



California Homeschool Network

Strengthening the Voice of California Homeschoolers™





Image courtesy of National Novel Writing Month.

November is National Novel Writing Month!

It's a fun, empowering approach to creative writing. The challenge: draft an entire novel in just one month. For 30 wild, exciting, surprising days, you get to lock away your inner editor, let your imagination take over, and just create!

NaNoWriMo's Young Writers Program supports K-12 writers and educators as they participate each November.

Sign up for free, and find parent and educator resources at <https://ywp.nanowrimo.org/>

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Legislative Updates

The legislature introduced 2,628 bills this session. Sixty-six of those were tracked by your CHN legislation team, and about half of those have become law. Some highlights:

Several complex charter school bills became law, including [AB 1505](#) which will change how charters begin and renew their charter along with many other changes related to charter growth; [AB 1507](#) which will restrict where a charter school may locate its resource centers; and [SB 126](#) which will require charters to hold public meetings.

[SB 316](#) requires schools that issue ID cards to add new information on domestic violence help lines. SB 328 sets a limit to how early middle schools and high schools may begin classes. 8am for middle schools and 8:30am for high schools.

[AB 197](#) was vetoed by the governor. It would have required full-day kindergarten in schools. Although this bill would have applied to public schools and would not directly affect homeschooling, it may have been the first step towards mandating kindergarten for all students.

[SB 2](#) did not pass. It would have created a state-wide longitudinal database to track and monitor all students from cradle to career.

Most of these bills that passed will be enforceable starting in January of 2020. We will begin to see new bills introduced for the 2019-2020 session in January also. CHN is a grassroots organization, so we rely on volunteers and members to keep track of legislation. If you hear about legislation that might affect homeschoolers, please drop the legislation team an email at legislation@californiahomeschool.net.

SB 276

In Health bills, SB 276 made the most headlines. It changes the way immunization medical exemptions are handled. It does not change the immunizations that are required for school enrollment, nor does it change the exemption to mandatory immunizations. Currently, children enrolled in home-based private schools and independent study programs that do not participate in classroom based instruction are exempt from immunization requirements. Immunizations that are required and further information can be found here <https://www.shotsforschool.org/>

SB 714

SB 714 was an addendum to SB 276. It will allow children with an existing medical exemption to continue enrollment in school. Once the child hits the next grade span, entering either K, 1st or 7th grade, their old medical exemption will expire and a new one that follows the new rules will be required. Also in health, AB 262 grants health officers special powers to control the spread of communicable diseases.

We encourage every homeschooler in California to become part of our united effort to keep homeschooling legal in California so that everyone can choose the option that is best for their family.

Join CHN or renew your membership today for only \$30 per family per year.

JOIN TODAY!



Legislation

CHN continues to monitor legislation to ensure that homeschooling remains a legal option in California.

For updates on current bills visit:

<https://www.californiahomeschool.net/legislation/>

Thinking About Homeschooling Because of SB277?

Thinking about homeschooling because of SB277?

SB 277 eliminated the vaccine exemption for children who attend public and private schools. An independent study homeschooling exemption was written for children who are not receiving classroom-based instruction.

The independent study exemption gives parents three educational options to consider if their child is not fully immunized as required by the new law and their child did not have a personal beliefs exemption filed prior to January 1, 2016 (see code for grade span limitations). Those options are to:

- ▶ File a Private School Affidavit (PSA) and teach your own child at home.
- ▶ Enroll in a PSP and teach your own child at home.
- ▶ Enroll in a public ISP or Charter that does not require classroom-based instruction and teach your child at home.

In California, children six and over must be enrolled in a legal school. If you wish to homeschool with a vaccine exemption, your legal options remain the ones above, with your child being taught at home with the family, not a group of unrelated children.

JUST THE FACTS

New to homeschooling? Start by downloading our step-by-step guide to starting your homeschool!

DOWNLOAD JUST THE FACTS

May

7th - 10th

2020

California Homeschool Network Family EXPO

Great
Wolf
Lodge

CHN's Family Expo in Garden Grove is the homeschool conference for all! From beginning homeschoolers, to veterans, young and old - there is something for everyone! The CHN Family Expo is a locally produced, all-inclusive event. We are here to promote the "community" in our homeschooling community.

In addition to featured speakers, this homeschool conference features sessions on all aspects and styles of homeschooling. There are also dedicated activities for teens, tweens, kids, toddlers and families. Some of the featured activities during the day may include a project fair, art room, video game tournament, air powered rockets and more! There are also evening events such as live entertainment, teen and family dances, talent shows, video gaming and movies. We hold a used curriculum sale and also feature a vendor hall where you can discuss, examine & purchase curriculum, supplies, books, games, toys and services from many vendors who specialize in the homeschool market. Our Expo always ends with a very special high school graduation ceremony - be sure to bring your hanky!

