



The War Memorial Building, at left, is the site of Rally Day for homeschoolers.

Rally Day ideal legislative field trip

Farris speaks on letting freedom ring — parental rights

By Lana Thornton

Rally Day was begun in March 1985. Even before Tennessee's home education law passed in May 1985, THEA hosted our first Rally Day at the Capitol to inform our legislators about homeschooling. In those tumultuous days when five Tennessee families were in court and some of those parents sentenced to jail, all because of homeschooling, our enemies launched rumors and false claims that not only we were not qualified to teach our own children, many of us were not even attempting to do so, but were only keeping them home to send them to work.

Sadly, some of our legislators believed these lies. We determined to "bring the good report" of what we were about to them and we did.

So that March THEA reserved the cafeteria in the Legislative Plaza for an evening reception and presentation of home education. Families, with some trepidation as Tennessee law still did not allow homeschooling, came from across the state to display their curricula, their school work, their science and 4-H exhibits, artwork and other school projects. Support groups provided food and homeschooled young ladies served the legislators homemade treats

in a lovely reception. Families met their legislators and explained to them our unique style of education.

THE RALLY: Don't Miss Tuesday, March 23

Every year since, THEA has hosted a Rally Day on Capitol Hill for the very same purpose, to inform our legislators of the benefits of home education, "bringing the good report of home education," to them, giving them a clear picture of our growing, united community which keeps a watchful eye on their actions, their voting records which can impact our liberties. Since that beginning, Rally Day has grown and that is somewhat of an understatement!.

Now we rent the War Memorial Auditorium, WMA, across the street from the Capitol for the morning Rally, where not only will we hear from Dr. Michael Farris, the world's leading expert on parental rights.

Afternoon Events:

- Parental rights symposium and Kingdom Academy of the Arts Student's Workshop at McKendree Methodist Church & Davy Crockett Statesman Student Congress Tournament Final Round in the

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Family doings

- **What is it:** Rally day celebrates home-schooling, lets legislators connect with us

- **Main event:** March 23, Tuesday, morning ceremony, speeches, music, 8:45 to 11 a.m.

- **After lunch:** Farris symposium at nearby church 1:30 to 4 p.m.

- **Plusses:** Field trip for children, family time away at state capital, meet those in authority

Rally Day: Putting a face on home education

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Senate Chamber of the Capitol Building

This year we'll host two special events in the afternoon; one, co-hosted with Christian Communicators of Tennessee, www.cctennessee.org, is the Final Round of a Student Congress Tournament held in the Senate Chamber in the Capitol Building.

The other is our special Parental Rights Symposium, titled "*DANGER: The Modern Day Assault on Your Family: Government's Quiet & Growing Usurpation of Your Parental Rights & What You Can Do about It*" in the afternoon at the McKendree United Methodist Church, 523 Church St. next to the main branch of the public library. This Parental Rights Symposium will give Mike Farris time to expand on his important presentation on the issue of parental rights.

Meanwhile, for the children ...

The Kingdom Academy of the Arts will provide a workshop for our students, ages 5-14 titled "It Takes a Family."

"It Takes a Family" will be a time of delightful instruction led by Malinda Tuggle, presenting our young people with a combination of hands-on arts and crafts activities, games and fun-filled, interactive discussions all focused around the theme, "It Takes a Family." The class will be divided into various age groups, offering activities appropriate per age level.

Learn more about Malinda & Kingdom Academy of the Arts at: www.kingdomacademyofthearts.com.

The details: There is no cost for children to attend the afternoon event, though donations will be accepted. THEA and Kingdom Academy of the Arts request that you register your attendance for the symposium, listing your names & the names (at least the first names) & ages of your children. This will guarantee that Malinda will have adequate supplies and instructors for the young people's session and there will be adequate hand-outs for the symposium if they are used.

Go to www.tnhea.org website to find the link for REGISTRATION for the afternoon Symposium on the HOME page. All classes for the young people will take place in the fellowship hall just downstairs from McKendree's sanctuary, which is the location of Dr. Farris' and the Romeike's presentation on parental rights.

Main event starts at 8:45 a.m.

So we'll gather on Tuesday March 23 at 8:45 a.m. in the WMA on Capitol Hill

for our program, concluding at 11 a.m. to celebrate home education and to learn about how to protect our rights as parents

In the Rally in the War Memorial Auditorium, Dr. Michael Farris will speak to us on the topic: "Let Freedom Ring: Protecting Parental Rights."

Dr. Michael Farris, one of home schooling's greatest visionaries and the world's leading expert on the parental rights amendment to the U.S. constitution will address us both in the rally and the afternoon parental rights amendment symposium.

Mike is co-founder and chairman of Home School Legal Defense Association, founder and chancellor of Patrick Henry College. He will speak to us about the erosion of parental rights in our nation and the effort to protect these rights by passage of a Parental Rights Amendment to the Constitution.

Joining him will be the Romeikes, the German Christians who fled their homeland



Michael Farris

to escape their government's persecution of their family because of homeschooling. They have sought refuge in East Tennessee where they have now settled and are home educating their children in freedom.

