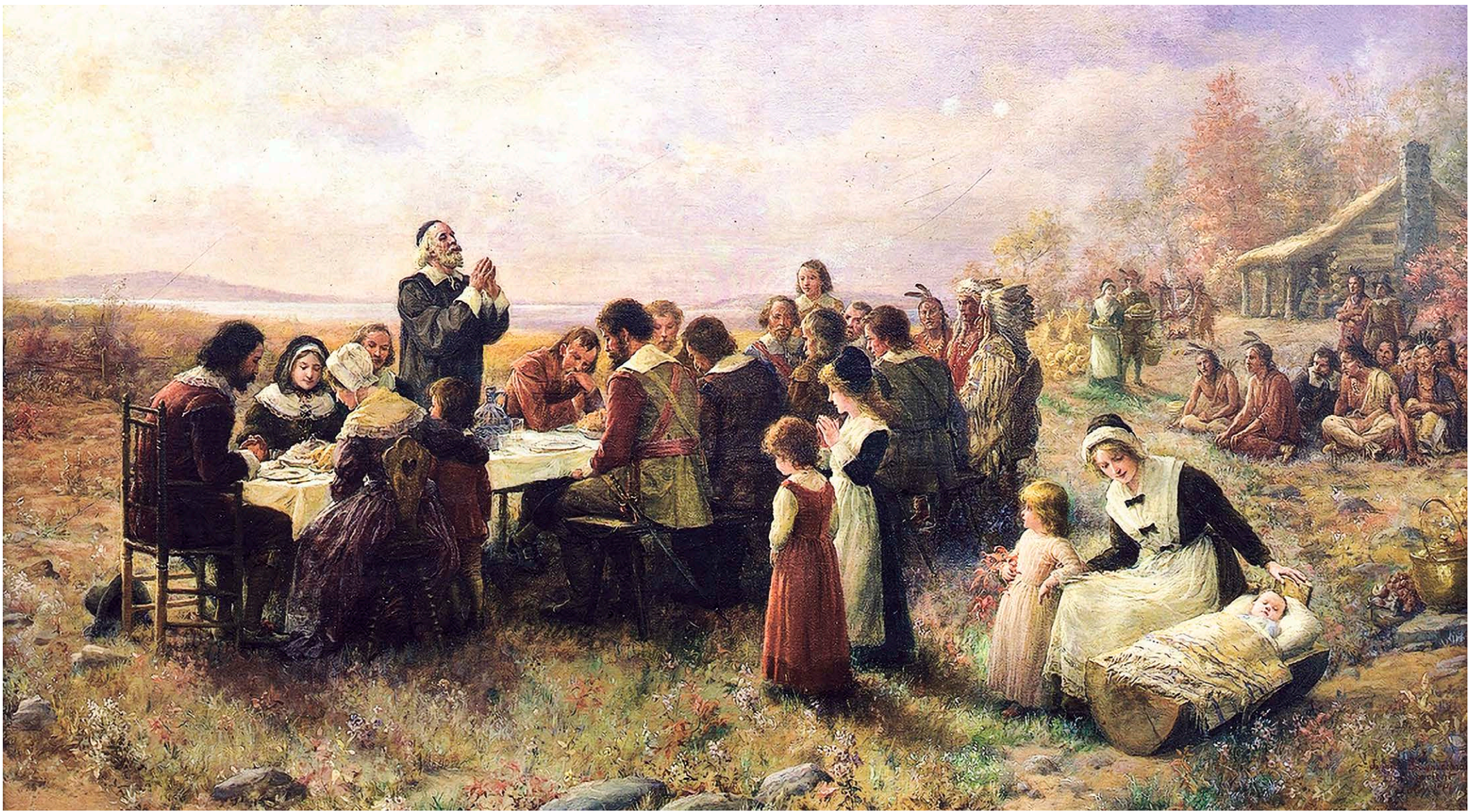


THE EPOCH TIMES

LIFE &

TRADITION

PUBLIC DOMAIN



Thanksgiving: A Time for Gratitude and Joy



“The First Thanksgiving at Plymouth” by Jennie A. Brownscombe, 1914.

