

THE EPOCH TIMES LIFE & TRADITION

Coleman says people are starting to realize that credentials alone aren't enough anymore: 'You've got to have some creativity.'

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Little things, such as the common courtesies in everyday life, matter.

3 Cheers for Civility: Advice From Miss Manners

JEFF MINICK

In “Miss Manners’ Guide for the Turn-of-the-Millennium,” Judith Martin, also known as “Miss Manners,” creates a fictional family headed by Daffodil and Teddy Right to introduce the complications of etiquette as practiced in the 21st century.

Martin ends her brief examination of modern social behavior with these words: “Sometimes, I feel as if I don’t understand anything anymore,” Daffodil often says to Teddy on an evening. “Everybody means well, but it’s all so bewildering. What would Mother have done if she had had the prospect of living into the 21st century?”

“It is to answer that question that this book is written.”

Two books by Miss Manners sit on the shelves of my home library, and I have dipped into others. I read and admire them less for her advice on manners and more for the pleasures of Martin’s vigorous prose style, her wit, and her obvious love for the English language.

Recently, while flipping through the Millennium guide, I became aware that the book offers a philosophy for living that all of us—rich and poor, young and old—might wish to practice. Below are some of the generalities I culled from this 742-page tome. In an age of frequent rudeness and acrimony, Miss Manners offers us some reasons for “minding our manners.”

Miss Manners reminds us that forgiveness and mercy are core elements of etiquette.

Respect and Decency

To treat others with respect and to conform our behavior to a given situation is decency incarnate. This idea lies at the heart of Miss Manner’s advocacy for etiquette. She recognizes that changing times bring revisions in manners, but the basics of civility always remain the same. After criticizing certain modern burial practices, for example, she writes that “showing respect for the dead, and for the feelings of their survivors, is a basic tenet of civilization, not an old social fad to be left behind in these supposedly more sophisticated times.”

When we show respect to others, whether the head of a corporation or a homeless man on the sidewalk, we are practicing etiquette.

During Robert E. Lee’s surrender of his Army of Northern Virginia to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox, both men treated each other with respect and with a real



and almost delicate sense of decency. When Lee asked Grant whether his men might be allowed to keep their horses for transportation and for spring plowing, Grant immediately concurred with this request. He also ordered that rations be distributed among the starving Confederates.

It was the decent thing to do.

Forgiveness and Mercy

Forgiveness and mercy? What do these virtues have to do with etiquette?

Throughout Martin’s books, we read letters from her readers who have suffered broken relationships from some argument or misunderstanding. They spoke a wrong word, neglected to invite a friend to a special function, or interfered in the lives of their grown children, and so faced censure, separation, and heartbreak.

In such circumstances, Miss Manners advises, seek reconciliation whenever possible.

A woman I know failed to ask the counsel of her best friend in a personal matter, and the friend dumped her. They haven’t spoken in four years. I am also familiar with families in which fathers and sons, mothers and daughters, and siblings have quarreled and then refuse to speak to one another, in some instances for decades.

Even worse than these splits based on personal issues are those related to our embittered political divides. A young mother told me that one of her cousins and another acquaintance had unfriended her on Facebook for an article she’d posted celebrating President Donald Trump’s economic accomplishments. These “friends” made no attempt at explanation or debate; they simply banished her from their company.

Mercy and forgiveness, Miss Manners reminds us, are core elements of etiquette, of “correct behavior.”

She recognizes that changing times bring revisions in manners, but the basics of civility always remain the same.

You’re Not Special, You’re Not Exempt Remember the “I Am Special” movement that once swept through our schools? Even the church where I was then teaching Sunday school handed out stickers to the younger crew, a big yellow star proclaiming “I AM SPECIAL!”

That motto does contain a grain of truth: Every human being is unique, which makes all of us special.

To treat others with respect and to conform our behavior to a given situation is decency incarnate. This idea lies at the heart of Miss Manner’s advocacy for etiquette.

But special doesn’t exempt us from fulfilling our social obligations. Again and again, Miss Manners finds herself decrying the excuses of readers who have failed to write thank you notes, who want to fly in the face of conventional behavior in the office, or who decide to wear a T-shirt and jeans to a formal wedding. She explains that “one is always hearing violators of the simplest social conventions—vocabulary, fit subject matter for conversation, clothing, the distinction between public and private behavior—arguing that what they are doing is appropriate somewhere and therefore could not be inappropriate anywhere.”

Frank Sinatra’s “I Did It My Way” might serve as the anthem for these folks. Yet, it’s only a short step from there to “My way or the highway,” and all too often the practitioner of this philosophy is the one sent packing by his friends and family.

The Little Things Count

Miss Manners touts the little things, the common courtesies of everyday life: giving up a seat on the subway or bus to a pregnant woman or an elderly man; holding a door open for that woman with a cane; standing and greeting guests when they enter a room; writing a note of appreciation to the neighbor who pulled your car out of a ditch.

The following short exchange demonstrates the importance of small conventions:

Dear Miss Manners,

What is the correct response when your pregnant friends insist on showing you the photographs from their sonograms? This has happened to me three times, and I somehow feel that saying “Oh, how cute” is inappropriate. Any suggestions?

Gentle reader:

None better than “Oh, how cute.” Miss Manners presents her compliments to you.

Such small gestures of courtesy send large messages to their recipients, who are made to feel welcome, loved, or appreciated.

Revival

Though her book appeared only 30 years ago, part of Miss Manners’ advice may strike some readers as positively Victorian, as out of date as baleen corsets and leather spats. She advocates gentlemen opening car doors for ladies—and yes, she uses those old-fashioned words for the sexes—she finds it charming that ladies precede gentlemen through doorways, but follow them down stairwells “so that she can, if necessary, land comfortably on him when she falls,” and she supports what my mother taught me long ago: “When they are walking outdoors, American ladies take the side away from the curb.”

We may quibble about such details, but the purpose behind the practice of manners remains unchanged. In the movie “Blast From the Past,” one of the characters discovers this idea after talking to a new friend: “He said good manners are just a way of showing other people we have respect for them. See, I didn’t know that. I thought it was just a way of acting all superior ... But it turns out the short and simple definition of a lady or a gentleman is someone who always tries to make sure that the people around him or her are as comfortable as possible.”

When we respect those we encounter during the day, when we offer them the mantle of dignity, we not only make them feel more fully human, we perform the same service for ourselves.

And what could be better than that?

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.

In Their Mother’s Footsteps

3 sisters attend West Point together

MICHAEL WING

Three daughters, June, Jeilyn, and Jasmyn, have followed in their mother’s footsteps, each entering the prestigious Military Academy at West Point in New York state. The elite military college is famous for preparing its graduates to lead soldiers of the U.S. Army.

Their mother, Lt. Col. June Copeland Sr., who lives in Fort Belvoir in Alexandria, Virginia, entered the renowned officer college for a simple reason:

“I joined the Army because my twin brother asked me to,” she told The Epoch Times. “It’s that simple. I enlisted as a medic. My mother encouraged me to attend West Point, because she believed the Army’s leadership would challenge me and take care of me.”

It did that and a lot more.

The experience led Copeland, 46, not only to a fulfilling career in the Army, but it also taught her important life lessons and created a legacy that would inspire her daughters to follow in her footsteps.

“I saw how much my mother loved her job and I of course wanted that same feeling,” said Copeland’s youngest daughter, Jasmyn Haynes, 19, who is currently a cadet. “At that young age, I associated her job with her grad-

uating West Point. I knew it was one of the best institutions in the country. I chose to go there.”

Copeland Sr. was born in Savannah, Georgia, though she was mostly raised in Detroit, Michigan. Her family was not well off, she said, yet her parents worked hard and made sure the children had everything they needed and were loved.

“My mother encouraged me to attend West Point, because she believed the Army’s leadership would challenge me and take care of me.”

June Copeland Sr.

“When I went out in to the world, knowing I was loved meant everything to me,” she shared. “When the world told me I wasn’t good enough, I knew I had people in my corner who loved me and were proud of me.”

Copeland Sr. joined the Army and



(Clockwise from top L) June Copeland Jr., June Copeland Sr., Jeilyn Haynes, and Jasmyn Haynes.

World’s Oldest Golden Retriever at 20

LOUISE BEVAN

A sweet senior rescue dog has become the oldest golden retriever on record after celebrating its 20th birthday, far outliving the 10- to 12-year life expectancy for its breed.

August, or Augie, celebrated with a birthday banner to mark the occasion, a dog-friendly carrot cake, and snuggles with its adopted golden retriever siblings, Sherman, Belle, and Bruce.

“It’s official. Let it be known that ... ‘August’ is the oldest known, oldest living Golden Retriever,” GoldHeart Golden Retrievers Rescue posted on their Facebook page in honor of the senior pooch. “She turned 20 years old on April 24, 2020.”

