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In Each Other's Shoes: Notes From a Crisis

BARBARA DANZA

As a pandemic continues across the world and social distancing has become the status quo, the motto has become, "We're all in this together." We sure are. There are faint signs of a possible light at the end of the tunnel. Increasingly, focus will be given to how we'll manage leaving this strange cocoon we've constructed and enter what will undoubtedly be a new normal.

Presently, we are unified—working together on one goal—doing everything we possibly can to eliminate a so-called "invisible enemy." We are sacrificing and enduring in the name of protecting the most vulnerable among us. We are helping each other along the way as we face uncertainty and take each single day one at a time.

Our current existence stands in stark contrast to what has been sold to us as truth—that we were divided, in competition against one another, in judgment of one another on the basis of irrelevant superficialities. That has been proven false beyond a shadow of a doubt. Did we ever really believe that?

When push came to shove, we readily did what we had to do to save, yes, ourselves, but also each other and especially those most at risk. Instead of trying to keep up with the Joneses, we've wholeheartedly rooted for them.

We've applauded real heroes such as medical personnel, delivery workers, and grocery store employees, who have bravely faced their duties and sacrificed selflessly when called to action. We've seen generous business owners step up to offer resources big and small. We've seen members of our own communities, young and old, put their unique talents to work to offer up what they could. We've separated ourselves from one another, washed our hands, and prayed.

Volunteers pack boxes full of food at the San Francisco–Marin Food Bank in San Rafael, Calif., on April 18, 2020.



EZRA SHAW/GETTY IMAGES



SAM GREENWOOD/GETTY IMAGES

A Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry volunteer loads food into bags for distribution during a mobile pantry visit in Atlantic Beach, Fla., on April 18, 2020.

Instead of trying to keep up with the Joneses, we've wholeheartedly rooted for them.



DREW ANGERER/GETTY IMAGES

(L–R) Siblings Hanna Vohra, 25, and Dylan Vohra, 17, after shopping for groceries for senior citizens at a supermarket in Potomac, Md., on April 17, 2020.

This is a scary and challenging time. Everyone's individual experience in this crisis is, of course, unique to them. It's harder for some than others.

Overall, though, we'd be remiss to let this moment pass without noticing the innate goodness that is being displayed on a wide scale throughout society. It's worth pausing and noticing. You can tell a lot about people by how they act in the face of tragedy.

I believe our overall sense of empathy and compassion has broadened. In an unprecedented way, we can understand what it feels like to be in each other's shoes. At night, when our heads hit the pillow, we understand—at least to some degree—the anxiety, fear, weight of responsibility, concern for family, friends, and our fellow man that everyone else is also grappling with.

What's more, we're stronger than we may have believed. As our comforts gave way to worry, we have stepped

up. Neighbors have helped neighbors, families have conserved resources, and leaders have made bold decisions.

We've all distanced ourselves, but in many ways we've never been closer. Every mom and dad, son and daughter, brother and sister, grandchild and grandparent is doing their part, sacrificing where needed, tolerating discomfort, playing their role, and saving us all.

Are there aspects of this historical moment that should be criticized and learned from? Of course. That's for another sort of article.

As individuals, I hope that when this crisis abates, when we walk out of the tunnel and into the light, we find ourselves more capable of discerning and dispensing the truth, seeing the good in one another, embodying kindness and compassion, and upholding our duties to our families, our communities, and our society.

What We Sacrifice in the Pursuit of Immortality

ANNIE HOLMQUIST

"Is the first person who will live to 150 alive today?" asked a recent Wall Street Journal article. The piece features biology professor Steven Austad who contends that "today's college students ... can expect to live a century or more because their health will be unlike anything seen before in human history." I had to suppress a giggle over that statement, especially as Austad went on to say that this extended life span "will be due to our new ability to prevent and delay most or all of the diseases and disabilities that plague later life." I'm sure many of us would be curious to hear Austad explain how the COVID-19 pandemic fits his view of the future.

Nevertheless, Austad's words demonstrate how important the quest is for eternal youth in today's society. Why is there such a push to extend youth and to avoid old age and death? "Obviously men have always feared death and longed to live forever," writes Christopher Lasch in "The Culture of Narcissism,"

but there are several reasons why we've seen a greater emphasis on this quest in recent years.

The first is our spiritual state. "The fear of death takes on new intensity in a society that has deprived itself of religion," Lasch says. As Pew Research notes, Christianity declined from being the religion of 78 percent of U.S. adults in 2007 to 65 percent in 2018–19. By contrast, the percentage of religiously unaffiliated adults grew from 16 percent to 26 percent over the same period. Without religion, fewer individuals have hope in this life, never mind hope for the one to come. Is it any wonder that people without much else to look forward to would try to prolong their youth, the best years of their lives?

Secondly, many dread old age because society has lost its respect for wisdom and experience. "Our society notoriously finds little use for the elderly," Lasch writes. "By devaluing experience and setting great store by physical strength, dexterity, adaptability, and the ability to come up with new ideas, society

defines productivity in ways that automatically exclude 'senior citizens.'"

Gray hair used to be a sign of wisdom. Now, generational divides are growing sharper, and younger generations no longer look to the elderly for advice. With diminished purpose and weakened personal connections in old age, can we really blame people for trying to avoid that point in their lives? Finally, many dread old age because they're too wrapped up in themselves. Our decreased birth rates are one sign of this. Lasch says:

"Narcissism emerges as the typical form of character structure in a society that has lost interest in the future. Psychiatrists who tell parents not to live through their offspring; married couples who postpone or reject parenthood, often for good practical reasons; social reformers who urge zero population growth, all testify to a pervasive uneasiness about reproduction—to widespread doubts, indeed, about whether our society should reproduce itself



BRANISLAV NEMIN/SHUTTERSTOCK

Gray hair used to be a sign of wisdom. Now, generational divides are growing sharper, and younger generations no longer look to the elderly for advice.

at all. ... When men find themselves incapable of taking an interest in earthly life after their own death, they wish for eternal youth, for the same reason they no longer care to reproduce themselves."

Many of us would prefer to stay young forever. Unfortunately, that's not going to happen on this earth. But might we remove our dread of old age and death if we deepened our

connection to God, as well as our connections to the generations that have come before and those that will follow us? Perhaps it's time we invested in these things once again.

Annie Holmquist is the editor of *Intellectual Takeout*, an online magazine and sister publication of *Chronicles*. This article was originally published on *Intellectual Takeout*.

Varsity Spirit's Webb on Bolstering the Middle Class

CATHERINE YANG

Jeff Webb was only 24 when he jumped into building his own business, borrowing startup funds from friends and family.

Decades later, that idea has blossomed into an about \$2 billion cheerleading empire. Webb now worries that the economic mobility and culture that rewarded his entrepreneurial spirit is dwindling, and the young people he works with every year will have fewer and fewer opportunities to build their dreams.

"The middle class of the United States built the greatest economy in the history of the world," said Webb, founder and chairman of Varsity Spirit, which offers educational camps, uniforms, and competitions for cheerleading teams. He credits the Greatest Generation, the GIs who returned from war to go to work and build families and build careers, for forming the large middle class that gave the United States an advantage over other countries.

"And if we lose this large, fluid, affluent middle class, we are going to lose our edge," he said. "We are going to lose our sense of connectedness, we are going to lose a sense of patriotism, because people don't feel like they're being treated fairly, and they don't feel like they have opportunity for themselves and their family."

