

THE EPOCH TIMES LIFE & TRADITION

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when Siegemund
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Matthew Murphy, 4, places a rose on a tombstone during a volunteer event at Arlington National Cemetery, in Arlington, Va., on May 26, 2019.

Remembering the Meaning of Memorial Day

JEFF MINICK

In more normal times, Memorial Day meant a three-day weekend, barbecues in the backyard with family and friends, trips to the beach or the lake, watching baseball, or NASCAR races on television.

For most of us, the day marks the beginning of summer and a more leisurely pace.

Memorial Day 2020 will likely stand in sharp contrast to those entertainments. Many Americans will have endured a 30-day weekend, or longer. Parts of the country may remain in lockdown. In other places, businesses will have reopened, but large crowds will be discouraged or illegal.

Most sporting events are canceled, many movie houses will sit silent and unlit, and some beaches may be closed. Some people have undoubtedly changed plans for trips or vacations, and even day-trippers might encounter obstacles in their travel plans.

In all likelihood, Memorial Day this year will be a bit more somber, a bit less exuberant than in times past.

But maybe the shift in mood is a good thing. Maybe a quieter, more reflective Memorial Day is just what our nation needs.

A Brief History

Memorial Day was never intended as a holiday, but is instead that special day

set aside to remember American military personnel who gave their lives for their country. It is the day when we pay homage to those whom Lincoln, in his Gettysburg Address, called “these honored dead.”

Decoration Day, as it was originally known, came into existence after the Civil War. In 1966, Congress recognized Waterloo, New York, as the birthplace of Memorial Day. Three years after those citizens held the first Decoration Day, so-called because it was a time for decorating the graves of soldiers with flowers, Gen. John Logan in 1868 called for a national time of remembrance of the Civil War dead.

Soon, other states adopted the idea, and eventually the dead from other wars were included in this day of recollection, although it wasn’t until 1971 that Congress made Memorial Day a national holiday to be celebrated on the last Monday of May.

While we may miss some of our usual festivities associated with Memorial Day, we have the opportunity to celebrate this holiday in a manner more in keeping with its intended purpose. Here are some ways we can honor those who laid their lives on the altar of freedom.

Red, White, and Blue

Display the flag. Whatever the size of your flag, today is the time to show your colors. On this day, flags on a pole are lowered to half-staff from sunrise until noon, then raised to the top of the staff until nightfall, a symbolic recognition of both the loss and the triumph of our fallen warriors.

To learn more about flag care and etiquette, you may read online The Old Farmer’s Almanac article “U.S. Flag Etiquette, Rules, and Guidelines.”

Visitations

Visit a cemetery. Many Americans still practice this long-standing tradition of paying a visit to the graves of soldiers on this special day. Some who come to pay tribute bring flowers; others push a small American flag into the earth beside the headstone; still others bring a pair of garden shears and trim the grass around that headstone.

When my children were small, my wife and I took them several times to nearby Green Hill Cemetery, found the graves of soldiers, including those who had fought for the Confederacy, and used these excursions for lessons in history and patriotism.

Visit a war memorial. Many towns and cities have memorials to those who served and died in our wars. In Waynesville, North Carolina, where my family lived for over 20 years, we frequently strolled past the Vietnam War memorial on the courthouse lawn, a small monument with a pair of bronzed combat boots at the base, the names of more than 20 men who had died in that war, and this inscription, “Dedicated to the honored memory of Haywood County’s sons who sacrificed their lives in the Republic of South Vietnam.”

Here in Front Royal, Virginia, we again find on the courthouse lawn several memorials to those who died in service.

Silence and Poppies

Honor the National Moment of Remembrance. In 2000, a Gallup poll showed that only 28 percent of Americans knew the significance of Memorial Day. That same year, in an effort to raise awareness of the meaning behind this holiday, Congress enacted the National Moment of Remembrance (Public Law 506-579), asking all Americans to pause in silence for one minute at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day and remember the dead of our wars.

Take this moment with your family and friends to reflect on the many sacrifices made to ensure our liberty, and you may find these 60 seconds of contemplation a powerful and moving experience.

Wear or display poppies. Though we usually associate the poppy with the British “Remembrance Day,” which is their version of Memorial Day, the idea of wearing a poppy to honor our war dead came to us from an American professor, Moina Michael. Inspired by Canadian soldier and physician Col. John McCrae’s poem “In Flanders Field” with its opening lines “In Flanders Field the poppies blow/Between the crosses, row on row,” Moina Michael wrote her own poem about poppies, “We Shall Keep the Faith,” and later promoted the sale of silk poppies to raise money for disabled soldiers.

Known as the “Poppy Lady” for the rest of her life, Michael sought the help of the American Legion Auxiliary in these distribution efforts, which to this day sells artificial poppies.

Remember Them

Use literature, music, speeches, and art to enhance the day and to teach children and grandchildren the importance of our liberty and its cost. Google “Memorial Day Poems,” and a dozen websites stand ready for your inspection. Google “Memorial Day Art,” and you’ll find not only lots of images, but also some sites offering craft projects for children. Watch Ronald Reagan’s speech on Memorial Day, 1982, at Arlington Cemetery or the many other inspirational addresses you may find online. Type in “Memorial Day Musical Tributes,” and you’ll find an array of music from country to classical.

When we celebrate Memorial Day with our cookouts, trips to the shore, and a day off from work, we should feel neither guilt nor shame. Those who died in places such as Antietam, Belleau Wood, Normandy, the Chosin Reservoir, Ia Drang Valley, and Kamdesh gave their lives so that we who are living could enjoy liberty and the freedom of these pleasures.

All we have to do in return is to pause, remember them, and give thanks for their sacrifices.

And vow to follow their example and preserve those hard-won liberties.

Jeff Minick has four children and a growing platoon of grandchildren. For 20 years, he taught history, literature, and Latin to seminars of homeschooling students in Asheville, N.C. Today, he lives and writes in Front Royal, Va. See Jeff Minick.com to follow his blog.

Meet Picasso, America’s Most Famous Mustang

CATHERINE BOLTON

A herd of wild horses has gained popularity as they gallop together across the landscape in northwest Colorado’s sprawling Sand Wash Basin. However, one particular majestic pinto stallion named Picasso has risen above the fame of even his fellow herd members to become one of the most iconic wild horses in America.

Picasso is estimated to be about 30 years old, making him the elder mustang in the herd. His age certainly seems to come with plenty of respect among his fellow equines. According to a basin visitor, named Patti Mosbey, even the other mustangs treat Picasso with a sort of reverence. According to Denver7 News, in the summer of 2014, as Mosbey was visiting the basin, she spotted the famous stallion with two bands of horses.

As she looked closely, Mosbey noticed that as Picasso passed by them, the rest of the herd, “as if to pay respect to the King,” parted to make room for the legend.

“You almost thought they were deferring to him,” she continued, alluding to the special moment. “Nobody wanted to challenge him.”

However, Picasso, who has a dusty white-and-black mane, was the most famous horse in the herd long before he reached his current estimated age, which is believed to be rare for a mustang living in the harsh conditions of the basin, where the summers are fiery and the temperatures



Picasso with another mustang, Spirit Dancer, in 2018.

in winter can dip below zero.

It was more than a decade ago when a worker with the Humane Society, who was observing the wild horse herd, spotted his unique coat and pointed out that he looked “like a Picasso.”

In the aftermath, photographer Nancy Roberts caught sight of the now-famous mustang in 2010 and posted the images she captured of him to social media. Not long after, Picasso’s fame immediately began to grow, blooming into the legend that he’s become now.