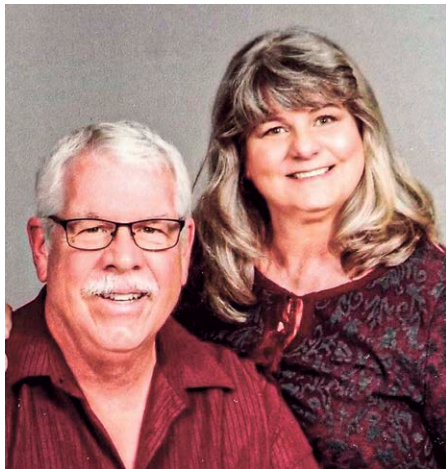
Augie lives in Oakland, Tennessee, with its owners Jennifer and Steve Hettterscheidt, who rescued Augie from Golden Retriever Rescue of Southern Nevada when the senior dog was already 14 years old; Jennifer was working as the director of the rescue center at the time.

“They are wonderful volunteers,” GoldHeart said of the couple, “supporting rescue for many years!”

Augie was placed in two homes that didn’t work out before ending up in a forever home with the Hettterscheidts. Jennifer and Steve knew that senior dogs have a harder time finding permanent homes than younger pups, but Augie stole their hearts.

The couple was pleasantly surprised by Augie’s adventurous spirit, despite its advanced age, and the family enjoyed many RVing trips across the United States together. Augie shares its home with three canine companions, plus some cats, and one of its favorite pastimes is playing fetch in the pool.

“Of course being that old, she has slowed down a lot,” Steve told Insider.



“We have beds all around the house and we have a sofa and ottoman, and she’ll get up on the sofa and watch TV with us at night. She just likes to be a part of the group.”

Jennifer explained that while the 20-year-old pooch is a little shaky when it stands up, it still moves around with ease and enjoys a daily stroll around the couple’s backyard. A mixture of wet and dry dog food plus supplements for the kidneys and joints help alleviate minor health ailments.

Golden retrievers are the third most popular dog breed in the United States, according to the American Kennel Club. They are “serious workers” and make excellent search-and-rescue dogs or guides for the blind.

fell in love with her profession. A career in the Army enabled her to travel all over the world, provide for her daughters, and forge lifelong friendships and experiences that shaped who she was.

It was her example that inspired the three sisters to follow in her footsteps.

Copeland’s eldest daughter, 2nd Lt. June Copeland Jr., 22, shared what attending the prestigious, yet grueling, military college taught her.

“The Academy has a saying that they ‘teach us how to fail,’” she explained. “What they mean by that is that they teach us how to recover from that failure.”

“They teach us to analyze what we did wrong, figure out how to fix it, and then implement that solution moving forward. I think that’s a pretty good lesson for life. Things don’t always go according to plan but we have to adjust fire and continue to the mission.”

The 47-month program will challenge hopeful graduates in ways they never thought possible, June Sr. adds—a necessary part of the experience to ensure that they are more than capable of leading the country’s men and women into battle. It teaches discipline as well as other important values.

“Resiliency first and foremost!” is what 19-year-old cadet Jasmyn Haynes has learned from attending West Point.

Her eldest sister, June, shares a similar sentiment. “I went into the Academy very confident that I would excel just like I did in high school. It was a big wakeup call when I found myself struggling like I never had before,” she said.

Meanwhile, faith has also played an important role in choosing a career in the Army.

“My career and family are perfect, complimentary examples of the positive effects of faith in my life,” said Copeland Sr. “For instance, being an officer in the United States military is extremely tough.

“Being a soldier, as a single parent, can make the experience brutal. My faith provided me with the strength, grace, and inspiration to happily rise to the occasion every day of my career.”

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF JENNIFER HETTTERSCHIEDT



(Above) August, or Augie, lives in Oakland, Tenn.

(Top left) Steve and Jennifer Hettterscheidt, who rescued Augie when the dog was already 14 years old.

(Left) Augie and the Hettterscheidts’ other three adopted golden retrievers, Sherman, Belle, and Bruce.

They also display a huge zest for life when not on duty and are known to be very affectionate. The breed often maintains a puppy-like nature long into adulthood.

Augie’s owners know how rewarding it can be to live with and care for a senior pet. “We care for them as long as we have them and love them forever,” said Jennifer, as Metro reported. Although oldest among specific breeds are not officially recorded just yet, Augie appears to be the 19th-oldest dog in the world, according to Guinness.

Steve attributes Augie’s impressive longevity to “good genes,” adding that the dog has been a “great addition to the family and she just keeps chugging along.”



Lt. John Miller is assigned to the Navy Warfare Development Command at Naval Station Norfolk in Norfolk, Va.

Navy Officer Rescues Boy, Caregiver During Evening Jog

LOUISE BEVAN

U.S. Navy Lt. John Miller was out for an evening jog in Norfolk, Virginia, on June 9, when he witnessed a potentially disastrous scenario: a disabled child and his caregiver were floundering in a nearby river.

So, the officer rushed to help.

The nine-year Navy veteran was running along the Elizabeth River trail when he noticed a man and a child in a wheelchair on the edge of the seawall. Soon after, he heard a splash and he saw that the man and the child had both fallen into the water, with the wheelchair still on the river bank.

“I was about 10 to 15 yards along the length of the [Spirit of Norfolk] cruise ship when I heard a splash,” Miller, of Kinsman, Ohio, told WTKR. “I sprinted back to the edge and initially saw only the man, who appeared to be floundering.”

Miller told a bystander to call for help before leaping 10 feet into the water, a choice he made without considering an alternative, he said.

His instincts took over.

“Treading and swimming with another person is difficult,” Miller explained, “but I was in the water before I knew it.”

“I knew [the boy] could not survive the water with his disability, so I had no choice,” he added. “I did not know the water skills of his guardian and I could not be sure of any possible injuries or trauma to either of them.”

Miller told the man to wrap his legs around him to prevent from becoming fatigued. The disabled, non-verbal child was held between the two adults, and Miller pulled the pair toward the seawall but found it covered in barnacles and impossible to grip on to.

Miller told a bystander to call for help before leaping 10 feet into the water.

He managed to grab a line from a cutaway bumper and assumed that the trio would have to wait for first responders to arrive; however, the bystander who had called 911 wheeled the child’s chair down the pier, making it more accessible.

The officer and the man, together with the child, swam toward a ladder on the pier.

“We were all out the water by the time the police arrived,” Miller said.

Despite his pivotal role in the rescue, Miller said the “true hero” is the child’s primary caregiver, who had jumped into the water before Miller. The bystander who got involved was also essential, he said.

“If one person is missing from that chain of action, it may have turned out badly,” he said, pointing to the teamwork.

“I would thank the man and the child’s mother, and deliver the child a couple of balloons if I run into them again. I’ve heard they make his day,” he added.

“At the beginning of my military career, now-Major Clayton Jarolimek, USMC, said to always place yourself at the point of friction where you can maximize your influence on the outcome,” Miller said.

“I try to do that every day in everything that I do.

“It doesn’t change when I take off my uniform, go home, and enter my local community. People of strength and in positions of power must always look out and fight for those who cannot defend and protect themselves.”

Miller lives in downtown Norfolk with his partner and their dog.

We would love to hear your stories! You can share them with us at emg.inspired@epochtimes.nyc



“The Plague of the Philistines at Ashdod.” Oil painting by Pieter van Halen, 1661.

How Pandemics Shape Civilization and Humanity

EPOCH TIMES STAFF

Months into the pandemic, uncertainty reigns. The reality is, humanity has survived epidemic disease countless times, and of far deadlier magnitude. But we cannot survive this one if we lose our humanity, according to a new film by NTD Television.

The new documentary, “When the Plague Arrives,” looks at plagues in the context of the story of humanity, to see where it really stands. The documentary premiered online on July 12.

The Epoch Times interviewed producer Hyesoo Yoon about the documentary.

THE EPOCH TIMES: What inspired this documentary?

HYESOO YOON: It was really an idea our executives had, when they started looking into the history of pandemics and recognized a lot of similarities



Evan Mantyk, the president of the Society of Classical Poets, appears in the documentary “When the Plague Arrives.”



Renowned calligrapher Mr. Liu writes an ancient Chinese proverb in the film.

between different events. Honestly, as a global-minded millennial, “lessons from history” isn’t the most intriguing topic, and it was really a process of trying to figure out what could make antiquity not just interesting, but exciting. Plus, when we started discussing the documentary, the lockdowns were in effect, which was a whole different set of restraints when you’re trying to film a documentary. But it was really all these restraints that forced us to take a step back and look at the pandemic with fresh eyes.

