



HomeschoolNYC Newsletter

Celebrating Child-led Learning

Vol. VII, issue 1
September, 2016

This has been a year full of changes and delays. Finally another issue of this newsletter is out, ready to greet the new school year with lots of Not-Back-to-School help. Read about the eight biggest changes we made after choosing to homeschool, find links to support groups and homeschooling conferences, an invitation to a talk on Thrifty Homeschooling in NYC with me and my Fearless Homeschooling friend Joanna Lodin, a peek at my upcoming classes, poetry games and more. It's the start of an exciting new season of learning!

**8 Ways Homeschooling
Changed Our Lives**

**Biggest Changes We Made
After Homeschooling**

Laurie's Fall Classes

**Help to Start the Year,
Conferences and Events**

Quote by Margaret Mead

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[Laurie Black Spigel](#)

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Send your comments to
Laurie@HomeschoolNYC.com.

The Biggest Changes We Made After Homeschooling



We didn't start off homeschooling. That choice, made when my oldest was in 4th grade, was a major turning point for us. What were the biggest changes you made when you first started homeschooling? Here are eight things we did which transformed our lives!

1. **Reinstating bedtime reading time.** It is unthinkable that assigned homework and a highly scheduled day led to sacrificing bedtime story time, but that's what had happened. Our young son was a ballet dancer, which meant that he . . .

[...READ MORE...](#)

Laurie's Upcoming Fall Classes

There are still a few spots open!

Playwriting for ages 11-13

Manhattan's upper west side, Thursdays



This testimonial is from a student in last year's playwriting for teens:

"Laurie Spigel gives a fun, challenging, in-depth course on writing for the stage that lets your creativity run wild. She is a wealth of knowledge and a constant source of inspiration, enthusiastic and passionate about art. The course's integration of improv can shed light on doors for a piece that table work may not open, and gives the class a hands-on edge. Because of Laurie, I have a play that I am proud of, and now I can list playwriting as one of my accomplishments. I always eagerly look forward to her class!" [See class photos.](#)

Animals! Animals!

Bronx, Monday mornings, for ages 8-10



This testimonial from a parent who observed a class for ages 8-10 taught last year. *"I want to thank you for all that you have brought to our children over the past few months. For a number of years (until I resigned from my tenured senior faculty position at CUNY), I evaluated teachers professionally and also taught them how to teach. I have observed every session of the class and I have never seen anyone bring more intelligence, passion, sensitivity, and joy to a class."* [See class photos.](#)

For registration details, [e-mail Laurie](#) with your request.

[More classes](#) may be forming, and can be requested.

[Read more testimonials.](#)

Begin with Poetry

Begin the journey with poetry. It's an excellent way to open the door to writing, self-expression, and new ways of seeing the world. What better way to start the homeschooling year?



[What is Poetry For?](#)

[Laurie's Favorite Poetry Books for Children](#)

[Poems by Kids](#)

[Seven Poetry Games](#)

[Make a Simple Accordion Book for Your Poems](#)

Homeschooling Help to Start the Year

[NYS homeschooling regulations and paperwork templates](#)

[Local Support Groups](#)

[NYCHEA](#) (NYC Home Educators Alliance, a volunteer-run group) hosts their annual Not-Back-to-School picnic at the end of September!

**Fearless Homeschooling presents:
Thrifty Homeschooling**

Tips for finding no- and low-cost resources in NYC,
with veteran homeschoolers Joanna Lodin and Laurie Block Spigel.
Sunday Sept. 25, Different Directions, 339 W. 47 St., 3rd fl.
[RSVP](#) - Space is limited. FREE. Donations welcome!



[AEROx Regional Conference](#)

Sept. 30-Oct. 2nd in Petersham, Massachusetts
at the Earthlands Collective, with Peter Gray, author of *Free to Learn*
[My review of Peter Gray's keynote speech at AERO 2013](#),
with links to *Free to Learn*.

[Life Without Instructions Conference](#)

Sept. 19-22, Staten Island, NY
2nd annual LWI unschooling conference with activities for every age!

Quote by Margaret Mead

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

~ Margaret Mead (1901-1978), American author and anthropologist

Interview on Homeschooling and Child-led Learning

If you liked this interview (aired June, 2015, on a local cable TV show), please post a comment on the youtube page!



"Joy in Our Town" features Laurie Block Spigel of HomeschoolNYC

Education Uncensored

Here's what people are saying about Laurie's book:

"I would like to tell the parents reading this who haven't yet read your book, *Education Uncensored*: 'Please Do!' I finished reading it a few weeks ago but haven't been able to put it away in my library, nor have I been willing to lend it out. For those of you haven't read it yet, it is part memoir, part education book, part homeschooling primer, all wonderful."

~Mary O'Riordan, Ed.D, educator and homeschooling parent

"You made me laugh, you made me cry, and you inspired me. I can literally hear your voice, and love your storytelling and your wisdom and just the whole package. I'm stimulated and filled with ideas for my own teaching."

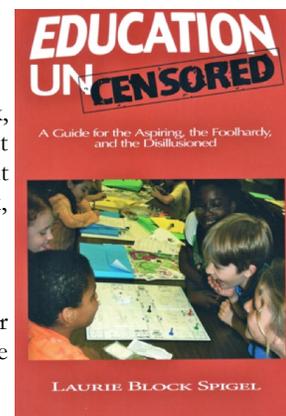
~ Dr. Bonnie Shulman, professor of mathematics, Bates College

"I just wanted to tell you how much I appreciated meeting you and reading your book. It is terrific, and for me, the best part was its New York perspective. I know no other book available to homeschoolers that so overtly references an urban perspective."

~ David Albert, author of *And the Skylark Sings with Me* and other books

"Laurie's evolution as a teacher and life-long involvement in the world of education has given her a profound understanding of the problems that plague today's schools. This book offers an insightful look at how an increasingly standardized system is robbing our children of their individuality and passion for learning. Additionally, it provides innovative how-to curriculums for anyone involved or interested in educating children."

~ Ellen Labiner, homeschooling parent and special educator



[Read excerpts here.](#)

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Price: \$12.95 plus shipping & handling

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Send your comments and suggestions to Laurie@HomeschoolNYC.com.