

AHEM News

Volume 6 • No 1 • Fall 2008

Advocates for Home Education in Massachusetts, Inc.

What
you
need
to
know
when
you
need
to
know
it

•
•
•

Whole Education Without Schooling Conference: Family, Community, Freedom

Join us for a dynamic and provocative day of ideas and discussion! Saturday, October 11, 2008 at the Park Avenue Congregational Church, 50 Paul Revere Rd., Arlington, MA.

Schedule:

9:30 - 10:00: Registration

10:00 - noon: Welcome & Panel: *Patchwork of Days* What's it like to actually homeschool your kids? How do philosophy and reality intersect in the practical, day-to-day world of homeschooling? Experienced homeschooling parents talk about their successes, challenges, and the life of a home educator. This panel is designed to cover frequently asked questions about homeschooling, while providing inspiring testimony on the homeschooling lifestyle. Panelists will represent a range of homeschooling approaches and methodologies. Time will be set aside for audience questions.

noon - 1:30: Lunch & Focus Groups

1:30 - 3:30: Panel: *Grown Homeschoolers* "How do they turn out?" is one of the perennial homeschooling questions. Our panel of four homeschooled young adults helps address it. They'll talk about homeschooling from the vantage point of the kids, the experience of forging their life paths, and what it's like to live in a mostly schooled society. Another perennial question, — "What about college?" — is looked at through the lens of homeschoolers representing a range of possible choices. The session winds up with a Q&A with the audience.

Food: We will provide light refreshments. There are many places to buy lunch a short walk away, or feel free to bring your own non-messy food and drink.

Children: Because we are unable to make special accommodations for children, we ask that you leave at home children who will be as happy or happier there with a loving caregiver. Children over 12 months old who accompany you will need to register, pay the registration fee, and be supervised by you at all times.

Networking: Remember to bring cards to swap with people that you want to keep in touch with.

Early Registration Discount!
Register by August 15 and get a 25% discount:

Envelope must be postmarked no later than August 15 to pay just \$15.00 per person. After August 15, pay \$20 per person.

See back page for registration form, or print one out at <http://www.ahem.info/Registrationform2008.pdf>

Directions to Park Avenue Congregational Church:

From Route 2:

- Take the Park Avenue exit (Exit 58);
- Turn north into Arlington on Park Avenue;
- Continue to the top of the hill, past the water tower on the right, and down the long, steep hill just until you see the traffic lights at the intersection of Park Avenue and Massachusetts Avenue.
- The church is on the left, one block south of Massachusetts Avenue at the intersection of Park Avenue and Paul Revere Road.

Make a Weekend of it!

Find ideas for ways to spend the rest of the weekend taking in the Boston area here:
<http://www.ahem.info/WeekendExplorations.htm>.

For the latest updates on the Conference check
<http://www.ahem.info/Conference.htm>.

Homeschooling Library Displays

Homeschoolers and libraries usually have a pretty fruitful relationship, with homeschoolers taking full advantage of library materials, programs, and space. Another way the two can collaborate is to educate the public about homeschooling through library display cases, tables, and other exhibits. Almost all libraries have display cases or tables that are in busy corridors and rooms, available free to the public. Often, librarians are looking for people to use them. Homeschooling is a topic of both local and general interest, making it the perfect candidate for these types of displays.

continued on page 2

Inside this issue . . .

Conference	1
Homeschooling Library Displays	1
Current State Issues	
Legislative Update	3
The National Scene	
S. 3076.....	4
Yo Jo	
No More Teaching to the Test.....	5
Around AHEM	
Faces at AHEM	6
Museum of Science HS Science Series.....	6
Morning Matinees at the Theatre	7
Why Are You Getting This Newsletter?	7
Conference Registration Form.....	8

The information in this newsletter does not constitute legal advice; it is provided for informational purposes only. AHEM is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization. All donations are tax-deductible.