When the lockdowns began, a lot of people around me were frustrated and depressed. There was this environment of fear and frustration, and I had absolutely no wish to talk about the death toll and all the devastation we would face because of this crisis. That just wasn’t what I wanted to do at all.

I wanted for us to find a way to create something that would encourage people, and empower our souls amid

this crisis, and because our scriptwriter Catherine Yang and I had just been working on a fine arts documentary, I knew art could be our way in to do that. We were also brainstorming with Evan Mantyk, the president of the Society of Classical Poets and a literature teacher, who narrates the film, about the role of plague in stories and history.

In paintings, poems, literature, you can find yourself there, just in different costumes and circumstances. The fundamental human emotions, the whole of the human condition can be found there—you see yourself there. That was how we wanted to use history in this story—not a recitation of facts and figures, but as a way to connect to people where they’re at right now.

“Human dignity really is at the heart of it—this is what comes to the forefront when you really get into these stories of crisis.”

Hyesoo Yoon, producer

THE EPOCH TIMES: So it’s not just about the current pandemic?

MS. YOON: It’s not just about this pandemic, it’s about how this pandemic fits into the story of humanity. It’s not a historical documentary strictly speaking; and with the historical parts, we really try to put history in context, using quotes from people of the time and the art of the time to represent how people from that period saw their lives and faced these devastating events.

Most people—except those who survived the 1918 pandemic perhaps—have never experienced anything like this, but at the same time we know there’s been all these big plagues and pandemics in the past. And the more we read about these pandemics, the more we saw that the story wasn’t about disease back then either, it’s about crisis and a test of our humanity and things that are really quite universal. I’m not Chinese, I’m not Roman, but these stories are about the human experience and universal values, and we think all people—no matter your country or education or age or background—can connect to these universal things.

For instance, we talk a lot about justice today, but do we really have the courage to stand against evil? It’s hard. Our culture doesn’t have a strong moral standard, and the result is that human dignity suffers for it. Human dignity really is at the heart of it—this is what comes to the forefront when you really get into these stories of crisis.

In this difficult time, and we really are going through difficult times, my hope

is that people remember they can be good, choose good, no matter who you are or where you’re from. Every moment, every choice that we make will be part of human history and what we leave to this and the next generation. I want people to have strength through this crisis, instead of just being down and depressed. This is something we have to face, but it really depends on how you deal with it, how you think about it. You can have strength instead of just resentment and anger.

THE EPOCH TIMES: There’s a famous calligrapher featured in the teaser. What role does he play in the film?

MS. YOON: Actually we were already in post-production when I came up with this idea. I really wanted to create one strong, significant sequence and scene before the ending, and I got some inspiration when I happened upon a quote from a book about Chinese history and idioms. There was this quote in the classic Chinese text “Four Books” where Zhu Xi translated the “Analects of Confucius”: “When things are chaotic to the extreme, order must be restored.”

I thought it really spoke to a lot of the historical stories we explored in the documentary, and of today. Because it’s not just disease, the whole world really is thrown into chaos.

I thought it would be really strong if we could convey this through calligraphy. Mr. Liu, who appears in the documentary, was cast at the last minute. He was a really renowned calligrapher in mainland China, and had been featured in a lot of TV programs. What we wanted to do with the shoot was this big, large-scale writing of this four-word proverb, laid on the ground, with sort of this connection to the earth. He only works in the traditional style, and writing on the ground is indeed not a common way to write, and it’s very challenging for him. He didn’t want to do any modern performance art or anything like that—“order must be restored”—we wanted to have the sort of righteous energy that could capture that.

The setup took about five hours, so I ended up chatting a lot with him on set and he shared this incredible story and told me about his time in China. I didn’t know that he had been persecuted so badly, by the Chinese communist regime, all because of his faith, because he didn’t want to give up his belief.

People forget this, but spiritual believers from all orthodox religions face persecution in communist China. He was persecuted so brutally he was left for dead, he really almost died, and it was a miracle that he not only survived but managed to make it out of China. It was just such a dramatic story and after I heard that I knew he really was the perfect person for that scene.

Elders Offer a Lifetime of Wisdom and Humor

ANDREW THOMAS

Film director and producer Robin Leacock is showing audiences how much we can learn from our elders. Her documentary, “Stella & Co: A Romantic Musical Comedy Documentary About Aging,” shines the spotlight on the lifetime of wisdom and humor that seniors have to share with all of us.

Leacock’s latest film was inspired by her mother, Estelle “Stella” Craig, who died last year at 103.

“She was brilliant. She was vivacious, charming, charismatic, smart, opinionated, brilliant, and I can go on,” Leacock said.

After her father died in 2000, Leacock decided that she wouldn’t abandon her mother, who was in her 80s, as she grew older. Leacock and her mother loved to travel together, so Stella became the focus of her life.

A Lifetime of Wisdom

Leacock had produced and directed an earlier film about her mother, “Stella Is 95.” And when Stella turned 102, Leacock discovered that her mother had developed close relationships with many fascinating seniors at her residence.

She interviewed them for “Stella & Co.” Part of Leacock’s motivation for making the film was that older people are often misunderstood in our society, and Leacock believes they deserve far more of our respect and attention. Other cultures often hold their elders in much higher regard, Leacock said.

“A lot of people tend to have a prejudice about older people—that they’re not quite people anymore—and in fact, they’re more than [that], because as you age, you’re still you,” Leacock said.

She believes society has many misconceptions about older adults—that they’re less intelligent, weaker, and generally less capable. In fact, many seniors are exceptionally smart and wise, and often have a more profound way of looking at life. After a lifetime of accomplishments, they have a great deal to share with others.



Robin Leacock’s late mother Estelle “Stella” Craig inspired her latest film about aging.

“Stella & Co.” begins with the quote: “In Earth-keeping cultures, each elder that dies is a library that burns.” The longer someone lives, the richer their “library” becomes.

“There’s a lot that can be gained by spending time with older people,” Leacock said.

Young at Heart

Leacock also garnered valuable life lessons and pieces of wisdom from the seniors she spoke with. Her own mother Stella always told her to keep busy, and she would say, ‘You can get older, but don’t get old.’ She also encouraged her to be present in the moment and to seize the day instead of focusing on the past or the future.

Indeed, all of the seniors that Leacock interviewed had interests and hobbies they were pursuing. One senior loved writing poetry, while another enjoyed singing and was in a choir, and another had a passion for music and piano.

“Everybody was just really still involved and engaged in life, and I think that’s part of the key of having a vivid life when you’re older,” Leacock said.

Every person she spoke with in the film said they felt like they were 20 or 30 years old—whether they were 80, 90, or 100 years old. One woman in the film told her that if she didn’t have a walker, she would think she was 16.

Gerson, “The Romantic,” is a poet who relishes the ability to express his thoughts and feelings through his work. To him, age is superficial, and he’s told that he doesn’t look or behave as though he’s 96 years old.

He doesn’t worry about the uncertainty of the future.

“By and large, life has been really good to me, and I like to be good to life,” Gerson said in the film.

“Keep your head up. Look high. That’s my motto.”

Maury, “The Renaissance Man,” is 102. He’s played professional baseball, traveled around the world, and used to fly his own airplane. He stresses the im-



Robin Leacock with her mother Stella.

portance of cherishing what you have, instead of focusing on what you don’t have. However, he’s coy about sharing more advice.

“People ask me, ‘What’s your secret?’ and, of course, I tell them I’m going to bottle it and sell it so I can’t tell you now,” Maury joked.

Pursuing Their Passions

Maria, “The Fashionista,” was born and raised in New York City, and was a fashion designer before she retired. She feels that now is the time for her to do anything she wants without having to be responsible for anyone else. She’s currently considering writing her own book about aging.

“It’s all about doing the things that I never had time to do without guilt, and having fun and experiencing new experiences and learning from other people,” Maria said.

She added that she isn’t afraid of death, and believes that’s something everyone has to face. She knows life is finite but believes every minute is an “opportunity and a gift.”

“Aging is just a phase of life. No one knows how long they’re going to live,” she said in the documentary. “So why not make the best of every day, no matter what happens to you?”

The documentary can be viewed at StellaDocumentary.com; the website also indicates TV air times.

HISTORY

Of Marxism and Murder: The Professor in the Peruvian Prison

He graduated from preaching Marxism in the classroom to practicing it in the field

LAWRENCE W. REED

To waste your life chasing delusions is bad enough. To sacrifice innocent lives without remorse as you pursue those fantasies is downright criminal. It defines you as a sociopath and a homicidal maniac.

Abimael Guzmán is all of that and worse. At age 85, he presently resides in a maximum-security prison at a Peruvian naval base near Lima. Unrepentant and unaltered but for a handful of radical sycophants, he is living testimony to the terrible power of socialist extremism. Thirty years ago, he was Peru’s most wanted man.