Drive and Spirit

Webb was a yell leader in college, and through that ended up working at a company conducting training camps for high school and college cheerleaders. While he had the idea for a different approach to present the sport, highlighting the athleticism and entertainment aspect of cheerleading, that was too different from what the company was doing.

"So just decided to give it a try on my own," Webb said. "I didn't know I was an entrepreneur at the time. I was just something I wanted to do and I was a bit impatient, frankly."

He had no idea the turns he'd take, much less the scale of expansion that would ultimately take place. While Webb admits he had limited vision at first, he had a clear concept and credits that entrepreneurial ethos as a core reason for his venture's success.

"You're driving the organization forward, but also along the way having your antennae up, so that you see things you can build on, on that first initiative," he said.

His focus was to maintain the company culture and promote cheerleading as a sport. But through training and promoting cheerleading competitions, the company also became a premier seller of apparel and equipment (because the uniforms that teams wanted didn't exist), and has been broadcast on ESPN since 1983 (so people could see the competition championships).

The result is that Varsity ended up "uniquely situated to drive what's become this global phenomenon in cheerleading," Webb said.

The nature of Webb's business means he often meets college students; for instance, 2,000 of them work as instructors and camp administrators every summer.

"So I'm in touch with them and I understand their backgrounds and I'm able to listen to how they view the world and where they're going and what their challenges are, and the things that are important to them," Webb said.

While the entrepreneurial spirit among young people hasn't disappeared, the challenges have become increasingly insurmountable, to the point that they threaten to crush that drive.

"I really became concerned that that opportunity [I had growing up in a middle-class family] was not going to be as available to this generation," Webb said.

A self-proclaimed news junkie, he had never gotten involved in politics, mostly because building his business had taken most of his time and focus. But over time, Webb saw the growing challenges across society, and much it had to do with the decline of the middle class.

Last year, he decided to get involved. "I need to find a way to go that these young people ... how can I make sure that they do have these opportunities? How can I return to them what they have given me? How can



COURTESY OF JEFF WEBB

Jeff Webb, founder and chairman of Varsity Spirit.

The middle class of the United States built the greatest economy in the history of the world.

Jeff Webb, founder and chairman, Varsity Spirit

I return that support to them?" Webb said. "And the more I looked at what has been happening to the middle class in the past 30 years, the more alarmed I became."

The importance of the middle is far from new; it's ancient wisdom, as the Greeks placed huge importance on the "middle," from cultivating temperance as a virtue to warning that a society that's either top- or bottom-heavy couldn't prosper.

A Halted Economy

Webb took a closer look and was dismayed by his findings.

In the past 30 years, the wealth of the middle class has gone down by a third. A huge portion of Americans live paycheck to paycheck, including families making more than \$150,000 annually, and this means they aren't covered for emergencies—as the pandemic has shown. In addition, jobs are being pushed overseas, credit card debts are high, and the people who have been living paycheck to paycheck have sent their kids to colleges with big tuition bills.

In turn, those young people are carrying huge student loan debts and coming out of college underemployed, owning no property, and with bad credit.

"That's no money for a medical emergency, no extra money for retirement, no money to help take care of an elderly parent, and it's just frightening," Webb said. "One thing is certain, we're all going to have good things and bad things happen to us in life, and not having any kind of nest egg or security to deal with those bad things was very alarming to me."

And those were Webb's concerns before the pandemic.

"This crisis is going to have a devastating effect on the middle class," he said.

Americans who've suffered losses in the crisis are just recently getting relief payments, which Webb had advocated for in early March, except now, he's seen how in reality a good idea gets watered down with bureaucracy and processes. That's reaffirmed his motivation for getting involved in politics. Last year, he started "The New American Populist" to give the middle class a platform and get into policy development, help put the right people into office, and share information.

"There are a lot of factors pushing against us, but I think it's the right thing to do," Webb said.

In recent weeks, everything has changed for many people.

"Who would have thought that in four short weeks, the greatest economy in the world would come to a screeching halt? Who would have thought that?" Webb said.

"You see these long lines, these cars lined up at these food banks in different cities

across the country," Webb said on April 14. "It's only been, what, five weeks since we really started to bear down on this crisis and start these lockdowns, and already you see thousands of people who don't have food for their families."

"We are in totally uncharted territory right now; including the Great Depression, we've never had a situation like this, first of all because it's not created just by economic or financial dynamics, it's because of health," he said.

The checks going to small businesses to pay their employees aren't enough, Webb points out, because the fundamental problem is that there's nothing driving the economy.

"Here's the big problem: There is no demand," Webb said, noting that outside of certain sectors such as health care, activity has mostly dried up.

"And there is no demand because everyone is at home ... we can give them that money but it's totally temporary. They're going to go through that money in a couple of weeks because there is no demand in the economy. Nobody is buying anything except a few things."

"It remains to be seen how many will come out of this and survive," Webb said, adding that the unseen costs on mental health are just as important. "The clock is ticking and we have to create demand, and to create demand, people are going to have to feel safe."

Culture of Optimism

Webb's concerns go far beyond the economic, and are rooted in culture. The toll on young people denied opportunity at every turn is bad for the morale of the nation as a whole, he says.

Webb's own business has been all about culture; at 24, he was the oldest person at a company full of college kids in support each other and the mission, and fighting to win. The egalitarian culture that was fostered right from the start has been Webb's biggest takeaway.

"We are doing something that is very important and has all of this value to young people and to their schools and their communities," Webb said.

The Varsity camps foster leadership and other skills in the participants, who will then foster the same values when they return to their schools and their communities.

"I think what draws these mostly outgoing, optimistic, and positive people, what drives them is the effect that cheerleading can have on the school and community, and their ability to actually make that happen," Webb said. That youthful can-do spirit of success and service is something very powerful, Webb said.

And it's very American. If the middle class is deteriorating, that's something we're losing.

Mother's Day Gift Ideas

BARBARA DANZA

Don't look now, but Mother's Day is almost here. As we continue to navigate uncertain times, familiar holidays and traditions act as comforting anchors in our family experience.

This year, if you want to gather a few goodies to surprise Mom, ordering online will likely be key. You can also check out what your local small businesses and boutiques are offering. Many have gotten very creative in finding ways to serve their customers while complying with social distancing mandates.

In addition, many people will be considering budgetary constraints in a more serious way than perhaps they've done in the past few years. You can still make Mother's Day special without breaking the bank.

Here are six gift ideas to share with Mom on this unique Mother's Day.



Classic Adirondack Chairs (Weathercraft, starting at \$219).

AIDAN DANZA

As you find yourselves staying home this spring, you may have come to notice the various birds that occupy your neighborhood. The different sounds they make, their colorful feathers, and their various behaviors throughout the day can be quite entertaining, joyful, and educational.

Backyard birding is a wonderful pastime to embark on at any time, but especially during this unique time in our lives. The best way to get started is to begin feeding the birds in your backyard. Here are some simple tips and tidbits to set up a bird buffet.

The Feeder

First, you can simply buy some birdseed and sprinkle it on the ground. It won't be long before birds find it and spread the word. Within about a week it will become part of the neighborhood birds' selection of feeding stations. The "feeder" can simply be the ground. This will attract a large number of common birds, such as sparrows, mourning doves, pigeons, grackles, red-winged blackbirds, and many more.