“Whenever I posted a photo of him, people would just go crazy,” Roberts said in an interview with the Denver7 News. “I don’t know what happened. He just became the horse, the King of the Sand Wash Basin.”



Visitors come from afar, writing poems, painting portraits, and even detailing Picasso’s family tree.

While there are about 700 horses that roam the 157,000 acres of federal land in the basin, Picasso has managed to stand out among them and gained legendary status.

It’s also known that many visitors travel miles to just catch a glimpse of the famous mustang. They are known to write poems, paint portraits of him, and even chart out details of his family tree connecting the various dots.

Among them is Sandy Sharkey, a retired radio broadcaster from Ottawa, Canada, who photographed the wild horses of America in May 2018.

“To see Picasso was going to be akin to seeing Brad Pitt in the desert,” Sharkey told Denver7 News.

According to her website, Sharkey has traveled 14,000 miles by road to photograph

wild horses of North America, in a quest to capture the “unbridled freedom of the wild horse, and to encourage others to find the ‘wild horse experience’ for themselves.”

Picasso is a testament to just how sturdy the horses are out in the wild. Even with a highway running through the basin, harsh weather that offers up lightning storms, and fights with other mustangs in the herd, he’s managed to survive—and his fame has only blossomed the longer he’s roamed the open basin.

Cindy Wright, co-founder of Wild Horse Warriors for Sand Wash Basin, told 5280, a city magazine in Denver, that “Picasso is the embodiment of strength.”

She added: “People go into the basin to find healing when they are at a low point. He is symbolic of the ability to keep moving forward.”

Over the past couple of years, there have been calls that Picasso should be adopted; however, many fans of Picasso strongly believe that he belongs to the wild.

At some point, Picasso will probably die. At his current age, he’s been seen less and less.

Sharkey shared with Denver7 News that Picasso does die, it wouldn’t be the end of an era.

“No horse lover worth their salt would recall it that,” she said.

Regardless of how long he lives, his stunning coat and the brilliant photographs of him taken over the years will continue to live on.

Karen Siegemund on the Fight to Preserve American Culture

CATHERINE YANG

Karen Siegemund has experienced her share of political activism, from her movement to “Rage Against the Media” and its biased or untruthful reporting, to serving as president of the American Freedom Alliance (AFA), to becoming a national story overnight when she received a letter saying her teaching contract wouldn’t be renewed because of her remarks in defense of Western civilization.

She certainly seemed primed for a political life, with a father who grew up in Hitler’s Berlin, and having worked with the Navy during the Cold War.

But Siegemund, initially a scientist, says her fight has never been a political one, but a cultural one.

“Standing in defense of Western civilization—how shocking that that’s a partisan issue. But it is. This is the one that shocks me more than anything,” said Siegemund, who heads AFA from Southern California, where she is based. “With AFA, we’re not a political organization but everything we do does relate to the culture.”

It actually all started when she first realized what children today are reading.

“It was indoctrination, pure and simple,” she said.

Broadening Horizons

Following the end of the Cold War, Siegemund traded developing sonar systems for continuing studies. She wanted to study international relations to delve into history and war and diplomacy so she could understand how that had all happened.

And then she had a dream. “I literally had a dream where I was back at my old school,” Siegemund said. She was teaching an evening seminar that helped the students put together all of the lessons from different subjects they had learned about during the day.

She woke up and realized she wanted to do just that, and reached out to many schools in her area with a list of the wide range of subjects she could teach.

“I got a call the next day and became a math teacher; math and Latin were the first two things,” Siegemund said.

“What I wanted to do was broaden the world for kids,” she said. “After 20 years as a scientist, teaching is a completely different thing, but I loved it so much—it was making the world bigger for kids.”

Whether she was teaching math, Latin, French, or science, she would apply the lessons to real-world cases, put things in historical context, and make connections across subjects.

But early on, Siegemund noticed there was something missing in schools.

Eighth-graders at the middle school where Siegemund taught would put together a presentation to give before the whole school every year, and it was a wonderful project in concept.

But one presentation stood out. “One little boy, he stood up there, he had a beautiful PowerPoint—and everything he said was wrong,” Siegemund said. “He stood up there and spoke very well, but factually was completely incorrect.

“So I talked to the head of the school and said, ‘You know he just stood up there and told a hundred kids a whole bunch of stuff that’s wrong, so now it’s not only he who did this wrong thing, but he’s presented this to a hundred kids who now know this wrong stuff as fact,’” Siegemund said.

“And her response to me was: ‘Yes, but did you see how great his

PowerPoint was? I’m sure he was so proud of how he spoke. He had confidence, he had charisma, he opened with a joke. It was a great thing for him.”

Content Matters

After Siegemund earned a master’s degree in international relations, she wanted to delve into how identities are formed around the world. For her doctorate, she started with the question of how national identities are formed during adolescence, but it quickly turned into something else.

“The original plan was, I was going to look at the music, books, entertainment that American kids are exposed to and compare it to the same thing that French kids are exposed to,” she said. “Then I started reading the American books that were written for adolescents, and went to my advisor and said, ‘You just can’t even believe what all is going on here.’”

She ended up doing her dissertation on education and American culture.

Since American culture is fluid and mobile compared to many other cultures, Siegemund expected to find media that would help adolescents navigate this time of identity development. What she found instead was that books written for young adults were largely devoid of content or meaning, and books for girls especially pushed the message that sexual identity is their only value.

Worse, these books are often promoted by schools and libraries. Siegemund asked why, and the response was that kids seem to like it, and at least they’re reading.

“It was allowed because kids are supposed to read because reading is good. But they’d forgotten why reading is good,” Siegemund said. It felt to her that students were being robbed of great literature for the most arbitrary reasons while misguided educators celebrated, instead of realizing they were undermining so much good they could be doing.

“This is what kills me the most—it robs kids of access, and appreciation, and love of some of the greatest things that mankind has ever created. And I think that’s theft,” she said. “In my research that I did for my dissertation, among those [small number of] kids who had read ‘The Odyssey’ ... it was their favorite book.”

Still, at this time, Siegemund hadn’t thought of any of her research as being part of the political realm, much less connecting it to the left’s “long march through the institutions,” a topic AFA held a conference about in 2019. She wrote the dissertation from a place of compassion for the kids, and as an educator herself, and it wasn’t until the 2008 elections that she noticed again that great delivery mattered more to people than content, and the things she cared about really did exist in the political realm.

American Freedom Alliance

In 2010, Siegemund was visiting California when she first encountered AFA, and when she moved



Karen Siegemund is the president of the American Freedom Alliance.

“After 20 years as a scientist, teaching is a completely different thing, but I loved it so much—it was making the world bigger for kids.”

Karen Siegemund

Siegemund at last year’s American Freedom Alliance conference.



BRYAN SELTZER

there in 2013, she became good friends with then-President Avi Davis. His sudden death in 2015 shocked the community, but those who were involved rallied to keep AFA alive.

The organization has a mission to uphold Western values and ideals, chief among them freedom, and stands against global governance and biased media. And while it’s not a conservative group by design, Siegemund says it just happens that the issues the AFA cares about happen to be those that conservatives rally around.

“People donate to political candidates and that’s all well and good. But without the culture, without people being made aware of issues rather than just candidates, it’s very hard to move forward,” she added.

The group holds events literary cafes and conferences on topical issues, such as a recent event about China on March 1.

Siegemund would like to expand AFA events, do trips, and get more involved in education because so many things really circle back to it.