“Socialism in general has a record of failure so blatant that only an intellectual could ignore or evade it,” economist Thomas Sowell once observed. “The most fundamental fact about the ideas of the political left is that they do not work. Therefore we should not be surprised to find the left concentrated in institutions where ideas do not have to work in order to survive.”

Guzmán came from one of those very

institutions Sowell was describing. He was an academic.

I started my career as a college professor, so I am quick to note that academia isn’t monolithic, and its ranks aren’t universally rotten. Nonetheless, especially in the social sciences, it’s a world glutted with otherwise-unemployable, socially-dysfunctional pontificators.

Often protected from reality by tenure and taxes and dripping with self-importance, the worst of them revel in gossip, nit-picking, and department politics—and that’s in their spare time when they’re not poisoning idealistic young minds with discredited dogmas.

Few of them could manage or market or strategically plan their way out of a soggy paper bag, which is why a smart hiring rule at productive businesses is to steer clear of academics. Many harbor a deep resentment of free enterprise; they hate that it rewards individuals not for the academic degrees they’ve purchased but for the value they create in the marketplace. Today, they are a significant source of the “ideas” that are laying waste to parts of our inner cities and college campuses.

Two years ago, faculty at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh held a bicentennial birthday bash for Karl Marx. As Grove City College’s Paul Kengor noted, addressing the 100 million killed by Marxist regimes was not on the agenda. Maybe this is what British philosopher Bertrand Russell had in mind when he famously said, “Men are born ignorant, not stupid; they are made stupid by education.”

In the 1960s and ’70s, Guzmán taught philosophy at a university in Ayacucho, Peru. From his earliest days in the classroom, he drenched his students in Marxism and became ever more radical as he did so. He was arrested more than once for participating in violent street protests. He enjoyed denouncing other faculty members and visiting speakers who didn’t share his viewpoint (intellectual integrity and objectivity were not his strong points). He formed an underground terrorist organization called Sendero Luminoso.

For his thoughts on Guzmán, I asked my friend Edwar Escalante, a native of Peru and now a professor (a good one!) at Angelo State University in Texas. He wrote: “Abimael Guzman became Peru’s number one enemy. Though his Marxist revolution promised a change to favor the poor, the Shining Path’s repression was ruthless against the most impoverished communities. Guzmán had a disdain for the peasantry’s local arrangements. He believed the poor would adhere to his cause without question. However, it was the poorest of the poor who rejected his rules and initiated the massive self-defense movement that defeated him.”

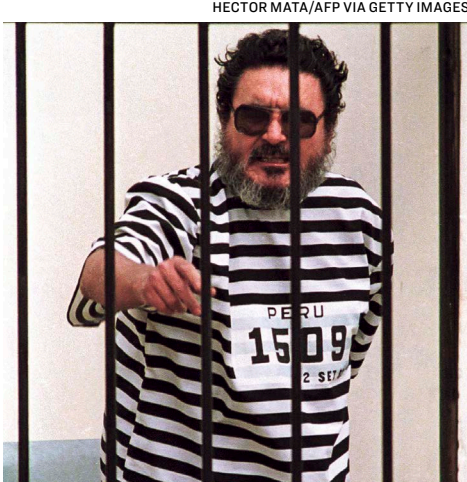
Another Peruvian friend, Luna Vladimir of the Association for Economic Education in the Andes advised me that the 2001 Truth and Reconciliation Commission charged Shining Path with deliberate mass murder against any people it regarded as enemies to their plan for power:

noso (“Shining Path”) and in 1980, he and his merry band of senderistas declared war on Peru—its government and any expendable peasants who stood in their way. The result was two decades of rampaging mayhem that claimed the lives of 70,000 Peruvians.

Also dead was a 25-year-old American named Gus Gregory of Torrance, California. He was in Peru to teach poor campesinos techniques for raising superior sheep and alpaca. The jeep he and a Peruvian veterinarian friend were driving was ambushed by Comrade Guzmán’s men. Gregory was shot in the back of the head as a warning to anyone not yet signed up for the “people’s” revolution. Ironically, Gregory considered himself a leftist but he wasn’t left enough for Shining Path.

For his thoughts on Guzmán, I asked my friend Edwar Escalante, a native of Peru and now a professor (a good one!) at Angelo State University in Texas. He wrote: “Abimael Guzman became Peru’s number one enemy. Though his Marxist revolution promised a change to favor the poor, the Shining Path’s repression was ruthless against the most impoverished communities. Guzmán had a disdain for the peasantry’s local arrangements. He believed the poor would adhere to his cause without question. However, it was the poorest of the poor who rejected his rules and initiated the massive self-defense movement that defeated him.”

Another Peruvian friend, Luna Vladimir of the Association for Economic Education in the Andes advised me that the 2001 Truth and Reconciliation Commission charged Shining Path with deliberate mass murder against any people it regarded as enemies to their plan for power:



This file photo from Sept. 24, 1992, shows Abimael Guzman, the captured leader of the terrorist group Shining Path, behind bars in Lima, Peru.



A relative lights a candle in the town of San Martin de Pangoa, Junin Department, Peru, on June 14, 2018 next to coffins containing the remains of 23 identified victims of a massacre by the Shining Path guerrillas in 1990.

would have dwarfed those of the Khmer Rouge. As a doctor, I am accustomed to unpleasant sights, but nothing prepared me for what I saw in Ayacucho, where Sendero first developed under the sway of a professor of philosophy, Abimael Guzmán. I took photographs of what I saw, but the newspapers deemed them too disturbing to be printed.

Where the means justify the end, as they do for most ideologies, mass murder becomes more likely, perhaps even inevitable in ideologized states. The capacity for cruelty, and the enjoyment of cruelty, that lies latent in almost every human heart, then allies itself to a supposedly higher, even transcendent purpose. Original sin meets social conditioning. A vicious circle is set up; and eventually, viciousness itself is taken to be a sign both of loyalty and of higher purpose.

The greatness of a crime is thus a guarantee of the greatness of its motive: for who would order the deportation of whole nations, for example, cause famines, work millions to death, shoot untold numbers, unless he had some worthy higher purpose? And the more ruthlessly he did all these things, the higher his purpose must be to justify them. To participate in the worst of crimes is then to be the best of men.”

Guzmán’s ivory red tower collapsed when he was arrested in September 1992 in the house of a Lima dance teacher. That event is loosely told in a 1995 novel, “The Dancer Upstairs,” and in a 2002 film of the same title produced and directed by John Malkovich. Guzmán was sentenced to life imprisonment for his murder spree; in 2018, he was retried and sentenced to a second life term.

If you’re interested in the details of the wasted, blood-soaked life of this nutty professor, you won’t be disappointed in the 2019 book by Orin Starn and Miguel La Serna, “The Shining Path: Love, Madness, and Revolution in the Andes.” It would make a great Christmas present for any Antifa friends you might have. A reader will see first-hand how bad ideas must inevitably produce bad results, even if the perpetrators think they have “the common good” as their motivation. I close with a paragraph from that book: “Everything began with praiseworthy, even noble intentions. The great Communist longing to redeem humanity from misery and injustice motivated Shining Path to its war. When the gaunt Franciscan friars came ashore in Peru with the Spanish conquerors, they offered salvation in the next life. The senderistas and their Communist faith promised the more immediate earthly heaven of a new

socialist order ... In the shiny new world, as Marx somewhat vaguely imagined it, a liberated humankind would renounce profit’s unhappy pursuit. The evolutionary destiny of our species lay in Communism’s blessed state of mutual responsibility and the common good.”

If you take that last sentence with anything but a grain of salt, I have a bridge I’d like to sell you.

For additional information, see:

- “The Realities of Evil” by Theodore Dalrymple
- “The Shining Path: Love, Madness, and Revolution in the Andes” by Orin Starn and Miguel La Serna
- “Shining Path” by InSight Crime
- “The Shining Path: A Tragic Period in Peru’s History” by Thomas Adams
- “How Difficult It Is To Be God: Shining Path’s Politics of War in Peru, 1980-1999” by Carlos Iván Degregori
- “From Benito Mussolini to Hugo Chavez: Intellectuals and a Century of Political Hero Worship” by Paul Hollander
- “Inside American Education: The Decline, the Deception and the Dogmas” by Thomas Sowell

Lawrence W. Reed is the president emeritus and Humphreys Family senior fellow at the Foundation for Economic Education, having served for nearly 11 years as its president (2008-2019). He is the author of the 2020 book, “Was Jesus a Socialist?” as well as “Real Heroes: Incredible True Stories of Courage, Character, and Conviction,” and “Excuse Me, Professor: Challenging the Myths of Progressivism.” His website is Lawrence-WReed.com. This article was originally published on FEE.org

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHRIS ZOUKIS

T.K. Coleman: Teaching Young People to Take the World Head-On and Creatively

CATHERINE YANG

T.K. Coleman is an entrepreneur who seems to embody a Renaissance ethos of action, discovery, and creativity. He takes as his personal mission to “convince as many people as he can that they have the power and permission to be the predominant creative force in their lives,” and currently this means serving as director of education at two organizations, the Foundation for Economic Education (FEE), and the college alternative program Praxis, which he co-founded.