If your neighborhood has a lot of outdoor cats, however, this isn't the best option. Luckily there are all kinds of feeders on the market that can help protect your backyard birds from predators while they dine.

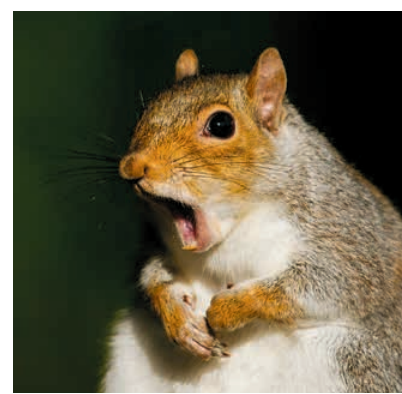
Bird feeders come in all shapes and sizes for all different types

of seed and birds. Birds can be a little picky about feeders and the seed they contain. Consider starting with a large-diameter tube feeder, around six to eight inches. Since they hold a lot of seed, it takes a good while for birds to eat the seed supply, so you won't be constantly refilling. They are durable and attract a large number of species.

To enhance your offerings, try adding suet feeders to your yard. Most suet feeders are wire cages that hold rectangular suet cakes perfectly. Birds love them! There are also suet log-style feeders, which are usually blocks of wood with cylindrical-shaped holes that fit cylindrical suet cakes. These are less common but woodpeckers enjoy them. Also, be on the lookout for suet feeders with "tail props." This is simply a vertical surface that protrudes from the feeder bottom. Woodpeckers will brace their tails on this surface just like they would if they were feeding on a tree trunk, making them more likely to be frequented.

Platform feeders are also a good choice. They're just an open-topped box. Since their simple design is prone to collecting rainwater, consider one with drainage holes and made from recycled plastics. You can also make one yourself out of wood, just be sure to make it strong and durable with a good finish so it doesn't rot prematurely.

Platform feeders can hold just about any kind of bird food. While



As anyone who's ever fed birds knows, when you attract birds, you inevitably attract squirrels.

seed is most common, oranges, grapes, blueberries, and other food scraps are all fair game for a platform feeder. Trying a wide variety of different foods on your platform feeder will help attract a wide variety of bird species. We've enjoyed watching Baltimore orioles feed on oranges on our platform feeders, for instance.

There are a variety of ways to mount a platform feeder. They can be hung from a branch, mounted on a tall pole, or just on short legs, close to the ground.

Hopper feeders are another good option. They typically consist of two large seed troughs on each side supplied by a large seed

tank in the center. Hopper feeders are typically large and made of metal, and often pole-mounted. They're good for many of the bigger birds that have trouble fitting on tube feeders, like grackles, blue jays, crows, and pigeons.

Nyjer feeders are for a special type of birdseed called thistle or nyjer, which finches love. If you believe you have finches in your area, consider purchasing one of these. Finches are playful birds at the feeders and are fun to watch! Nyjer feeders can look like narrow-diameter tubes or even just long, white socks.

Mounting your feeders is usually quite easy. If you have trees on your property, then just simply hang your feeder from a tree. Your local outdoor supply store likely sells plenty of hangers made specifically for this purpose. Be sure to place it in an area you can see from inside your home for maximum enjoyment.

If you don't have many trees, consider mounting your feeders on a pole. Bird feeder poles are sold that have fork-like protrusions on the bottom. Just stick this pole in the ground and step on the fork to secure it.

For a more robust pole feeder consider mounting your feeder on a 4x4 wooden post. To do so, dig a hole about two to three feet deep, put some gravel in the bottom, compact the gravel, set your post in, make sure it is plumb, and backfill the hole. Make sure the backfill is compacted as much as possible. To mount your feeder to

the pole, simply screw L-brackets to the sides of the 4x4, and screw the feeder to the L-brackets.

There are also feeder hangers that screw onto fences. Simply screw the hanger onto the fence post and hang your feeder from it.

Squirrels

As anyone who's ever fed birds knows, when you attract birds, you inevitably attract squirrels. Many backyard bird watchers use a variety of methods to deter squirrels from eating the seed they purchased for the birds. In fact, a seemingly endless array of products exists claiming to be squirrel-proof or the more nebulous "squirrel-resistant."

I too used to try to deter the squirrels but found it wasn't actually possible to stop them. At best, I got a few days of squirrel-free feeding while watching the squirrel's acrobatics as they desperately tried and eventually succeeded in reaching the seed. So now I have just resigned myself to feeding both the squirrels and the birds, and recommend you do the same. One benefit of this approach is my local birds have learned to observe and follow the squirrels to new feeders. So the more bird action you may have as well.

The Seed

Now that you've got your feeder, what should you put in it? I recommend Black Oil Sunflower seed to begin with. It's not overly



COURTESY OF LODGE



REYNOLDS AND ELSTON

Cookware Upgrade

If Mom's the primary cook in your house her output volume has likely increased greatly. Pay attention, and perhaps pose some select questions to determine what tool or small appliance might make things easier in the kitchen.

Consider the 13.25" Lodge Cast Iron Skillet (Sur La Table, \$63.50), KitchenAid Stand Mixer (Kitchen Aid, starting at \$259.99) or a high-quality Stainless Steel Cookie Sheet (360 Cookware, \$89; get 25 percent off with the discount code HOME00K25) to refresh old items or take Mom's culinary creations to the next level.

(Left) 13.25" Lodge Cast Iron Skillet (Sur La Table, \$63.50).

(Right) Stainless Steel Cookie Sheet (360 Cookware, \$89).



Quilted Sunbrella Hammock (L.L. Bean, \$279).

AeroGarden Harvest Elite (\$143.96 with discount code MOM2020).

Yard Love

Our personal outdoor spaces have garnered renewed importance during this time. What can you do to enhance Mom's experience outside? Might you plant some new flowers, upgrade her favorite chair, or add a new feature like a fire pit or grill? From the simple to the grand, there are lots of ways to spruce up the yard to enjoy all summer long.

Consider the following to make the backyard Mom's oasis: Classic Adirondack Chairs (Weathercraft, starting at \$219) or the Quilted Sunbrella Hammock (L.L. Bean, \$279).

If you're tight on outdoor space, you can still indulge Mom's green thumb with an AeroGarden Harvest Elite (\$143.96 with discount code MOM2020); selections include Gourmet Herbs, Heirloom Salad, Red Heirloom Cherry Tomatoes, or Cascading Petunias.



(Left) United States Decal Travel Map. (Amazon, \$23.97)

(Below) Mixbook photobook (starting at \$15.99).



COURTESY OF L.L. BEAN

MIXBOOK.COM

Hints of Paradise

It has been a while since the family embarked on a vacation. For the mom who's itching to head out on the open road, soak up some tropical sun, or head back to her favorite vacation spot, give her a little piece of paradise to enjoy at home. Bring Mom right back to your last vacation by making a photo book of your best pictures. Try a simple, soft-cover

option like one from Mixbook (starting at \$15.99). She can track where the family has been and dream of the next destination with the help of a United States Decal Travel Map. It's great to display on any window or in your RV (Amazon, \$23.97). For the Disney Mama, check out the Magic Candle company, offering candles, room spray, and even hand sanitizer in the scents of your favorite Disney vacation spots, such as the 8 oz. Polynesian Candle (Magic Candle, \$16.95).

COURTESY OF MAGNOLIA



Signature Magnolia Wreath (Magnolia, \$98).