In these dark times, it is good to remember the power of light.

JEFF MINICK

Just before I began writing this article, I lit a candle. Not just any candle, but a scented candle. The candle came in a gift basket given me on a trip a few months back to Williamsburg, Virginia. Though I’m not a fan of scented candles—I can’t remember the last time I fired one up—there it sits on the table next to my desk, lighting up the gloom of this misty November day, its flame a reminder of the power of light in the darkness. For me, that candle represented hope in these calamitous times. I looked at it now and again as I typed, and took strength from its wavering flame.

Saying Yes to Thanksgiving

In response to the rising numbers of victims of COVID-19, presidential candidate Joe Biden recently warned that we’re facing “a very dark winter.” Like some other prognosticators of doom—politicians, doctors, scientists, and worst of all, pundits—Biden believes we may need a national mask mandate and another lockdown of our businesses, restaurants, schools, and churches. For months now, these same people have terrorized the American people, using fear to keep us at arm’s length from one another, to confine many of us in our homes,



Thanksgiving provides wonderful teaching moments for the young.

JANKO FERLIĆ/
UNSPLASH

and to force us to stroll about the street looking like surgeons who’ve just escaped the operating room. This ordeal has taken an enormous toll on our spirits and mental health. Please don’t misunderstand me. I realize many people are afraid of catching this virus. The daily drumbeat of doom from the media, the contradictions and misinformation of the experts, and the unreliability of the numbers about the virus have created this climate of fear. Only now some of our governors want us to cancel or curtail our

Thanksgiving plans, and the Centers for Disease Control recommends that family and friends either hold their Thanksgiving festivities outdoors or else share the festivities virtually through screen-time. This is where I call it quits. In a few days, I’ll be pulling a turkey out of my oven. And like that bird, I’m done.

It’s Time to Party

The holiday season is upon us. Thanksgiving has arrived, and the religious holidays of Hanukkah and Christmas will be here before we can say “Stop the Steal.” Then comes New Year’s, that time

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The Mayflower Compact

It is a quintessentially American story, and the philosophical wellspring from which the United States sprung

LAWRENCE W. REED

For the 102 English people aboard the Mayflower, last week four centuries ago was a week they would never forget. After more than 65 days on a perilous, storm-tossed journey at sea, they sighted land (Cape Cod) on Nov. 9, 1620. They dropped anchor on Nov. 11. In between, they produced a document to establish what historian Rebecca Fraser describes as “the first experiment in consensual government in Western history between individuals with one another, and not with a monarch.” We recognize that 200-word statement today as the Mayflower Compact. Its quadricentennial should be noted and appreciated

by freedom-lovers everywhere.

Fraser’s observation is an important one. Previous statements and declarations in which freedom was a factor were agreements between an aggrieved people and the king or queen who ruled them. The Magna Carta, for example, created a new relationship between English nobles and King John in 1215. The Mayflower Compact, however, had nothing directly to do with the state. It was a private contract between the men among the Pilgrims and the men among the other half of the passengers, called “strangers” by the Pilgrims because they were placed on the ship by the sponsors in Britain to provide necessary skills to help the new colony succeed.



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“The Mayflower Compact” by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris, 1620.

During the voyage, tensions between the Pilgrims and the strangers grew. When storms blew the ship off course and it became obvious they would land well north of Virginia, the strangers nearly mutinied. They

argued that the wrong destination voided their agreement to assist the colony. Compelled by circumstances (survival hung in the balance)

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Thanksgiving: A Time for Gratitude and Joy

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when we say goodbye to the old year and ring in the new. In this particular case, blowing a farewell kiss to 2020, this annual horribilis, this train wreck of a year, is alone cause enough to break out the champagne and party favors.

At any rate, beginning with Thanksgiving, I intend to pursue joy and delight these next few months even if I must crawl on my hands and knees to find them.