Ticket Type	CHN Member	Non Member
-------------	------------	------------

Adult (20 & Up)	\$65	\$85
Caregiver	\$20	\$40
Teen (13-19)	\$60	\$80
Child (3-12)	\$55	\$75
Child (under 3)	Free	Free
Grandparent	Free	Free

Speaker Proposals for our 2020 Family Expo are now being accepted. Please visit our website [HERE](#) to submit a Speaker Proposal.

Pricing includes attendance to all 4 days of Expo. One day tickets not available. Inspire Charter families may use funds to pay for Expo Registration. CHN Family Membership is \$30 per year.

Special room rates at Great Wolf Lodge

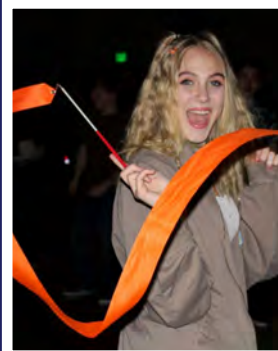
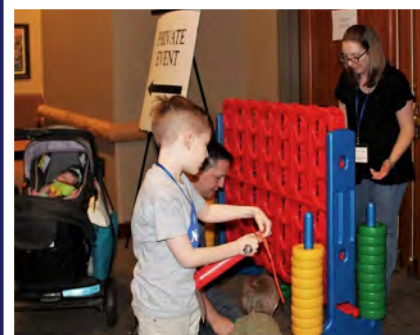
CHN Expo attendees receive a special Room Rate of \$169 a night, plus discounted parking (\$5.00 per vehicle per night) & resort fee (\$14.99 per night). The hotel code to reserve your room at Great Wolf is: 2005CALI_001

CHN's 2020 Family Expo Theme:

**Unleashing Your
Family's Super
Power!**

**REGISTER
HERE**

California Homeschool Network Family Expo



Payment Plans Available for Members

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Payment Plans Available until Nov 7th

Hands On History: American Girl Historical Fiction

By Sharon Anderson



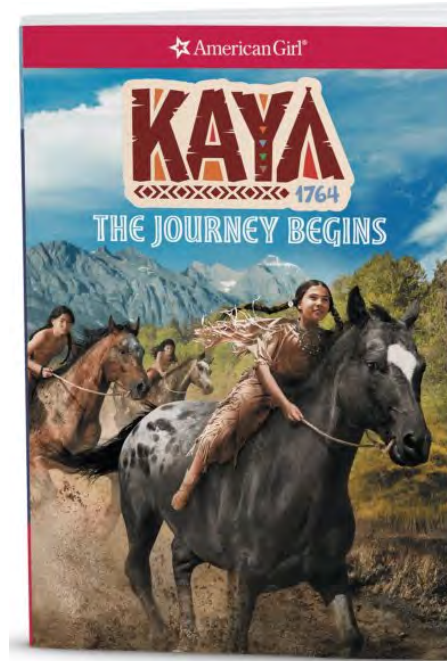
Many of you probably know about the American Girl dolls. But did you also know that the company commissioned a series of historical fiction books that span American History, touching on many prominent historical events? There are generally 6 books in each series, although newer publications have condensed the same material down to 3 books. All of the books are told from the perspective of a 9 year old girl, following her life and adventures for a year. They are well researched,

easy to read and engaging for children to listen to. Each book paints a vivid picture of what life was like during that specific time period. At the end of each book, there is a section called "Looking Back" that gives historical information about life and events during that time, with photographs and detailed information. They are a great way to bring history to life for your children. And the best part is that they are usually easy to find, for free, at your local library.

There are 16 historical series available:

- Kaya - 1764
- Felicity - 1774
- Caroline - 1812
- Josephina - 1824
- Cecile - 1853
- Marie-Grace - 1853
- Kirsten - 1854
- Addy - 1864
- Samantha - 1904
- Rebecca - 1914
- Kit - 1934

- Nanea - 1941
- Molly - 1944
- Maryellen - 1954
- Melody - 1964
- Julie - 1974



Kaya, whose full name is Kaya'aton'my, is a Native American girl of the Nimíipuu tribe, also known as the Nez Perce tribe. She lives with her mother, father, brothers, sisters and grandparents in a large tribe in the Pacific Northwest. The Nez Perce territory ranges over a wide area, covering parts of what is now called

Idaho, Washington, Oregon and Montana. They have a permanent winter village, but spend the rest of the year living a nomadic life, along with their horses, hunting and gathering food, trading with other tribes and fishing for salmon before winter sets in.