Housewares

With everyone home all the time, areas of the house that could use some improvement might have become subject to more scrutiny lately—especially by Mom. Whether you choose a lovely seasonal wreath for the front door, a new storage solution for a messy corner, or you roll up your sleeves and fix a problem that you know has been on Mom's mind, some house TLC would make a great Mother's Day gift this year.

Check out the Handmade Bathtub Tray by SemperCraftsman (Etsy, \$59.99), the Braided Craft Fabric Storage Baskets (Wayfair, \$42.99), or the Signature Magnolia Wreath (Magnolia, \$98).

Experiences Over Things

One of the greatest lessons of this crisis has been the importance of family. To truly make Mother's Day special for your mom, there really is no need to spend a lot. What often means the most are gestures of appreciation.

If your mom is in a high-risk category and you've been keeping your distance, video chat with her or visit her window to blow kisses and wave. Leave a bouquet of fresh flowers or a

thoughtful care package for her to pick up when you've gone.

For the mom in your household, insist on her taking the day off. Manage all of the responsibilities she usually handles. Create heartfelt cards, put together a bouquet of fresh flowers, and serve a lovely dinner. Go for a walk outside as a family and spend the evening engaged in her favorite activity. Despite difficult times, Mom may just look back at this Mother's Day as the most meaningful one she's had.

but they'll be on your lawn, looking for earthworms to eat.

Mourning Dove

Mourning doves behave like tiny chickens! These are beige birds that love to eat on the ground. Millet is one of their favorite types of seed. Their tail is quite long and ends in a point, although they spread their tails often when landing. They do not run and stop like robins do, but walk slowly and steadily, bobbing their head to the rhythm of their steps. They are slightly larger and more plump than a robin.

European Starling

European starlings are some of the shiniest birds out there. At a distance, they look black, but when upon a closer look, you can see lots of purple, shiny blue, green, and white speckles. They have slightly downward curved bills, which are black in winter and yellow in spring, summer, and early fall. The same goes for their plumage, which is covered with white spots (hence the name, starling) in the winter, but not in the spring, summer, and

early fall. These are rather aggressive birds that take their place pretty high in the bird feeder pecking order.

Song Sparrow

This is one of the smaller birds out there. At only around 5-6 inches long, they prefer the ground to feeders. They are brown and white striped all over their body, with a mostly brown back with highly varying hues. On the face, they have large stripes on the bottom of the cheeks that look like beards. The area around the eyes is mostly white, while the top of the head is brown.

Blue Jay

Blue jays are one of the largest birds on this list. Their backs and most of their head and crest (the pointy party-hat looking thing on the top of their heads) are varying shades of blue with some white mixed in, while their bellies and chests are white to gray. They also have a prominent black "necklace" on their necks to the back of their heads.

They seem to be the police force of birds, and their piercing "jay,

jay jay" calls are often the air raid system when a marauding hawk or crow comes in to wreak havoc. They'll even chase the intruder around and dive-bomb it, often bluffing but sometimes actually pecking it.

The Fun

Birding is great fun that you can enjoy for a lifetime. Share the joys of attracting and observing the birds in your yard with your family. Hone your ability to identify birds by their physical characteristics, sounds, and behavior. Snap some pictures, sketch a bird or two, and start a list of those you've seen. As time goes on, you'll find yourself identifying and noticing birds of all kinds wherever you go. It's simply amazing how many birds there are and they are a joy to behold.

Aidan Danza is a 13-year-old bird enthusiast. He has been fascinated with birds his entire life and enjoys feeding the ones that visit his yard all year long. He also writes a weekly nature column for The Epoch Times For Kids Only feature.



American Robin.

Mourning Dove.

European Starling.

Song Sparrow.

Blue Jay.

Civil War and Soccer: Coming of Age in Lebanon

ANDREW THOMAS

Charbel Boujaoude was only three years old when civil war broke out in his home country of Lebanon in 1975. Despite the constant bombings and harsh realities of growing up in a war zone, the young Lebanese boy relished in his passion for the national sport: soccer.

Boujaoude did whatever it took to stay alive. He would hide in the basement during the unrelenting bombardments, sometimes for days, and avoided areas of town that were particularly dangerous. Occasionally, there were ceasefires and times of relative safety.

Boujaoude's earliest memory is from when he was six years old. It was summer 1978, and a series of 30 bombs landed in the subdivision where he lived. Some struck his six-story building, where he and his family lived on the ground floor.

"The bombs hit the roof, and a lot of the cement walls fell all the way down into our backyard and into our house. So that was my earliest memory," Boujaoude recalled.



COURTESY OF CHARBEL BOUJAOUDE

Charbel Boujaoude (R) with his family in 2019.

Soccer Goes On

Once the barrage stopped, the family ran into the basement, and Boujaoude caught glimpses of the destruction. For the next three weeks, the family lived in their basement. From that point on he realized his home country was a dangerous place to be. Nevertheless, he adapted to the environment and knew that he wasn't the only child trying to survive.

"From that moment on I knew that there was an enemy that was trying to kill us," Boujaoude said.

Boujaoude did his best to grow up like a normal kid, and sport was a big part of it; he has been playing soccer since he was three years old. He had been born into a soccer family: his father had played professionally in Lebanon. He and his friends played while waiting for the bus to school in the morning, at school, and when they

got home. And with two brothers and many neighbors around, there were always enough people to get a game going.

"That also became an escape because we didn't have to worry about the realities of life. We were just out there having fun and trying to forget it for an hour or two," Boujaoude said.

When Boujaoude wasn't playing soccer, he was reading about it or watching games on television. He used to collect playing cards from England, and his favorite team was Manchester United. As he grew up, he learned more about the club and followed the team. His childhood dream was to play for them.

The Last Bomb

The bombings became a part of life growing up, and Boujaoude can remember in vivid detail the last time he was almost killed. When he was 17, his family moved

to a freestanding house in the mountains, which provided less cover.

"You could tell at that time where the bomb was going to land because we became experts in the noise it makes. Whenever it was coming down you could tell if it's going past you or if it explodes before you, and you can tell from how the shrapnel got dispersed how close or how far it was," Boujaoude explained.

In this instance, the bomb was heading directly toward his home. A second before it exploded, he could feel the pressure get sucked out of the room. Fortunately, the bomb missed the house by a few yards and exploded on a descending cliff outside. Smoke filled the house, and Boujaoude could hardly believe he was still alive. The next day the family packed up and moved, and a few weeks later, there was a ceasefire. That's when the family

decided to leave the country.

Memoir

Leaving home wasn't easy for Boujaoude, and he had fallen in love with a classmate a year and half before he left the country. He also had friends he had to leave behind as he was coming of age.

"It was very hard when I left, obviously, because I had to leave her behind, with so much feeling I had for her. For the first two weeks in America I saw her in my dreams every day," Boujaoude said.

Boujaoude and his family left Lebanon in December 1989 and settled in Houston that same year. He was finally living in an environment where he didn't have to fear for his life on a daily basis, and he could live at ease.

Unfortunately, he found that soccer wasn't very popular in Houston. Most people didn't play, and the sport wasn't covered in the newspaper, on television, or on the radio, but Boujaoude's father was able to obtain a radio where he could listen to soccer match results on the BBC.

Boujaoude didn't play soccer during his last year in Lebanon, because of the dangers of the war, or for his first two years in the United States. But after this hiatus, he was able to pick up the sport again in college and began making new friends.

