



**CONTACTS:
24th Annual HEAV State Convention
& Educational Fair**

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**FACT SHEET:
24th ANNUAL HEAV STATE CONVENTION
& EDUCATIONAL FAIR**

WHAT: One of the biggest homeschool gatherings in the country—and the largest in Virginia—is also host to the largest homeschool graduation in the nation. At the Annual HEAV Convention & Educational Fair, convention-goers can attend informative hands-on workshops, view the latest in educational resources, and listen to a variety of insightful speakers. Four free introductory sessions offer an in-depth look at homeschooling.

WHO: The convention is organized by the Home Educators Association of Virginia, the largest organization of its kind in the state of Virginia. Founded in 1983, HEAV serves as a resource for more than 23,000 families who educate their children at home in Virginia. HEAV is a member-supported, non-profit association providing up-to-date information, knowledgeable representation, and high-quality resources to help parents get started and keep going with home education.

WHERE: The Greater Richmond Convention Center, Richmond, Virginia.

WHEN: June 7, 8, and 9, 2007.

ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE: More than 8,500 home educators, students, grandparents, and other participants.

NUMBER OF EXHIBITORS: More than 290 booths and 150 exhibitors.

NUMBER OF WORKSHOPS: More than 120 workshops spanning a broad array of subject matter.

WHERE TO GO: Look for our friendly media table in the lobby. There you will find additional information and an HEAV escort.

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The Home Educators Association of Virginia strengthens and empowers the more than 23,000 homeschoolers throughout the Commonwealth. HEAV, a statewide, member-supported, non-profit association, has served Virginia homeschoolers through information, legislation, and resources for the past 24 years.



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MORE THAN 8,500 EXPECTED TO ATTEND HOME EDUCATION CONFERENCE AT RICHMOND CONVENTION CENTER

More than 8,500 homeschooling children, parents, and grandparents are expected to gather at the Richmond Convention Center during the course of the 24th Annual Home Educator's Association of Virginia (HEAV) State Convention & Educational Fair on June 7, 8, and 9—one of the largest homeschool events in the nation! Attendees come from all over Virginia as well as from surrounding states, while speakers and vendors will arrive from all parts of the nation.

The convention, which takes its “Journey of Discovery” theme from the 400th anniversary of Jamestown, offers more than 120 workshops, including a complete track devoted to Virginia history. Practical and hands-on sessions help homeschooling parents stimulate their children's academic performance and love for education. Many sessions help parents encourage their children to become life-long, self-motivated learners—whether they study at home, public school, or private school.

HEAV offers four free introductory how-to-begin sessions on Thursday, June 7, to provide new and interested home educators essential information on homeschooling. Sessions explain the basics of homeschooling, including how to get started, as well as give practical information on the law, testing, and choosing curricula.

The conference boasts one of the largest exhibitions of books, educational materials, and used curricula in the country. With more resources than ever, the 295-booth exhibit hall will feature more than 150 exhibitors from all over the nation, while the used curriculum sale is anticipated to offer more than 30,000 items.

On the last day of the convention, 185 homeschool students from Virginia, North Carolina, the British Virgin Islands, and Vermont will be graduating in the nation's largest homeschool graduation ceremony. Parents will award the graduates their diplomas after Doug Philip's commencement address entitled, “Your Personal Vision of Victory.”

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RICHMOND HOMESCHOOL CONVENTION OFFERS FREE HOW-TO-BEGIN WORKSHOPS

The Home Educators Association of Virginia (HEAV) will offer free introductory sessions at the 24th Annual HEAV State Convention & Educational Fair.

Introductory sessions will begin at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 7. The four sessions, each about one hour long, are designed to help answer questions about homeschooling and provide solid, practical information to those considering home education or who are curious about this fast-growing educational alternative.

Yvonne Bunn, HEAV's director of homeschool support and government affairs, will deliver the first three sessions. Her topics are: "Introduction to Homeschooling," "How to Begin: What You Really Need to Know," "Know the Law: Notifying & Testing Demystified." Yvonne has been conducting Homeschool Success workshops throughout the state for more than ten years and has been involved in education for more thirty years in both private school and homeschool settings.

The fourth session, "Choosing Curricula," presented by Jessica Hulcy, will teach parents how to choose an appropriate curriculum. Nationally acclaimed, Hulcy co-authored KONOS curriculum and has homeschooled her children for twenty-four years.

Following the workshops, session attendees have the opportunity to enjoy a "sneak preview" of the exhibit hall. Larger than ever before, the exhibit hall features more than 290 booths and 150 vendors from all over the country.

Says Anne Miller, HEAV president: "HEAV offers these free workshops because we have a heart for helping parent teach their children at home. These sessions provide a great opportunity for those considering home education to get their questions answered, as well as an opportunity for the general public to come learn more about homeschooling."

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THE NATION'S LARGEST HOMESCHOOL GRADUATION FEATURES STUDENTS FROM ALL OVER THE STATE

**More than 180 homeschool students to graduate on Saturday, June 9, at
the Richmond Convention Center**

On June 9th, approximately 185 homeschooled high school students will graduate in a ceremony offered by the Home Educators Association of Virginia (HEAV). This ceremony is expected to be the country's largest homeschool graduation, with an estimated attendance of nearly 3,000.

The students will come from all over the state: Northern Virginia, Tidewater, Central and Southwest Virginia, and Hampton Roads. Some of the graduates are from out of state, with a student from Maryland, two from North Carolina, one from Vermont—even one from the British Virgin Islands.