“Kids at the high school level are so profoundly ignorant. As long as that keeps happening, we’re just going to have to keep fighting the same fight,” she said. “The indoctrination is at every level, it’s in the skills, it’s in the content. It’s in the attitude. It’s in the very air.”

She is deeply concerned for students who, in addition to being robbed of great thought, are taught from a young age that they should be ashamed of themselves and their country, as well as the damage that does to their still-forming identities.

Optimism and a Way Forward

Siegemund says nearly everything she does ties into her AFA work, except perhaps when she attends local classical concerts.

“I go to the Hollywood Bowl for Beethoven and Tchaikovsky,” she said. “There’s thousands and thousands and thousands of us at the Bowl, thousands. The first bar of the National Anthem, no one announces anything, every single person stands up, every single person puts their hand over their heart even though that’s not what you have to do with the national anthem.

“And we sing! And I sit next to

people from all over the world, and they stand. It’s one of the most moving things ever,” she said.

“Then, for a couple of hours, we are immersed in the most magnificent music. It’s breathtaking. Magnificent,” she said. “And for the entire time, you cannot hear a pin drop in the audience. Nothing. It’s silence. It’s reverential. It is love. We are all bonded there together in such appreciation of this beauty, and it’s miraculous.

“You can’t believe that the world that you’re living in all the rest of the time is so different from this. It is such a respite. It is so magnificent,” Siegemund said.

As an afterthought, she said perhaps that does tie into being a conservative, after all.

“As a conservative, one thing we need to take a little bit more time and doing is celebrating beauty, because it’s beauty that we’re losing, along with all kinds of other things. But if we can uplift beauty, I think that in itself is helpful,” she said.

“So engaging in the fight in the culture, yes, there’s schools and Hollywood and all of that. But just celebrating beauty, celebrating great art, going to those museums, going to those concerts is such a great way to be positive and to bring about positive change. How you celebrate beauty can inoculate, I think, against the destructive forces,” Siegemund said.

She is optimistic about the fight because more and more people seem to be joining. While California is known to be a very left-leaning state, she notes that some of the most outspoken conservative voices are also based right in Los Angeles.

Meanwhile, Siegemund doesn’t want to fall into the trap of failure of imagination. Her father was born in Berlin in 1928, and no one in the 1930s could have imagined the regime to come, and history tells us clearly that unimaginable horrors are possible.

“So I do take it as my personal mission and with AFA to prevent that from happening,” she said.

“People need to know, people need to be aware, people need to especially be cautious because tyranny and totalitarianism don’t come in with a bang, they come in with baby steps of eroding freedoms and we’re seeing that.”



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Making the Most of Your Backyard

Backyards have never been more appreciated.

BARBARA DANZA

It looks like many of us are going to be spending more time than usual at home this summer. Backyards, or whatever outdoor spaces one has access to, have never been more appreciated. I asked interior designer Vanessa Deleon for her advice on making the most of outdoor spaces. Here's what she said.

THE EPOCH TIMES: Many families are looking to their backyards to provide more comfort and fun this summer than ever before. What qualities make a backyard inviting and enjoyable?
VANESSA DELEON: Try simple things such as Lavoir hanging outdoor string lighting—they create a warm, inviting atmosphere. To make a backyard comfortable and fun, create a seating area with a cushioned seating set, replete with loungers, chairs, and chaises—these pieces are all great for relaxing outdoors with family and friends.

THE EPOCH TIMES: On the list of concerns this summer is the family budget. What are some inexpensive ways to spruce up the backyard?
MS. DELEON: If you have limited resources to spruce up the backyard, I'd suggest the following: use indoor/outdoor throw pillows for seating—improving comfort with a dose of style in your outdoor experience is key. If you have an abundance of branches in the yard, gather

them, and get creative—make some wreaths to hang outdoors. It's a great activity to do with the kids. Lastly, without breaking the bank, add a little ambiance to your nights with LED hanging string lights. Run to your local hardware store and buy some seeds—plant a flower garden yourself. It's a soothing exercise that will yield something beautiful.

THE EPOCH TIMES: What are some of the easiest ways families can improve the look and feel of their backyard?
MS. DELEON: For those that aren't sure what type of design they are interested in, jumping online to search for a backyard theme—for example, rustic backyards, Southern backyards, city rooftops, etc.—will help them narrow down exactly what style and amenities they most love in a backyard. From there, they can start small. If it's a certain type of landscaping, look into what you love most and then narrow down by what grows best in your locale.

THE EPOCH TIMES: What are some key elements every family's backyard should have?
MS. DELEON: Umbrellas! They not only provide shade from the sun but they also add an element of comfort—plus they can contribute to the design of your backyard. They come in all shapes, sizes, and patterns, meaning you can have as many as you can strategically fit into your



COURTESY OF VANESSA DELEON

“Plant a flower garden. It's a soothing exercise that will yield something beautiful.”

Vanessa Deleon, interior designer

backyard with a stylistic appeal. I also recommend a barbecue set up with outdoor refrigeration. Having this entertainment area in your backyard not only allows you to increase the footprint of your livable space and gives you the option to entertain outdoors—but it offers convenience and ease of use. This includes a pool bar or a garden bar if you don't have a pool. If you have kids, having a fully-outfitted outdoor entertainment suite also lessens the impact on your interiors—there is no more running back and forth from indoors to out to grab a drink or a snack.

Trees! They not only provide natural shade and a cooler place to sit, but they offer a wonderful ambiance. In addition, a garden is always visually comforting and it can add all of the benefits of biophilic design. From flowers and botanicals to a vegetable garden—planting them can be a relaxing family affair which also yields a gorgeous aesthetic.

JOYCE HUIS/UNSPLASH



Fully outfitted outdoor entertainment center or not, we also recommend investing in a fire pit. It's a nice amenity to have on cool nights and you will find it becomes a wonderful place for family and friends to gather and share. Last, but not least, an outdoor projector is such a fun and special item to have. It's like watching a movie in the park—but in the comfort of your own backyard.

THE EPOCH TIMES: What backyard enhancements add the most to the home's property value?
MS. DELEON: Landscaping is huge—make sure that the plants, shrubs, and flowers can easily adapt to the environment. If you live up North, planting palm trees in your yard for example, while gorgeous, won't allow them to survive. Make sure you know what plants and flowers are best to plant in your area and which need the most or least attention.

Another great enhancement to home property value is the perfect-fit gazebo or pergola, meaning perfectly proportioned to your yard. And at the risk of repeating myself, a fully-outfitted outdoor bar, barbecue, etc. make all of the difference. It allows for extending your entertainment area outdoors and offers such a huge convenience and ease of use. I use True Residential's indoor/outdoor under-counter refrigeration units—wine cabinets included—and they make for such a stylistic and functional appeal.

Grace Notes: Cooperation and Kindness

JEFF MINICK

In high school, many of us read William Golding's "Lord of the Flies," the story of British schoolboys whose airplane crashes on a deserted island, at which point nearly all of them swiftly lose the veneer of civilization and become murderous savages. The novel suggests that most human beings, removed from laws and social constraints, would become depraved beasts. Perhaps. Or perhaps not.

Acts of Survival and Rescue

In his fascinating online article "The Real Lord of the Flies: what happened when six boys were shipwrecked for fifteen months," Rutger Bregman tells the story of six teenage schoolmates from Tonga who in 1977 slipped away from campus, stole a boat, put to sea, encountered a storm, were shipwrecked, and spent months on an abandoned island. During their many days cut off from the outside world, these boys banded together, vowed never to quarrel, worked on their survival, and even built such structures as a crude badminton court and a gymnasium. They began and ended each day by praying and singing. When one of their comrades broke his leg, they set the bone, which a surgeon later declared perfectly done. Eventually, their rescuer, Captain Peter Warner, hired them as the crew of his fishing boat.