Now, he plays almost every Sunday. Playing the game has always provided him with an escape from the everyday stress and adversity of life.

"I never stopped for the last 27 years now," Boujaoude said.

After he finished college, he began writing about the history of the Manchester United football club in 2007. He's since written several books about the history of the club, but felt compelled to take a brief detour to write his memoir "Growing Up, Blowing Up: A Childhood in the Lebanese Civil War."

Boujaoude wanted to tell his story to generations who had not experienced the environment he had grown up in, and to convey hope to readers. The book doesn't assign blame but just depicts what life was like growing up in the midst of a civil war. "I would say it's a story of hardship, but in the end you can see that no matter what you go through, you can still come out of it at the other end and continue with your life and bounce back from the adversity you faced," Boujaoude said.

In Uncertain Times, This School Continues to Serve Meals and Smiles

ANDREW THOMAS

Even though schools across the country are closed, many of them continue to serve breakfast and lunch to their students. Despite the health risks to themselves, these heroic food service workers continue to provide meals for kids. One woman in Michigan is going above and beyond, and making sure the meal-pick up experience is more than just a daily routine—by serving up smiles and more.

Pattie Guck has been the food service director for Birmingham Public Schools in Michigan for the past six years. Since schools have been shut down, she and her team have been making more than 1,000 meals a day for any students under the age of 18, even if they don't attend the school. Not only is she and her "dream team" serving up breakfast and lunch, they're also making sure the experience is fun for both students and parents.

Guck and her team pick different dress-up themes every day to keep things light and fun for their students. Guck describes herself as a fun and high-energy person, and the idea to have theme days just came to her. As she planned for the first day, March 16, she wanted to maintain a sense of normalcy for her students.

"We wanted them to see their school lunch ladies and lunch dudes with their smiles on their faces and we wanted to make it fun for the kids, so my team and I sat down and we brainstormed and we came up with a bunch of different themes together," Guck said.

Some of the popular themes have been Christmas, school spirit, Disney, sports, and Superhero Day. Every Friday is Pajama Day. With so much uncertainty and fear in the air, Guck and her team are striving to provide a fun part of the day for their students.

When kids and parents pull up to the serving window in their cars, they tell Guck and her colleagues how much they love the themes, and how excited they are to see what the theme will be the next day. Kids and parents often participate, too: They have pulled up to the window wearing Mickey Mouse ears for Disney Day and pajamas on Fridays.

The biggest challenge has been the Michigan weather, but Guck and her team have served breakfast and lunch outside despite rain, sleet, snow, and 50 mile-per-hour winds. The other day, it was snowing and sleeting, but they stayed outside serving meals for two hours.

"We danced to stay warm, and we always have music playing to keep the environment really happy and high-energy," Guck said. "At the end of two hours we were a little wet and a little cold but we just all came inside and warmed up and just started making lunches for the next day," Guck said.

The most rewarding part of Guck's job is how proud she is of her "dream team," knowing that they're still able to serve their kids during such an uncertain time, and maintaining their core values of serving happy, healthy meals "with a little bit of pixie dust."

"It's an amazing feeling to know that we're helping our community and people from surrounding communities," Guck said.



COURTESY OF PATTIE GUCK/CHARTWELLS K12 OF BIRMINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Pattie Guck (C) and her "dream team" have been providing over 1,000 meals daily for students in the community.



REUTERS/SUMAYA HISHAM

(Left) Bashierah Moos, 5, and Hanaa Moos, 9, in Cape Town, South Africa, on April 19, 2020. (Right) Ivan Posta, 8, Vince Posta, 11, and Vilma Posta in Budapest, Hungary, on April 10, 2020.



REUTERS/BERNADET SZABO

Children's Drawings From Lockdown Show the World What They Miss Most

Children confined to their homes under lockdown are drawing what they miss most—friends at school, grandparents, football, and green open spaces.

Regardless of where they are, the themes are often the same.

From Tokyo to Buenos Aires, and New York to Kathmandu, youngsters have taken to their balconies or front lawns to display and explain the drawings they have made to Reuters photographers.

Eight-year-old Reku Matsui in Tokyo has drawn himself between his grandparents, all three of them smiling together.

Regardless of where they are, the themes are often the same.

"I miss being with my grandmother and my grandfather. Also, I want to go to my grandmother's house," he said.

His older sister Yaya, 12, has drawn a picture of herself and a friend. "What I want to do the most right now is hang out with my friends."

In the German town of Bad Honnef, near Bonn, 6-year-old Tom explains: "I have painted a picture of the house of Grandma and Grandpa, because I miss them so much."

Besides longed-for grandparents, children are also depicting the sports they miss. Ivan Posta, 8, and brother Vince, 11, who live in the Hungarian capital Budapest, have drawn huge soccer balls.

"I drew a soccer ball, because we can't play football in the garden as there are trees and bushes everywhere," said Vince. Thousands of miles away in the Nigerian city of Lagos, 11-year-old Olatunji Adebayo has also drawn a huge soccer ball. "I miss playing football with my friends before the lockdown ... I feel sad about the lockdown," he said.

Flowers, woods, and green spaces also feature prominently.

Jane Hassebroek, who lives in Brooklyn, New York, said: "I chose to draw my local park because it's a place me and my friends can hang out with each other away from school and home and just have fun."

"This lockdown has made me feel pretty trapped because I live in New York City so it is hard to social distance when there are so many people around," the 13-year-old added.

Sandithi Illeperuma is 14 and lives in Sri Lanka's capital Colombo.

In her picture, a girl sits alone in the bottom right corner with her knees up to her chin, wearing a face mask. At the top, a group of female figures in swirling skirts dance together, enjoying themselves.

"Before the lockdown, I used to draw fun and creative stuff. But after the lockdown ... I started to draw the things I missed the most ... I draw my emotions. It has made me feel very lonely because I'm the only child," she added.

From Reuters

STYLE

The Best Colors to Wear for Your Skin Tone

MANY NGOM

Colors and skin tone can be tricky to match. That is why celebrities work with stylists: they are experts, and if you get a good one, chances are you're less likely to commit a color faux pas.

But for those of us without personal stylists, doing a simple self-color analysis can help.

According to color analysis, based on your skin tone, eye color, and hair color, some colors make your complexion look brighter and healthier, while others make you look sad and tired. Color analysis also categorizes you into a season—spring, summer, autumn, or winter—with a corresponding ideal color palette.

Now that I have your attention, here are

some quick tests to do your own color analysis. We will determine if your skin tone is warm or cool, find your season, and look at which colors you should favor to highlight your inner and outer beauty.

Is Your Skin Tone Warm or Cool?

Check Your Veins

First test: Look at your wrist and check what color your veins are. If they are purple or blue, your complexion is cool; if they are more olive or green, your complexion is warm.

You may find it difficult to distinguish the color of your veins if they fall between blue and green. If so, you have a neutral complexion.

Use Your Jewelry

The second test is to try on silver and gold jewelry. Wear earrings or a necklace, something close to your face, and look in the mirror to observe which metal makes your complexion and your eyes brighter. If it's silver, you have a cool complexion, and if it's gold, you have a warm complexion.

White Paper

Just to be sure, let's do a final test. Take a blank sheet of white paper, and place it close to your neck or chest. Then compare your skin to the white surface. If your skin looks yellowish or green, you are on the warm side. If your skin appears rosy or blue, you're on the cool side. Finally, if your skin looks ashy or gray, you are neutral.