On Jan. 23 the Romeikes appeared before a Memphis-based federal immigration judge in a hearing to request political asylum from the German government's persecution in America. HSLDA says on its website, "In a case with international ramifications, Immigration Judge Lawrence O. Burman granted the political asylum application of a German homeschooling family." The Romeikes were granted for the first time ever, political asylum because of persecution based on Christian home education.

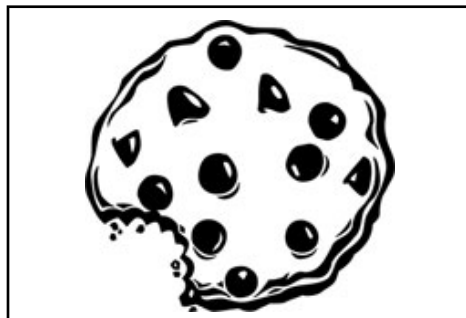
What goes on in the Rally?

During the rally, lots takes place! A hundred or more people will be on stage at one time or another. The Nashville Notes Homeschool Band will thrill us with their talent and patriotic music. Legislators will be honored. Outstanding students, two from each of the eight THEA chapters, will be identified and congratulated. Student speakers will include the Junior Varsity and Senior Varsity first place winners of the Sara Lee Harris Apotheotics Worldview Oratory Contest (see more about the contest at www.cctennessee.org. And of course, Mike Farris will address us.

WHAT CAN WE DO at RALLY DAY?

1 Private appointment with your two legislators

One of the most important parts of our Rally Day is you,



COOKIE DELIVERY

The West Tennessee Home Education Association for more than a decade has prepared 180 dozen cookies and sweet treats in our signature red, white & blue gift bags for the staff in our legislators' offices. WE NEED YOU to take these with you to the offices of your legislators when you visit. Pick them up at the cookie tables on the first floor level of the Legislative Plaza (the lowest level within their office complex) before you go to your appointments. Even if you do not make an appointment with your legislators you can deliver cookies — it's fun. Legislative staffers watch for our cookie gift bags on Rally Day! Help with this effort between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

German Christians win U.S. asylum, live in Tennessee

(From citizenlinkblog.com/drivethru)

We can learn a lot from the Romeikes, the first family to ever win political asylum in the United States from persecution against homeschoolers.

They recently fled their idyllic home in Germany for a duplex in Morristown, Tenn. A legal brief gives a dramatic account of their case:

... At about 7:30 a.m., armed and uniformed police officers entered the Romeike home. Without a written order, the officers forcibly took the Romeike children from the home and drove the crying, traumatized children to the government school.

That was just the beginning. In addition to police visits, the family was slapped with hefty fines, culminating with the threat of losing their home and maybe even custody of their children.

What was their horrible crime? Uwe Romeike, a piano teacher, and his wife, Hannelore, are Christians who dared to home school their five children (the youngest age 3). They felt the German public schools were contradicting their deeply held religious convictions. So they risked jail time and literally gave up everything—connections to relatives, financial security, their house—for the freedom to direct their children's upbringing.



The Romeike family, refugees from oppression in Germany, the historic leader of state-run mass schooling. From left are Josua, 9; Uwe, the father; Christian, 7; Damaris, 4; Hannelore, the wife and mother; Lydia, 11; and Daniel, 12.

It makes you think, doesn't it? How much would we be willing to give up to protect our kids and follow our convictions? The prospect of police knocking down our doors to take our children isn't as far removed as we'd like to believe. It's still happening in modern-day Europe.

Clearly, we take a lot for granted here in the land of the free. But the Romeikes' plight gives us a dramatic reminder why we need to remain vigilant to protect the freedoms we hold dear.

After all, it wasn't that long ago, that Californians were fighting for their freedom to home school. And day after day, we hear more stories about public schools forcing kids to learn lessons that

are antithetical to their parents' faith. We're also hearing more disturbing statements from leaders in our political and court systems, asserting that religious freedoms will lose when it comes to a conflict with "gay rights" goals.

If the current trend of sacrificing parental rights and religious freedoms in the name of "tolerance" continues—it's foreseeable that there could come a day in this country when home schooling is the only option for people of faith. That's why it's worth our time and investment to stay involved in local elections and the legislative process, and educate ourselves with tools like CitizenLink.com.

The Romeikis understood the true cost of protecting these freedoms. Do we?

Tennessee home school families scheduling appointments with your state senator and representative. Please do this! Call now and make a 10-15 minute appointment with your two legislators. If can work this out the best times will be either prior to the Rally, before 8:45 a.m. or as the rally ends before the symposium between 11 a.m and 1 p.m. Remember these are your representatives in a republican, representative form of government, dependant on your vote to hold office and therefore accountable to you.