The American Girl historical books always contain problems that offer growth for the character, opportunities for bravery and the opportunity for the main character to prove herself. Kaya's series is no exception. Early on, Kaya finds herself in trouble for boasting and acting rashly without thinking about the consequences to other members of her family. Later in the series, there is a daring river rescue, a kidnapping, hard choices for the main character to make, along with

opportunities to be kind, to learn and to grow. All members of Kaya's family are represented in the stories, which I enjoy. Family is always important in the American Girl books.

In addition to reading the books with your children and talking about the "Looking Back" sections of history and the choices made during the story, it can be very helpful to do activities and go on field trips that relate to the character and time



period you are studying. When my children were learning about Kaya and Native Americans, we spent a good amount of time doing these things. Here are several activities that we did, to bring Kaya's world to life and make our learning experience more memorable.

- **Cut and dried some local tule and wove small mats out of them, that the children actually used with their dolls for many years.**
 - **Learned string games.**
 - **Learned how to weave baskets.**
 - **Learned how to make dolls out of natural materials.**
 - **Visited horse stables and learned about horses and how to care for them.**
 - **Took turns being blindfolded, to see what it**

was like to be blind, like Kaya's sister. We had to rely on family members to help us see and do things, when our eyes didn't work.

- **Created lap books.**
- **Went to a local Native American storytelling event.**
- **Went to local places to learn about the tribes that were native to our area and how they lived.**
- **Prepared and ate a meal with many of the same foods Kaya would have eaten.**



Utilizing the Kaya series to help learn about Native American people makes for a rich and deep learning experience and is something the children will remember for a long time afterwards. Listed below are several activity links that you can utilize if you would like to incorporate the Kaya series into your history curriculum.



You can read more about all of the historical fiction created by the American Girl Doll Company in the Wiki here https://americangirl.fandom.com/wiki/Historical_Characters

String Games: <http://www.arvindguptatoys.com/arvindgupta/stringgames.pdf>

Kaya Lapbook: https://www.homeschoolshare.com/docs32466/am_girl/kaya_lapbook.pdf

Make an Acorn Cap Whistle: <https://www.wnit.org/outdoorelements/pdf/1102-acorn-cap-whistle.pdf>

Nez Perce Facts for Kids: http://www.bigorrin.org/nez_kids.htm

Pine Needle Basket Kit: <https://www.acornnaturalists.com/quick-start-pine-needle-basket-kit-round-style.html>

Basket Weaving with Kids: https://basketweaving.com/shopsite_sc/store/html/teaching-tips-for-weaving-with-kids.html

Tule Mat Weaving Demo: <https://plateauportal.libraries.wsu.edu/digital-heritage/tule-mat-weaving-demonstration>

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Calling all Teens! - Join the CHN Family Expo Teen Planning Committee (TPC)

TPC members will plan games and activities for the Teen Room, host and run teen sessions, run Open Mic and plan the Teen Dance at Expo in May. Our goal is to put together 4 days of amazing activities for one of the greatest teen homeschooling events of the year.

Being a part of the TPC is a lot of fun! Members need to be willing to work cooperatively during the planning process and for a couple hours each day at the Expo. The TPC is open to teens age 13-18. You must be a member of CHN and attend the CHN Family Expo in May. You must also have access to FB & Discord.

This is a great opportunity to develop leadership skills and learn about working in a team environment. All participants earn Community Service hours, a Teen Volunteer Recognition Certificate and a letter of recommendation. If you are interested in joining, please send an email (sshellman@gmail.com) or a PM on Facebook to Sharon Anderson, Teen Room Coordinator.





HOMESCHOOL DAY!

Thursday, Nov 7th - Rediscover the Tar Pits!

Join us for the first of our two Homeschool Days
at the Tar Pits this year!

Come early and stay all day to take advantage of our new extended program hours. Check out our Exploration Station with fossil casts, catch a special screening of Titans of the Ice Age 2D with an exclusive Q&A with one of our scientists, create some herbivore decor inspired by our Pleistocene garden, and more!

This Event is FREE

- Open to all homeschoolers 3 and older
- Those under 3 are always free
- You do not need to pre-register
- Tell them you are homeschoolers for entry
- Proof not required
- Parking is \$15
- Homeschool activities are available starting at 9:30am on a first come-first serve basis.
- Museum hours are 9:30am - 4pm
- Full details can be found [HERE](#)
- Lesson Plans can be found [HERE](#)

Ten Steps to Help Budding Authors Learn to Write

By Erika Hoffman

Usually during the primary grades, a child is first asked to pen a composition. This sort of written expression is not unlike personal essays which appear in anthologies like *Chicken Soup for the Soul* or magazines like *Guideposts*. The same steps an adult might take to inspire herself and prepare for her first draft, a child would take. The difference here is that you, the parent-teacher, will lead your budding author in this journey. And just as a writer seeks a reward or recompense, there must be some reward for the child, be it a dessert, an outing, some special entertainment, no matter.