GOOD CHOICE



BAD CHOICE



GOOD CHOICE



BAD CHOICE

Spring

HAIR: blond, with variations of light blond, golden, light red, or light auburn.

SKIN TONE: ivory, peach, golden, or yellow.

EYES: green, golden, steel blue, blue, amber, or light brown.

BEST COLORS: warm and soft colors, such as golden yellow, pistachio, apple green, coral, ivory, classic blue, light blue, orange, and off-white.

BEST JEWELRY: gold.

COLORS TO AVOID: electric blue, wine, white, black, and harsh colors in general.

EXAMPLE: Emma Stone

A light golden dress enhances Emma Stone's hair and skin complexion. The whole picture is well-balanced; she is glowing and you can sense she is comfortable. On the other hand, when she wears contrasting colors like this black and white top, it diminishes her tone and her skin looks dull. Even the green eyeshadow isn't enough to help.



Ideal color palette for the Spring Lady.

Summer

HAIR: blond, sometimes platinum blond, light or dark gray (almost ashy), chestnut or brown chestnut, silver gray, or white.

SKIN TONE: milky white and rosy, almost like a porcelain tone, very pale, or very light ivory.

EYES: very intense blue, green, light gray, gray or between green and gray, chestnut, or black.

BEST COLORS: Kelly green, cold and light tones such as raspberry, off-white, blue-gray, light gray, dusty pink, turquoise, and fuchsia.

BEST JEWELRY: silver.

COLORS TO AVOID: bold warm colors, such as bright orange.

EXAMPLE: Cate Blanchett

When Cate Blanchett wears green, it gives her brighter, healthy-looking skin with minimal makeup. In bold orange, her whole complexion looks faded, and her face blends in with her dress so that all you see is one color: orange.



Ideal color palette for the Summer Lady.



GOOD CHOICE



BAD CHOICE

Autumn

HAIR: auburn, red, bright red, salt and pepper, warm brown, or dark brown.

SKIN TONE: rosy, golden, peach, bronze, or very dark bronze.

EYES: usually brown, though they can also be light blue or green.

BEST COLORS: warm and rich, like rusty orange, paprika, saffron, brick, caramel, khaki, and bronze.

BEST JEWELRY: golden yellow

Colors to avoid: black, dark navy, and cool colors.

EXAMPLE: Lupita Nyong'o

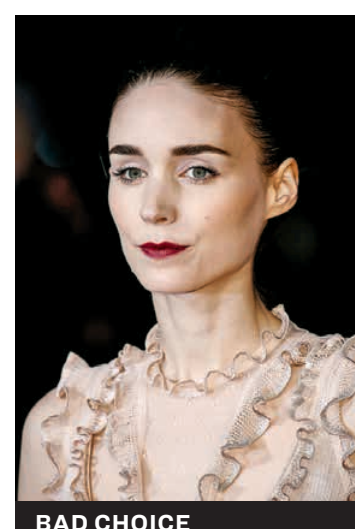
The best colors for the autumn lady are earthy tones—tones that connect with nature. The difference is very obvious on Lupita Nyong'o. Her skin gets an instant glow with a rich brown dress and gold accessories, while black makes her skin look dull.



Ideal color palette for the Autumn Lady.



GOOD CHOICE



BAD CHOICE

Winter

HAIR: dark brown, black (possibly with a blue tone, like a dark indigo).

SKIN TONE: can range from very pale and matte, to rosy with bluish undertones, to light olive or even very dark.

EYES: blue, green, brown, black, or gray.

BEST COLORS: The winter lady is versatile and can switch from warm tones such as peach, brown, and yellow; to dark navy, fuchsia, and purple; to even bright white, winter green, and royal blue.

BEST JEWELRY: silver and white gold.

COLORS TO AVOID: pastels and washed-out colors.

EXAMPLE: Rooney Mara

Rooney Mara has porcelain skin with dark, contrasting hair. When she wears clothes that are similarly dark and contrasting, her clothes and hair frame her face, highlighting that beautiful porcelain skin. But when she tries to wear pastels or nude tones, she loses her glow and all you see is her dark hair and lipstick.



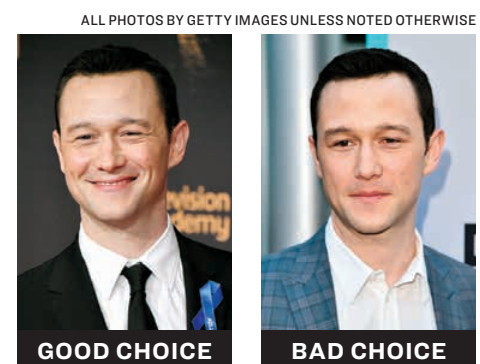
Ideal color palette for the Winter Lady.

Which Season Are You?

Now, let's find your season. If your complexion is warm, you could be a spring or autumn lady, and if it's cool, you might be a winter or summer lady. To find out which season you are, we need to take into consideration your skin tone and the color of your hair and eyes.

For Men, Consider Contrast

Color analysis is simpler for men because there is no make-up and barely any jewelry involved. The focus will be on the contrast between your skin tone, hair color, and eye color, and making sure they are in harmony with the colors of your clothes.

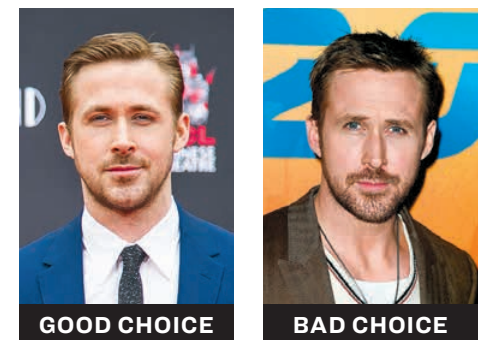


ALL PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE

High Contrast

Men with light, fair skin and dark brown or black hair fall in the high-contrast category. Like winter ladies, these men should wear darker suits in dark navy, black, or charcoal, with a white shirt and a dark tie. The goal is to frame and draw attention to the face.

Joseph Gordon-Levitt is in this category. Look at the difference between these two outfits: When he wears a light suit with a white shirt, everything is light, making his skin look dull. But when he wears a darker suit, it contrasts nicely with his shirt and fair skin, which drives the attention to his face and makes him look healthier.



Medium Contrast

The majority of men fall into this category: skin that is not too pale, nor too dark, and hair that is dark, but not as dark as the high-contrast category. Men in this category have more flexibility when it comes to colors. Choose clothes in medium tones—not too pale, not too dark—but not similar to your skin tone.

Ryan Gosling is our model in this category, as his skin is in the medium range—slightly tanned—and his eyes are medium blue, neither very pale nor intense. He looks much better in a classic blue suit than in a black suit, which is too dark. When he wears a suit in a color too similar to his skin tone, it doesn't look attractive; in that photo, all you see is the pattern on his sweater.



Muted Contrast

Those with blond, red, salt-and-pepper, gray, or platinum hair fall into the muted-contrast category. I recommend they wear light gray suits with neutral colors and white shirts, to minimize the contrast between the clothes and hair and let the face be the focus.

Let's take Patrick Dempsey, for example. When he wears a dark suit, all you see is the suit. But when he wears a gray suit, which matches his hair, you get to see his glowing skin.

