



VAST Network Newsletter

Meeting Your Special Educational Needs

256-829-1074

Quarterly Newsletter

www.vastnetwork.org

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Final Issue of VAST Network Newsletter!

Our Next Issue will be Special Friends News In July

Summer Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 1:00 - 5:00

Closed in June

Mother's Day Extravaganza!

Special Mom's Retreat

May 9th and 10th, 2008

Cost \$100

Pre-Register by April 25th

Spa Treatments all the way!

End of School Year Picnic!

Here at the Farm! Milk the cow, gather eggs, ride a horse!

Friday May 30th at 1:00PM

Vast Network And Christie's Events

Office Hours

Mon -Thur 1:00 - 5:00

Consulting 1:00 - 5:00

Sunday by Appointment only

APRIL

April 11

Cindy Rushton will Host Christie Berry at an online Conference... Check out the **Ultimate Home School Expo** at www.ultimatehomeschoolexpo.com If you miss the conference it will be recorded so you can listen anytime!

April and May

VAST will be conducting **end of year reports** and interviews. Please watch for your paperwork in the mail and call to set up an appointment with Christie.

MAY

May 9-10

MOTHER'S DAY EXTRAVAGANZA!

5th Annual Special Mom's Retreat

Register now!!! We are filling up Fast.

Be prepared to be pampered to the max!!!

You will be home on Mother's Day, so don't let The family stop you!!! Let them know this event Would be a wonderful way to gift you for this Special Day!

Join us for lots of rest, pampering, and relaxation. To sign up, call 256-829-1074 or go to www.specialfriendsnews.com and click on retreats

P.S. Don't forget the FUN!!! Bring cameras!

May 30th 1:00 Pm Bring a lunch!

End of School Year Picnic at the Farm! This event will be held at Christie's Farm. Please wear comfortable clothes that can get dirty!

JUNE

Office Closed for the month.

Watch for Special Friends Newsletter in July!

Area Events

Check It Out

Check out the community web sites and watch the paper or call your local COC and Libraries, for information on many social activities in your area that will keep you and your children learning and growing. Look OUTSIDE the box!

StateWide Events

A MUST SEE!!!!!!

ULTIMATE HOMESCHOOL EXPO

www.ultimatehomeschoolexpo.com

This is a SPECTACULAR EVENT!!!

An ONLINE home school series that lasts 5 whole days!!!

April 28th through May 3rd, 2008. (also special sessions from now until then)

There is so much happening during this Event there is no way to tell you all of it.

Pre-recorded workshops online! A multitude Of speakers, homeschool workshops, vendor workshops, Free ebooks, Free bonus audios, Door prizes, and Special gifts, Chats, Q&A sessions ALL WEEK.

Dr. Christie Berry will be offering her expertise on April 11th. This event is designed for you to retrieve all this information to make home schooling easy and Fun in the comfort of your own home!!!!

You may preview recordings RIGHT NOW.

PLEASE CHECK OUT THIS WEBSITE!!!

You'll never be sorry!!!!

=====

Alabama Autism Society www.autism-alabama.org

Check out these other events with the Autism Society:

Events to watch for:

1. Spring Extreme Makeover to Feature RI Autistic Family
2. Build-A-Bear--April 5th.
3. New Book Provides insights through Personal Stories.
4. A.S.A. Annual Teacher Appreciation Dinner--May 9th.
5. WALK FOR AUTISM!!!!!! April 12th.
6. Autism Breakthrough: Girl's Writings Explain Her Behavior and Feelings.
7. Educational Lecture: Behavioral Supports for Autism Spectrum Disorders: Autism to Asperger's Presenters: Kerry M. Mataya, M.Ed. And Joe Carter,

(Area Events Continued on page 9)

News letter changes!!!

Newsletter will no longer be called VAST Network News!

The new name will be **Special Friends News**. We hope this will not be confusing. There will be pretty much the same format with a few exceptions.

1. **We will no longer print local events**, as they are printed in the local newspaper and announced on local T.V. and radio stations.

The **ONLY** exceptions will be local or state events that are Nationally Advertised events that are specific to Special Needs.

We **WILL** also report ALL large and important National and out of State events pertaining to our Children's Special Needs.

2. There will still be Vast news in the newsletter but on a smaller scale. An Event Calendar will be posted in the VAST website for your convenience.

Web Sites

www.vastnetwork.org

Will still contain all download Home Schooling forms, Member-Only Site, local event calendar, upcoming school activities.

www.specialfriendsnews.com

Contains all Books, C.D.s, workshops, tapes, games, and sets for anyone to purchase online.

www.christieberry.com

Contains Dr. Berry's research, consulting information, etc.

ATTENTION ALL VAST MEMBERS

Dr. Berry has found there is a need for each home schooling teacher to learn much more about how to intervene in the behavior of their children.

This is such an important area of the success or failure in the teaching of our Special Children and the methods used will surprise you because they are so easy and "User Friendly". Thanks for your cooperation.

Coming May 1st.

She has decided there will be a **MANDATORY** workshop for all VAST members to attend. It is called "**Behavior Interventions**." This is a 12 hour course that can be downloaded from the MEMBERS ONLY link on Vast Network site. It may also be purchased on the SPECIAL FRIENDS NEWS website for non-members.

If you do not have a computer and are not able to access the website for this course, please let us know and we will see that you receive it by mail.

This course includes a workbook and audio. Workbook must be turned in after completion of the course. At that time, it will be checked by Dr. Berry and returned. You will also receive a certificate of achievement and a free motivational booklet from Dr. Berry.