“I think the work that I’m doing is more necessary than ever, because the world is changing so rapidly that the future is not going to belong to the people who know the right things, but to people who know how to approach everything they do as if it’s a work of art,” Coleman said. “That is the essence of entrepreneurial thinking.”

Coleman says he’s never been the type of person to not go after his dreams, though it was probably a high school play that set him on the path he’s on today.

“A buddy of mine and I, we tried out for a high school play as a joke, and the joke was on us because we actually made it. And when I went to my first rehearsal, it was such an amazing experience that I said ‘I want to do this for the rest of my life,’” Coleman said. “And I never looked back.”

He got a theater scholarship for college, headed to California, where he got a crash course in what was like to develop and create a product by working with producers and filmmakers, and realized he was an entrepreneur and that this mindset could be a force for good.

“I’ve experienced firsthand the power that serving others and creating value can have in changing the way you see the world for good,” Coleman said.

“There are certain things in life that you don’t understand and appreciate until you experience it firsthand,” he said. “Entrepreneurship is like that. We all buy products, we all buy services, but once you take responsibility for being the person to develop a product, get it on the shelf, and get customers to it, it alters every aspect of how you understand human interaction.” That inspired me to want to share that aspect with other people.”

The sort of education Coleman advocates is catching on: When he helped his friend Isaac Morehouse develop the idea for Praxis over six years ago, choosing a six-month apprenticeship over a four-year college degree was still controversial.

Coleman initially thought it would be difficult to convince business owners to take on apprentices without college degrees, but that parents and students would be enthusiastic about the prospect.

“It turned out to be the complete opposite,” he said. Parents who had prepared 18 years to send their kids to a good college balked at the idea of this “non-traditional” career path, while businesses proved to be hungry for hard-working talent regardless of degree.



T.K. Coleman on the set of his FEE “Revolution of One” podcast.

“There are certain things in life that you don’t understand and appreciate until you experience it firsthand. Entrepreneurship is like that.”

T.K. Coleman

“It’s about having experiences that challenge you to assume responsibility for things, because those experiences will help build up your self-confidence, and help teach you how to be decisive.”

T.K. Coleman



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF T.K. COLEMAN

T.K. Coleman is the director of education at two organizations, the Foundation for Economic Education and the college alternative program Praxis, which he co-founded.

But with the rise of coding boot camps, other apprenticeship programs, and media coverage of college and alternatives, and most recently lockdowns and quarantines challenging our assumptions of education and survival, “a lot has changed,” he said. The world, Coleman says, has already changed radically. “People are starting to realize that if you want to survive in times like these, having a credential alone isn’t going to do it. You’ve got to have some creativity.”

Agency and Actualization

With a theater background, Coleman experienced education beyond being fed a curriculum decided by a faraway panel.

“In theater, you don’t walk into a classroom and have a professor say, ‘Open up to chapter five, we’re going to look at Shakespeare,’ nope. They say, ‘Come on up to the stage. You’re going to pretend to be a tiger, and you, over there, you’re going to pretend to be Tom Cruise trying to figure out how to talk the tiger back into his cage,’” Coleman said.

“You are forced to try to create, in an unfamiliar context, before you work yourself up into a feeling of

being worthy of the task—and that’s such a great way to learn,” he said.

When he started building Praxis, working with undergraduate-age students, he realized most of them never had these experiences.

“I’d see them struggle with so many things, and I just had an ‘aha’ moment when I realized, oh wow, no one teaches these kids, when they’re in elementary or secondary education, how to approach what they do with a sense of artistry and autonomy,” Coleman said. He realized these students had learned how to follow directions, but not to think with agency, and Coleman became passionate about teaching.

Praxis is a six-month boot camp, with modules and coaching all done remotely while participating in a business apprenticeship. With FEE, Coleman goes into classrooms at the college and high school level, and occasionally secondary schools to do workshops.

As it turns out, agency is one of the most important things to learn, but also one of the most difficult to teach.

“The willingness to take responsibility for the outcomes you produce in life, that’s one of the hardest things to teach,” he said. It’s not tied to age, Coleman added, but with young people, he finds that most of them have not experienced taking that responsibility before. They’re in a transitional phase, with big dreams and ambitions, but still largely relying on their parents to bear the costs and responsibility.

“If you have a backup plan, you will always act like someone who has a backup plan. If someone else in your life is the one who bears the cost of the choices that you make, you will always behave as someone who doesn’t bear the cost of their own actions,” he said.

Having 12 or so years of developing the habit to follow instructions has an impact too. “Helping them make that transition of going from a student (‘someone else is responsible for my life’) mindset to an adult mindset that says, ‘Nobody will ever care about my dreams more than me, and if I don’t make it happen, it’s not

going to happen’ ... that’s hard, that’s exceptionally hard.

“Because, well, that’s probably one of the most brutal, harsh lessons that every adult is going to learn,” he said. “It’s about having experiences that challenge you to assume responsibility for things, because those experiences will help build up your self-confidence, and help teach you how to be decisive.”

Agency is so important, Coleman says, because there is no such thing as safe advice.

“There is no piece of advice, no matter how good it is, that isn’t fully capable of making your life worse, if you don’t apply critical thinking and agency to your application of that advice,” he said.

“I don’t care what it is I tell you, it’s possible you can find a way to destroy yourself with that advice. And then you come back to me like, ‘Ah, TK! This didn’t work!’ Advice is like any other tool—if I give you a hammer, if I give you a knife, if I give you a chair, if you don’t know what you’re doing, you can hurt yourself.

“Agency is so important because it’s what allows us to get the best results out of the ideas that people give us, with an attitude that says, ‘At the end of the day, it’s my responsibility to figure out how to make this work. I don’t have to know everything, I’m still free to ask for help, I’m still free to admit that I’m struggling, but at the end of the day, nothing is going to work for me unless I assume ownership of being the one who actually makes it work.’

“Everything is just undermined by a lack of agency. I think the most important question is not ‘What do you want?’ The most important question is ‘Who owns the outcome?’” Coleman said.

Broaden Your Understanding

People hear “entrepreneur” and they think it’s about being the next Mark Zuckerberg or Elon Musk, and Coleman tries to pull it back to a less intimidating scale for people.

“Most of you are never going to even think of starting a business, but there’s a way of thinking that all

entrepreneurs have, and all human beings can have it too,” he said.

“Most people, when they go to their jobs, that’s one of their main sources of stress, that’s one of the main environments where they feel powerless, where they feel pushed around,” he said. “Many people feel disempowered in their personal relationships, when they turn on the news, and they worry about politics.”

Praxis allows Coleman to address this in the career realm and reclaim autonomy, and his work at FEE is similar in a broader context.

“I want to help those people see no matter who’s in office, no matter what’s going on in the world, there is always something that you can control, and if you focus on what you can control, you can always move the needle in the right direction bit by bit. You do have the power to make a difference,” Coleman said. He also hopes to see more people doing the work he is doing.

“I want to reach a greater number of young black people with this kind of thinking, and I want to train more young black people to do the work that I’m doing,” he said. “I believe that the entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well in black communities, but in many of those same communities, we just don’t have the same amount of highly visible mentors that might give us a reason to believe that these things are possible for us too, and that’s something I want to change.”

Life is about creating for Coleman, who writes music, immerses himself in nature, reads only what he loves, and still seeks out theater when he’s not working. Relaxation is also part of the creative process, he says, and what he teaches really does require constant creativity. He’s thankful his students keep him young.

“If I didn’t spend so much time around young people, I think I would probably be set in my ways, and I probably would have a much more difficult time imagining all the different ways that other people can struggle and succeed,” he said.

“If people aren’t buying into my ideas, I don’t have the luxury of saying, ‘Oh, the kids are crazy, they never listen.’ I have to figure out how to more effectively sell it to them,” he said. Teaching means being a student too.

For instance, one of his favorite lessons to teach is one he didn’t realize had to be taught.

“I teach young people to pursue the kind of experiences that will increase the amount of leverage that they have over time, and don’t focus too much early on to get all of your preferences met,” he said.