Step 1: Come up with an idea for a story together. Suggest a theme. Or ask a question of your student such as: What would your perfect day be? If he doesn't like that topic, ask him for one. What are his interests? "Pick one" you say. Does he have a pet he'd like to talk about or a sport he does or a musical interest?

Step 2: Talk it out. Let him or her orally report the story. If he's hesitant, then put on your Barbara Walters's hat and interview him. Make it fun. Use a mic. Maybe record his impressions. If the child likes to draw, have him sketch a picture of the main incident in his story or the setting for the narrative or the main character of his tale. This works for a non-fiction narrative or a fabricated one.

Step 3: Read Perrault's *Cinderella* to your kid. Discuss the fairy tale by asking your student the following: Can you tell me the setting? Or draw it? Were any of your senses involved when you listened to the fairy tale? Did you hear the mop sloshing in the bucket of dirty water? If you could touch the hem of the fairy godmother's dress, what material do you think it was? What were Cinderella's fears? Her fantasies? What was the conflict in the story? What did she want to happen and what obstacles did she have to overcome? What was her

goal?

Step 4: Have your child retell her own story idea and see if it contains a problem—conflict. Ask your student if he's the main character of his story or is it someone else? Is it a pet, for instance? Ask him what this character (protagonist) wants. What will this character need to do to succeed? Jot down your child's responses to your queries. If your child cannot think of anything or is unwilling to participate, prod. Yet, if you have no success, close the notebook, and do other homework, and come back to this later or another day.

Step 5: Take a walk with your child outside. As you journey down the street, point out that everyone starts with a step, one step. Show him what you see, hear, touch, smell or maybe taste along the way. When you return home, ask if he learned anything new or saw anything unexpected along the way.

Step 6: Converse with your child about his dreams. Have him recite what he can remember about them. Was there a storyline in the dream? What happened? Was his dream scary?

Step 7: Take out your legal pad, and tell him you will be his scribe. He needs to dictate his story to you. You will physically write it. His story should fall between three-hundred and five-hundred words, but this goal can be resolved later. This is only a messy first draft.

Step 8: Encourage him to start with the most exciting part of his tale—a catchy piece of dialogue or whatever that will interest a reader from the get-go.

Step 9: Urge him to be specific with time and place and keep the action going. Is there a message to his story? What? Remind him of the messages of Cinderella: Take risks. Let friends help you. Don't settle.

Step 10: Have your child type it on the computer. Use spell check. Then you reread and edit it for grammatical errors. Find an audience for him to read his story to—a sibling, a parent,

a grandparent, the babysitter, a neighbor, the dog; it doesn't matter, but he needs to read it aloud to ensure it sounds as he wants it to sound.

Once your child has found success in writing a composition, he should be less reluctant to pen the next one. Suggest he keep a small notebook with him to jot down interesting things he sees or hears each day. If he could pen a few lines in a journal or a blog on the computer each day, he will become a more proficient writer and most likely will enjoy it more.

Remember to reward your child. He earned it.



About Erika

Erika pens inspirational, non-fiction essays that appear in anthologies like *Chicken Soup for the Soul*, and fictional stories, featured in multiple publications. Monthly, she composes a column on the subject of writing for *Page & Spine*. A compilation of her essays form her book called *Erika's Take on Writing*. Her mystery *Why Mama* was released in February. Her non-fiction book *Erika's Take on Travel* will be completed this year. She teaches a course on composing the personal essay at Duke University, where she earned her B.A. and M.A.T. Erika raised four children and resides with her husband in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

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The Basics: The "Who" & "What" of Home Education

By: Ann Ryan

Part two in the Who, What, Why, Where & When series



[Listen to the Podcast](#) (Part 3)

[Listen to the Podcast](#) (Part 4)

These podcasts continue the beginner series on Homeschooling. In the "Who Can Homeschool?" podcast (Part 3), I remind parents that they are their child's first teacher, which is important to remember. In the "What are the Homeschool Laws?" podcast (Part 4), I discuss how homeschooling is legal in all 50 states, in some fashion. A few topics discussed in these talks include:

- Who can homeschool?
- Am I qualified?
- Do I have to be a certified teacher?
- What are the homeschool laws in my state?
- Summaries of primary homeschooling categories
- Independent homeschools
- Independent study charters
- Local school district programs
- State oversight without support
- Independent study through public school

Book recommendation: *Dumbing Us Down The Hidden Curriculum of Compulsory Education* by John Taylor Gatto

Thanks for listening!





Natural
History
Museum
of Los Angeles County

HOMESCHOOL DAY!