The convention's theme, "Home Education: A Journey of Discovery," fits well with many of the graduates' dreams and experiences. Victoria Cramb of Falls Church writes, "I studied theater in London, acting in Georgia, service in Tennessee, and life everywhere." In their biographies, many of the graduates mentioned life-changing mission trips to countries such as Mexico, Peru, Scotland, Ecuador, Jamaica, South Africa, and Russia.

Academic excellence is another common thread among the graduates. Thirty-seven have already received college credit, including Jesse Thompson, a National Merit Scholarship Finalist who has more than 60 college credits, and Jacqueliene Winter, who has 55 credits. Graduate Corey Allen says her parents have taught her "that learning is a life-long process." Many of the graduates echo this sentiment.

Doug Phillips of Vision Forum Ministries will deliver the commencement address, entitled "Your Personal Vision of Victory," and the parents will hand their graduate his or her diploma.

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HOME EDUCATORS REMEMBER AMERICA'S 400th BIRTHDAY AT STATEWIDE CONVENTION

The 24th Annual HEAV State Convention & Educational Fair being held this June 7-9 at the Richmond Convention Center includes a special emphasis on the America's 400th anniversary celebration. Thousands of home educators from all over Virginia will gather at the Richmond Convention Center to view resources, attend workshops, and interact with famous Virginians, including "President James Madison" and his wife "Dolly," Thomas Jefferson," "Patrick Henry," and many others to help them remember Virginia's history and its relevance to today.

Out of more than 120 workshops, convention attendees will have the opportunity to follow a special Virginia History Track containing eight sessions devoted to various aspects of Virginia's history—from Captain John Smith to our eight Virginia presidents. Doug Phillips, president of Vision Forum, kicks off the track on Friday morning with a workshop about the Jamestown legacy and its application to home educators. Throughout the rest of Friday and into Saturday, Doug Phillips and historian and author Bill Potter present workshops exploring famous (and not so famous) people and events from the pages of Virginia history. Michele Zavatsky, author of the best-selling *Kids Love Travel* series, closes out the track Saturday afternoon with a workshop on practical ways parents and children can have fun exploring Virginia's history together.

All convention attendees receive a free CD containing resources on Jamestown, Virginia history, and geography. The CD includes a biography of Pocahontas, an MP3 about Captain John Smith by storyteller "Little Bear" Wheeler, a map of Jamestown with lesson plans, a timeline of Jamestown events, and the new e-book, *Globalmania: Master World Geography in Just 7 Months*.

Anne Miller, HEAV president, says, "We have an exciting and unique program for homeschool families that offers fresh inspiration, an incredible array of resources, and a renewed appreciation for our nation's heritage—the perfect opportunity to celebrate America's 400th birthday!"

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HOMESCHOOL CONVENTION DRAWS PROMINENT SPEAKERS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

More than 60 speakers from around the nation will be speaking at the 24th Annual HEAV State Convention & Educational Fair, held June 7, 8, and 9 at the Richmond Convention Center. Altogether, these speakers will deliver more than 120 workshops on a wide variety of topics. Four free introductory sessions on how to begin homeschooling will also be offered on Thursday, June 7.

Internationally renowned creationist author and speaker **Ken Ham** will discuss the issue of creation and evolution. Ham is the president and founder of Answers in Genesis, an apologetics ministry based in Kentucky. Answers in Genesis' controversial Creation Museum, scheduled to be opened the week of May 28, has recently been making national headlines in such news outlets as *The New York Times*, ABC Nightline, and *The Economist*.

Several speakers will address teaching finances, including homeschool mom and eBay Power Seller **Kerry Beck**. She will deliver a workshop explaining how parents can use the online auction site to teach their children about business—and to make some extra cash. Her husband, **Stephen Beck**, will give a workshop entitled “Teaching Your Children About Finances and Debt.”

Joel Salatin, who owns the beyond-organic, pasture-based, local-market Polyface Farm recently featured in *The New York Times*, will speak on organic, family farming. **Marilyn Rockett**, who just released her newest book, *Homeschooling at the Speed of Light*, will discuss organization techniques that work in an active household, while **Michele Zavatsky**, author of the best-selling *Kids Love Travel* series, will be speaking on making Virginia history come alive through field trips. **Doug Phillips**, the president of Texas-based Vision Forum ministries, and historian/author **Bill Potter**, will be speaking on various aspects of Virginia history in honor of the Jamestown's 400th anniversary. **Dr. Emerson Eggerichs**, whose book *Love and Respect* has sold more than 450,000 copies, will offer a marriage workshop, while **Mary Hood**, author of *The Relaxed Home Schooler*, offers parents encouragement to allow their children to develop at their own pace and in their own way, as well as practical advice on how to avoid a classroom mentality in the home. **Tammy Duby**, a local homeschool mother and co-owner of Tobin's Lab—whose house and place of business burned to the

ground in 2004—will be sharing some valuable lessons she learned about “Homeschooling through Crisis.”

“Our speakers come from all over the country, bringing with them relevant and up-to-date resources and information,” says HEAV President Anne Miller. “Their workshops cover every aspect of education—from special education to gifted education, from preschool learning to college at home—they offer attendees a wide variety of topics from which to choose.”

Many of these and other speakers are available for interviews before and during the convention. Contact Anne Miller or Yvonne Bunn for more information (see above for contact information).

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