In just a few days, my children, their spouses, and my grandchildren will gather here in Virginia for a feast of turkey, dressing, pumpkin pie, and all the other fixings of this holiday. We will share raucous laughter, jokes, and memories, we will hold conversations ranging from personal affairs to politics, babies will cry and children will giggle. Manuel and William, both age 10, will spend half the day wrestling in the yard or in the living room, the three oldest granddaughters will perform another play they've concocted out of thin air, 3-year-old John Henry will want me to help him build a fort from blocks, and if he shows up, my friend John will play card games for hours with the older kids.



LIGHTFIELD STUDIOS/SHUTTERSTOCK

Unlike other national holidays, Thanksgiving focuses on a virtue: gratitude.

One of a Kind

As a holiday, Thanksgiving is unique.

All of our other national holidays such as Independence Day, President's Day, Labor Day, and Martin Luther King Day honor people and events that have shaped our nation. By celebrating those special occasions, we give homage to our past.

But only at Thanksgiving do we celebrate a virtue, in this case gratitude. Like the Pilgrims in 1621, when they gave thanks for their bountiful harvest, we set aside this day as an occasion for counting the blessings in our lives. We pause to remember the gifts, grand or small, bestowed on us: family, friends, good health, some unexpected turn of good fortune, the ordinary delights brought to us by each passing day.

Thanksgiving offers us a wonderful lesson as well: If we wished, we could make every day Thanksgiving, a time to stop and remember to say thank you to life.

Sharing the Day

Not all of us have families or friends with whom we might share conversation, food, and drink on this day. Moreover, some among us may also feel uncomfortable gathering in person in this time of pandemic.

Whatever means of celebration we choose, we need to remember those who lack family and friends in this time of fellowship. Occasionally, a reader—it's usually an older man—writes to say that he is alone and sometimes finds the articles on families painful to read. Perhaps he is a widower or estranged from his children, perhaps his close friends have died, but whatever the case he feels lonely and isolated.

If you know such a person, I encourage you to extend an invitation to him to join you for the meal. If that plan doesn't work,

consider making up a plate of food and delivering it. Though I have a large family, I spend most of my time alone, and so do little cooking. A plate weighed down with Thanksgiving food tells a lonely soul he is appreciated and remembered.

Teaching the Young

Thanksgiving also offers a wonderful teaching moment, an opportunity to revisit the Pilgrims and learn more about they contributed to our republic.

Here are some points we might impart to the young.

Unlike those English adventurers who came to Virginia, many of those who settled in Plymouth, Massachusetts, fled England seeking religious freedom. They were separatists, alienated from the Church of England, and wanted the right to practice their faith as they saw fit. They are our earliest example of people seeking "freedom of religion" as guaranteed in our Constitution. In "Plymouth Rock Landed on Them," an article well worth reading and sharing with your family, Christopher Caldwell makes the point that "they came for love of God, not for love of money."

Equally important to remember is the Mayflower Compact, written aboard the ship before these colonists disembarked.

Below is the beating heart of this short document outlining how they intended to govern themselves:

"Having undertaken, for the Glory of God, and advancements of the Christian faith, and the honor of our King and Country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the Northern parts of Virginia; do by these presents, solemnly and mutually, in the presence of God, and one another; covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic; for our better ordering, and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enact, constitute, and frame, such just and equal laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions, and offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the colony; unto which we promise all due submission and obedience."

Here was the beginning of the American Republic.

This year brings us the 400th anniversary of the landing at Plymouth Rock.

Let's pause on this Thanksgiving Day to give thanks for all those Americans who have helped build this country, who wanted it to be a "shining city on a hill," a glittering flame in the darkness.

The candle still burns.

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

and then move out for action!"

Skousen urges parents to "make current events part of the dinner table talk," explaining to children how the media can twist the truth in their headlines and content. He also suggests that parents themselves stay informed and get involved in civic events. Demonstrating "that you are concerned with what is going on" will encourage your children to follow your lead.

But such conversations shouldn't only revolve around political affairs. "We are in an ideological war," Skousen declares, a fact echoed by Maureen Mullarkey in the November edition of *Chronicles Magazine*. As such, parents should wage a spiritual battle, taking children to church and providing for their "spiritual needs." "From a Marxist viewpoint," writes Skousen, "an atheistic mind is already three-fourths conquered."