Certainly some apocalyptic disaster might raise up the barbarian in us, but a crisis of less drastic proportion often brings out the best in people. Recently in Fort Worth, Texas, for example, a small dog, both blind and deaf, and the beloved pet of a 91-year-old woman in a wheelchair, fell into a storm drain. Responding to the woman's cries, Libby Gilmore, age 65, a cancer survivor with a bad back and at 5'1" the only person present small enough to enter the drain, spent nearly three hours crawling beneath the earth before finding the dog and returning it alive and well to her owner.

The Right Thing

During our present pandemic and shut-down, and even in the ordinary circumstances of everyday life, many of us have witnessed others doing the right thing, neighbor helping neighbor, or even Good Samaritans assisting strangers in distress. We read about some of these accounts in the media, such as the New Mexican teenager who found a bag at an ATM containing \$135,000, accidentally left there by a Wells Fargo subcontractor sent to put money into the machine. José Nuñez Romaniz had gone to the ATM on a Sunday to withdraw money to buy his grandfather some socks, found the bag, and notified the police. When asked what he was thinking when he found so much cash, Romaniz said he was thinking of the reaction of his parents had he come home with the money, especially his mom, "and what she would do with her chancía [sandal] to hit me."

There's a young man with great parents and a great future.

Then there are the smaller and less dramatic acts of kindness and care.



EDUARDO MUNOZ ALVAREZ/GETTY IMAGES



STEPHANIE KEITH/GETTY IMAGES

▲ (Top) Volunteers distribute food to people in need during the weekly food pantry service run by Grace Ministries North Shore in Everett, Mass., on May 10, 2020.

(Above) A volunteer delivers food and essential items to a resident in Brooklyn, N.Y., on May 11, 2020.

Brightening the Corner Where We Are

We hear much these days about the division among Americans, about tribalism, about hatred. That there is division is undoubtedly true, but I just don't see it in the day-to-day life in the town where I live. The baristas with the tattoos and nose rings where I buy my coffee, now takeout only because of the pandemic; the elderly woman who manages the laundromat; the ladies who operate the country store near my house; the clerk in the self-checkout lane at the grocery store: I see no dislike in them for their customers, whoever they are and however they appear. They offer their services with a smile, which is sometimes hidden by a face mask.

In music, a grace note is an embellishment and not essential to the melody or harmony of a piece. Everywhere around me I see these embellishments, human beings acting as grace notes, brightening the lives of those around them.

Here's one example of what I mean, closer to home and less dramatic than the stories above, but telling nonetheless.

A Request

For 20 years, I have written book reviews for the Smoky Mountain News, a small paper in Western North Carolina. Most often, I choose my books for review from the public library.

With the present pandemic having closed the library for the last six weeks, browsing the stacks was no longer a possibility. For the first time in my life, I ordered and read a book from Kindle for review. It worked,

but I prefer print and paper.

Then I heard I could call the library and tell them the titles I wanted, and a librarian would deliver the books to me in the parking lot.

After searching the library's online catalog for two books that interested me—one was checked out, the other not in the collection—I devised a different plan. I called the library, and a woman identifying herself as Sarah answered the phone. After confirming someone would bring me the books requested, she asked, "What books do you want?"

I explained I needed current books for review, preferably three from the new fiction shelves and three from nonfiction, and asked her to select the books. We talked a few minutes about what I enjoyed reading, and there the conversation ended. By my calculations, if only one of the six books proved interesting, I would be a happy man.

Everywhere around me I see these embellishments, human beings acting as grace notes, brightening the lives of those around them.

Giving of Themselves

Two hours later, Sarah greeted me in the parking lot by a side door. She followed the protocol she had described on the phone. She wore a mask and gloves, pushed the books to me on a library cart, stepped away from the cart, and when I had picked up the bag of books, took the cart and started toward the door.

When I called out my thanks for her efforts, she stopped and informed me two other librarians, one male and one female, had helped her make the selections, which brought a smile. I imagined them with their heads together, asking one another, "So what does this Mr. Minick like to read?" Perhaps they had investigated my checkout record on their computers.

Whatever they did, I discovered to my amazement on arriving home that four of their six selections were right up my alley.

Sarah could have thrown six books in that bag and called it a day. Instead, she and two other staff members had clearly spent a good deal of time and effort deciding what might appeal to me. That might seem a small thing, but not to me. No—it was an act of generosity I will long remember. Next time I visit the library I intend to be bearing gifts, bringing them flowers, candies, and pastries to express my appreciation.

Kindness is contagious.

Jeff Minick has four children and a growing platoon of grandchildren. For 20 years, he taught history, literature, and Latin to seminars of homeschooling students in Asheville, N.C., Today, he lives and writes in Front Royal, Va. See Jeff-Minick.com to follow his blog.

A Widower's Plea: 'Don't take this time for granted'

CATHERINE BOLTON

A widower from Knoxville, Tennessee, who recently lost his wife to her second battle with cancer has a message to the world to not take the quarantine time and shelter-in-place orders amid the CCP virus with your loved ones for granted. Dad of three, Brandon Janous first penned a heartfelt plea in January on Medium about his wife Rachel's recurrent diagnosis of cancer, pleading with people to remember to understand that those around them might be going through a difficult period in their life and to practice more kindness.

Rachel and Janous had been married for 10 years and been there for each other through thick and thin. Less than two years ago, Rachel was diagnosed with breast cancer and defeated it. However, five

months ago, the family received the devastating news that she was diagnosed with cancer in her spine, which then spread to her spinal fluid and eventually invaded her brain.

In February, Janous expressed his uncertainty about his wife's survival chances in another post on Medium and how their family was going to cope, as their world had been turned upside down. He wrote, "[I] know each day that passes is one day closer to me losing Rachel. One day closer to our three kids losing their mommy."

Sadly, Rachel lost her battle with cancer on March 1 after spending 39 nights in the hospital. Not long after, the family entered into an indefinite period of quarantine like most of the people in the United States and the world at large, mandated to stay inside in order to curb the

“If nothing else, make this a time where you love those around you harder.”

Brandon Janous

COURTESY OF BRANDON JANOUS



Brandon Janous, his late wife Rachel, and their children.

spread of the CCP (Chinese Communist Party) virus, commonly known as the novel coronavirus.

Being thrust into a role as a single grieving parent in his wife's absence for his three young kids, aged 8, 7, and 5, has been undoubtedly difficult for Janous.

In mid-March, Janous wrote in a heartbreaking post on Instagram: "Every

day is hard. They say it gets easier with time. So far, it hasn't gotten easier. In fact, it may have gotten harder.

"Most days I find myself sitting on our closet floor, just like I am right now, where I can hide from the kids for 15-30 minutes, and just cry."

The sorrowful husband said he would like to spend more time with his wife, asking her for advice about how to do this without her, watching one more show with her, and having one more meal with her.

Above all, the loving husband wrote that "I'd give anything in the world to just be quarantined with her." In the same post, Janous hoped that during these unprecedented times that have enveloped the world, people would remember not to take their situation for granted and spend it with their loved ones. "All this to say, don't take

this time for granted. There probably won't be another season in our lives where we will have so much time to be with loved ones," he wrote. "We don't know how this will end. We don't know when this will end. But we do know that eventually it will end."

Janous begged people that they not "allow this time to cause you to love less. Or cause you to point fingers. Or cause you to get annoyed more."

