduated from university and the fourth is in a skilled trade. Two of their children are married and they have one grandchild. Stephen is passionate about teaching applied biblical truth. He works as a financial executive with a technology company and is also a business speaker and writer.

Room 4: Teaching our Middle Age Scholars from Tween to early Teen

Lia Lindeman

On one end, our middle school children are transitioning out of elementary school and at the other end they are transitioning into high school. These tween years involve physical, spiritual, emotional and academic changes all affecting how they learn and how we as parents and teachers must adapt our teaching! Boys and girls at this age are very different which also affects our approach to education. This session will discuss practical ideas and expectations for teaching, assigning chores, discerning levels of responsibility and goals for our transitioning children.

Biography: Lia Lindeman has been married to Robert for 32 years, and has 25 years experience homeschooling her 9 children. She is known for her hands on ideas that give tools for teaching, mentoring and discipling our children. Come be encouraged.

Room 5: Caught and Taught: how to live and teach Biblical stewardship

David and Rebecca Van Noppen

David and Rebecca will spend time outlining and defining a biblical understanding of stewardship, and will take a close look at how to create an atmosphere for financial communication in your family. They will look at God's role in your financial life and the role and responsibility we play as His children. A 20-minute question and answer period will end the session.

Biography: David and Rebecca have been married for 25 years, and have been homeschooling their five children for 16 years. With the call of God on his life, David left managing a local automotive business, and helped create the More Than Enough Financial Coaching system in 2008, which has helped families across Canada pay off over \$5.5 million in household debt. Using Biblical principles, More than Enough Financial offers financial education and coaching, as well as mortgage and tax services that work together to aid the Canadian family to learn and practice financial freedom. Rebecca teaches her kids, and works part-time as prayer co-ordinator and writer for More Than Enough. David and Rebecca are passionate about seeing the Church experience the full freedom Christ offers, so the Church can, in turn, offer His hope and freedom to those who have no hope.

Room 7: Homeschooling for Newbies

Cori Dean

Just starting out or considering taking a homeschooling adventure? This workshop will address some of the top questions new homeschoolers ask: Do I need to contact my local school board? What resources and supports are available to me? How do I choose curriculum? What should a typical school day look like? What about socialization?! –With lots of time built in for questions and answers you will have the chance to get specific answers to specific questions

Biography: Cori Dean is a wife, a mom, a teacher and the proprietress of Maple Tree Publications. Her joy is in living with, raising and learning with her four young princesses alongside their knight in shining armor. After spending nearly 20 years teaching math Cori now enjoys writing and speaking to homeschoolers and is the author and editor of several publications from Maple Tree including

Working Together: Teamwork Starts at Home Base. Cori and her husband Mark live in Bradford, Ontario and are in full-time ministry with Youth for Christ.

2:30-3:30

Sanctuary: The Divine Blueprint for Raising a Family of Faith

Steve Demme

As soon as you have your first child, you have been automatically enrolled in Family Relationships 101. In Deuteronomy 6, God's simple and effective plan for the family begins with parents loving God with everything in them and having His word on their hearts. Then they are equipped to teach their children to love God and His word. Biography:

see 9:00-10:00, Sanctuary

Room 1: Seeking Truth, Finding Purpose: A Journey of Darkness, Discovery, and the Potential of Homeschooling (Youth)

Ephraim Barrera

How do I find my purpose? How do I build relationships with others? How do I know that what I believe is true? What is the potential and ultimate purpose of homeschooling? Ephraim's personal journey illustrates many of the challenges facing young homeschoolers today. Though his early years of homeschooling were darkened with confusion, the later years have resulted in a renewed sense of purpose, and thought provoking insights into academics, social life, faith, and career.

Biography: Ephraim Barrera is a Youth Pastor at Greenbank Community Church and West Ottawa Community Church, where he leads youth in exciting activities along with their spiritual and intellectual development. He has spoken regularly on issues of worldviews, Christian apologetics, and personal development. He is also a licensed self-employed financial representative at PFSL.

Room 2: Handwriting in the 21st Century

Diane Geerlinks

The handwriting/keyboarding debate is gaining momentum. Is cursive writing just an old and ancient tradition? Should it be replaced with keyboarding skills at a very young age? In this workshop, Diane will share some of the latest research on handwriting, how it engages the brain and why it is important for both the average and the struggling learner. Biography: see 10:30-11:30, Room 5

Room 3: If we were doing it all over again—thoughts from a homeschool father

Stephen Priddle

In this session, a former homeschooling father looks back over 17 years of teaching his four children about the Christian life and home educating them. He will share on what worked well, what didn't, and regrets. Biography: see 1:00-2:00, Room 3

Room 4: Sex Ed. For the Christian Household

Alan and Robin Gilman

Homeschooling parents tend to believe that they are responsible for their children's sex education. But how do we do this? What do our children need to know and when? How much of our ever increasingly sexualized culture do our children need to understand? Veteran homeschooling parents Alan & Robin Gilman will provide practical insights to help you answer these crucial questions.

Biography: Alan & Robin Gilman have ten children (ages 12-34) and two grandchildren. They have been homeschooling from the beginning and continue to do so with their three youngest. Alan is an itinerant Bible Teacher and Writer (www.alangilman.ca).

Room 5: In Search of the Secret

Cori Dean

Do you ever wonder what would make you truly happy? Living in a homeschool family is a countercultural lifestyle just as being content is a countercultural value nowadays. In this seminar, we will search out the secret of the true meaning of contentment and how it is that we can practically work towards this ever elusive paradise in a home that is lived in 24/7 and on a limited income.

Biography: 1:00-2:00, Room 7

Room 7: Using the Library to its Max!

Edna Latone

During this in-depth look at today's public library resources Edna will present an inside look at what is offered through your Public Library. She has over 16 years of Home Education experience & 5 years of experience as a Public Librarian. Edna offers a unique point of view on the services and resources within Ontario's Public Library system. Use your Library to the Max!

Biography: As a Homeschool Consultant, Edna helps families begin their homeschool journey, decide if home education is for them or consult on programs of study for seasoned homeschoolers. She has had the joy of working with teens to create their own individual plans and plan for their next steps in education. Edna lives in Norwood, Ontario with her husband, John, and their 3 sons.