© 2008 Advocates for Home Education in Massachusetts, Inc.
PO Box 1307
Arlington, MA 02474
www.AHEM.info



continued from page 1

How to Book a Library Display Case or Table

Booking a display at a library is simple, yet requires planning. Simply look on the Internet or in the phone book for the address and phone number of the closest library branches. It is a good idea to visit the library before requesting a display case or table. Once you arrive, determine what display areas exist and which one you prefer. (Research has shown that people drift to the right after entering a store. Books on display near a front desk check out 100% to 300% more frequently.) Then ask for the person who is responsible for booking the displays.

Once you contact them, ask them what display areas are available and when. Some are booked 2 - 3 months in advance, while others are available immediately. It depends on the size and location of the case or table and the popularity of the branch. Cases are usually booked one month at a time, from the first to last day of the month. Ask if you can publicize the display in the library newsletter or calendar.

If you can't set up a display case or table, ask the librarian about having a small permanent display of the 12" x 18" "Meet Massachusetts Homeschoolers" poster and "Getting Started Homeschooling" brochures that AHEM can provide for the library to maintain on an ongoing basis. You can also see if they are open to such a

small, ongoing display after you dismantle your case or table display.

What To Put In Your Display

The main goal of the display is to get attention, arouse curiosity, and make passersby intrigued enough to check out a book or take home a pamphlet. Your main goal is to create curiosity.

There are a number of components that you can combine to create this effect. These include:

- **Flyer** — This is a great place to include an ad for your local support group.
- **Books** — Include copies of homeschooling books that are in the library's collection so that people can check them out. You can search them online from home before you go and print out a list ordered by call number, making it easy to collect the books and check for them over the course of the display. Use "Home schooling" (two words) as a subject search term and limit the search results to the specific library. Alternatively, go browse in the 371.042 and 649.68 sections. If your display is in a case rather than on a table, you can include your own personal books.
- **Pictures, drawings, or a collage** about home-schooling to draw attention to the display. This might be something your kids would like to help with.
- **Press release** "Home schooling improves academic performance and reduces impact of socio-economic factors" from the Fraser Institute paper *Home Schooling: From the Extreme to the Mainstream, 2nd edition* *
- **Other positive press clippings** from local or national news you may have on hand.
- **"Getting Started Homeschooling" pamphlets** — Stock just outside the case so people can walk away with one if they like, as well as displaying one in the case or on the table in case the ones to take away run out. *
- **Business cards** * (AHEM will supply and/or supply your own.)
- **Quotes** - Quotes or excerpts about homeschooling that get attention and spark curiosity * (Print out on colorful paper and cut out in eye-catching shapes.)
- **"Meet Massachusetts Homeschoolers" poster** * (You may want to mount this on firm poster board for easier displaying.)
- **Title banner:** "Home's Cool" *

*AHEM will supply starred items.

How to Set Up and Maintain Your Display

Now that the hard work is complete, let the fun begin! Since each display is different, from size to style, it's challenging to fill and decorate it. It's a good idea to bring some cleaning products to prepare the case or table for your display. It may already be clean, but you never know. Leave the case or table better than you found it so that they invite you back. Bring along tape, a stapler, tacks, and anything else you need to hang and hold the items in place. Make sure you know the back wall's material if using a case, since this influences how things can be hung.

If you have the time and inclination, consider these tips for making your display really special. But a simple approach is still valuable!

- Start with a tablecloth.
- Books facing out is always best if possible. Ask the librarian if she has book stands you can use in the display.
- Add lighting to your display. Illuminate displays or use something reflective – glittery fabric, ornaments, mirrored surfaces, attention grabbing elements. Illuminated displays receive twice the attention of nonilluminated.
- Add objects to the display — interesting take out containers, toys, pails, flowerpots, blocks, garlands, etc. Go to discount stores, garage sales, local farmer's markets, your attic, your basement, your closets, your garden! There are ideas and display materials everywhere!
- Add an interactive piece – acrostic poems, Ad Libs, a guessing jar, I Spy, some sort of participatory activity.
- Use color to group items. (Studies have shown that people browsing book covers by color tend to like blue, consider white informational, brown serious, and they avoid red.)
- Use all types of materials and don't be afraid to mix adult, teen, and children's together. Keep displays "loaded" –fill any holes as soon as you can.