Thursday, Feb 6th - FOSSIL DISCOVERIES

This Homeschool Day, learn what NHM paleontologists uncovered during recent exciting excavations, run into dinosaurs at our Dinosaur Encounters show, and talk with museum educators about our extensive fossil collections. The fossil record tells us about environments and events from long ago, and helps us make decisions about the future. At the Natural History Museum, our Dinosaur Institute houses fossils that have been acquired over nearly a century—and our paleontologists are still making new discoveries every day!

This Event is FREE

- Open to all homeschoolers 3 and older
- Those under 3 are always free
- You do not need to pre-register
- Tell them you are homeschoolers for entry
- Proof not required
- Parking is \$12, cash only
- Homeschool activities are available from 10am - 4pm on a first come-first serve basis.
- Museum hours are 9:30am - 5pm
- Full details can be found at [HERE](#) or at

<https://tinyurl.com/y22j26nf>



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The Rule of Threes

By Kinta Parker, Ph.D.

The number two gets all the glory in the world of relationships. Bicycle built for two. Two turtle doves. And my favorite, "Two's company, three is a crowd."

I'm going to make the case for the number three.

Three Tribes

In life, we cannot pursue every interest, or invest in every potential relationship. There is only so much time in a day. But it is critical to truly belong to at least three tribes of people.

What is a tribe? The Urban Dictionary defines a tribe as "a group of friends that become a family."

A friendship group can become a tribe - but not every friendship group is a tribe. The difference is the level of commitment and involvement. The people in your tribe have your back.

If you are lucky, you grew up in a family that became your first tribe, and still is. That's ideal, because you started out life with a deeply ingrained sense of what it is like to belong to a real family group. What we know about toxic childhood stress says you are actually more likely to live a longer, healthier life as a result. That foundation experience makes moving out into the world



much easier. No matter where you go, you have that visceral experience of belonging, and will know to recognize it when relationship and community are developing with others. You know that someone who loves and accepts you have your back no matter what you encounter out there in the world.

Many of us did not have a positive experience in our original families. Worse yet, some had truly a destructive experience in those early years. If that is your history, you must intentionally seek to find your tribe, overcome distrust, and learn to be a member of a family of choice.



Individuals with autism spectrum disorder can also struggle with this. The nature of ASD affects social skills important in developing friendships, such as the correct perception of social cues. Much of what is now taught to children in terms of relationship skills comes from curricula developed for children on the autism spectrum. Before the last couple of decades, it was just assumed all kids learned these things by osmosis.

Think about your tribes, either the ones you have now,

or the ones you had in the past. Inevitably, something will upend the harmony of any group for a time. Two members have a disruptive falling out. Someone is out of town, and the group doesn't hang out as much in that person's absence. Maybe the tribe meets seasonally, like a sports team or a college-based group that disbands in the summer.

When you have just one tribe, or even two, it is entirely possible for things to be out of kilter in your social world, and this becomes a source of stress rather than refuge. It is especially important at these times that you have a place to go for support and the occasional gut check. Having robust social support is literally known to help us live longer - more so than exercise, a healthy diet, or



clean air. Having at least a third tribe is an insurance policy. The chances of all three groups being in chaos at the same time are low. Your social and emotional eggs are divided into at least three baskets.

Belonging to three tribes allows us to try out different roles. A college student might be an experienced leader in his theater group, a relaxed participant in his student engineering society, and an enthusiastic but inexperienced newbie on the disc golf team. In life, we will constantly be cycling between these sorts of roles - it is the natural way of things for our lives and roles to evolve.



One final argument for three or more tribes is that we are complex individuals who have different needs. We

are all creative people, in some way. Most of us have a job or vocation or at least significant responsibilities. We have belief systems that hopefully inspire us to be better people. We might enjoy physical activities that can be done best in a group, like softball. It is natural we will need relationships with people that reflect our own different facets.

Three Trusted Friends

It's 2:30am. Your heart has just been broken by the love of your life. You have a major test in six hours, and have not been to sleep. Then you break your toe against the door jamb in the dark while going for the ice cream.

You are not having a good night.

When things are going very, VERY badly, we need to find someone we trust. This is vital - it is what keeps a bad night from morphing into something much worse.

When I was in practice as a psychologist, as people got better and we were working toward graduating from therapy, I always had a few required goals. They had to have their three tribes for day-to-day social support. They also had to have three people so trustworthy they could phone at 2:30 in the morning with a massive panic attack, and any of those friends would listen respectfully and supportively without judgment.



EVERYONE needs at least three of these friends. This is not some kind of safety protocol for suicidal people - it's basic sustenance. The middle-of-the-night friends are what stand between us and catastrophically bad decisions, or the kind of perpetual

loneliness that eats away at the soul. You don't actually need to call these people in the middle of the night most of the time - just knowing you could makes all the difference in the world.