Now isn't the time to throw in the towel. Now is the time to fight for our country through winning the heart and soul of America one child at a time.

Annie Holmquist is the editor of Intellectual Takeout. When not writing or editing, she enjoys reading, gardening, and time with family and friends. This article was originally published on Intellectual Takeout.

The Mayflower Compact

As an idea, America began in 1620, not 1776

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to settle the issue one way or another, the passengers did the adult and civil thing. They put in writing a promise to each other to form a government of consent. Its laws would bind them all without religious or political discrimination. True to the longstanding customs of the day, women couldn't sign such a legal document but no evidence exists to suggest that if they could, they would have rejected it.

Philosophers debate the legitimacy of the idea of a "social contract." It is routinely taught in school these days that we are all bound by one, and that it demands our subservience to government. Personally, I cannot recall ever receiving my copy, let alone signing it. But if such a thing truly exists, the Mayflower Compact surely comes closest to its ideal. No one on the ship was compelled to sign, and the few who chose not to were either too ill to do so or were sailors intending to return to England.

Nathaniel Philbrick's bestseller, "Mayflower: Voyage, Community, War," expounds on the compact's significance:

"What made the document truly extraordinary was that it applied to a group of people who were three thousand miles from their mother country. The physical reality of all that space—and all the terror, freedom and insularity it fostered—informed everything that occurred in the days and years ahead.

In the end, the Mayflower Compact represented a remarkable act of coolheaded and pragmatic resolve ... They put pen to paper and created a document that ranks with the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution as a seminal American text."

The passengers then elected a governor and went ashore on Nov. 11. A month later, after some ex-

ploration, they opted to sail west to set up their permanent home, which they named Plymouth. Fortuitously, if not miraculously, friendly Indians whose names we should honor—Massasoit and Squanto in particular—helped the colony get through rough times. And the colonists learned an important lesson in economics early on when they rejected the starvation policy of communal socialism and embraced private property.

Personally, I love this story because it is so quintessentially American, so sublimely pro-liberty. Why? Let me summarize:

Compelled by circumstances (survival hung in the balance) to settle the issue one way or another, the passengers did the adult and civil thing.

The Pilgrims fled religious persecution at the hands of a government. They made a deal with investors to privately finance a new settlement across the ocean. Half of the passengers on their ship didn't share their religious views but together, the Pilgrims and "the strangers" put their differences aside and signed a social contract to establish a secular self-government. Then they made a peace with the local tribes that lasted half a century. They succeeded and prospered when freedom of enterprise and personal initiative formed the central bedrock of their new society.

In 1776, the American Declara-



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"The Mayflower Compact" by Jean Leon Jerome Ferris, 1620.



PUBLIC DOMAIN

tion of Independence asserted that "all men are created equal" and that to secure their unalienable rights, "Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

To Americans who remembered the Mayflower Compact, this was a glorious echo from a century and a half before.

It is no exaggeration to say that the great American experiment—the achievement of self-government, rule of law, and enlightened liberty for all—began not in 1776 but in 1620. We are still on that same voyage and though occasional storms block and even set us back, we remain committed to the ideal.

That, I believe, is what it really means to be an American.

For Additional Information, See: Text of Mayflower Compact: PilgrimHall.org/mayflower_compact_text.htm

"Mayflower: Voyage, Community, War" by Nathaniel Philbrick
"The Mayflower: The Families, the Voyage, and the Founding of America" by Rebecca Fraser
"Of Plymouth Plantation, 1620-1645" by William Bradford

"America Wasn't Founded on Slavery in 1619, But on Pilgrims' Ideals Written in 1620" by Peter W. Wood
"Remembering Warwick Charlton, Builder of Mayflower II" by

Lawrence W. Reed
"How the Pilgrims Abandoned Common Ownership for Private Property" by Lawrence W. Reed
"How the Mayflower Compact Laid a Foundation for American Democracy" by Sarah Pruitt
"1620: A Critical Response to the 1619 Project" by Peter W. Wood

Lawrence W. Reed is FEE's president emeritus, Humphreys Family senior fellow, and Ron Manners global ambassador for liberty, having served for nearly 11 years as FEE's president (2008-2019). He is 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 LawrenceWReed.com. This article was originally published on FEE.org



Extend an invitation to someone who would otherwise be alone.