So we very much encourage homeschooling dads and moms to bring your children and purpose to visit your

legislators, represent Tennessee home educators and count this as a civics lesson for your children. Call their offices and let their receptionist know that you wish to meet them as you'll be on Capitol Hill for Rally Day. Stop at the tables in the lower level of the legislative Plaza before you make your visit and take the gift bag of cookies to the staff along with the program booklet.

Plan to bring them a letter from your children, thanking them for their service to our state. Take your camera and have a picture made with them. Ask them for an autographed copy of The Tennessee Blue Book which is a great resource of Tennessee

history.

To "Find Your Legislator" use your voter registration card to check your district number and go to this link: <http://www.legislature.state.tn.us>, or call 615 -741-3011, the Legislative Information number.

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Display table

Like almost all groups that lobby the legislature, we reserve the hallway space along the walls in the Legislative Plaza (the lowest level within their office complex)

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Rally Day

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for you to bring tri-fold displays of your students' science projects, artwork, sports teams and mock trial trophies, 4-H exhibits and support group activities. All of these give a visual presentation to our lawmakers of the vibrancy and accomplishments and socialization of home educators — they bring the good report of home education! For the space requirements, we ask you to bring either 3' or 6' displays. You need to contact Jennifer Lindsey by Monday, March 15th to let her know of your display, so that we have adequate table space. The display tables are set up in the LP in the afternoon on Monday, March 22, and taken down in the early afternoon on Tuesday, March 23. Contact Jennifer Lindsey by Monday, March 15, if you wish to have space on a display table. Her e-mail address is: jjlindsey@clearwire.net.

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Legislators' luncheon reception

THEA serves our legislators and their staff a luncheon on Rally Day. About 500 people go through our reception line manned by homeschool teens. We serve them a Tennessee lunch of Bar-B-Que, baked beans, potato salad, grasshopper bars (made by Rutherford County homeschool moms and daughters) and tea. During this time our student musicians entertain with beautiful music. We have featured harp, flute, guitar, and string players in large groups, solos, trios and quartets. All of these home educators are "bringing the good report of home education" as we present our unique educational endeavors to our lawmakers.

Let's join together as we rally to celebrate homeschooling, communicating to our lawmakers that protection of parental rights is foundational to our lifestyle and educational choice. We promote home education as we rally together at our state Capitol bringing the good report of home schooling to our lawmakers. Together we bring a strong message to those who make our laws that home schooling is thriving in Tennessee, the rights of parents must be protected and guaranteed by our state laws and we are here to hold our lawmakers accountable!

Mark your calendars, make your plans to come. Check the THEA web site: www.tnhea.org for more info.

Don't forget to make your appointments with your legislators.

Don't miss speech, debate events

Once again Rally Day will highlight two Speech and Debate activities sponsored by the Christian Communicators of Tennessee, CCT, THEA's sister organization. See: www.cctennessee.org and www.tnhea.org for more information.

Student congress tournament

the Davy Crockett Statesman's Debate Tournament begins on Monday, March 22nd with two rounds and concludes with the Final Round in the Senate Chamber on Capitol Hill on Tuesday afternoon, March 23rd beginning at 1:00 after our Rally in the War Memorial Auditorium. Registration deadline is Monday, March 1. For more information about entering this Tournament, go to: <http://www.cctennessee.org/event/davy-crockett-statesmans-debate-tournament>

If you are not participating as a student Senator but are interested in Student Congress, you are invited to come over to the Senate Chamber and observe Student Congress from the upstairs gallery. You can come and go, but please do so quietly.

Sara Lee Harris worldview/apologetics oratory contest

Once again, THEA will award cash prizes for the 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners of the Sara Lee Harris Worldview Oratory Contest in both the Junior and Senior Divisions. The Junior Division contest is an Apologetics Competition. The Senior Division is a Mars Hill Competition. The deadline for



Patrick Henry, a patriot fiercely opposed to centralized government under the federal constitution, is best known for his public utterance, "Give me liberty, or give me death."

submission of your speech is midnight on Tuesday, Feb. 23. For complete information on these events, go to: <http://cctennessee.org/page/apologetics-sara-lee-harris-worldview-oratory-contest>

VOLUNTEER TO HELP — We need You! If you wish to help in some way to make this Rally Day effective and powerful, please give Lana Thornton a call at 615-293-7140. If I can't take your call, please leave me a message with your phone number and I'll be sure to get back to you!

BLOCK OF ROOMS: BEST WESTERN DOWNTOWN

If you wish to come in on Monday night, March 22 and have the most convenient lodging for Rally Day, we recommend that you stay at the Best Western Downtown Convention Center, 711 Union Street, catty-cornered across the street from the War Memorial Auditorium. THEA has a block of double rooms reserved for \$94/night. Regular charge for these rooms is \$104.99 /

night. They serve a complimentary breakfast. Their web site is: <http://www.bestwesterntennessee.com/hotels/best-western-downtown-convention-center/index.html>. Phone: 615-242-4311, mention Tennessee Home Education Association to receive the discounted price. Check the THEA web site for other room blocks as we hope to negotiate a better rate at the Best Western.

Visit your friends at www.smhea.org