Signage:

Readability is key, then add ornamentation. Color contrast improves readability and can set the tone or add style. Ranked most readable to least combinations:

1. Black on yellow
2. Black on white
3. Yellow on black

The smaller the letters, the more contrast is needed.

Good Luck!

Thanks to Howard at <http://www.friendsofishmael.org/tools/readers/displays.shtml> for letting us adapt their ideas for creating library displays for our own purpose. Some specific ideas about enhancing displays were taken from *Display Tips and Tricks* by Jane Lopez-Santillana and Pat Kelly of Seattle's Central Library - Faye G. Allen Children's Center, a presentation at the Washington Association of Library Employees Conference, 2006.

Current State Issues . . .

Legislative Update

As we come to the close of the current legislative session, there has been activity on several bills that AHEM has been tracking.

The following bills were included in SB 2462, "An Act to Improve Dropout Prevention and Reporting of Graduation Rates":

- HB 394, "An Act Raising the Compulsory Attendance Age to 18"
- HB 401, "An Act Relative to School Age Attendance Requirements"
- HB 402, An Act to Prevent Students From Dropping Out of School"
- HB 463, "An Act Relative to Encouraging Students to Stay in School"
- HB 576, "An Act to Increase the Mandatory School Age"
- HB 577, "An Act Relative to the Development of a Comprehensive Strategy to Prevent Students from Dropping Out of School"
- SB 304, "An Act Relative to School Attendance"
- SB 329, "An Act Changing the Maximum Required Age for School Attendance"
- SB 343, "An Act to Encourage School Attendance and to Strengthen Parental Responsibility"
- SB 357, "An Act Relative to School Attendance"
- SB 366, "An Act to Amend School Attendance"

On July 21, 2008, after a third reading in the Senate and a vote of 36 yeas and 0 nays, this bill was referred to the House Ways and Means committee. On July 29, 2008, the House Ways and Means Committee recommended the bill "ought to pass" with the addition of an amendment. The new draft is now SB 2766. The new bill had a second reading in the House on July 29, 2008 and a third reading has been ordered. SB 2766 establishes the "Graduation and Dropout Commission" to study dropout prevention and dropout recovery programs throughout the state. This commission will make

recommendations on certain issues, such as raising the compulsory attendance age from 16 to 18. The text of the new bill can be found at <http://www.mass.gov/legis/bills/senate/185/st02/st02766.htm>.

HB 400, "An Act Relative to the Awarding of High School Diplomas," has been included in HB 4536, an order that gives the Education committee the authority to sit during the recess of the General Court to investigate and study issues relating to MCAS. The committee will make recommendations to the General Court on or before December 31, 2008. HB 4536 was referred to the House Rules Committee on February 14, 2008.

HB 416, "An Act Providing That Parents and Legal Guardians be Held Responsible for School Attendance of Children in Their Care," is now part of HB 4596, a study order relative to authorizing the committee on Education to make an investigation and study of certain House documents concerning governance, parents and bilingual education. On March 12, 2008, HB 4596 was discharged to the committee on House Rules which is responsible for the scheduling of legislation on the floor of the House.

HB 507, "An Act Relative to Homeschooling" and HB 523, "An Act Permitting Non Public School Students to take MCAS Exam" have become part of HB 4530. This bill gives the DOE responsibility for investigating the feasibility and costs associated with allowing non-public school and homeschool students to voluntarily be allowed to take MCAS in grade 10. The DOE would report their findings by November 15th, 2008. On February 13, 2008, HB 4530 was referred to the committee on House Ways and Means for consideration of the financial implication of passage.