Could you name at least three tribes of which you are an active member? Three or more people you could call in the middle of the night in a crisis?

If you are the parent of a child or teen, someone moving toward independence, how strong and robust is your child's social support system? And does your child see it the same way you do?

If things are not where they need to be, what is the plan to build that system up?



A native of New Orleans, Kinta became a medical and pediatric psychologist and enjoyed a wide-ranging career of nearly 30 years. As a psychologist, she worked in a Children's Hospital, for nonprofit organizations, and in a community-based practice. From time to time, she worked with others on public policy initiatives affecting students with disabilities and children in foster care.

A few years ago, Kinta and her husband moved from the deep South to the Pacific Northwest. She retired her psychology license to focus on a mentoring practice.

Kinta has a passion for helping young people acquire the skills needed to be successful adults. This was an emphasis she often built into therapy, and is now the main focus of her mentoring practice. Additionally, she works with adult clients on improving quality of life, navigating changes in circumstances, and wellness. Learn more at <https://www.thenextsteps.online/>



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CHN Carpenteria Camp Out Highlights!





Workshop

Enrichment

Academics

Teens



1 or 2 days of drop-off classes each week in Santa Ana, Yucaipa, Corona, and Redlands

C E L E B R A T I O N E D U C A T I O N . C O M

Homeschool Day at Disneyland!



January 31, 2020

<https://www.facebook.com/events/485430575556874/>

Thank you CHN! (A Spa Stay Raffle Prize Review)

By Harriet Goren

At the 2108 CHN Convention, we were the winners of an amazing raffle prize. Cindy Jaime always puts her heart and soul into getting fabulous prizes. But this one was different. This was a spa getaway to Miracle Spa and Resort in Desert Hot Springs.



Being procrastinators, we waited until almost the very last possible moment to use our prize. For some reason, I thought it was adults only.

I was trying to work in a break in our schedule where I felt comfortable leaving the kids alone and when they didn't have activities that I wanted to participate in. Rereading the brochure, yes, children were allowed. I invited the teens along but by then, they already planned their days and they didn't want to go away with Mom and Dad. Trust me, those with littles, there will come a time that it happens.

So, off we went to Desert Hot Springs. Alone. By ourselves. For the first time in 18 years, the last 10 homeschooling.

We arrived at the Miracle Spa and Resort. It was quaint and throw back to an earlier era. The property consists of 8 heated pools with natural spring water. and nice clean rooms.



(I grew up in Southern California, I had no idea there natural healing hot springs out there.)

They put us in a room in the corner, but no one puts Harriet in the corner! We upgraded to a poolside room for \$28 a night. It was a very smart move. The pools were just outside our window.



The 8 pools ranged from warm to hot. It was lovely and so relaxing. People were friendly and I had some great conversations. I wish the kids had come but I know we will be going back. This time with friends.

The resort amenities were nice. There was a small, quiet restaurant that specialized in Italian food. I was a little

apprehensive, as I have been called a food snob in the past. The food I had was delicious. I had Rigatoni Bolognese with gluten free pasta because the waitress highly recommended it. She was right. It was so addicting, I had it 2 nights in a row. Hubby had a steak and a few other dishes. They were also good.

Being a spa, they have massage services. They were inexpensive and I like a bargain. A massage & facial was just \$130. The massage was so good I might be willing to drive back just to get another massage! There were also a few saunas around the pool area.



It was a lovely few days. I can see this as a place to go with friends to hang out. Bring the kids, bring the board games and just relax.

Maybe a CHN retreat???

Thanks CHN!!!



<http://miraclesprings.com/>




Mon, Nov 11th \$32

This annual event is for homeschool students, teachers, friends and families at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom!

Spend the day with your fellow students and friends enjoying all of the exciting things that Six Flags Discovery Kingdom has to offer. Whether you are a homeschooler or just a friend of a homeschooler, you are welcome to join us on Monday, November 11th!

[Click for all the info.](#)



Education is
not the filling
of a pail, but
the lighting
of a fire.

~ William Butler Yeats



Alternatives to Public School

Children between the ages of 6 and 18 must be enrolled in a public school or a specified alternative, and that is your decision to make! Kindergarten is not mandatory, but children who turn 6 by September 1st must enroll that school year (*California Education Code §48222, 48224*). Each family has unique needs and circumstances, so choosing an alternative will require considering your individual family situation and the needs of each child.