Please do not feel threatened by this requirement. You will find SO much success in treating your children's behavior problems you will be totally amazed with the results. Your children will be delighted as well! Smile!!!!!! You have a wonderful surprise coming!!

*****clip this off and send it in.*****

What would you like in the Newsletter

Please circle the items in the lists below that you would like to see in the new newsletter...

Articles on: Disabilities Subjects _____ How to teach: Reading Math Science Teaching Methods
Social Studies Geography History Physical Problems Health Curriculum
Donna's Desk Activity Pages Letters from parents Jokes Funny stories Cartoons Q&A

Other suggestions _____

Yes/ No

I would be willing to submit: Articles Letters Questions Funny stories Activities

Other _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send this in to us (address/email on back) and receive a free gift!

Going in Circles: What am I Doing Wrong? (Or Right?)

I talk to many moms and dads that feel like they are beating their heads against a wall trying to teach a concept to their child. Sometimes the child knows how to do it today, but next week forgets it and they have to reteach it again. They usually ask, “What am I doing wrong?” Actually, the answer is, “Nothing!” We all learn in circles. First, let’s learn what we do with information.

Learning Systems:

We do 4 basic things with information: the systems are called “Learning systems”

Perception/Reception/Input

Processing:

Short term memory

recall

Storage, long term memory

Expression/Output

I like to use a computer as an example

Input comes in through the senses: see, hear, feel, smell, taste (keyboard, mouse, touchpad)

The brain:

Processes the information (RAM)

Stores it into the Long Term

Memory (ROM)

Recalls the info as needed
(RAM)

Output goes through communi-
cation:

Writing, speaking, body lan-
guage, emotions and behavior
(printer, monitor)

Learning Processes:

Now let’s look at areas of inter-
ference that may effect your
child’s learning. The information
is collected, processed and ex-
pressed through our primary

senses or learning systems. Children with a disability have a ‘glitch’ or interference in one or more of the learning systems or in one of the learning processes listed below. The usual areas of interference are:

Attention

Visual

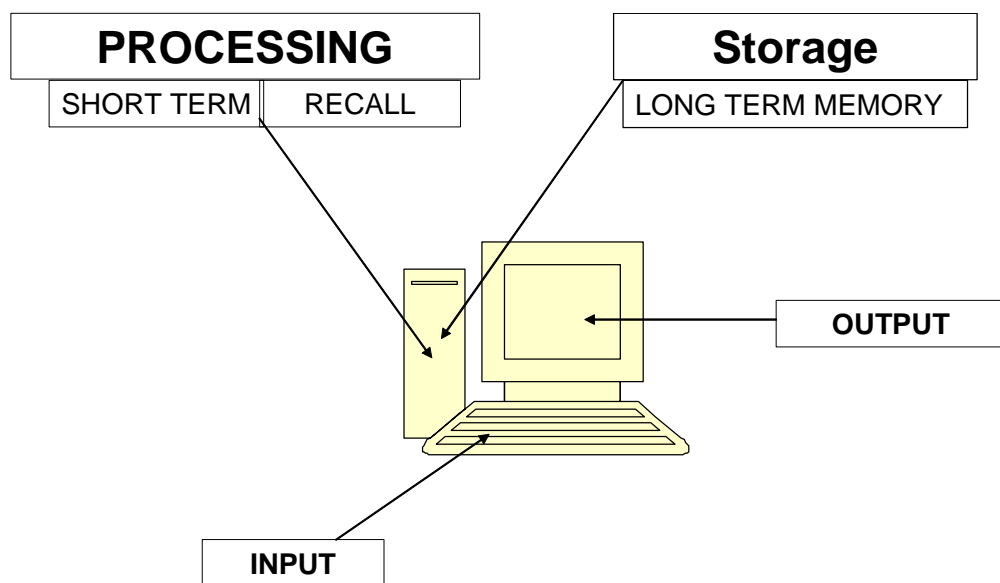
Auditory

Motor

The more interferences, the more areas of difficulty. The more areas of impact (glitches) the more severe the disability.

Ineffective Learning Systems – Perception, Processing, Expression

Ineffective Learning Processes – Attention, Visual, Auditory, Motor



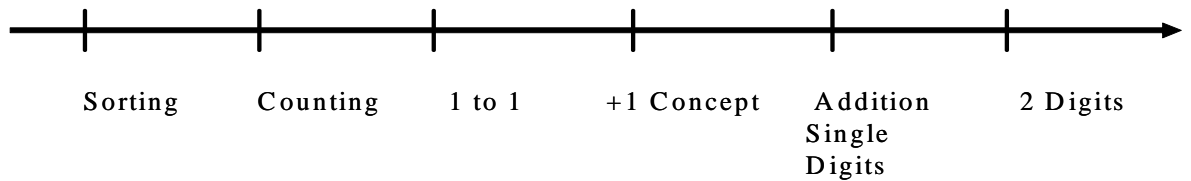
(Continued on page 5)

There may be strengths or weaknesses in any of these areas. When there is a weakness, it is an interference. If more than one area is impacted by a weakness, or glitch, then the disability is more severe. This is referred to as layers of interference. It is important to identify where your child's interferences are to make a good decision on where to start to work with your child's individual strengths and weaknesses and create a good education plan.

Cyclic vs. Linear Learning:

Most individuals are taught in the 'building block' or Linear fashion. Special needs children need to be taught in circles. Using the example of learning math, a child might learn to sort and then learn to count by rote. Then they may need to go back and re-learn to sort and then learn 1 to 1 correspondence, then back to rote counting and so-on, round and round, several times through the learning process.