UNSP/LASH

A New Tradition

Like most families, we have longstanding Thanksgiving traditions: certain foods and beverages for the meal, grace and sharing what we're grateful for before taking our places at the table, place-cards made by the younger set with crayons and scissors.

This year I'm adding what I hope will become another tradition: singing.

In her article, "Civil Disobedience, Homestyle," (see B6) editor and writer Annie Holmquist

describes opening the windows at her family's home, seating herself at the piano, and playing hymns and patriotic songs with her family singing along. Her beautiful description of this get-together should bring comfort to even the most downhearted reader.

Holmquist's account inspired me to replicate her celebration. Though none of my crew plays a musical instrument, we can belt out lyrics with the best of them. Before Thanksgiving Day, I'll make copies of such songs as "God Bless America," "Battle Hymn of the Republic," and "America the Beautiful." A 15-minute songfest will quicken the blood, liven up the appetite, and teach some tunes to the little ones.

It won't be the Von Trapp Family Singers, but it will sure as heck be therapeutic. Now for a broader take on this holiday.

Thanksgiving offers us a wonderful lesson as well: If we wished, we could make every day Thanksgiving, a time to stop and remember to say thank you to life.

Fighting Propaganda One Family at a Time

ANNIE HOLMQUIST

Many years ago, my family was partway through dinner on a Monday night when there was a knock at the door. Answering it, my father found—to his great surprise—one of the gubernatorial candidates for our state.

This candidate was locked in a close primary battle, and, discovering he had some extra time between meetings, decided to stop at our house to drum up support, since every member of our household was a delegate or an alternate to the state convention.

"Oh, hi!" my father exclaimed, as he welcomed the candidate in the door. "We were just talking about you and wondering which candidate we should support at the convention!"

"You were?" came the candidate's incredulous reply, amazed at the coincidental timing, but even more astounded that a family would sit down and discuss politics at the dinner table.

That candidate's surprise over our dinner-time political discussions, I realized recently, signals one of America's main problems. We got into our current mess—ri-

ots, contested elections, corrupt leadership, and all—because political and cultural discussions aren't happening at the most basic level of government: the nuclear family.

Today's children are growing up besieged by innumerable political voices. Media, teachers, friends, and educational materials all cry out, encouraging them to be "woke," to embrace multiculturalism, to shun religion, and cancel those who swim against the trends of political correctness. Parents who don't accept woke propaganda fight an uphill battle in ensuring their viewpoints are passed along to their own children. How can we teach children to think outside the box and embrace the values of faith, family, and freedom that all Americans once accepted as givens?

A similar question is raised by W. Cleon Skousen in his 1958 work "The Naked Communist." Skousen declares that it is up to average individuals living and working in average places to fight these propaganda battles:

"The war between freedom and slavery is not just a fight to be waged by Congressmen, the President, soldiers and diplo-



PV PRODUCTIONS/SHUTTERSTOCK

W. Cleon Skousen, author of the 1958 book "The Naked Communist," urges parents to "make current events part of the dinner table talk."

mats. Fighting Communism, Socialism and the subversion of constitutional government is everybody's job. And working for the expansion of freedom is everybody's job. It is a basic American principle that each individual knows better than anyone else what he can do to help once he has become informed. No citizen will have to go far from his own home to find a faltering battle line which needs his aid. Communist influences are gnawing away everywhere and thousands of confused citizens often aid and abet them by operating in a vacuum of their own ignorance. The task is therefore to become informed

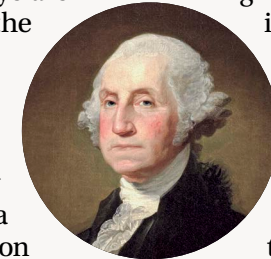
Dear Readers,

How are you teaching your children and grandchildren to recognize and reject the negative influences pervasive in society today, and to embrace the values of faith, family, and freedom?

