

~SPEAKER TOPICS~

EVENING PROGRAM

THURSDAY: Museum Exhibit Opening
The Titanic: Unique Connections and Untold Stories

WORKSHOP SESSION 1

1A – “Running the Daily Race”

Meg Jenkins

It often seems overwhelming to teach each child 8 different subjects, serve healthful (often, fasting) meals, keep the house clean, pay bills, answer calls, serve others outside of the home, attend many services, do laundry, and maintain a peaceful family life where our goal is to raise our children in the Orthodox faith. At times, I have very nearly given up! One mom shares how she manages (most days) to 'get it all done' while spending some one-on-one time with each child, praying the hours, and getting exercise in, too. I will share routines, schedules and chore charts we use for our children. There certainly is not one solution, so come ready to share tips with the group.

1B – “Nourishing Your Child’s Soul on Truth”

Andrew Kern

Facts are good, truth is even better. Legitimately Christ-centered teaching and the place of imitation in the feeding of the soul.

1C – “Homeschooling with Special Needs”

Mat. Carolyn Klein

1D – “Art Through the Ages”

Barbara Shukin

A survey of art history, from ancient to modern, designed to briefly examine select pieces of art and art movements which lend themselves to the development of fine art projects appropriate for students ages 8 - 13. This workshop will include a power point presentation with numerous fine art images, suggestions and examples of art projects using a variety of media, plus a scope and sequence with suggested vocabulary words. This workshop will be a sneak peak at the curriculum Barbara designed and teaches, and will, God willing, be publishing in the future.

WORKSHOP SESSION 2

2A – “Reclaiming the Lost Apprenticeship Models of Learning”

Elizabeth Johnson

"Only in the last century and only in industrialized nations, has formal schooling emerged as a widespread method of educating the young. Before schools appeared, apprenticeship was the most common means of learning and was used to transmit the knowledge required for expert practice in fields from painting and sculpting to medicine and law" (Brown, Collins, & Duguid) This workshop will provide practical information on how to apply the apprenticeship model in our homeschool curriculum for elementary grade children through high school grades. It will also focus on principles, theory and the cognitive, social, spiritual, developmental and practical benefits to be found in making this a significant part of your children's education program.

2B – “Simple, Streamlined, and Seamless: teaching writing for all it's worth”

Andrew Kern

The basics of writing instruction and how they enable integration and harmony in both the curriculum and the soul.

2C – “Homeschool in the Cloud: Organizing with Google Sites”

Susan Papademetris

Do you spend too much time at the computer looking for things you know you've seen before? Would you like the ability to create a weekly schedule from a template in just a few minutes? Do you sometimes need to access your notes from different computers, or share them with others? If so, creating your own Google Site may be your answer. In this live demo, we will explore the many potential uses of these wiki pages, and demonstrate how to generate and edit pages, including making templates and tables. Everything described in the workshop can be done on a PC or a Mac (and even, with patience, on a smartphone), with any browser, free of charge.

WORKSHOP SESSION 3

3A - “HS 101: What to Expect, How to Begin”

Kh. Elizabeth Bushelli

A mother of six gives a brief introduction to the joys and struggles of homeschooling. Come and thumb through some of the books that she has used with her elementary students while we discuss the unique needs of an Orthodox family. This workshop aims to provide you with practical advice and resources to get your homeschool off to a smooth start. Bring all of your questions!

3B - "Vision, Rest and Truth"

Andrew Kern

How to stay on the path, avoid the pits of anxiety, and find your way through the jungle of paper, plans, and projects.

3C- "A Walk through the Unit Study Approach"

Barbara Shukin

Using the subject of the Titanic, the theme of the Antiochian Heritage Museum exhibit to open Thursday March 8, we'll walk through the steps of designing, and putting into practice, the popular homeschool approach known as Unit Study. In this workshop, we will explore the art of selecting stories, telling stories, and engaging the audience, provide and discuss a "grab bag" of exercises to use when teaching the process of writing, and suggest numerous hands-on activities to help students review and solidify information. Be ready for a myriad of ideas, helpful in a co-op or family setting.

3D- "Now, If Only We Had a School Bus..."

Angela Weaver

Field trips and homeschooling: How can field trips enhance my homeschooling experience? How do I organize a field trip? What about large groups, how do I get that together? Angela Weaver has been planning and executing field trips for her homeschool group of 150 families and for her own family and groups of friends for 4 years with a lot of successes and failures along the way. The smallest trip? Angela and her two boys. Her biggest trip? 200 people from her homeschool group. Angela will share her tips for finding great places for field trips, getting the best price, and managing groups so that the best impression is made upon the field trip host. Her ideal is to be asked back to a location at the end of a field trip! Come and explore the possibilities!

EVENING PROGRAM

FRIDAY: Vigen Guroian

The Moral Imagination and Children's Literature

WORKSHOP SESSION 4

4A – “Cinderella: Preparing for the Prince of Princes”

Vigen Guroian

The Brothers Grimm version of Cinderella, like so many of the traditional fairy tales they collected and retold, reflects their powerful Christian imagination. We will carefully read the story together in order to better see how the Grimm’s Cinderella is a fable of Christian humility, love, and devotion to the Son of the King. It is suggested that attendees also read the Grimm version of Cinderella before the conference.

4B – “Praying at Home: Prayer at the Family Altar”

Meg Jenkins

A convert mom shares her experience creating a child-friendly place of prayer, how she prays with her young children, and how she manages her sometimes squirmy or grumbling little ones. Come see a display of books and worship items her family has used to help cultivate an atmosphere of worship at the family altar. Share ideas on adorning the altar for the seasons and feasts of the church. Be ready to offer tips and ideas that have worked for your family!

4C – “How to Teach Writing: Intro to the Lost Tools of Writing”

Andrew Kern

In this classical rhetoric simplified for the home and school, you will learn three challenges writers face and how to overcome them. Teach your children to write thoughtfully, insightfully and eloquently following the ancient approach used by St. Basil, St. John Chrysostom, and other Fathers of the Church.

4D – “Finding & Evaluating Free Online Resources”

Bob Weaver

Presentation will explain to parents and students how to find and evaluate free online resources for education. It will give criteria for determining the usefulness and appropriateness of web sites and online collections. The second part of the presentation will be a selection of resources in several subject areas such as art, literature, and history, which will be distributed to all participants to help them get started in building their own digital resource libraries.

WORKSHOP SESSION 5

5A – “Literature & the Difficult Moments: From Children’s Literature to the Classics”

Lori Branch

One of the greatest joys of and perhaps even motivations for homeschooling is reading great literature with our children; but how do we deal with difficult moments in classic literary texts, moments when we see something troubling or untrue being communicated? This session, led by a literature professor and a homeschooling parent, focuses on tips for reading literature with students of all ages, acknowledging both its beauties and difficulties in a critical and compassionate way, with the ideal of metanoia or repentance – the change of heart and mind – at its center.

5B – “Pinocchio: Allegory of the Christian Life”

Vigen Guroian

Carlo Collodi’s Pinocchio, as to be distinguished from Disney’s version, reflects the rich Catholic, biblical, and even sacramental imagination of its author. In this instance, we will read Collodi’s Pinocchio as an allegory of how loving and being loved makes us real, as we struggle to overcome our own “woodenness,” our egoism, and sin to become Christ-like human beings. It is suggested that attendees read Collodi’s Pinocchio before the conference.

5C – “Assessment that Works”

Andrew Kern

Setting expectations, performing the exercises, evaluating for growth.

EVENING PROGRAM

SATURDAY: Vigen Guroian
Mentor: Its Meaning in Stories