Linear Teaching

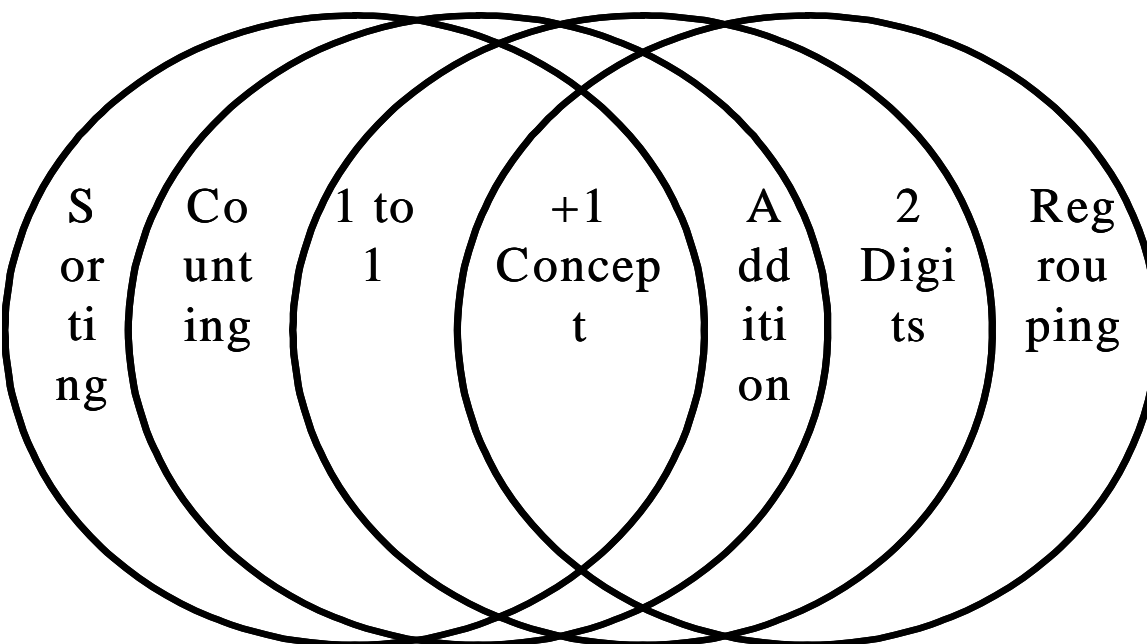


This circular motion continues through all aspects of learning and throughout the

child's education. So, if you feel like you are going in circles, that's ok, you are supposed to! That's how children learn. They need this cyclic learning to embed the information into the long term memory. Without this circular motion, processing and recalling information is difficult or impossible for the child and results in failure.

Most families home educating special children need to school year round. The break in the summer causes

Cyclic Teaching



them to forget much of what they learned throughout the year. It is important that they follow a frequent, brief, intense program that will last the entire year. This type of program will embed information into the child's long term memory

There are 3 parts to the process:
•Frequency – how often - Short peri-

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ods of exposure, many times a day

This gets the info into the short term memory

•Intensity – how much – Intense focus on a very specific skill

This helps the information become important enough to remember

•Duration – how long – Over several months (or year (s), depending on child’s disability)

This embeds the information into the long term memory

They will have trouble working for 4 hours a day on academics and will need flexibility in that area as well. Usually, a child will be able to manage 2 hours of intense education a day, the rest of the time education will look more like play, vocational training, house hold chores, or life skills.

To Remember:

*Always come back to the past things you taught and **REVIEW**

*Walk into a material, back out, walk back in

*You will always feel ahead or behind... don’t worry about grade levels – your children need to learn how to learn

*Review with variety (use lots of different material and activities to review)

Balanced Approach:

Finally, try to create a balance in your child’s program. Use remediation for trouble areas but also incorporate fun, easy activities that will give the child success while he is still learning. Compensate when necessary for success and when appropriate. Here are some ways to determine when to remediate and when to compensate.

Remedial – Trying to ‘fix’ the problems

Strengthen a weak area

Some things are fixable but some problems for disabled children are not

Remediation is a lot of hard work for both the parent and the child

*Math – manipulatives, concrete concepts

*Reading – decoding for auditory in-

terference, sight words for visual interference

*Writing – work on expressive language and processing, OT

Compensatory – Compensation works around the problems

Teaching the child to cope with the weak area and compensate for it.

Compensation is how adults handle most weaknesses

*Math – Calculator, and X charts

*Reading – Books on tape or some-one reading

*Writing – computers, voice activated software

Balance – Using both remediation and compensation Give the child a balanced program

Balance provides both success and hard work and creates a love for learning

*Math – Calculator for reviewing old concepts, manipulatives for new concepts

*Reading – Easy books and books on tape for reading in content areas or ‘fun’ reading, decoding/sight words for new vocabulary and reading practice

*Writing – Remediate with Occupational Therapy and for language and processing, use computers, oral review or picture drawing for content areas.

So, What are you doing wrong? Nothing! You must go in circles to learn. For children with difficulties learning we just go in more circles in order to get the information into the long term memory! Going in Circles? You’re doing it RIGHT!

“EVERY CHILD HAS A GOD GIVEN PURPOSE. IF THAT PURPOSE IS TO BE GODLY SANDPAPER TO SMOOTH OFF OUR ROUGH EDGES, THEY HAVE GREATLY FULFILLED THEIR PURPOSE.”