Send your comments, along with your full name, state, and contact information to Tradition@epochtimes.com or mail it to: Life & Tradition, The Epoch Times, 229 W. 28th St., Floor 7, New York, NY 10001

DEAR JUNE

On Family and Relationships



Portrait of George Washington by Gilbert Stuart. PUBLIC DOMAIN

George Washington's Vision Offers Hope in Dark Times

Dear Readers,

Some of you have called us, anxious and confused about the current state of election affairs. So this week I would like to offer a story and some hope.

In the winter of 1777 and '78, our country was in the midst of the Revolutionary War, and George Washington and his troops were enduring bitter hardship at Valley Forge. The men were dying from lack of food and clothes, and morale was low. Despite the difficulties, George Washington stayed with his men throughout, while other officers went on furlough to visit family. His steady leadership brought the army through the winter.

There is a story, retold by a soldier and

published in the National Tribune newspaper later that year, that during this time, Washington had a vision of the future of America. It seems the Tribune story is the only known record of this vision, and it was never confirmed or denied by Washington himself. But with the hindsight of over two centuries, it seems that two of the events prophesied have come to pass.

For space considerations, I'll summarize the vision, but I do recommend you read the story in full, as it's much more poetic. You can search online for "George Washington's Vision" or see USHistory.org/valleyforge/washington/vision.html.

The vision came one day while Washington was alone, and a luminous being, beautiful and angelic, appeared in his tent. As he gazed at her, Washington felt as though he was dying or dissolving.

Washington heard a voice say, "Son of the Republic, look and learn," and saw spread before him Europe, Asia, Africa, and America.

Then a shadowy angel appeared over the ocean between America and Europe. The angel dipped water and sprinkled some over Europe and some over America, whereupon murky clouds formed over these countries. The clouds met together over the Atlantic then all moved to cover America. There was lightning, and Washington heard groans and cries of his countrymen.

Then the angel dipped and sprinkled more water on America, and the cloud was pulled back into the ocean, where it disappeared among the waves. Then Washington saw towns and cities spring up all across America.

Again the mysterious voice spoke: "Son of the Republic, the end of the century cometh, look and learn." And Washington saw the dark angel look southward and a specter from Africa approached, flitting over towns and cities. Then people began to arm themselves and battle against each other.

As the fighting raged, a bright angel

appeared, carrying the American flag and wearing a crown of light that bore the words "Union." The angel planted the flag and said, "Remember ye are brethren," and instantly the fighting stopped.

Then a third time the voice spoke: "Son of the Republic, look and learn." And Washington saw the shadowy angel blow three blasts on a trumpet and sprinkle water on Europe, Asia, and Africa. Thick, black clouds formed over these countries and "there gleamed a dark red light by which I saw hordes of armed men, who, moving with the cloud, marched by land and sailed by sea to America."

The armies devastated the land. Then the voice again said, "Son of the Republic, look and learn," and the shadowy angel again blew the trumpet. "Instantly a light as of a thousand suns shone down from above me, and pierced and broke into fragments the dark cloud which enveloped America" and the bright angel with crown and flag descended with "legions of white spirits" who joined the nearly defeated Americans, giving them new strength to fight.

The voice spoke again and then the shadowy angel sprinkled more ocean water on America, and the dark clouds carried away the invading armies.

The mysterious voice told Washington: "Son of the Republic, what you have seen is thus interpreted: Three great perils will come upon the Republic. The most fearful is the third, but in this greatest conflict the whole world united shall not prevail against her. Let every child of the Republic learn to live for his God, his land and the Union."

My interpretation is that the first two conflicts were the Revolutionary and Civil wars.

I know that to many, this election feels like a battle for the future of our country—

a battle between good and evil.

The colors of the clouds in the final threat were both red and black. For some right now, the evil is fascism—symbolized by the color black, for others it is communism—symbolized by red. Both fascism and communism are totalitarian regimes, the opposite of what we all wish for.