Harvard Magazine Calls for a ‘Presumptive Ban’ on Homeschooling: Here Are 5 Things It Got Wrong

KERRY MCDONALD

Author’s Note: This is a copy of my submitted letter to the editor to Harvard Magazine regarding its recent article, “The Risks of Homeschooling.”

Dear Editor:

As a Harvard alum, longtime donor, education researcher, and homeschooling mother of four children in Cambridge, Massachusetts, I was shocked to read the article, “The Risks of Homeschooling,” by Erin O’Donnell in Harvard Magazine’s new May–June 2020 issue. Aside from its biting, one-sided portrayal of homeschooling families that mischaracterizes the vast majority of today’s homeschoolers, it is filled with misinformation and incorrect data. Here are five key points that challenge the article’s primary claim that the alleged “risks for children—and society—in homeschooling” necessitate a “presumptive ban on the practice”:



Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., on April 22, 2020.

1. Protecting Children from Abuse

I agree with the author of the article and Harvard Law School professor, Elizabeth Bartholet, who is widely quoted throughout, that it is critically important that children be protected from abuse. They argue that sending children to school prompts “mandated reporters,” such as teachers and school administrators, to identify possible child abuse. But many parents choose to homeschool their children to remove them from abuse at school, whether it’s widespread bullying by peers or, tragically, rampant abuse by teachers and school administrators themselves.

Child abuse is horrific wherever it occurs, but singling out homeschooling parents as potential abusers simply because they do not send their children to school is both unfair and troubling. Child abuse laws exist in all states and should be rigorously enforced. Banning homeschooling, or adding burdensome regulations on homeschooling families, who in many instances are fleeing a system of education that they find harmful to their children, are unnecessary attacks on law-abiding families.

2. Recognizing Homeschooling’s Diversity

One of the more incorrect assertions in the article is the statement that up to 90 percent of today’s homeschooling families are “driven by conservative Christian beliefs.”

It is true that religious conservatives were key to the growth of homeschooling in the late-20th century, as the number of US homeschoolers swelled to 850,000 in

1999. About two-thirds of today’s nearly two million US homeschoolers identify as Christian (equal to the US population as a whole), but the homeschooling population is becoming increasingly diverse, both ideologically and demographically.

According to the most recent data on homeschooling by the US Department of Education, the most significant motivator for parents choosing this education option was “concern about the school environment, such as safety, drugs, and negative peer pressure,” exceeding other factors such as a desire to provide religious or moral instruction.

Much of the current growth in homeschooling is being driven by urban, secular parents who are disillusioned with a test-driven, one-size-fits-all mass schooling model and want a more individualized educational environment for their children. Federal data also reveal that the percentage of black homeschoolers doubled between 2007 and 2012 to 8 percent, while the percentage of Hispanic homeschoolers is about 25 percent.

larger community and may have more community involvement and participation in extracurricular and volunteer activities than schooled children due to their more flexible schedules and interaction with a wide assortment of community members. This reinforces similar research on private education more broadly, suggesting positive civic engagement and outcomes.

Moreover, public schools are struggling to inculcate a strong understanding of democratic values and civic knowledge. According to a 2017 survey by the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania, 37 percent of Americans could not identify one right protected by the First Amendment of the US Constitution, and more than half of them erroneously believe that undocumented immigrants have no constitutional rights. Worrying about homeschoolers’ civic education when public schools are seemingly floundering in this regard is misguided.

4. Ensuring the Proper Role of Government

The central tension between those who advocate for homeschooling bans and heightened regulation and those who don’t relates to how each side views the proper role of government. The former sees a proactive role of government in “intervening to try to safeguard the child’s right to education and protection,” while the latter relies on the historical underpinnings of our democracy, going back to the writings of

John Locke and Thomas Jefferson. We are endowed with “unalienable rights” and that to “secure these rights, governments are instituted.”

If a child is being abused, whether in a homeschooling situation or a public school classroom, the government should intervene to protect that child. But to single out a particular group for increased suspicion, monitoring, and invasion of privacy under the guise of “protection” is as un-American as similar attempts of the past. I agree with Bartholet when she says in the article: “I think it’s always dangerous to put powerful people in charge of the powerless, and to give the powerful ones total authority.” She is concerned with families having this power, while I worry about giving that power to government.

5. Identifying Homeschooling Outcomes

In 2018, The Harvard Gazette spotlighted three Harvard students who were homeschooled using an informal, self-directed approach to learning. “There wasn’t much of a plan or a long-term plan going in; I just took classes I was interested in,” said one of the students, while another asked, “Why would you go to the same building every day and do the same thing every day?” The article said that the students all demonstrated a “spirit of curiosity and independence that continues to shape their education.” While there may always be outliers and more research is needed, most peer-reviewed studies on homeschooling outcomes find that homeschoolers generally outperform their schooled peers academically, and have positive life experiences.

There is room for robust discussion and debate about education and homeschooling, including what is considered effective and beneficial—and who decides. Given Harvard Magazine’s reputation for editorial excellence, I was disappointed to see this article’s emphasis on the potential risks of homeschooling without highlighting its benefits. Bartholet indicates that “tolerance of other people’s viewpoints” is a key civic value. I agree, and I hope future articles in this magazine demonstrate this tolerance.

Sincerely,
Kerry McDonald, Ed.M. ‘01
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Kerry McDonald is a Senior Education Fellow at FEE and author of “Unschooling: Raising Curious, Well-Educated Children Outside the Conventional Classroom.” This article was originally published on FEE.org.

Worrying about homeschoolers’ civic education when public schools are seemingly floundering in this regard is misguided.

6 Hidden Blessings of Homeschooling

MICHAEL COURTER

Now that schools are closed just about everywhere, we have no choice but to take back responsibility for our children’s learning. For many, it feels like another chore on top of a pile of responsibilities, while others feel they finally get a chance to educate their children how they have always wanted to. Either way, gratitude is a great first step to making the experience more rewarding.

Reconnecting With Your Child

Many of us who work long hours wish we had more time to spend with our children. Out of necessity, maybe we’ve had to arrange for other people to look after them. When you start spending more time with your child, you may find that neither of you feels as close as you’d like. If you are homeschooling your children now, take some time to focus on connecting and building a strong relationship with them first. If you get down to business too fast, as many of us are prone to, you are going to get a lot more push-back and resistance when you try to teach or discipline them. Instead,

take some time to connect and play with your children, listen to them, and form a deep bond.

Getting Them Away From Bad Influences

We often wish our children would stop being influenced by some of their peers at school. Depending on their age, they might be getting a first-rate education in bullying, rebelling against authority, social exclusion, promiscuous sex, or drugs. At home, you have a lot more say over what your child is being exposed to.

Inviting God Back Into Education

Make no mistake about it. Almost any public school is a secular environment, and spiritual or religious beliefs are not welcome. In fact, you could say that most school settings in America push a viewpoint that is hostile to religious teachings and faith. At home, you get to decide how to prioritize your spiritual and religious beliefs in your child’s education. In fact, you can include any other subjects that you decide are not prioritized enough in

your child’s schooling, from music to budgeting.

Unlearning Grievance Studies

Public education is not secular when it comes to pushing a political agenda on children as young as grade school, by introducing them to what James Lindsay aptly calls grievance studies. Grievance studies are about how everyone is oppressed by the white male patriarchy. It teaches people to focus on how they are the victims, which is the exact opposite of the mentality people need to be successful. This ideology is so prevalent in schools because it’s a fundamental part of the education received by teachers.