Dr. Christie Berry

Summer and Holiday Learning

Don't let your children lose the skills they have learned through the year during their holiday and summer breaks! Follow these habits through the summer a few minutes a day to keep those skills going and give the children a boost for the upcoming school year!

Math

Instant recall of basic math facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) keeps math easy and fun.

- ✦ Practice math drills daily.
- ✦ Review math facts several times a day.
- ✦ Oral drills in the car or at the pool while they play are best.

Print up practice sheets. You can make them with free software from Basic Facts Worksheet Factory:

<http://www.schoolhousetech.com/products/download.htm>

Reading and Memory

Practice reading daily and use memory verses to keep memories sharp. Most Libraries have a summer reading program, get involved!

- ✦ Daily Bible Reading.
- ✦ Share Bible memory verses each day at meal times.
- ✦ Read good poetry or hymns.
- ✦ Memorize poems or hymns.

Read aloud daily.

Vocabulary & Spelling

Work on new vocabulary/spelling words daily. Create a Word Wall or Word Bank to write new words on to review daily through the break.

- ✦ Learn a new vocabulary/spelling word every day.
- ✦ Read the word, then pronounce and spell it together.
- ✦ Write it in your word bank (on the wall).
- ✦ Define the new word and use it in a sentence.
- ✦ Review the new words daily.

Use new words in crossword puzzles or word searches that can be made with free software with Word Search Factory Lite:

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Beautiful Woman

For attractive lips, speak words of kindness. For lovely eyes, seek out the good in people. For a slim figure, share your food with the hungry. For beautiful hair, let a child run his/her fingers through it once a day. For poise, walk with the knowledge that you never walk alone. People, even more than things, have to be restored, renewed, revived, reclaimed, and redeemed; never throw out anyone. Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, you will find one at the end of each of your arms. As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands; one for helping yourself, and the other for helping others.

If you share this with another woman, something good will happen . you will boost another woman's self esteem, and she will know that you care about her.

This was written by Audrey Hepburn years ago and read at her funeral years later.

Links to Check out!

If you do not have a computer, please take advantage of the Libraries' computers to check out these links. They are well worth your while.

Special Needs Education

<http://www.pitt.edu/~poole/eledSpecEd.html>



From Communicating Partners Yahoo Group

By Dr. James MacDonald (reprinted with permission)

Hi all, I am on a strange sleep cycle so this came to me tonight. Many parents want their child to learn and perform facts, to get ready for school. Many programs for autism and other late talking conditions focus on teaching facts and skills thinking that 'cognition'--or 'knowing things' comes first. Parents often seem more interested in their child knowing the colors and numbers than in taking turns and playing and communicating with sounds. Being social seems less important than knowing things for school.

This memo asks which comes first cognition or social life?

As you may know Communicating Partners focuses on getting a child social before getting him ready for school. I hope this will help clarify why we do that.

QUESTION. Which comes first cognitive learning or social learning?

We have been told that our son Sean, needed to be trained to learn cognitive skills like numbers and colors for school and to reduce his "autistic" habits and become compliant before he will be come social and communicative.

Why does Communicating Partners begin by helping a child become social first?

Answer:

There are many heavier answers to this question , but sometimes a light one is the strongest. We begin by helping a child become social because it is the most enjoyable thing to do with a child. We and you get something personal and intimate when we get a child to "see" us and really respond and care. So , if enjoying your child and finding ways for him or her to enjoy you is at all important, then getting your child social is just a lot more fun than teaching him for school.

And,now my more serious but less exciting answers:

First, because that is the way child develop and learn. Most scholars in child development agree that the key to learning in daily life is by socially interacting with people the child is attached with and who act and communicate in ways the child can do. In fact it is now evident that a child will learn more of what he needs to be included in the social world from frequent daily interactions spontaneously than he will from intensive drilling on facts and skills for school. Making a child a successful student does not make him less autistic in real life and less isolated from society. Early and intensive social relationships are needed for that.

A second critical reason to begin by helping a child be spontaneously social is that the more directive and intensive academic and compliance approaches can have the effect of discouraging the child from being social and learning what he needs at the natural movement. Such a child can easily become dependent on his teacher or trainer and not learn how to socially learn on his own. Then he becomes a student who knows what others think he should learn but he does not learn what he needs to effectively navigate his own interpersonal world. I know children with autism who perform, and answer very well but are at a loss in daily interactions where his real life learning must take place.

A third reason for our focus of social learning first is that we and others have been very successful with many children and families in reducing the time that children are isolated from society. Both our research findings and our clinical reports from families show that many children with autism can become social when their families enter the child's world responsively and nurture who they are becoming rather than distrusting their social potential and trying to make them into compliant students learning a set curriculum rather than an individualized life.

A fourth reason for our focus on social learning first is that it is something that anyone in the child's life can do. Treatment is no longer limited to trained and paid persons, but is available to anyone interacting daily with the child. Children clearly can learn in every interaction if it involves two features: one, something the child can do, and something the child is internally motivated to do, and three, something the child can use in daily life.

Area Events (Continued from page 2)

M.Ed.

8. 2008 Glenwood Endowed Lecture Series presented by the UAB School Of Public Health.

9. Madison plans to start assisted ride service soon.

You can download all forms for registration to these Events and catch up on ALL the news from the AL Chapter Newsletter.