Finally, he took the opportunity to remind people to love those around them whom they spend their quarantine days with and to appreciate this time with them. He concluded by writing: "If nothing else, make this a time where you love those around you harder. Love your neighbors well. Love your family well. Love your people well. And in the end, just love like Rachel loved."

Irish Donors Repay Generosity of Native American Tribes During Great Famine

ROBERT JAY WATSON

Charitable donations from a GoFundMe campaign initiated in Ireland have been pouring in to support Native American communities hard hit by the pandemic.

The reason for the generous act harks back some 170 years.

During the Great Famine from 1845–1849 in Ireland, it was the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma that donated to help those starving across the Atlantic.

"The death of many people on the Trail of Tears sparked empathy for the Irish people in their time of need. Thus, the Choctaw extended \$170 of relief aid," Vanessa Tulley, one of the fundraiser's organizers, wrote on the campaign page.

That amount of \$170 in

those days would be the equivalent of about \$5,000 today, USA Today reports.

Irish donor Pat Hayes wrote on the page: "From Ireland, 170 years later, the favour is returned! To our Native American brothers and sisters in your moment of hardship."

The virus has particularly affected elderly members of the Navajo and Hopi nations, whose members live across remote parts of Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. "The heartache is real," Tulley wrote on the GoFundMe campaign. "We have lost so many of our sacred Navajo elders and youth to COVID-19. It is truly devastating. And a dark time in history for our Nation."

The fundraiser is focused on providing food, drinking water, and health supplies

such as masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer to spread-out communities, many of whom lack access to electricity and running water. Irish Times journalist Naomi O'Leary helped bring the relief effort to the attention of her fellow citizens via her Twitter account.

"Native Americans raised a huge amount in famine relief for Ireland at a time when they had very little. It's time for us to come through for them now," she wrote on May 2.

O'Leary's message received more than 8,000 likes and got the ball rolling for donations to the Hopi and Navajo people. The same day, she posted several of the donors' surnames in recognition, names such as "Twomey, Hanrahan, Casey, Tulley, O'Leary, and Munro."

Since Irish donors stepped up to the plate, the campaign has surged to more than \$3.8 million raised. Cassandra Begay, one of the organizers of the relief fund, was stunned and emotional when she realized how many of the contributions were coming from Ireland.

"Many of us have never talked to someone who is Irish," Begay told The Irish Times. "It's been a really difficult time, and to see the kindness that the Irish people have extended us has been really heart-warming, especially during this dark time because we have lost a lot of people and it's devastating for our community."

The 173-year-old gesture of solidarity has been memorialized in Cork County, Ireland, in the form of a sculpture of 20 stainless-



GAVIN SHERIDAN CC BY-SA 4.0

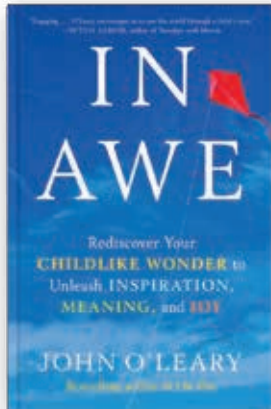
"Kindred Spirits," a stainless steel outdoor sculpture in Bailick Park in Middleton, County Cork, Ireland, was erected to commemorate the donation made by the Choctaw people in 1847 during Ireland's Great Hunger.

steel eagle feathers arranged in a circle. The sculpture was inaugurated in 2015 in the presence of chief Gary Batton of the Choctaw Nation.

When Batton heard about the incredible generosity of Irish donors toward the Hopi and Navajo, he understood its historical meaning. He shared a message

with O'Leary, which she posted on Twitter, saying, "Adversity often brings out the best in people."

She captioned her post with more words from the chief, "We are gratified—and perhaps not at all surprised—to learn of the assistance our special friends, the Irish, are giving to the Navajo and Hopi nation."



O'Leary's latest book, "In Awe," comes with a 21-day reading challenge, at ReadInAwe.com.



John O'Leary with wife Beth and children: (L-R) Henry, Patrick, Jack, and Grace.

John O'Leary: Empowering People to Live Boldly



SUSIE GAAL

CATHERINE YANG

John O'Leary has an inspired view of life, and it's something he realizes we need now more than ever.

"Just simply said, your mother and your father coming together at the exact moment that allows [you or me] to be in the room, what is the likelihood? Because I think we take our lives for granted, but the biological likelihood is less than one in 400 trillion," said O'Leary, a husband and father of four.

"Strictly speaking of your father and your mother, biologically at the right moment with the DNA leading to your life. It's impossible. And yet, here you are, and here I am. And so part of [what I do] is to wake us up to the fragile, beautiful gift of life."

O'Leary is a businessman, author, and speaker who has reached millions of people in over 2,000 talks around the world, sharing his own life story in order to wake people up from "accidental living" and empower them to move into the storm that is life more boldly.

He has been home for many days straight, and counting—tucking his kids in at night, being around for three meals a day, and waking up in his own bed—for the first time in years. Despite the global crisis, it has been a great positive to come together as a family. O'Leary was already well aware he's by nature an introvert and homebody, but he's been driven in his 15-year speaking career because he says it is necessary. And though the trips have halted for now, his work has not. O'Leary started a series on his YouTube channel to highlight the countless creative and inspiring ways people have come together in this time of crisis as well.

"I choose to thrive because God demands it, my family deserves it, and the world is starved for it," O'Leary said. "That's why we started a speaking business, that's why I write books, that's why we do a podcast, that's why I say yes to interviews. But that's also why I'm on time for dinner, it's why I put my kids to bed. It's why I take out the trash and do the dishes even when I'm tired. It's why I've got a grin on my face all day long, even though

I'm in physical pain all day long. So it doesn't make it easy. It just makes your choice more powerful and more intentional."

From Surviving to Thriving

O'Leary was 9 years old when he saw some kids in the neighborhood drop a match onto a puddle of gasoline and make the flames dance. He wanted to replicate the experiment himself, and ended up holding a closed barrel of gasoline over a flame and creating an explosion that threw him from one end of the basement to the other. It left him with burns over his entire body and a 109 percent likelihood of death—a calculation arrived at by adding the percentage of his body burned, 100 percent, to his age.

He fought for his life for five months in the hospital, regrow-

ing his skin, enduring painstaking physical therapy, and relearning how to walk. All his fingers had to be amputated, and he was left with scars and burns that would never go away. He would have to undergo years more of surgery and therapy. Unbeknownst to O'Leary, still just a kid who had a rude awakening from his idyllic American life, he had become an inspiring national story. He only wanted to pull his long sleeves down and get back through life. His family too had come together to pull through in this tragedy, but they hadn't let it define them. They put it in the past.

When O'Leary got married, this happy event so moved his parents they wrote a book about their journey, titled "Overwhelming Odds."

O'Leary had never even told this story himself, not even to dear friends. He hadn't realized how much of a story he had, in fact. "I never felt that my life was all that remarkable, and I always felt that what happened to me was a bad thing," O'Leary said. "That's the perfect storm for living in the ordinary, almost-pity party happy life, just thinking that what happened was bad and that you're not all that special."

Needless to say, he balked at the fact that they had slapped his face on the cover of their book. He set the book aside and gave it little thought, but elsewhere, people were picking it up and deeply inspired by Susan and Denny O'Leary's journey. And then a woman called O'Leary, asking if he could speak to her third-grade Girl Scout daughter and two other girls in the troop.