So is what we are seeing now the third great peril?

I'll leave that up to you to decide. But as the other two perils have seemingly come to pass—and been overcome—with surprising accuracy, I think America and her principles of liberty and justice will ultimately be victorious.

I also think the words of the bright angel, "Remember ye are brethren," are key to this victory. If we are unwilling to hate our fellow countrymen, we will be able to speak to them and really listen. This takes humility. If we are humble, there's an excellent chance others will be willing to hear and try to understand our point of view. Dictators are enabled by people—by our fear, ignorance, pride, and willingness to hate. It doesn't matter if we support dictators or not, our intolerance can be exploited for their gain.

I don't doubt the presence of angels among us, and I think they can best do their work when we're calm, kind, and unwavering in our dedication to truth.

Sincerely,
June

Do you have a family or relationship question for our advice columnist, Dear June? Send it to DearJune@epochtimes.com or Attn: Dear June, The Epoch Times, 229 W. 28th St., Floor 7, New York, NY 10001.

June Kellum is a married mother of two and longtime Epoch Times journalist covering family, relationships, and health topics.

Listening to understand how the other person came to adopt their beliefs is key. You can have a real exchange if you really listen, rather than just wait your turn to speak.

Reclaiming Conversation and Civil Disagreement

CATHERINE YANG

In the aftermath of the 2016 elections, many were shocked by the country's polarization. Stories soon followed of families falling out and personal or professional relationships deteriorating. Over the past four years, the polarization seems to only have increased. But there are also indications that the average American does not want to hate his or her neighbors.

Soon after the 2016 presidential election, the organization Braver Angels (then named Better Angels) brought 10 Donald Trump voters and 10 Hillary Clinton voters together in a room in southwest Ohio to see if a civil conversation could take place. Not only was the workshop a success, but the organization has grown over the years.

"We have about 12,000 members across the country and alliances in all 50 states and we're growing quickly," said Ciaran O'Connor, chief marketing officer of Braver Angels. O'Connor is a liberal Democrat who worked on the 2012 Obama campaign and 2016 Clinton campaign. In the aftermath, he realized maybe he didn't understand half the country, which led to his joining Braver Angels, which keeps its own organization strictly bipartisan with the staff half "red" and half "blue" at every level.

A major reason for the organization's growth, O'Connor said, is that many people are looking for healing.

"A lot of people are dealing with relationships that have been strained by political division and political polarization," he said.

Disagreement itself is not a bad thing, but the new polarization goes far beyond. If people who hold different policy opinions are immediately demonized, we erode civility, interpersonal relationships, and society at large, he said.

Counteract Your 'Inner Polarizer'

Braver Angels began building its workshops by taking lessons from family therapy; workshop architect and co-founder Bill Doherty is a professor who worked with couples on the brink of divorce. The goal is neither to create agreement between both sides nor to create centrists.

Some of the workshops bring a mix of citizens—half red and half blue—together in a room for a structured conversation. One teaches skills for bridging the divide, and another takes more of an inward-looking approach, guiding participants to understand and work on disagreeing constructively instead of demonizing and ridiculing those they disagree with. This year, Braver Angels has also hosted many debates on divisive

topics such as race-related policies. With the pandemic, events have moved online. Though the workshops are no longer face to face, the new format has allowed for greater participation.

For all of this to work, participants have to first abandon several expectations: that the conversation will convert or persuade, that the conversation will be logical, or even that everyone will be equally open-minded in the conversation. The truth of the matter is that people are emotional about their values, which means that making discussions about facts and proof is less conducive to creating common ground than if both parties speak first about their own perspectives and stories.

It also means that participants should agree to not portray anyone as stupid, self-serving, or bigoted—putting someone in a position where they will "lose face" will only guarantee they dig their heels in, and it will create resentment, according to Doherty.

If we generalize the other side as caricatures often enough, we may fall into the trap of not being able to see people as individuals, and that will prevent honest conversation.