There are MANY exciting things Happening this Spring and Summer. You may get more help regarding activities by Emailing:

sherronostrander@gmail.com

DISNEY WORLD TRIP

[www.homeschoolblogger.com/Everest/](http://www.homeschoolblogger.com/Everest/Disney+Trip+2008)

[Disney+Trip+2008](http://www.homeschoolblogger.com/Everest/Disney+Trip+2008)

Everest Academy will be going to Disney World This year. They are a home schooling group located just outside B'ham.

The trip will include a 5-day hopper pass to all four parks,

Plus four visits to either Typhoon Lagoon and/or Disney Quest. It also includes one Y.E.S. program for students.

Please check out more info at their home school blog listed above.

CRUISE !!!!

www.homeschoolblogger.com/Everest/Cruise+2009/

Everest Academy is also planning a 5 Day Cruise!!

When: April 25th through 29th, 2009

Where: Western Caribbean on board the Carnival Fun Ship.

Check out all the fun events and details at the Website!

HUNTSVILLE AREA

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A fifth reason is that, contrary to the belief and practice of many, most children diagnosed on the autism spectrum can become much more social and genuinely communicative than they are. Observation of many children with autism reveals that very little attention is usually given to seeing if, indeed, the child can socialize with persons who actually enter his world of sensation and action.

James D. MacDonald, Ph.D./CCC

Communicating Partners website:

www.jamesdmacdonald.org

(614) 447-0768

Asperger's Support Group Meeting

3rd Thursday of every month

11:00 AM at the Meteor Buffet

751 Highway 72 East, which is the corner of HWY 72 and Memorial Parkway North, Huntsville, AL 35811 Phone: (256) 852-8998. They know us at the door, just tell them you're with "the Group".

Kids are allowed. If they bring Gameboys or books, that is a plus.

Contact Sharon at 830-0771 or 724-2528

Making Connections Autism Support Group

Meets the last Saturday of each month at Faith Presbyterian Church in Huntsville, AL

3:00—4:30 PM

Contact Julie at 256-998-6129

www.makingconnectionsasd.com

ADVOCACY TRAINING

April 28th, 2008.

2 sessions: 1:00-3:30 pm; 6:30-9:00 pm

1115 Church St., Huntsville, AL.

Contact Angela Kimbrell at Childcare

Education Resources; 256-764-9232 or Email her at angela@certraining.org to Register or for more information.

This training is for parents of children With Special Needs who are enrolled in Public School. They will learn how to Become Advocates for their children While in a Public School Setting.

HUNTSVILLE MUSEUM OF ARTS

www.hsvmuseum.org.

Some great new exhibits and art Classes beginning this Spring.

SPACE!! SPACE!!! SPACE!!!

www.spacecamp.com

Email: spevents@spacecamp.com

The U.S. Space and Rocket Center has a great deal of excitement coming up for the Spring and Summer of 2008.

Check out their website for LOTS of interesting Education, excitement and FUN!!!

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BIRMINGHAM AREA

HOMESCHOOL PROM

SPRING DANCE "PROM"

Where:

Gabrella Manor,
8912 Fourth Ave. S, Birmingham, AL.

When:

Thursday, May 1st, 2008

Time:

7:00 to 10:00PM

Dress:

Semi-formal*

Cost: \$20.00 per person

All homeschoolers 9th grade and up (age) are invited with or without a date. Date need not be home schooled.

Snacks and sodas are provided. There will be a DJ, a Professional Photographer (\$20.00) per picture, and a

Security Guard.

For directions to Gabrella Manor, go to

www.gabrellamanor.com

For more info email elizabethdonnell@yahoo.com

TIGERS FOR TOMORROW

www.tigersfortomorrow.org

Untamed Mountain in Attalla, AL. is The site of this exotic animal rescue Sanctuary.

There are over 40 large carnivores, a petting zoo featuring farm animals and small exotics. They also cover learning objectives in life Science and agriculture.

Taking reservations for home school groups and school field trips now through Nov. 2008

You may also call them @ 256-524-4150.

Sounds like a great learning experience for Us all!!!!

MOBILE AREA

AUTISM SOCIETY OF ALABAMA

www.autism-alabama.org

Annual Autism Walk is about to get underway in Mobile on APRIL 3rd, 2008.

Meet your legislators at the State House, and enjoy entertainment and refreshments and much more. Register to walk now and receive

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<http://www.schoolhousetech.com/products/download.htm>

For vocabulary words check out these sites on the internet:

<http://gemini.es.brevard.k12.fl.us/sheppard/reading/dolch.html>

http://esl.about.com/library/vocabulary/bl1000_list1.htm

<http://www.freevocabulary.com>.

<http://www.uoregon.edu/~osmirnov/gre/list.html>

Writing

Keep up the work on those notebooks, journals and scrap books!

- ✦ Have your child to write in their journal or notebook every day.
- ✦ Have him write a report on an interesting book or something learned, he can read it in the evening at dinner.
- ✦ Find a distant family member or pen pal to write letters to.

Make home made books.

Science and Social Studies

- ✦ Have globes, maps, and time-lines available for viewing at all times.
 - ✦ Let children follow in a road atlas when you travel.
 - ✦ Have them map the route you will be taking on a trip.
 - ✦ Locate places that you encounter on your trip, in your reading, or in the news.
 - ✦ Visit local museums
 - ✦ Plant a garden or visit some
- Study the stars/constellations

A Walk t-shirt. You can support Autism Awareness And have fun at the same time. Registration Fee: \$25.

Mother's Day Extravaganza!