O'Leary said yes, even though he was "not previously predetermined or predestined to become a professional speaker by any stretch of the imagination," he explained. In fact, he nearly flunked his public speaking class in college. Now in his 20s, and a real estate developer whose business was finally starting to work, O'Leary felt this talk was something he needed to do and threw himself into rehearsing a speech he would end up stumbling over as he read word for word off notecards.

"But that was the first connection," O'Leary said. "Afterwards these little kids came up to me and they gave me a hug. Me, I'm 28 years old at the time, it blew me away, to think that this story I always took for granted and viewed as a negative was somehow and powerful and helpful to other people and their lives. Even if only the third graders."

One of the girls' dads invited O'Leary to speak at his Rotary Club, and then one of the members there invited O'Leary to speak at his business.

The responses he gets from people, no matter how many times he tells his story, is gratifying. They approach him with hugs and tears in their eyes and share their own stories of adversity with complete vulnerability, and start to see what is truly possible in their lives. O'Leary adds that in his books and speeches and videos and podcasts, he is not the hero.

"I always want the audience to come across the heroes of the story," O'Leary said, even down to the book covers. "It's their book, they get to determine where they go next in it."

And truly, O'Leary's stories are stories of community. Once he stopped hiding and started to look at his own life, and what he had overcome, he saw so clearly what had been done for him. He saw how his tragedy, what his parents once called "John's accident," but what he now recognized was a choice—that, yes, lighting a fire under a gas tank might have been stupid, and he might have been young, but it was still a choice—and the journey had changed other lives for the better.

"They see, 'well, gosh, if he can do that in his life, what is possible still for me in my life in spite of these adversities today?'" O'Leary said.

Love Multiplies

When 9-year-old O'Leary ran through his house completely on fire, his two younger sisters were the ones who saw him first. Then his older brother ran into the foyer where he wrapped him in a rug and carried him outside to smother



(Top left) The gas can that exploded on Jan. 17, 1987.

(Top right) The resulting damage in the O'Leary family garage after the fire.

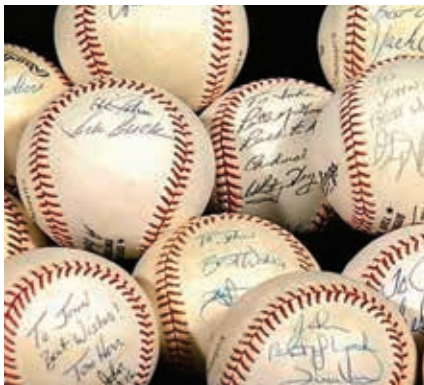
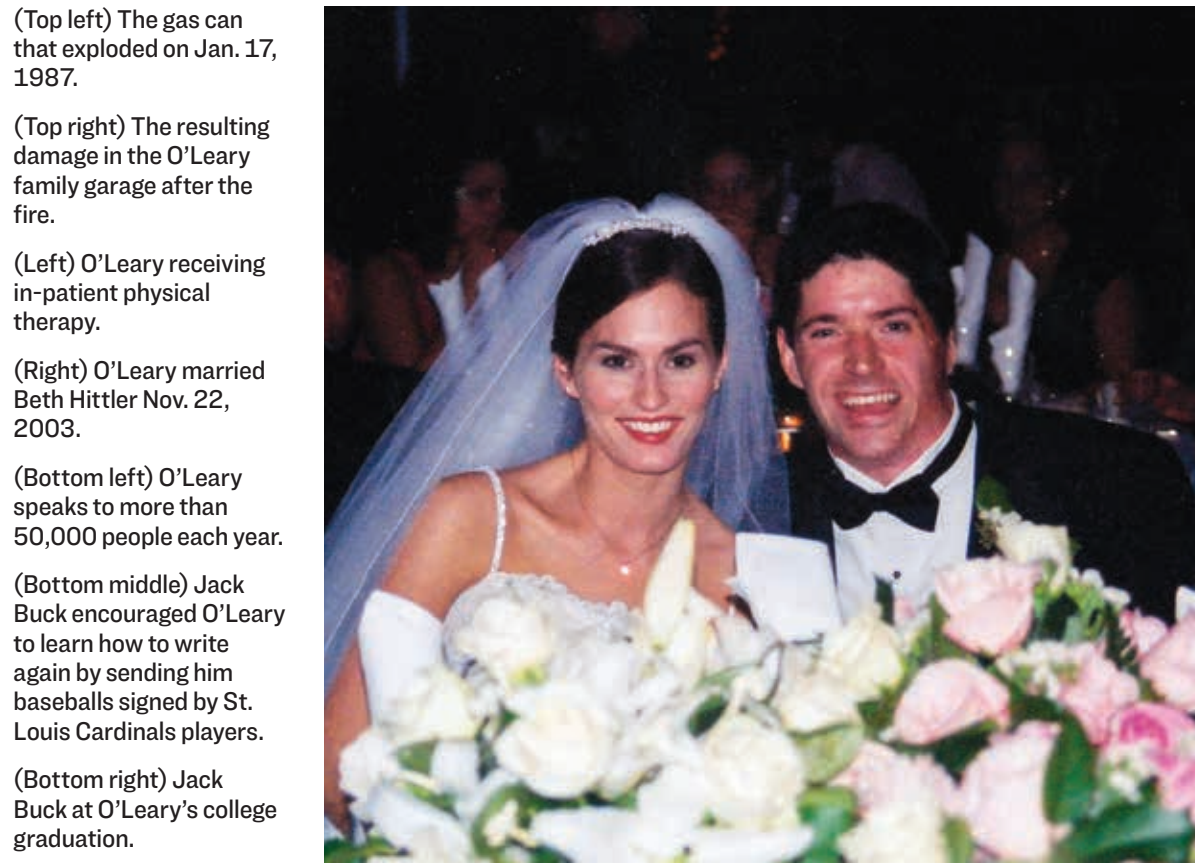
(Left) O'Leary receiving in-patient physical therapy.

(Right) O'Leary married Beth Hittler Nov. 22, 2003.

(Bottom left) O'Leary speaks to more than 50,000 people each year.

(Bottom middle) Jack Buck encouraged O'Leary to learn how to write again by sending him baseballs signed by St. Louis Cardinals players.

(Bottom right) Jack Buck at O'Leary's college graduation.



the flames. In retrospect, O'Leary could see clearly the heroics of his siblings, and how they saved his life and changed their own.

He was saved by the selfless and unconditional love of his dad, who told him he loved him in the hospital when he needed it the most. He was saved by his older brother—who usually made him smell his stinky socks and eat hot sauce sandwiches—who wouldn't give up trying to put out the fire when he burned himself. When O'Leary screamed that he wanted to die, his 11-year-old sister hugged him despite the heat and told him to "Have faith and fight!" His little 8-year-old sister ran back into the flaming, smoky house three times to get water to throw on his face, which might have been the only reason he had skin left on his face and scalp to graft onto his body as he recovered.

And he credits his mom for giving him what he needed, not what he wanted, during that crucial moment in the hospital. She asked, "Do you want to die, John? The choice is yours."

And when he answered immediately that he wanted to live, it changed everything. There was never a doubt that he would leave the hospital to go home with his family once he said it. His mom had told him, "If you want to live, you're going to have to fight like you've never fought before. You're going to have to take the hand of God and walk the journey with him. John, it won't be easy, but Dad and I will be with you. You can do this, but you must fight."

She wasn't easier on him once they got home either, making the fingerless boy pick up his own fork, and continue to take his hated

piano lessons. How mean, he thought then. But these are things that saved his life.

There were letters that poured in from around the country, and beyond, from the White House to the Vatican.