HB 399, "An Act Relative to Full Day Kindergarten" and HB 527, "An Act Relative to Mandatory Minimum Age for School Attendance" have been combined into a study order. This new bill, HB 4748, is an "order relative to authorizing the committee on Education to make an investigation and study of certain House documents concerning kindergarten, literacy, technology, school time and learning and miscellaneous education issues." HB 4748 was discharged to the House Rules Committee on May 15, 2008.

The current legislative session will end in December. Any bill that does not pass will be considered "dead." The sponsor of the bill will have to re-file the bill during the next legislative session if the bill is to be reconsidered.

The National Scene . . .

S. 3076, "Home School Opportunities Make Education Sound Act of 2008"

S. 3076, "Home School Opportunities Make Education Sound Act of 2008" was introduced in the United States Senate on June 3, 2008 by Senator David Vitter of Louisiana. The bill would amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax deduction for itemizers and nonitemizers for expenses relating to home schooling. The maximum deduction would be \$500 for any qualifying child, and no more than \$2000 for all qualifying children of the taxpayer. The bill has been read twice and has been referred to the Committee on Finance.

The bill defines "qualified home school expenses" as expenses for "books, supplies, and other equipment necessary for a course of instruction in a classroom environment,... academic tutoring,... special needs services for qualifying children with disabilities..., and... any computer technology or equipment... or Internet access and related services, if such technology, equipment, or services are to be used by the qualifying child and the qualifying child's family during any of the years that the qualifying child is educated in an elementary or secondary home school (not including computer equipment designed for sports, games, or hobbies unless such equipment is primarily educational in nature), in connection with a course of instruction in an elementary or secondary home school."¹ You can read the full text of the bill by searching for it at <http://www.thomas.gov/>.

Currently, federal tax deductions are not allowed for any non-higher-education- related expense, so this bill would break new ground in allowing deductions for K-12 educational expenses. Parents who pay for their children to attend private school cannot deduct expenses, so this bill would allow special treatment of homeschoolers over others who opt out of the public school system.

One should note that tax deductions, which are what S. 3076 would provide, lower taxable income. The dollar amount of tax savings would depend on the family's tax bracket. For example, if a family's income is taxed at 25%, a tax deduction of \$500 would save them 25% of \$500, or a total of \$125. A family with lower annual income who might have more need of tax relief, would also have a lower tax rate, say 15%, and so would also

¹ <http://www.thomas.gov/>

save less money (15% of \$500 = \$75). So while deductions carry similar risks as tax credits² for homeschoolers as far as opening the door to more government regulation of homeschooling, they provide even less monetary relief.

AHEM has heard many reasons to oppose S. 3076, including:

- Invites federal regulatory definitions of “homeschooling” and “educational.”
- The need to define “homeschooling” and “educational” for the purpose of deciding what expenses qualify as tax deductions will allow federal governmental control (something that does not exist now) of homeschooling for very little return.
- Potential conflicts with state laws could lead to unwelcome changes in homeschooling laws at the state level.
- State level homeschool activism better serves efforts to maintain homeschooling freedoms.

AHEM’s philosophy is to strengthen the grassroots presence of homeschoolers, as our voices are strongest at the local and state level. It follows that it is wise to keep homeschooling out of federal law as much as possible to avoid further regulation and to keep the local, grassroots strength of homeschooling alive. AHEM opposes S. 3076 and will keep an eye on the bill as it makes its way through the legislative process.

Yo Jo . . .

No More Teaching to the Test

By Joanne Casiello

Dear Joanne,

I’ve been homeschooling for two years. My kids are 9 and 10. I still never feel as though I’m doing enough. I am so hung up on testing, not sure whether it’s going to show how well my children are doing, because my curriculum is not on the same schedule (timeline). I feel I am just making my kids frustrated and I’m feeling like a failure. Do you have any advice?

Sincerely, R.