May 9th and 10th

5th Annual Special Mom's Retreat
Spa Retreat for Special Moms
Just in time for Mother's Day

This year's Special Moms Retreat is going to be more than a re-treat, it will be a big treat for mom's on Mother's Day weekend!

The pre-retreat activity will be at the Ave Maria Grotto. If you have not been able to attend our pre-retreat activity in the past you have missed out on a wonderfully reflective, enjoyable and peaceful walk through the Gardens at the Grotto!

Our guest speaker will encourage you on Friday night with insights and laughs. An opportunity to meet other Special Moms and make new friends will abound during the 24 hour retreat!

Saturday will bring a spa-like atmosphere with massage, manicures, pedicures and facials. Christie will talk about how we should take breaks for our own health and wellbeing. There will be opportunity for walks in solitude on the 200 acre Monastery grounds, watching the ducks and geese on the pond, and visiting with friends, new and old. All and more to perk you up and rejuvenate your body, mind and spirit!

This will definitely be our most enjoyable retreat ever! Come join us!

Here's How you can Participate!

The retreat will be held in Cullman, AL at the Sacred Heart Monastery.

Pre-registration is Required, No Refunds.

COST: \$100 Includes overnight accommodations, breakfast and lunch on Saturday, and Spa treatments! (\$5 more for the Ave Maria Grotto pre-retreat activity.)

You can register at www.christieberry.org (visa, mastercard, discover, paypal), call the office at 256-829-1074, or email donna@onefaithmin.org.

Views from Donna's Desk

As I was searching the website to find a famous person to create an activity for the month of May, I ran across a site called R.E.C.I.N.D. It was a link with information on Florence Nightingale who was born in May.

I found R.E.C.I.N.D. to be very interesting because it is about Chronic Immunological and Neurological Diseases; (C.I.N.D.) Since I am affected with Fibromyalgia Syndrome, I read on:

"These illnesses, characterized by cognitive problems, chronic muscle and joint pain, extremely poor stamina, and numerous other symptoms, have been afflicting people around the world in alarming numbers." (taken from C.I.N.D. website)

During the 1980's the medical profession wrote these off as psychosomatic illnesses.

Because these syndromes are often misdiagnosed and not easily recognized this group of sufferers has come together to form this organization to inform and enlighten. Many medical professionals in the group believe all the syndromes are connected and each person may have one or more of the interconnected symptoms.

C.I.N.D. covers all the following syndromes: ME (Myalgic Encephalomyelitis); CFS (Chronic Fatigue); FMS (Fibromyalgia);GWS Gulf War Syndrome; and MCSS (Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Syndrome). These illnesses, characterized by cognitive problems, chronic muscle and joint pain, extremely poor stamina, and numerous other symptoms, have been afflicting people around the world in alarming numbers.

This Group organized and R.ES.C.I.N.D. stands for Repeal Existing Stereotype of Immunological and Neurological Diseases.

Go to www.rescindinc.org to read about this group and learn more about these diseases.

P.S. I decided to do an activity regarding the life of Florence Nightingale!!

"I HAVE A QUESTION"

Why do croutons come in airtight packages? Aren't they just stale bread to begin with??

~MOTHER'S DAY EXTRAVAGANZA~



*Pamper your favorite
Lady!!!*

*Send her to the
Special Mom's
Retreat!!*

When?

On the 9th and 10th of May, 2008

Where?

*Sacred Heart
Monastery,
Cullman, Al.*

*Let her rest and relax and still have her back on Mother's Day
Events:*

Pre-Retreat Activity Friday At Ave Maria Grotto (\$5.00)

Retreat includes:

*Massage, Manicure, Pedicure, Speaker, and of course plenty of Rest
and Relaxation.*

*Costs: \$100.00 (Non-Refundable)~ Includes Breakfast and Lunch on
Sat; Overnight Accommodations and Spa Treatments.*

Deadline to pre-register and payment due April 25th.

Contact VAST Network

256-829-1074 or donna@onefaithmin.org

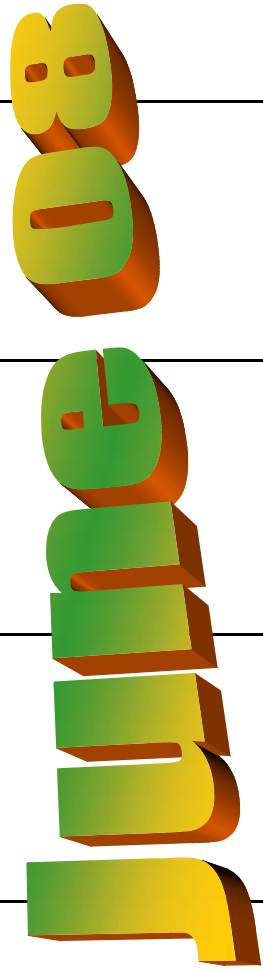
Pre-registration required

Pay Online at www.specialfriendsnews.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 Christie Speaking on the Ultimate Home School Expo www.talkshoe.com	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Passover	21	22 Earth Day	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	April 08		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 National Day of Prayer	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 Mother's Day Extravaganza Retreat	10 Mother's Day Extravaganza Retreat
11 Mother's Day	12	13	14	15	16	17 Armed Forces Day
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Memorial Day Observed	27	28	29	30 End of Year Picnic at the Farm! 1:00 PM	31 Memorial Day

MAY 08

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1 VAST Office Closed for the month	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Flag Day	
15 Father's Day	16	17	18	19	20 First Day of Summer	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30						

Put these words in Alphabetical order:

- Service
- Honor
- Valor
- Defend
- Courage
- Marching
- Soldier
- Army
- Navy
- Air force
- Marines
- Fight
- Flag
- Freedom

Write an Acrostic Poem for the se words

Example :

Freedom

America

Memorial Day

F	reedom
L	ove
A	merica
G	lory

Study our National Flag

Study America’s Wars and learn about the soldiers that helped us have freedom.