Tailoring Lessons to Your Child’s Learning Style

We all learn in different ways and the way public schools teach does not always meet the learning strengths of our child. When our children’s learning style is not a good match for the way schools teach, they will often struggle in the classroom setting, earn poor grades, and internalize a sense of failure, despite how capable or in-

telligent they may be.

Hands-on learners, in particular, often get lost in a classroom setting where learning is mostly focused on abstract concepts. Highly intuitive learners, on the other hand, grasp the abstract concepts so quickly that they become bored while instruction is slowed down to the speed of the slowest learners in the class.

Take some time to figure out how your child learns and try to deliver lessons in that format. It is likely that the way they learn is very similar to one of their parents.

Learning Along With Them

While you are choosing how and what your child learns, you could learn it along with them. With the internet, almost any subject is at your fingertips. You could start a living room karate class together, learn how to dance, build a robot, or try a new cuisine. In homeschooling, you are the author of the journey.

Michael Courter is a therapist and counselor who believes in the power of personal growth, repairing relationships, and following your dreams. He can be reached at mc@CourterCounsel.com



If you are homeschooling your children now, take some time to focus on connecting and building a strong relationship with them first.



FOR KIDS ONLY

THE EPOCH TIMES

Week 18, 2020



THE WEB GOES PUBLIC

On April 30, 1993, The European Organization for Nuclear Research, aka CERN, released into the public domain the software and technology now commonly referred to as the World Wide Web. That means that everyone was free

to use this emerging technology. From Geneva, it issued a declaration that the intent was to “further compatibility, common practices, and standards in networking and computer supported collaboration.” It went on to relinquish all intellectual property rights to the code. This marked a pivotal point on the timeline of information technology.

A Spring Lilt

Author Unknown

Through the silver mist
Of the blossom-spray
Trill the orioles: list
To their joyous lay!
“What in all the world, in all the world,” they say,
Is half so sweet, so sweet, is half so sweet as May?”

“June! June! June!
Low croon
The brown bees in the clover.
“Sweet! sweet! sweet!”
Repeat
The robins, nested over.

WHAT GOES UP WHEN RAIN COMES DOWN?

UMBRELLAS

YUGANOV KONSTANTIN/SHUTTERSTOCK

“To be interested in the changing seasons is a happier state of mind than to be hopelessly in love with spring.”

GEORGE SANTAYANA,
SPANISH PHILOSOPHER AND POET (1863-1952)

FENGLU/SHUTTERSTOCK

By Aidan Danza, age 13

THE FABULOUS MOONS OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM (PART I)

TITAN

Titan’s atmosphere is much thicker than Triton’s. This atmosphere is hazy and golden and is made of nitrogen. This moon is one of the most Earth-like places in our solar system. In the place of water in rivers, there are methane and ethane. (Methane molecules are made of one carbon atom and four hydrogen, while ethane is made of two carbon atoms and six hydrogen atoms).

Titan has volcanoes, like Earth, but instead of lava they have liquid water. Since it is routinely around negative-290°F on Titan, water, in its liquid form, is actually much warmer than moon’s climate. Like on Earth, where lava forms rocks, on Titan water freezes into very cold blocks of ice that function as rocks do here.

Data collected by the NASA’s Cassini and Huygens probes suggests that there might be an ocean under Titan’s surface. Together with the surface bodies of methane and ethane, there is great potential for life on Titan, just like there is on many other moons in our solar system.

TRITON

Let’s start with the farthest of the moons: Triton. Triton is the largest moon orbiting the planet Neptune. It’s unusual in many ways: it is 1 of only 3 moons in the solar system with an atmosphere, and 1 of 2 that has volcanic activity.

It also orbits in a very odd way compared with other moons: It orbits in the opposite direction of Neptune’s rotation (spinning).

Triton has a surface with sparse craters, volcanic plains, and condensed nitrogen frost, and moons that go against their planet’s spin, moons never cease to amaze.

NEW SUBSCRIBER RESOURCES

Welcome to a different kind of news

Hi there, Epoch VIP! It's a pleasure to finally meet you.

We're really excited to have you here so you can experience The Epoch Times for yourself – and see if we live up to the hype.

You may already know that we do journalism a little differently; maybe that's why you're here. In our reporting, we always try to distill a story down to the facts and get readers as close to the truth as we can. We like to think that it's the greatest responsibility we shoulder as media in today's rapidly changing world (and we're quite proud of it!).

But of course, we're not here to tell you what to think about us. That's not what we think media should do.

Instead, we'd suggest you find some quiet time, take a comfortable seat and have a look at our content – from news and opinion to food, mind & body as well as life & tradition. We're firm believers in letting our work speak for itself, which leaves room for our readers to be the

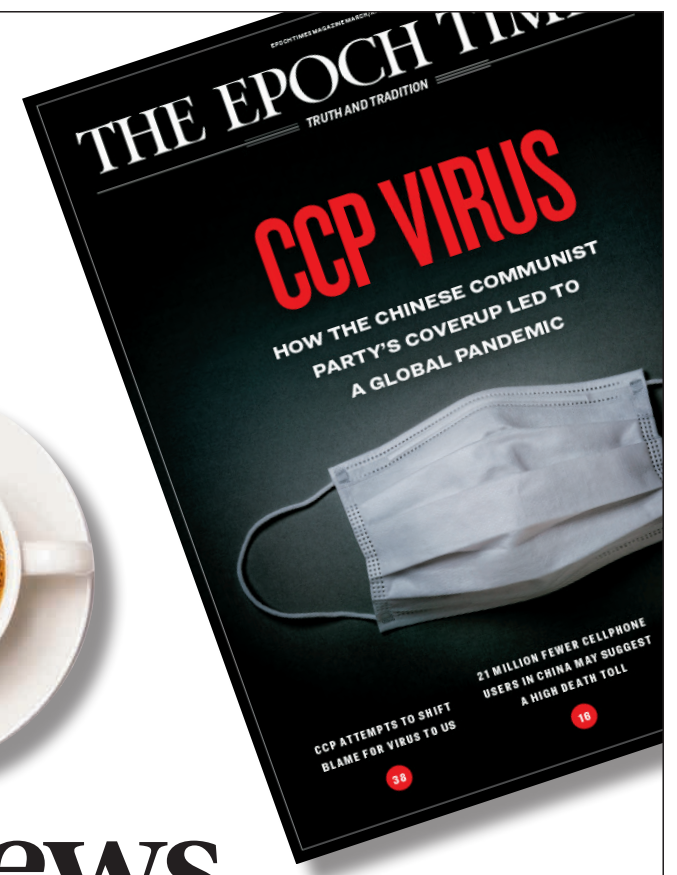
true judges of whether we've done a good job.

That said, we're always open to feedback as being media isn't simply about disseminating information: it's about participating in a bigger societal conversation. And there'd be no conversation if someone wasn't on the other side reacting to our articles. The way we see it, we're always in a partnership with our readers – with your suggestions and support, we hope to deliver a more improved reading experience for you every week.

All this is why when you subscribe, you don't just become a subscriber: you become the newest team member in our journey to bring back traditional, fact-based journalism.

And we'd love to have you onboard. Judging by the fact that you're reading this letter now, we think you have excellent taste.

In truth and tradition,
The Epoch Times



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