And then there was Jack Buck, the famed sportscaster, who learned how much of a Cardinals fan this little boy was and visited him in the hospital not just once, but throughout the five months of his hospital stay. Hearing Jack Buck's familiar voice say, "Kid, wake up," was a tremendous lifeline for O'Leary, as was his promise that if he got out of the hospital they would have John O'Leary Day at the stadium.

When 9-year-old O'Leary ran through his house completely on fire, his two younger sisters were the ones who saw him first.

His generosity didn't end there, because when he saw at the stadium that O'Leary would need to relearn how to write, he had a baseball signed by a Cardinals player sent to his home, with a note that if he wanted a second ball he'd have to handwrite a thank-you note to send back. That summer, O'Leary received 60 baseballs and learned how to write again in time for school. When O'Leary graduated college, Buck sent him his own Hall of Fame baseball as a present. But at the end of Buck's life, as he

battled Parkinson's and spent five months in the hospital, O'Leary felt terrible he never visited—he hadn't thought it would mean something to Buck. A meeting at Buck's funeral changed O'Leary's mind.

In a large way, Buck, even from beyond the grave, inspired O'Leary to live "more bravely, fearlessly, and freely," and pay it forward.

And there are so many others. O'Leary's books and speeches show us the ripple effect is real, that one good person can have an immeasurable positive effect on the countless lives around them, even if they sometimes will never know it.

In Awe

O'Leary's latest book, "In Awe," comes with a 21-day challenge (ReadInAwe.com), with actionable items we can all take, because sometimes rituals, even going through the motions, is what we need to help kickstart the mindset we want to achieve.

As a speaker, O'Leary meets people from all walks of life and all ages, and the reactions of children versus teenagers or adults are starkly different. Kids are eager to participate, unafraid to question, and filled with love that spills over and moves the rest of us.

"Last year in 2019, 1.5 million Americans attempted suicide. It's hit our families, affected us in our neighborhood, it's affected us in our community," O'Leary said. If this happened when unemployment was at record lows and the economy was doing well, what will happen to us going forward?

O'Leary was much more concerned about this than the fact that his own business with 100-flights-a-year had come to a complete halt.

He wanted to do something where people could sign up for daily reminders of what they could control in their own lives and help them move forward, and see a reason for hope.

Kids are often a great example of exactly how to do that, and "In Awe" is what O'Leary calls an "invitation to return to childlike wonder." It teaches you to use your five senses of wonder, expectancy, immersion, belonging, and freedom with heartfelt and eye-opening stories, often from the perspective of a child. The book is a wonderful antidote to cynicism.

O'Leary also hopes people can start their days with gratitude, and answer "why?" with a statement of intention ("I choose to thrive because..."). Then spend some time reflecting on the question, "Why me?" This is the sort of question that can be approached from a victim's mentality, or a victor's. Rather than wallowing in pity and wondering why something happened to you rather than everyone else, victors ask the same question from a place of learning and growth. And starting your day with gratitude can help put you in that mindset.

In the same vein, he advises, end your day thinking, "What more can I do to ensure tomorrow is even better than today?"

"I think if we are intentional and asking these three questions through the lens of the victor, we will not only have far better days, we will have far better lives and we will impact others along the route with profound optimism, I think for their lives as well, so it is contagious. Optimism is contagious," O'Leary reminds us. His certainly is.

O'Leary and his older brother Jim, who saved his life, on a family vacation in the mountains the summer after the fire.



5 Things New Graduates Should Do to Plan Their Careers

REBECCA COOK & ERIC D. JOHNSON

Today's graduates start their job search with a belief that they should enter their company or industry of choice immediately after graduation. At least that's what we've observed in our experience advising thousands of college students over the years on how to launch their careers.

Research has shown that younger millennials and older Gen Zers—that is, those born between 1990 and 1998—are motivated by roles that are meaningful and where they can be given responsibility quickly. They tend to change jobs often and are looking for ways to move up the ladder and increase their salary at a faster pace than other generations currently in the workforce.

From what we've observed, they are instructed by their parents and career advisers to look for opportunities that align with their passions, and to not compromise on interests or values. We have also found that they tend to want to focus on "hot" industries like sports, luxury goods, or high-end consulting that are in line with their interests. Students often pursue these dreams with a short term mindset, thinking that they need to get started in their chosen area right away in order to be successful in their career.

Based on our own corporate experience and work with students, we believe this is the wrong way to go, especially given the current market turmoil from COVID-19 and the fact that companies are cutting an unprecedented number of jobs as they struggle to survive. Instead, we recommend a five-step process for new graduates to get on the path to their dream job.

1. Create a 7- to 10-Year Vision

College graduates should try and focus on the longer term, looking at their first job as a means to an end, and not the end itself. To do so, we recommend creating a seven- to 10-year plan. A great vision has a clear end goal in mind, such as aiming to be a chief financial officer or chief marketing officer in 10 years for a technology company. However, the plan should also outline skill sets and experiences that need to be developed in order to attain that "dream job."

For example, if your vision is to be a brand manager for a key product at a big name athletic shoe company, you need to build out your skills in areas such as sales, branding, pricing, market research, product design, and financial



As you progress in your career, talk to mentors and friends from different points in your career as sounding boards for future moves.

analysis. While you might yearn to start as an associate brand manager at a high-end shoe company, it can be equally as effective to start as a market research analyst for a retail chain because you will gain a lot of the same preliminary skills, such as product and pricing analysis. You will also gain a broader industry perspective that can be useful when you move into that associate brand manager role later on.

2. Research People Who Do Your Dream Job
Next, utilize LinkedIn to research the backgrounds of people who are in your dream role (or close to it). Reach out to a few of them to ask advice and find out answers to key questions, such as: What did you do along your career path to get where you are now? Are there common roles or skills that stand out? Are there some unique skills that have propelled people

forward faster? What kind of training and certifications do you need? The answers to these questions provide clues as to the types of roles that should be evaluated as short-term options.

3. Map Out a Path to the Dream Job

Spend time to identify different roles that can lead to your desired long-term goal. Examine company hierarchies and the benefits or drawbacks of moving across industries. Also, consider the role geography may play in your chosen field, the value of international experience, and other trends discovered in the research stage. You can even pull job descriptions from various sources and create a spreadsheet of job titles and position responsibilities with each advancing stage of your vision.

4. Modify Your Vision as Needed

Recognize that each person's vision and path will change over time, due to interests changing and markets evolving. You may find yourself off of your original path at some point, but the practice of consciously evaluating short-term opportunities against long-term goals will reduce the frustration along the way and lead to the ability to make better sense of each opportunity as it presents itself. It will also help you lean in to uncomfortable roles and stretch assignments with a more positive attitude, knowing that you will gain valuable skills along the way.

5. Share Your Vision With Trusted Mentors

Don't treat the vision as a private document for personal use only. As your vision and plan come to life, mentors and friends can help to shape and mold the vision by sharing advice and experience from their own career paths. They often see skills and abilities in you that you don't see in yourself, thus enabling them to help you get a better understanding of your strengths and areas of opportunity. As you progress forward in your career, utilize mentors and friends from different points in your career as sounding boards for future moves. They can often see the areas in which you have grown and areas that you can develop in your next role.

Rebecca Cook is the executive director of undergraduate career services at Indiana University. Eric D. Johnson is the associate director for professional development of graduate career services at Indiana University. This article was originally published on The Conversation.

Shock Poll: Parents 'More Likely' to Homeschool Post-COVID

ANNIE HOLMQUIST

It seems a bomb has been detonated in America's education sector.