Dear R.,

Toss the tests over your shoulder and don’t look back! Unless your goal in homeschooling is to teach your kids

how to be superb test takers, there are a bazillion other ways to determine how “well” your kids are doing. Tests have their place in society and the ability to take all kinds of tests (essay, fill in the dot multiple choice, and practical) is a good skill to learn along the way, but it surely doesn’t have to be the focus of your home education.

Flexibility is the greatest good in homeschooling among the many gifts of good things. If something isn’t working for your child, drop it. You don’t have to fill the needs of the majority, use the only materials the school administration purchased, or teach in the mode currently fashionable as school classroom teachers have to do. Suit the method to the child.

Take some time to sit back and observe. Learn from your child. When there is a skill that they want to gain, how do they go about it? What was that child’s style? Do they ride two wheeled bicycles? Pay close attention to the way they gained that skill. One of my sons, the organized left brained one, broke the task into pieces with adult reinforcement of the idea of how to ride a bike. He practiced each part, first gliding for a couple of weeks, feet stuck out to the sides, then gliding feet-on-pedals, finally learning to pedal. Our kinesthetic learner took his bike out to the backyard alone in an all or nothing attempt for fifteen minutes, ran in, furiously hopped up and down to express his frustration for five minutes, ran back out for another all out physical attempt, back in for more hopping, and so continued for about four hours at which point he had entirely mastered the skill. Our third son asked his brother to tell him how to ride a bike, the mechanics and physics of the thing, before getting on his bike. Left-brained verbal oldest son did a great job of explaining. Third son then practiced with occasional sessions of questions on the physical aspects allowing him to correct his technique. Fourth son watched, and watched, and watched silently; got on his bike with perfect mimicry of small muscle movements, and rode. We used what we observed to choose the method of teaching for each child.

How will you know when they have acquired a skill? They will use it, and as a homeschooling mom, you will be there to see them do it. Have them read to you and discuss what they have read in a casual way as you might discuss a good book with a friend. Have them use writing in practical ways such as making grocery lists. Start a journal for just you and that child in which you write notes to each other. Go to historical sites and encourage your kids to tell you the stories of what happened there. Let them start businesses of their own

² From “Are Tax Credits for Educational Expenses a Good Idea for Homeschoolers?” by Larry and Susan Kaseman. *Home Education Magazine*, May-June 1998.
<http://www.homeedmag.com/HEM/HEM153.98/153.98_clmn_tkch.html> cited 24 June 2008.

where they have to keep records, make signs and brochures, and produce a product or service to sell. Keep samples of their work, pictures of their projects, or their entire business plan, to help remind you that they are learning and growing. Watch them, interact with them, and enjoy them.

I also agonized over how I was homeschooling my kids. Was I doing enough? Too much? In the end, the kind of life that a child will create or choose will ultimately depend on that child. And the very best you can do is to remember to love them, hard, through it all.

Send Joanne your question about homeschooling. Either email info@ahem.info with Attn: Joanne in the subject field, or write to Joanne, c/o AHEM, PO Box 1307, Arlington, MA 02474.

Around AHEM . . .

Faces at AHEM

Stephanie Griego lives in Arlington with her husband, David, and five children, ages eight to fifteen. They have always homeschooled. Stephanie believes homeschooling provides an organic, supportive environment for learning. She strives to be flexible to meet the dynamic, ever-changing needs of her children and family.

Stephanie has been involved with food co-ops for many, many years, and spends untold hours in the kitchen. She is a passionate knitter who also dyes yarn as part of a business venture. The Griegos share their house with several pets, many books, numerous drums, various computers, and piles of wool.

Stephanie helped with the AHEM Spring Social and is the newest member of the AHEM Board of Directors. She is also an organizer for the Homeschooling Together support group's Fall Fair and she hosts a weekly Knitting Circle for the local homeschooling community.