“I think that’s super important for this age. Interestingly enough, at first it’s confusing to them,” Coleman said. He saw that young people would come to job interviews with a list of demands and not get hired, because they were demanding more than they were worth as people with no professional weight or reputation. Start with jobs that help build your skill set and social capital, and you will have more negotiating power next time.

Coleman’s learned to take a story-based, project-based approach to teaching, because stories are what guide us to truth.

There is a Native American proverb Coleman takes to heart to do so: “Tell me the facts and I’ll learn. Tell me the truth and I’ll believe. But tell me a story and it will live in my heart forever.”

“You can transfer concepts by speaking to people provisionally, but the only way you transfer conviction is through the power of a story,” he said. “Stories and stories alone give us the power to give context to truth.”

You also have to teach with experiences, giving students “something that requires them to make choices, and has an actual risk involved,” he said.

We all have things and experiences we avoid in life, but learning to meet these head-on creates invaluable learning experiences.

“You have to be willing to let go of whatever concept you have for yourself, and I think that’s true of professional success too,” he said. Being true to yourself means not boxing yourself into just the familiar, the things you have already done, and a narrow slice of limited understanding of who you are. “You want to be true to a broader understanding of who you are.”



Chris Zoukis is a former federal inmate, author, and second-year law student at the University of California–Davis.

Former Federal Inmate Pursues Career in Law

‘Do the time. Don’t let the time do you,’ goes the prison adage.

ANDREW THOMAS

When Chris Zoukis entered federal prison in 2006, he had no idea what to expect.

However, he adapted to his new environment and spent his time pursuing higher education. He even used his time to write and publish practical books about what to expect in prison, how to navigate life behind bars, and how inmates can get a higher education.

Zoukis was a senior in high school when he had his first encounters with law enforcement. These were largely driven by substance abuse issues; he wasn’t always lucid and committed several petty crimes. He ended up being convicted of a federal offense that put him in prison for 12 years.

Before Zoukis was incarcerated, the only expectations he had of prison were based on popular culture and media portrayals. In reality, he didn’t know what he was about to face, and the unknown was frightening to him.

When he was initially incarcerated, he quickly learned that different prisons had tremendously different cultures. The first two prisons where Zoukis spent time were particularly violent. They were described as “gladiator schools.” The inmates were younger than 25, and most were under 21.

“It was the horror show of, within reason, what the popular media seems to suggest. When you put a bunch of young people together—very testosterone-oriented—people who are not old enough yet to reason fully, it was very much that. It was a very toxic and violent experience,” Zoukis said.

Federal Prison

After Zoukis turned 21, he was transferred to an adult federal prison in Virginia. His experience there contrasted greatly with the prisons where he had been previously, where it hadn’t been safe enough to even read a book. Now, life was much more monotonous, and while the environment wasn’t optimal, at least he didn’t have to focus all of his time and attention on his safety.

While Zoukis was incarcerated, he knew he wanted a better life for himself. He had entered prison without any ambitions, and hadn’t considered higher education or a career. Eventually, he realized that he was going to use all that time to make something of himself before being released.

“An old adage of prisoners is, ‘Do the time, don’t let the time do you,’ and I really bought into that concept,” Zoukis said.

Since Zoukis had been arrested when he was in high school, he didn’t have the opportunity to graduate, so he finished in prison. He knew he wanted to go to college, but there weren’t any resources available to prisoners on how to access higher education.

He spent a couple of years trying to determine what was available to him and other inmates, which led him to write his first book, “Education Behind Bars.” It advocates for prisoner education and is a guidebook for inmates who want to pursue an education.

Zoukis, who earned a bachelor’s and master’s degrees in business from Adams State University, went on to write “College for Convicts,” and “The Prison Education Guide,” which make the argument, based on peer-reviewed studies, for accessible prisoner education.

“If we invest money in educating people and helping them develop marketable skills when they get out, they have something to use. They have something to look forward to. This is a positive influence in an area where there’s just not a lot of positivity,” he said.

Survival

In 2017, Zoukis published another book entitled “Federal Prison Handbook: The Definitive Guide to Surviving the Federal Bureau of Prisons.” From his own experience, he realized there wasn’t much reliable information about what to expect going into prison and he wanted to help incoming inmates.

He knew he wanted to go to college, but there weren’t any resources available to prisoners on how to access higher education.

Zoukis covers all of the aspects of prison life in the “Federal Prison Handbook,” including how to greet your cellmate, how to interact with inmates and guards, and the politics of the chow hall. The book also discusses prison policy, such as how to obtain health care and what health care rights inmates are entitled to. He included information on disciplinary defense issues and the special housing unit, also known “the hole,” where inmates are sent if they are deemed to be causing a problem in the general population; sometimes, guards send an inmate there for retaliation, he says.

“When you first enter the housing unit and you’re going to the cell you’ve been assigned to, you don’t just walk in the cell. That’s someone else’s home. That’s the kind of thing you wouldn’t really think of. You knock on the door. You try to be polite. You try to greet people. If they’re not there, you walk around and ask people who lives in there,” Zoukis said.

“Because you don’t want to be barging into someone else’s home.”

The politics of the dining hall are also critical to understand. New in-



Zoukis earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in business during his incarceration.

mates need to understand that not every table is a safe place to sit, and if you sit in the wrong person’s seat, it can create serious problems. Zoukis recommends finding someone who looks like you, and asking them about the ropes.

In addition, segments of prison are racially segregated. For example, at every prison where Zoukis has been incarcerated, black inmates sit on one side of the room and the white inmates sit on the other side.

Another topic covered in the book is how to avoid fights and violence. Generally, he advises being incredibly respectful but also assertive. Apologizing, being mindful of your surroundings, and being careful about how what you say may be perceived by others are good ways to avoid conflict.

The System

Zoukis ultimately decided to pursue a career in law. He had two mentors in prison, talented legal strategists who showed him that the law could be a force for good when applied correctly. Zoukis had witnessed events in prison that he thought were unacceptable, and saw how the law didn’t apply to inmates.

“Prisons tend to be very lawless areas. An inmate can stab another inmate and not catch a criminal case out of it. [Whereas] If you walk up to someone in 7-Eleven, and you stab them, of course, you’re going to prison,” Zoukis said.

Before his release from prison on Oct. 12, 2018, he was able to secure a marketing position at a criminal defense firm developing websites, writing newsletters, managing a team of writers, and performing media outreach. Zoukis also sat for the LSAT exam and applied to law school before his release.

He’s now a second-year law student at the University of California–Davis, and became engaged to his longtime girlfriend on Christmas Day of 2019.

Now, he’s on a mission to improve the criminal justice system as someone who has lived through it.

“Too often, we have lawmakers, we have law enforcement, we have academics talking about criminal justice reform. The voice that’s not heard are those who have been directly impacted by it,” Zoukis said.



ALINA KVARATSKHELIA/SHUTTERSTOCK

Back to School? ‘No Thanks,’ Say Millions of New Homeschooling Parents

KERRY MCDONALD

Next month marks the beginning of the 2020–21 academic year in several U.S. states, and pressure is mounting to reopen schools even as the COVID-19 pandemic persists.

Florida, for example, is now considered the nation's No. 1 hot spot for the virus; yet, on July 6, the state's education commissioner issued an executive order mandating that all Florida schools open in August with in-person learning and their full suite of student services.

Many parents are balking at back-to-school, choosing instead to homeschool their children this fall.

Thankfully, this virus seems to be sparing most children, and prominent medical organizations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics have urged schools to reopen this fall with in-person learning. For some parents, fear of the virus itself is a primary consideration in delaying a child's return to school, especially if the child has direct contact with individuals who are most vulnerable to COVID-19's worst effects.

According to a USA Today/Ipsos poll, 60 percent of parents surveyed said they will likely choose at-home learning this fall rather than send their children to school even if the schools reopen for in-person learning.

Kerry McDonald is a senior education fellow at the Foundation for Economic Education and author of “Unschooling: Raising Curious, Well-Educated Children Outside the Conventional Classroom.” This article was first published on FEE.org

But for many parents, it's not the virus they are avoiding by keeping their children home—it's the response to the virus.

In May, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued school reopening guidelines that called for:

- Strict social distancing tactics
- All-day mask wearing for most students and teachers
- Staggered attendance
- Daily health checks
- No gym or cafeteria use
- Restricted playground access and limited toy-sharing, and
- Tight controls on visitors to school buildings, including parents

School districts across the country quickly adopted the CDC's guidelines, adjusting their reopening plans accordingly. Once parents got wind of what the upcoming school-year would look like, including the real possibility that at any time schools could be shut again due to virus spikes, they started exploring other options.

For one Florida mother, Rachael Cohen, these social distancing expectations and

pandemic response measures prompted her to commit to homeschooling her three children, ages 13, 8, and 5, this fall.