Your Options:

- **Credentialed tutor** A parent with an appropriate current California teacher's credential may teach his/her child under the private tutorial exemption. Parents may also hire a credentialed tutor for their child. Tutors are required to teach for a minimum of 3 hours each day, 175 days per school year, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm. (California Education Code §48224)
- **Private School** There are two home-based private school options:
 - Establish a Home-Based Private School by filing a [Private School Affidavit \(PSA\)](#) You may establish a private school in your home and enroll your child as an alternative to public school. This will give you the ultimate in control over your schedule and curriculum. If you establish a home-based private school, you will be the administrator responsible for record keeping, curriculum and all aspects of your child's education.
 - Enroll in a [Private School Satellite Program \(PSP\)](#) PSPs (formerly known as umbrella schools) file a California private school affidavit every year as part of their legal obligation to be in compliance with California Education Code. They can enroll families who want to homeschool. Some PSPs offer classes, both site based and online, curriculum packages and/or activities for their members. Others offer guidance and record keeping, but leave the day-to-day details to the parents. Fees, guidance and requirements vary widely with each school.
- **Public ISP/Charter School** Some public schools and charter schools offer independent study. These public programs are funded by tax dollars, so there is no fee to attend. Some offer a set curriculum you do at home or online. Others allow parents to select some materials. The curriculum will be aligned with Common Core and testing is required. If you enroll in one of these programs, you will need to keep the records required by your program and regularly meet with a credentialed teacher to turn in required paperwork. The amount of freedom you have in choosing what to study depends on the program's policies and your assigned teacher

COMPARING HOMESCHOOLING OPTIONS

	Credentialed Tutor	Home-Based Private School	PSP	Public School ISP	Charter School ISP
Is there an enrollment fee?	No, but possibly salary for tutor	No	Yes	No	No
Who chooses curriculum?	Parent/Tutor	Parent	Parent/ Sometimes School	School	School/ Parents may have options
Who pays for curriculum?	Parent	Parent	Parent	Tax payers	Tax payers/ Parent may pay for some things
What is the parent's role?	Parent may be the tutor	Teacher	Teacher	Aide to the teacher	Aide to the teacher
Who assigns grades?	Tutor	Parent	Parent	Teacher	Teacher
Standardized test required?	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Are certain days/hours of work specified?	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes



The most important consideration in choosing a program is to find one that respects your authority as the parent and works with you to serve your child's individual educational needs. Ask questions before choosing, and remember that you can change your child's enrollment to a different legal option at any time during the year.

CHN Local Contacts

CHN Local Contacts are homeschooling families who serve as ambassadors to their local communities for California Homeschool Network. We will be happy to answer your questions about homeschooling, refer you to local support groups or private/public ISPs, and keep you abreast of the local legal climate in your county. We also organize homeschool information events and are available to provide you with information on local resources. If your county is not listed below, or if you are unable to reach your local contact, call the Homeschool Hotline toll free at *1(800)327-5339 for answers to your homeschooling questions.

COUNTY	NAME	CONTACT INFO	COUNTY	NAME	CONTACT INFO
Alameda	Michai Freeman	510-326-8718 Email	Orange (North)	Teresa Fitzpatrick	Email
Contra Costa	Michelle Tryner	Email	Placer	Ariana Flamik	Email
Humboldt	Brenda Lory	707-617-2538 Email	Riverside	Maria Egbert	Email
Imperial	Stephanie Laurean	760-693-7951 Email	Riverside	Lynette Ridgel	Email
Indio	Lynette Ridgel	Email	Riverside	Michelle Huelle	760-501-5952 Email
Los Angeles	Tina Janzen	310-902-7034 Email	(Palm Springs)		
(Culver/Westchester)			San Bernardino	Erika Schron	Email
Los Angeles	Adrienne Quinn	323-369-7669 Email	(High Desert)		
(Culver/Inglewood)	Washington		San Bernardino	Heather Martinson	909-446-5962 Email
Los Angeles	Vicki Giansante	Email	(Yucaipa)		
(San Gabriel Valley)			San Bernardino & Lynette Ridgel		Email
Los Angeles	Siri Hirth	Email	High Desert		
(Long Beach)			Santa Cruz	Heddi Craft	831-458-1711 Email
Orange	Laurel Ward	714-649-0657 Email	Shasta	Trina Reuber	Email

CHN Local Contacts

(Continued)

Counties not listed are in need of a representative. Please consider volunteering as at CHN Local Contact. For information about how to volunteer as a local contact in your area, contact CHN or call the homeschool hotline at 800-327-5339.

COUNTY	NAME	CONTACT INFO
Tehama	Trina Rueber	Email
Tulare	Rhonda Hamilton	Email
Ventura	Christy Brunner	Email
Unique Situations (Bilingual: Spanish)	Maria Egbert	Email
Unique Situations (Gifted)	Becca Orlowski	858-576-1239 Email
Unique Situations (Learning Challenges)	Erika Schron	Email
Unique Situations (Special Needs)	Pam Ragland	Email



Homeschool Advocacy

Want to learn more about Legislation, how to become more involved, or contacting your representatives?