Museum of Science High School Science Lectures

Advocates for Home Education in Massachusetts has reserved space for ages 14 - 18 at three Museum of Science High School Science Lectures. You are welcome to come to one, two, or three of them. The lectures each last 45 minutes and you can enjoy the museum exhibit halls until closing. **(MEET AT 9:15 AM in Lobby; we will enter the lecture as a group.)**

- **Thursday, September 18, 2008**
(checks must be postmarked by August 18)

Space Day Joins Future Forums

NASA turns 50 in 2008, and to celebrate, the Museum is hosting a Future Forum. Hear from a NASA astronaut, and meet students conducting space research. In addition, exhibits and displays throughout the Exhibit Halls demonstrate the history and ongoing work of NASA.

- **Friday, October 10, 2008**
(checks must be postmarked by September 10)
Boston Digs Archaeology
As part of our offerings for Archaeology Week, students can meet Ellen Berkland, archaeologist for the city of Boston. Ellen's work is all about uncovering Boston's history by finding artifacts and figuring out what they mean. Following the presentation, meet other archaeologists and learn more about the archaeology work that is happening all over the state.
- **Friday, October 24, 2008**
(checks must be postmarked by September 24)
National Chemistry Week Celebration 2008
Chemistry plays a huge role in the science of sports. In this presentation, a scientist from the field shares research from the athletic arena, and a Museum educator demonstrates some of the chemical principles that make our favorite sports exciting and safe. Following the presentation, students can take part in hands-on activities that include learning how sunscreens and cross-linked plastic helmets can protect athletes.

For more details on any of these lectures, see http://www.mos.org/educators/field_trip_resources/field_trip_activities/high_school_science_series.

Cost is \$5/person to reserve your spot; the full price will be refunded to you at the museum, making your visit FREE. If you don't show up, your money will be donated to support the non-profit mission of AHEM.

If you want to go: Mail a check made out to Advocates for Home Education in Massachusetts to AHEM, PO Box 1307, Arlington, MA 02474. Please include:

- the number of teens and adults,
- name of responsible adult*
- ages of teens,
- your address, and
- email or phone number.

*Teens need an adult to be responsible for them -- either a parent, or another adult with whom the parent has made prior arrangements. Those with email will receive confirmation about a week before the visit.

Space is limited; **checks must be postmarked by:**

- **August 18th for Space Day.** No refunds after August 18th except those made to attendees *at the museum on September 18th.*
- **September 10th for Boston Digs Archaeology.** No refunds after September 10th except those made to attendees *at the museum on October 10th.*
- **September 24th for National Chemistry Week Celebration.** No refunds after September 24th except those made to attendees *at the museum on October 24th.*

You can purchase lunch at the cafés, or bring your own to be eaten outside.

Email FieldTrips@AHem.info for more information or call 781-641-0566.

Directions & Parking

See http://www.mos.org/visitor_info/maps_and_directions for directions. Parking is \$3 per car payable to the museum at the box office in the main lobby before you exit.

Field trip participants will be added to the Friends of AHem list unless they specifically opt out.

Morning Matinees at the Theater

AHEM's popular Morning Matinee at the Theater season continues with three stellar productions at Watertown's New Repertory Theatre. Plan now to attend high quality, professional productions at drastically reduced prices. Tickets for all shows are \$13 each. All performances are at the Arsenal Center for the Arts, 321 Arsenal St., Watertown, MA. All shows are for ages six and up.

New Rep on Tour productions are specially created (often abridged) for school audiences and last about 90 minutes:

- *Othello* by William Shakespeare: Monday, November 10, 2008 (**checks must be postmarked by October 1, 2008; No refunds after October 1.**)
- John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*: Monday, March 9, 2009 (**checks must be postmarked by January 31, 2009; no refunds after January 31.**)

On the main stage, AHem is offering slashed prices for a full-length production which will probably last 2-3 hours:

- Thursday, May 7, 2009: Chekhov's *Three Sisters* (**checks must be postmarked by April 1; no refunds after April 1**)

For more details on any of these shows, see <http://www.ahem.info/FieldTrips.htm>.