Make an ABC list: find military words that start with each letter of the alphabet.

Write a letter. You can send a letter or email to the troops. Check out this site to find out how!

http://www.americasupportsyounil/AmericaSupportsYou/letters_messages.html

**SPRING IS
HERE!!!
BUTTERFLIES ARE TOO!!!!**

LET'S SEE HOW MUCH YOU KNOW ABOUT BUTTERFLIES.

Pick the correct answer and write it on the space.

Butterfly babies are known

as_____.

1. Eggs
2. Cocoons
3. Caterpillars

Butterflies eat_____.

1. Tree Bark
2. Leaves
3. Banana Peels

Butterflies lay eggs

on_____.

1. Leaves
2. Potato Chips
3. The Ground

Butterflies like to drink nectar

from_____.

1. A Jar
2. Flowers
3. Nectarines

After baby Butterflies hatch from the eggs they build

_____.

1. A log cabin
2. A web
3. A co-coon

While in there, they turn into

_____.

1. Birds
2. Butterflies
3. Termites

Florence Nightingale

Mr. and Mrs. Nightingale, who were from England, were touring Europe for 2 years and were in Florence, Italy when their second daughter was born on May 12, 1820. They named her after the city she was born in. She grew up being home schooled by her father who had graduated from Cambridge University in England.

In 1837 Florence was walking in the garden and God told her He wanted her to do His work, but she didn't know what that was. She and her family were highly educated and wealthy. Florence liked to go around to visit sick people in their homes. She also visited hospitals. She became very interested in helping people and wanted to be a nurse. Her parents would not let her do that. They didn't think it was a proper career for someone of her background and family. Nursing in that day was an unclean job and many nurses were of questionable character.

She toured Europe with family friends, came back through Germany and visited a hospital and school there. A year later she went back to Germany to learn to become a nurse. She was very interested in teaching the nurses to be clean about themselves and the people they cared for.

She went on to teach nursing and went to an army hospital during a war. She would go out at night in the dark to tend to the wounded soldiers carrying a lamp with her. The soldiers called her "The Lamp Lady." She gave the beginning to nurses in military hospitals. The soldiers love and respected her kindness and bravery. Doctors did not welcome them at the beginning because it was not thought proper to have women on the front lines in war. When she became ill, she moved to her family home in England. She died after many years in bed at the age of 90. On August 12, 1910, but she still worked to teach and write books to help more people learn to become good health care workers.

After being so dedicated to nursing and the care of the patients, hospital cleanliness, she became famous. There should be a special holiday for her on her birthday May 12 each year.

Fill in the blanks:

Florence was named after _____, Italy where she was born in 1820. Her parents were wealthy and highly educated. Her father was a graduate of _____ and home schooled his children. Florence loved to go to people's homes who were _____ and help them. She also visited hospitals to help with people there. When Florence was _____ years old, she knew God wanted her to do something special for him. She was walking in the _____ when God told her this. Her parents forbid her to learn to be a _____ because they thought that wasn't a career someone of her class and education should do. Her parents sent her away with some _____ to tour Europe. She came back through _____ where she visited a _____ and _____. She went back there a year later to learn to become a _____. Florence spent her life teaching nurses how to keep _____ and to keep the _____ clean. She was the first nurse to go to the front lines during a war. Even though the _____ did not welcome _____ on the front lines of war, They soon became thankful for her help. The soldiers treated her with _____. She was _____ years old when she died. We should have a _____ in her honor on her birthday _____.



Activity Sheet

A Renaissance in Learning

www.lexiline.com.

On the next page you will find two charts. They are very interesting. You will see they are for famous people born in June. What is so interesting is they don't list them by name, but what the job is they are famous for.

What you will be doing with these charts is to think of people you know who were born in June. Family members, yourself, friends, and don't be afraid to ask people what month and date they were born and what they do for a living. Have Dad or Mom check with people where they work, too. Also, find out what each one would **like** to be doing instead of what they are doing now. Gather all the information and check the chart to see how many people are working in the same category as the **Most famous** people on the charts.

Example:

Shelly is 15 and was born on June 30th. She is too young to have a job, but she loves to sing, dance and act.

On the second chart it lists **Performing Arts**.

There are **37** famous people in this category, born in June.

There is **1** famous actor or actress born on June 30th.

There is **1** famous dancer born on June 30th.

There are NO famous singers born on June 30th.

If you visit the website where I got these charts, I'm sure you can locate the names of the famous people for every category.

Look up the month YOU were born in and check out the charts that apply to YOU.

It should be very interesting as a family project.