Oh sure, there have been explosions going off the last few months as people try to adjust to alternative schooling. It's only now, however, that we are beginning to realize how earth-shaking those explosions have really been.

A new poll was released by RealClear Opinion Research the other day, indicating that the complaints we've been hearing about online schooling may not be as prevalent as we thought. When asked if they were "more or less likely to enroll your son or daughter in a homeschool, neighborhood homeschool co-op, or virtual school once the lockdowns are over," 41 percent of parents said they were more likely. Only 31 percent were less likely to do so. That is an amazing increase in positivity, especially considering that only 3 percent of the population was homeschooled before the lockdown.

But there are some more surprising numbers from that poll. Homeschooling, it seems, is not something that more whites want to do to flex their privilege muscle. Only 36 percent of white parents said they were more likely to homeschool. For Hispanic parents that number was 38 percent, while black and Asian parents were at 50 and 54 percent respectively.

Another jaw-dropping fact is that this trend is not partisan. Forty-six percent of Democrats said they are more likely to homeschool, while 42 percent of Republicans said the same.

Folks, if those numbers are any indication, we're in for a big change.

Why the favorability? The survey doesn't make a lot of sense based on what we're hearing in the media about how hard online education is, how children aren't learning anything, and how parents are maxed out. A few theories come to mind.

Where will we go from here? Only time will tell. But education may look a lot different post-COVID.

One is that parents have tried homeschooling. Some—not all, but some—see that even in such an uncertain time of cobbled together education, they can do it. If it can be done at a time like this, imagine how effective they could be with more preparation and a curriculum designed for true homeschooling, not one adapted from institutional schooling at the eleventh hour.

But there's another possibility. Could parents have realized just how much time their children waste in traditional school? Another poll, from the Minneapolis Star Tribune, asked parents how much time their children spend on average each day on their school work. The most common answer was a mere three hours. This is less than half of the 6.28 hours the average student in Minnesota spends in each day of public schooling. It's easy to see how parents could start to scratch their heads and imagine how much more their child could learn if not bound by the constraints which come from waiting for the whole class to move along. Such a realization is underscored by a

point former New York teacher of the year John Taylor Gatto made in his book, "Weapons of Mass Instruction:

"I know how odd this all sounds: first I tell you reading, writing, and arithmetic are easy to learn as long as they aren't taught systematically, and now I tell you that the very 'comprehensive' school institution which Harvard called for in the 1950s is ruining our children, not helping them. I know you've been told by experts that the complicated world of today requires more school time, longer school days, longer years, more testing, more labeling.

"Well Senators, you've been bamboozled, and I hope your own experience will confirm that by a little reflection."

According to Gatto, "Any type of change which will produce new value for our society through schooling will involve less school time, less school personnel, less store-bought materials, less interference in the natural processes of learning." Furthermore, he notes, "Any school reform that will work, academically and behaviorally, will cost much less money than we are currently spending. It will involve gradual merging

of schooling with community life, a de-professionalization of the learning enterprise."

Gatto admits that such a positive change is unlikely to happen because it requires "reform... from the bottom, not the top; from millions of acts of productive sabotage on the part of parents and students, and yes—from teachers like myself."

Guess what? That sabotage is happening. It wasn't planned. It wasn't purposeful. But all of America is getting a taste of what life and learning looks like beyond the four walls of a state-run classroom, and judging from this poll, a good number like what they see.

Where will we go from here? Only time will tell. But education may look a lot different post-COVID.

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



Some parents—not all, but some—see that even in such an uncertain time of cobbled together education, they can do it.



FOR KIDS ONLY

THE EPOCH TIMES

The Fallen

by Duncan Campbell Scott

Those we have loved the dearest,
The bravest and the best,
Are summoned from the battle
To their eternal rest;
There they endure the silence,
Here we endure the pain—
He that bestows the Valor
Valor resumes again.
O, Master of all Being,
Donor of Day and Night,

Of Passion and of Beauty,
Of Sorrow and Delight,
Thou gav'st them the full treasure
Of that heroic blend—
The Pride, the Faith, the Courage,
That holdeth to the end.
Thou gavest us the Knowledge
Wherein their memories stir—
Master of Life, we thank Thee
That they were what they were.

WHERE DID THE GENERAL KEEP HIS ARMIES?

YSRAND COSUN/SHUTTERSTOCK

“This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave.”

ELMER DAVIS, JOURNALIST (1890–1958)

YADRUHENG/SHUTTERSTOCK

By Aidan Danza, age 13

ANIMAL AVIATORS THAT AREN'T BIRDS (PART 1)

FLYING SQUIRRELS

There are actually two species of flying squirrel in America, the northern and the southern flying squirrels, and there are around 50 species of them on the planet. They like to live in coniferous forests, but they will also put up with mixed forests. Both species generally have brown backs and whitish bellies.

A southern flying squirrel.

They fly via a patagium (a furry flap of skin stretched between the two legs on each side), which they use by extending their limbs to stretch the patagium, enabling them to glide for around 100 feet. Unlike most mammals, they congregate together and are quite amicable with each other, especially in winter. They are also very clean animals and clean themselves as well as their communal nests.

AMAZING ESCAPES!

USE THE FOUR NUMBERS IN THE CORNERS, AND THE OPERANDS (+, -, AND X) to build an equation to get the solution in the middle. There may be more than one "unique" solution but, there may also be "equivalent" solutions. For example: 6 + (7 X 3) + 1 = 28 and 1+ (7 X 3) + 6 = 28

Easy puzzle 1

3	9		
63			
3	5		
+	-	x	÷

Solution For Easy 1

8 + 9 = (6 x 6)

Medium puzzle 1

12	17		
17			
4	15		
+	-	x	÷

Solution for Medium 1

12 x (91 - 4 x 21)

Hard puzzle 1

5	27		
22			
3	7		
+	-	x	÷

Solution for Hard 1

8 - 7 = 5 + 22

Across

- Appreciative (8)
- Joyous (5)
- Plucky (5)
- Majestic (5)
- Medal of Honor recipients (10)

Down

- Dependable (5)
- All gave some, some gave all (6)
- Kind of duty (5)
- Brave (6)
- Fiery (10)
- Memorial location (9)
- _____ we stand, divided we fall (6)
- Unwavering (8)
- Come around every year (6)
- Dedicate (6)
- Constant (9)
- Kicks (3)
- Loyal (4)
- Open-air (7)
- Beatitudes word (7)



Welcome to a Tradition 2 Centuries in the Making

Hello there, Epoch VIP! We're thrilled to have you here with us. We hope this paper finds you well—especially in today's world. There are new developments almost every day, with different interpretations coming from all different factions. It's a situation which makes it quite difficult to see what our future looks like as a country, and as a society.

In times like these, we believe that the best way to ground ourselves is to look into the past and see what's worked for our forefathers. That's why you may have heard that our motto is "truth and tradition," or that we're bringing back "traditional American journalism."

To us, this means that our work is guided by

the same values and ideals that have guided our nation for centuries: values like honesty, trust, faith, and compassion; ideals like freedom of expression, independent thought, equality, and unalienable rights.

We hope that when you read our paper, you'll be able to see these ideals and values reflected in our articles. We hope, as they've done for us, that they can give you strength and tranquility in this trying time.

Because to us, you're more than a subscriber, or a reader. You're one of our allies in the preservation of the greatest things that humanity has to offer—our history, our morals, our beliefs, our classics. You're an ally in our mission to ensure that the wisdom of our ancestors can be passed down to our progeny, that

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Thank you for being a reader and thank you for being an ally in our quest for traditional American journalism. You give us a reason to exist.

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