“Mandated masks, as well as rigid and arbitrary rules and requirements regarding the use and location of their bodies, will serve to dehumanize, disconnect, and intimidate students,” Cohen said in a recent interview.

She's seeking to expand schooling alternatives in her area and is currently working to create a self-directed learning community for local homeschoolers that emphasizes nature-based, experiential education.

“There is quite a lot of interest,” she says. According to a recent USA Today/Ipsos poll, 60 percent of parents surveyed said they will likely choose at-home learning this fall rather than send their children to school, even if schools reopen for in-person learning. Thirty percent of parents surveyed said they were “very likely” to keep their children home.

While some of these parents may opt for an online version of school-at-home tied to their district, many states are seeing a surge in the number of parents withdrawing their children from school in favor of independent homeschooling. From coast to coast, and everywhere in between, more parents are opting out of conventional schooling this year, citing onerous social distancing requirements as a primary reason.

Indeed, so many parents submitted notices of intent to homeschool in North Carolina recently that it crashed the state's nonpublic education website.

Other parents are choosing to delay their children's school enrollment, with school districts across the country reporting lower than average kindergarten registration numbers this summer.

School officials are cracking down in response.

Concerned about declining enrollments and parents reassuming control over their children's education, some school districts are reportedly trying to block parents from removing their children from school in favor of homeschooling.

In England, it's even worse. Government officials there are so worried about parents refusing to send their children back to school this fall that the education secretary just announced fines for all families who keep their children home in violation of compulsory schooling laws.

“We do have to get back into compulsory education and, obviously, fines sit alongside as part of that,” English secretary Gavin Williamson announced.

When school officials resort to force in order to ensure compliance, it should prompt parents to look more closely at their child's overall learning environment. Parents have the utmost interest in ensuring their children's well-being, both physically and emotionally, and their concerns and choices should be respected and honored.

After several months of learning at home with their children, parents may not be so willing to comply with district directives and may prefer other, more individualized education options. Pushed into homeschooling this spring by the pandemic, many parents are now going willingly, and eagerly, down this increasingly popular educational path.



COURTESY OF PREPROY

Daniel Santos.

Homeschooling Your Way to College

BARBARA DANZA

Homeschooling parents tend to feel confident when it comes to guiding their children through the elementary years and even through the middle-school grades.

But when it comes to high school, the task of providing an education that will prepare their kids for college and maximize their opportunities for college admission cranks up the heat for a homeschool educator.

There's a lot to know about what colleges are looking for from homeschoolers and how to portray their experiences and accomplishments as homeschool students. I asked Daniel E. Santos, CEO of Preproy, an online college counseling program, about his advice for high school homeschoolers and their families. Here's what he said.

THE EPOCH TIMES: How do college admissions offices generally view homeschool applicants?

DANIEL E. SANTOS: Typically, admissions officers view homeschool applicants as they would any other applicant—holistically. Most colleges and universities use the holistic review process to understand the candidate as an in-

dividual rather than a collection of numbers. Admissions officers rely on essays, extracurricular involvement, letters of recommendation, socioeconomic factors, and other information in order to make a holistic decision on each applicant's application.

The challenge in reviewing a homeschool applicant's application lies in how this student is compared to others. Because homeschool students often don't have the same curricular opportunities as traditional students, it can be difficult to understand how a homeschool student challenged themselves academically.

THE EPOCH TIMES: What advantages do homeschoolers have in the college admission process?

MR. SANTOS: As many colleges and universities typically advertise, students are evaluated in the context of their school; as a result, homeschool students are evaluated in the context of a student who did not have an unlimited number of courses to select from nor a plethora of state-funded resources to support them through their education. This means homeschoolers are not expected to take as many or any “difficult” or “advanced” courses (for example, AP, IB, honors, AICE,

and/or dual enrollment) in order to demonstrate they're challenging themselves.

Moreover, homeschoolers who choose to take these types of courses online or demonstrate impressive academic promise despite lack of access to traditional learning spaces are seen favorably by admissions officers.

THE EPOCH TIMES: What disadvantages do homeschoolers have in getting into college?

MR. SANTOS: The main disadvantages homeschoolers have in getting into college is the lack of substantial curricular offerings and college guidance resources. Due to limited curricular offerings and the lack of standardization of homeschooling curriculum, it is often difficult for admissions committees to compare homeschoolers to traditional students. As a result, admissions committees rely on standardized test scores in order to better understand the homeschool applicant's academic ability.

Also, the college application process is complex and begins in ninth grade. Oftentimes homeschooled students do not begin college planning early enough and lack access to school counselors to assist them when select-

Daniel Santos.

ing courses or making decisions about their college application process.

THE EPOCH TIMES: What do you recommend parents of high school freshmen homeschoolers do to set up their high schooler for college admissions success?

MR. SANTOS: Parents of high school freshmen should begin conversations regarding college very early. They should encourage students to explore colleges and get them excited about the prospect of attending college.

Parents should explore additional curricular offerings including online AP courses and dual-enrollment at their local college. This will help the student demonstrate that they're challenging themselves despite limited curricular opportunities.

Finally, parents should consider speaking with a college admissions consultant to discuss their child's academic and collegiate goals. The admissions consul-

tant may help the student select courses, enroll in advanced learning opportunities, develop an extracurricular plan, and begin developing the student's college admissions profile.

THE EPOCH TIMES: How, if at all, does the college application process differ for homeschoolers?

MR. SANTOS: The biggest difference homeschoolers may experience in their admissions process is in the administrative part of their process. While this will vary from homeschooler to homeschooler, homeschool students' transcripts will likely look different than that of traditional students. Homeschoolers may also struggle to obtain letters of recommendation from objective non-related teachers. Finally, some colleges and universities may require homeschooled students to complete additional standardized testing (SAT subject tests) to better understand the student's academic ability.

THE EPOCH TIMES: What's your best advice for homeschoolers who have their sights set on college?

MR. SANTOS: Start college planning early. Challenge yourself academically and find ways to engage in extracurricular activities across all four years of high school. Consider hiring a private admissions counselor to guide you through the college application process.



Week 29, 2020

FOR KIDS ONLY

THE EPOCH TIMES

A Dizi Gui Translation CHINESE CHILDREN'S POETRY

The *Dizi Gui* (弟子规) is an ancient Chinese text for children that was written in the Qing Dynasty during the reign of Emperor Kangxi (康熙帝) (1661-1722) by Li Yuxiu. Below are excerpts from the *Dizi Gui* translated by Evan Mantyk of The Society for Classical Poets.

“In eating and drinking, in walking and sitting,
First senior then junior, for that is what's fitting.”

或饮食，或坐走
长者先，幼者后

“High conduct makes high reputation;
High looks may fail in valuation.”

行高者，名自高
人所重，非貌高



PHOTOGRAPHEE.EU/SHUTTERSTOCK

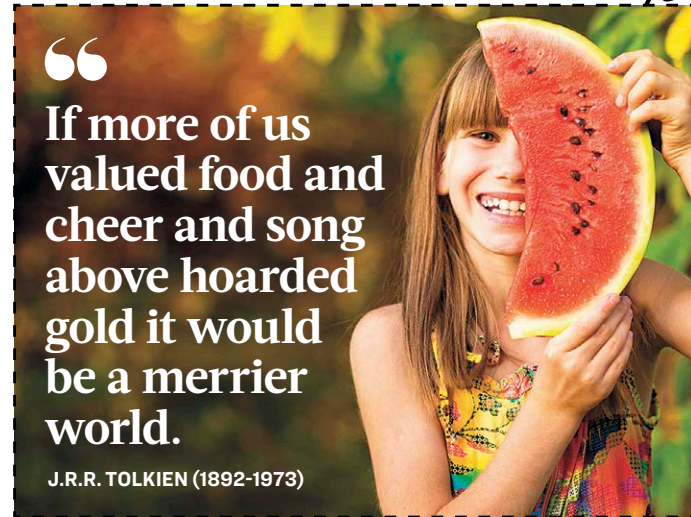
WHAT'S A TREE'S FAVORITE DRINK?



YEVHENIA LITVINOVYCH/SHUTTERSTOCK

“If more of us
valued food and
cheer and song
above hoarded
gold it would
be a merrier
world.”

J.R.R. TOLKIEN (1892-1973)



SVETLANA SANKOVA/SHUTTERSTOCK

This Week in History

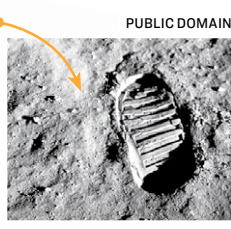
CASTLESKI/SHUTTERSTOCK



Apollo 11's patch.

On July 20, 1969, the Apollo 11 lunar module landed on the surface of the moon. Seven hours later, astronauts Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong walk on the surface of the moon. Astronaut Michael Collins stays behind in the lunar module.