JUNE Field of Eminence	Date of the Month - Number of Persons																																	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
Politics	8	4	8	2	5	7	6	2	6	6	6	3	3	1	5	6	3	7	3	7	6	5	4	6	5	6	5	4	3	7	149			
Political Theory	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	4	
Religion	1	2	3	1	3	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	2	2	3	1	1	5	1	1	0	3	1	0	39				
Military	2	0	2	2	1	2	1	2	0	1	1	0	2	2	1	1	2	1	3	2	3	1	0	5	2	0	2	3	2	1	47			
Business-Entrepreneurs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	5		
Sports-Athletics	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	16		
Literature (total)	5	6	4	0	4	8	3	1	5	4	7	6	9	3	2	1	7	5	6	5	6	4	5	2	5	5	9	7	7	7	148			
...Poets	2	0	2	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	5	2	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	2	26			
...Scholars-Critics	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	12		
Journalism-Publishing	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	10	
Education	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	6	
Psychology	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	
Sociology	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4
Philosophy	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	9
Law	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Medicine	0	1	3	0	1	1	2	0	3	1	0	1	1	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	25	
Economics	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Mathematics	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
Physics	1	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	1	1	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	22
Chemistry	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Biology	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	2	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	1	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	2	24

JUNE Field of Eminence	Date of the Month - Number of Persons																																					
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							
History-Anthropology	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	2	1	19								
Archaeology	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	9							
Linguistics - Philology	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3					
Earth (Geo-) Sciences	0	0	2	1	1	2	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	2	1	2	0	1	1	3	0	0	3	1	1	1	1	2	32								
Astronomy	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	12							
Astronauts - Cosmonauts	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7					
Geographic Explorers	3	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	22					
Invention-Engineering	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	1	3	2	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	22					
Fine Arts (Totals)	1	0	3	0	2	1	3	3	2	4	5	2	1	3	3	3	1	4	4	3	5	3	1	0	3	3	1	2	2	3	71							
...Painters	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	2	8	28						
...Architects	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	13					
...Cartoonists-Illustrators	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4				
...Fashion Designers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1				
Performing Arts (Totals)	2	2	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	0	2	3	1	1	0	2	1	4	1	2	3	7	37					
...Actors & Actresses	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	12				
...Dancers	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	7
...Musicians-Singers	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	
Composers of Music	2	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	2	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	2	1	1	2	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	
Cinema-Theatre Directors	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Chess Masters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Other Fields of Eminence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

New Fundraiser Activity!

Send in your old Cell Phones, Video Games, and electronic devices!

One Faith Ministries and VAST Network is conducting a recycling fundraiser. There's nothing to buy. We are simply asking you to protect the environment by donating your used digital cell phone(s), ink jet cartridges, DVD movies / video games, or items listed below. Your used items will be tax deductible and will be recycled in accordance with EPA regulations or refurbished and sold. 100% of the proceeds will help fund the school and ministry. Our tuition is going up for new families and we are trying to keep costs down for our current families.

- Cell Phones
- Ink Jet Printer Cartridges
- DVD Movies & Videogames
- Portable DVD Players
- Laptop Computers
- MP3 Players
- X-Boxes, Sony Playstations, Wii
- Digital Cameras & Digital Video Cameras (DVRs)
- Digital Picture Frames
- Portable Navigation & GPS Devices (Garmin, Magellan, Tom-Tom)

All donations are appreciated. Help us by helping others dispose of their items as well. Spread the word!

HONEY AND CINNAMON:

For insect bites:

Take one part honey to two parts of lukewarm water and add a small teaspoon of cinnamon powder, make a paste and massage it on the itching part of the body slowly. It is noticed that the pain recedes within a minute or two.

Vast News!

Laughter Wanted!

Do you find yourself writing long emails to friends? Do you ramble on and on about your experiences? Do you have funny anecdotes about your child that would make others laugh? Then we need your stories! Even if you don't feel like you are a writer, send us your stories and we will edit them and include them in our newsletter to minister to others.

We need laughter to make it through this difficult world!

Send us your stories!

clberryr@specialfriendsnews.com

On Going Fund Raiser Money for our School!

Ink Bucks.

Got Cartridges? Don't throw away empty inkjet and laser printer cartridges. Help us Earn Money and Help the Earth. Send your empty ink jet and Laser cartridges to VAST Network or Save up your cartridges and bring them when we get together. Please ask your friends and nearby offices to help. We get 2 dollars for every cartridge.

Campbell Soup Labels, Box Tops

We are participating in the Box Top and Campbell soup label program, so please hold onto the Campbell soup labels along with your box tops. They can easily be mailed in with your monthly reports. It may not seem like a whole lot of money to you, but as a group, these little things can add up. There are many goals that Christie Berry and the school board want to achieve to better serve you and the community. Please take the time to collect these small items. You can mail them to Christie Berry.



Star Supermarket

Another way you can help out is by shopping at Star Supermarket. It won't add any money to your bill, simply fill out a card and ask that you want it to Go to VAST Network. Then when it is time to pay your final bill, they will scan your card and Star Market will take a percent of your purchase and donate it to Vast Network. During the next month we will be getting the school information out to the different Star Market stores in the Huntsville area, Madison Wall Triana & 72 Hwy Meridianville HWY 231/431, and in Huntsville on the corner of Pratt Ave. & Andrew Jackson Way.

Any other ideas for simple fund raisers for our school please contact VAST Network and please leave a message for Donna Gibson.



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Varied Abilities School and Training Network

VAST Network

PO Box 8391

Huntsville, Alabama 35808

*Children are a Blessing From the Lord
Psalms 127: 3a*

MEMBERS!

Don't forget to send in your Attendance forms by the 5th of the month!

VAST Network is a not-for-profit organization. We do not discriminate against race, creed, religion, political affiliation, age, sex or disability.

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For submissions to this newsletter please send information to Donna Gibson before the 20th of the month prior to the event newsletter@vastnetwork.org

IN GOD WE TRUST!!