Check out our newest publication:

[Grassroots Homeschool Advocacy](#)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Pam Dowling - When I'm not busy with CHN or dabbling in bookkeeping, I'm teaching beginning sewing to homeschoolers! I find it very rewarding and at times very entertaining. The things kids say! I started my homeschooling journey in 2002 and now my son is a college graduate, has a driver's license and is employed! They do make it.

Homeschooling, like parenting isn't something you do, it's something you experience. I wouldn't trade it for anything in the world. I'm grateful to have the opportunity to stay connected to this wonderful community through my serving on the CHN board of Trustees. CHN provides me with speaking opportunities that I never thought would be something I would immensely enjoy. Given that public speaking is people's number one fear. But, after I spoke for over two hours at the 2014 Expo and had a dad come up to me after and tell me that he didn't think they could homeschool their child. They were afraid since they lived across the street from the school but, now they knew what their rights were and they knew they could do it! Then he asked if he could hug me. I'm hooked. It's the most rewarding part of volunteering for me. Helping to produce Expo is also very rewarding. Expo brings so much to homeschooling families, new and experienced. I am very proud to serve on the CHN Board of Trustee and help CHN fulfill its mission statement.



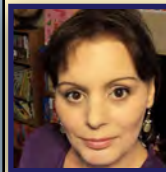
I am very excited to be welcomed to the California Homeschool Network Board of Trustees and I look forward to continuing supporting the homeschool community and personalized education. I am originally from Iowa but Long Beach, CA is now home for my family of three. By day, I am an aspiring urban farmer and homeschool Mom to our science driven 6 year old son. I spend my evenings as a recording artist and singer. I have toured, taught, and performed internationally in 7 countries as well as throughout the U.S., singing at prominent music fests, entertainment venues and private events. Thank you for having me, I look forward to growing with the CHN community!



Martin Forte, along with his wife Carolyn, owns and operate EIE Academy and Excellence In Education Resource Center in Monrovia, California. Martin and his wife successfully homeschooled their two daughters for 14 years. Both girls are college graduates and married with children. Martin has been a homeschool spokesman and advocate for more that 20 years, appearing on numerous radio and television programs and speaking at homeschool conventions as well as on of the co-founders of the California Homeschool Network. He is also a certified Learning Style Coach with his wife Carolyn.



Rhonda Hamilton is mom to four great kids: Scott (27), Stacy (24), Sean (18), and Rebecca (16), all who were/are homeschooled. She has many roles within CHN: Board of Trustee Treasurer, 800 # Hostess, Email Hostess, Expo Registration Coordinator, and the Non-Profits and Career Fair Coordinator, besides helping out when needed for other activities to make Expo awesome. Besides the many activities within CHN, homeschooling the kids, and working, she just received her MBA with a Specialization in Human Resource Management. She spends her spare time, whenever that may be, reading and hanging out with her kids.



Trina Rueber - I live in Northern California with my fun-loving family where between team sports and my endless to do list; there is never a dull day. I'm a homeschool mom of 18+ years for three awesome children, all born almost a decade apart and each with unique interests and talents. I have a wonderful husband who keeps a blind eye to our creative chaos and my "I'll use it someday" clutter, as he navigates through our Bag of Holding of a home. When I'm not teaching you can find me outside working on our hobby farm complete with goats, sheep, and chickens, or in my studio, where I'm a Jacklyn of all trades, doing everything from woodworking and painting to stain glass and ceramics. I love life, learning exploring and am inspired by a great quote from Abraham Lincoln who once said, "Most folks are as happy as they make their minds to be". I'm thankful to work with such an amazing group of people as I embark on the journey alongside the other Trustees and I am so excited to see what this next year brings for the CHN homeschool community!

CHN Newsletter

November 2019



California Homeschool Network was founded in 1994 by a statewide group of homeschooling families. We are an inclusive group, which means we serve families from all religious and ethnic affiliations that practice all homeschooling styles.

Submissions & Advertising

To submit articles, curriculum reviews, homeschool information or for questions about content or advertising in upcoming issues of California Homeschool Network's quarterly newsletter, please contact our editor at editor@californiahomeschool.net

We hope you found our newsletter helpful and that it provided information and activities that are useful to your homeschooling journey.

California Homeschool Network is an all-volunteer organization of energetic and dedicated homeschooling families working to preserve educational freedom. CHN monitors and responds to legislation which may pose a threat to homeschooling. We also inform and empower homeschooling families, educate the public and foster community among home educators in the state of California.

Thank you,

California Homeschool Network

California Homeschool Network

Strengthening the Voice of California Homeschoolers™

JOIN TODAY!