As he placed the first human step on the moon, Armstrong famously declared, “That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.” The images of the moon landing captivated the world, as it was broadcast on television.



PUBLIC DOMAIN

By Aidan Danza, age 14

LESSER KNOWN AFRICAN ANIMALS

(PART II)

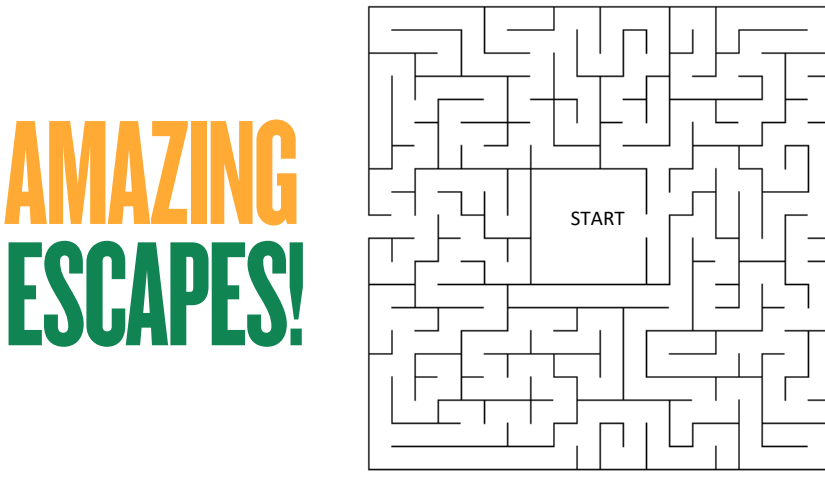
ALL PHOTOS BY SHUTTERSTOCK

AFRICAN WILD DONKEY

African wild donkeys live in Northeast Africa, including parts of Eritrea, Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Somalia. They live in dry grasslands and bush, as well as in rocky deserts. They like to gather in temporary groups of up to 50 donkeys, usually gathering near watering holes or oases. They are active at dusk and dawn, and spend the hottest part of the day under shade. They experience as much as a 30 percent weight loss because of a lack of water. It is believed that this is the ancestor of the common farm donkey. They like to eat grasses, along with some herbs and some leafy plants.

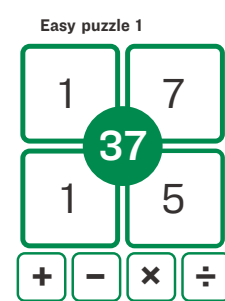
MEERKAT

Meerkats were quite unknown until one named Timon was featured in “The Lion King.” Even so, their habits are not very well-known, so I have included them here. Unlike Timon, meerkats are very social animals. They live in packs consisting of up to 30 meerkats and three family groups, in tunnel networks underground. Females typically stay in the pack where they grew up, while males will leave their childhood pack and take over or become part of a new one when they are mature. Meerkats often mind the babies of the pack when Mom's out foraging for food, and they always have a lookout posted. This lookout sounds an alarm (a short bark) when a predator's on the prowl, and will make a different sound when it's gone. Meerkats are active all day when it's sunny. However, when it's overcast and rainy, they will not leave their burrows. Also, meerkats will return to the tunnel when the weather is too hot. They eat mostly insects, but they will also eat small reptiles, eggs, and plants. They overturn rocks and dig into soil to find such food.

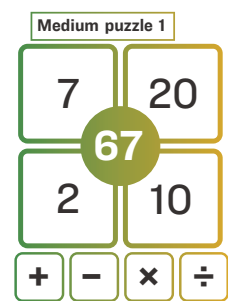


AMAZING ESCAPES!

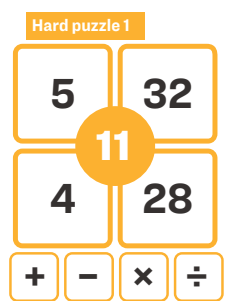
USE THE FOUR NUMBERS IN THE CORNERS, AND THE OPERANDS (+, - AND X) to build an equation to get the solution in the middle. There may be more than one “unique” solution but, there may also be “equivalent” solutions. For example: $6 + (7 \times 3) + 1 = 28$ and $1 + (7 \times 3) + 6 = 28$



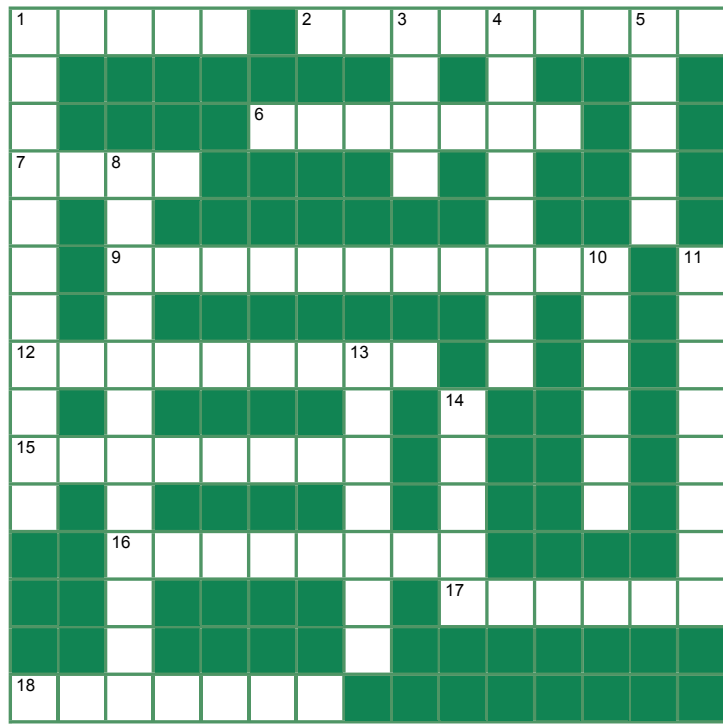
Solution For Easy 1
 $1 + 1 + 5 \times 7$



Solution for Medium 1
 $7 + 2 \times (10 + 10)$



Solution For Hard 1
 $5 - 4 \times (32 - 28)$

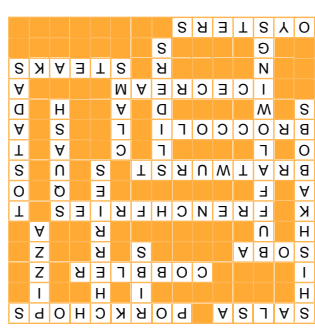


Across

- 1 Mexican chip dip (5)
- 2 Best done on the grill in summer (4,5)
- 3 Camp dessert (7)
- 4 Japanese noodles (4)
- 5 Burger buddy (6,5)

Down

- 1 Everything on a stick! (5,6)
- 3 Babyback, babyback, babyback ____! (4)
- 4 Fruit for pies (8)
- 5 Italian staple good all year long (5)
- 8 Created in Western New York! (7,5)
- 10 One of the Three Sisters (6)
- 11 Deep-fried tortillas with all the fixings (8)
- 13 Mini burgers (7)
- 14 Best steamed on the beach! (5)



- 12 It may be on a roll (9)
- 15 President George H. W. Bush hated it (8)
- 16 Soft serve with sprinkles (3,5)
- 17 Beef! It's what's for dinner!! (6)
- 18 Served on the half-shell (7)

THE
EPOCH
TIMES

\$1,000
GRAND PRIZE

THE

‘Why I Love America’

ESSAY CONTEST

Our country is in crisis. As statues of great Americans such as George Washington are pulled down, the very idea of the United States, and the value and dignity of the American way of life, are being called into question.

Responding to this challenge begins with each of us being clear about what makes the United States good and beautiful and worth defending. We need to be clear about why we love America.

To this end, The Epoch Times invites you to take part in our “Why I Love America” essay contest.

In an essay of 500 to 800 words, explain what moves you most about the United States—why you think it is worth defending. You may do so in the manner that suits you. For instance, you could

focus on one aspect of the United States; take a big picture, comprehensive approach; or simply tell an illustrative anecdote from your own life. Make the judges feel that America is worth celebrating.

The grand prize will be \$1,000. A year’s subscription to The Epoch Times will be awarded to several, select runners-up. Any entries may be published online and in print at the discretion of The Epoch Times.

The deadline is 11:59 p.m. EDT on Aug. 14, 2020.

Submissions should be sent to:
americanessays@epochtimes.com
or by first-class mail to:

Essay Contest/The Epoch Times
229 W. 28th St./7th Floor/New York, NY 10001.

By entering this contest, the entrant indicates that he or she has read and agrees to the terms and conditions, which may be read online at ept.ms/essayterms

THE EPOCH TIMES

TRUTH AND TRADITION