No food or drink is allowed in the theater. Panera Bread is next door to the theater, and will be open serving soup, salads, sandwiches, bagels, pastries, and drinks all day.

Cost: \$13.00 per seat for adults or children (ages six and up).

If you want to go: Mail a check made out to *Advocates for Home Education in Massachusetts* to AHem, PO Box 1307, Arlington, MA 02474.

Please include:

- your name,
- your address,
- email or phone number,
- show(s) you are signing up for and for each one:
 - the number of children and adults,
 - ages of children.

Those with email will receive confirmation about a week before the performance.

Space is limited for all shows. Email FieldTrips@AHem.info for more information or call 781-648-5579.

Directions & Parking

See <http://www.newrep.org/directions.php> for directions. After turning into the Arsenal on the Charles Complex, take a right after the stop sign and an immediate left into the six story FREE parking garage.

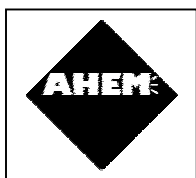
Field trip participants will be added to the Friends of AHem list unless they specifically opt out.

Why Are You Getting This Newsletter?

You are receiving this paper copy of the newsletter through the mail instead of our timely announcement-only emails because we have you listed as a Friend of AHem, but either the email address we have for you has been bouncing, or we don't have an email address for you. We'd appreciate hearing from you with an updated email address in order to conserve paper and postage, and to keep our costs down.

If you would like to keep receiving this paper version of the newsletter, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to AHem to support efforts like sending this newsletter to Massachusetts homeschoolers who don't have computer access. And please pass your newsletter on to a friend or leave it in your local library when you're done with it. Thanks!

If you don't wish to receive this newsletter, please take a moment to let us know and we will stop sending it. Either email info@ahem.info, call 781-641-0566, or drop us a line at AHem, PO Box 1307, Arlington, MA 02474. We really appreciate your help in keeping our lists current.



Whole Education Without Schooling

Registration form. PLEASE PRINT NEATLY:

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Additional Adult and Teen Registrants: _____

Additional Child Registrants (over 12 months old):

Name: _____ Age: _____ Name: _____ Age: _____

Name: _____ Age: _____ Name: _____ Age: _____

Early Registration Discount!

Register by August 15 and get a 25% discount.

Envelope <i>must</i> be postmarked no later than August 15 to pay just \$15.00 per person, with full payment enclosed.	Early Registration before August 15	Register between August 15 and September 30
Total number of people over 12 months old		
Cost per person	x \$15.00	x \$20.00
Total registration fee	= \$	= \$
Optional donation to support the work of AHM*	+ \$	+ \$
Total registration fees and donation	= \$	= \$

*AHM is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. All donations are tax deductible.

Please send form and check or money order for total registration fees and optional donation made out to **Advocates for Home Education in Massachusetts** to the address below.

Space is limited: advance registration recommended. Mailed registrations must be postmarked no later than September 30, 2008. Full payment must accompany registration. Cancellation requests received by September 30, 2008 will be honored. No refunds after September 30, 2008.

Registration confirmation will be sent upon receipt of your paid registration. Email preferred, or enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope or postcard to receive confirmation via US mail.

After September 30, 2008, call 781-641-0566 or email info@AHM.info to check availability. Walk-ins will be accommodated, *if space allows*, with an additional cost of \$5 late fee per person.

Conference participants will be added to the Friends of AHM list unless they specifically opt out. Friends of AHM keep abreast of legislative and other issues that affect Massachusetts homeschoolers via an announcement only email list, or if email is not available, via a periodic newsletter. Friends of AHM with email get special notice of AHM events, field trips, and get-togethers. This is a free service. AHM respects your privacy and will not share your name or contact information with any other organization.

All proceeds benefit **Advocates for Home Education in Massachusetts, Inc.**
PO Box 1307
Arlington, MA 02474
www.AHM.info

The planners and sponsors of this event reserve the right to cancel this function without penalty. The total amount of liability of the planners and sponsors will be limited to a refund of the registration fee.