



# **And the Skylark Sings with Me - Adventures in Homeschooling and Community-Based Education**

*David H. Albert*

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A clear and magical account of how David and Ellen helped their daughters find new ways to take charge of their education... A treat you should not miss. ?John Taylor Gatto, 1991 New York Teacher of the Year and author of *Dumbing Us Down*

Progressive-minded parents considering homeschooling their children but turned off by fundamentalist or unschooling approaches will be inspired by this engaging account of home-directed community-based education.

Acting on their conviction that to educate a child well is to enable her to find her destiny, David Albert and his partner Ellen listened carefully, with respect and with love, to how their children expressed their own learning needs. Leaving traditional homeschooling methods behind, they followed their daughters' unique knowledge quests - from astronomy and botany, to opera and mythology - and then went about finding the resources and opportunities to meet those needs within their community. *And the Skylark Sings with Me* is reassuring to any parent who feels they must have an education background before homeschooling their children. While Albert pays special attention to science and nature - the subjects parents feel the most inadequately prepared to teach - he humbly admits that despite a "fancy" education, his knowledge areas rarely overlapped his daughters' evolving interests. The real challenge is not to "teach," but to find new ways to access the community - its people, its resources - as a flexible learning institution.

Gracefully written, *And the Skylark Sings with Me* passionately illustrates that real learning is much richer and more mysterious than any school can encompass.

"I recently received the copy of *And the Skylark Sings With Me*, and am savoring it. I love reading about your daughters' musical progressions. Reading them aloud is very encouraging to my musically-oriented 6 y.o. Thank you!

"As I read your educational philosophy, I feel affirmed and stretched at the same time. Affirmed, because you articulate so well what had been for me a nebulous sort of gut-feeling. Stretched, because you prompt me to expand that further. This is the same kind of response I've heard from a few other people who are reading your

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