There is good reason to start this depolarization process with yourself, or in other words, making sure you're in a position to see the decency of other people.

That workshop starts by posing questions: How often do you find yourself thinking about "those people?" How often do you compare the worst people on the other side with the best people on your own side? How often do you find a rush of pleasure with friends when you ridicule "those crazies" on the other side?

If we generalize the other side as caricatures often enough, we may fall into the trap of not being able to see people as individuals, and that will prevent honest conversation. We should be able to criticize policies and ideas without ridiculing people.

"All of these techniques we're developing are just ways to act on a more fundamental philosophical assertion, and that is the idea that ultimately there is some inherent worth and some inherent human dignity in our fellow man, and in our political opponents," Braver Angels ambassador John Wood Jr. said.



There Is No 'Vanquishing'

A liberal Democrat who frequently dealt with working-class conservatives attended one of the Braver Angels workshops and told Doherty he used to go up to people who had voted for Trump, or wore MAGA hats, and tell them, "You should be ashamed of yourself." As a landlord, he went so far as to not rent to people who he knew had supported Trump. After attending a workshop on skills to bridge the divide, he thought it was interesting but hadn't really changed his mind. "Kind of like, 'You're a conscientious objector, Bill, but there's a war here,'" Doherty shared in a later workshop.

But then he attended a "Depolarizing Within" workshop. A few weeks later, he ran into Doherty and told him an emotional story.

"His eyes were moist as he told me, 'That workshop, that really got to me, particularly that line that neither side is going to vanquish the other and we're going to have to figure out how to get along and run the country together,'" Doherty said. In those few weeks, the man had had four conversations with Trump supporters that weren't anything like those he'd had before; he told them that though he disagreed with them, they had every right to support their candidate, and that he supported their right to express their opinions.

Then he said, "There are people in power who want us to hate each other, and let's not do it."

Conversations, not Conversions

There is this great big fallacy that if you just explain your side slowly, clearly, tell a good story, and throw in some nice data, the other side will go, "What was I thinking?"

"And that tendency to educate drives people crazy," said Doherty, who saw liberal Democrats express this view over

and over when Braver Angels did their 2017 bus tour. Both sides can fall prey to this mindset, which is a good indication that people on both sides think they have the full truth and all the correct facts. On top of this, if people are so strongly emotional about political sides, it is an indication that there are strong emotional ties to the underlying values.

"I've said here that the goal is not to change the other person's mind, but if I'm honest, I'm always hoping that, because these are important issues," Doherty said in one workshop. Many participants agreed; it's just human nature. "But I tell myself that the best way to be influential is to use these skills."

In a practical sense, Doherty reminded them, people don't change their minds during conversations. He certainly hasn't changed his mind in the middle of one of these political discussions, but sometimes he will think back about things that were said, and he will change his mind on certain things. The change happens afterward, not during the conversation, so it's best to do away with a sense of urgency.

He recommends people begin with one-on-one conversations, and even to reach out to someone they know who has differing stances on policies and seeking to understand their side better. But this isn't something you want to jump into first with relatives who are already hostile about talking politics, or during Thanksgiving dinner, and this certainly isn't for Twitter, he added.

When Doherty was putting together the skills for these workshops, he actually tried them out with an in-law over the holidays. The rest of the family stood outside the kitchen, tense with anticipation. They needn't have worried.

"Actually with one of my relatives, with one of my in-laws, it was the best conversation we'd had in 40 years," Doherty said.

What to Say

Doherty advises that conversations should begin with a civil tone; ask permission to pose questions, and reveal that you want to better understand that part of the country, or industry, or whatever area is relevant. Pose it as a request ("Would you help me understand ..."), and people are typically flattered.

Open these discussions by acknowledging your general stance so people know where you are coming from, and if your view is nuanced, as most people's are, do criticize policy on "your side" that you may not agree with and credit the other side when credit is due. "It suggests you're not a fanatic," Doherty said. If you begin the conversation by suggesting 100 percent of the facts are on your side, and zero facts support the other side, there is no engagement and no room for discussion.

Listening Skills

The skills Doherty teaches in workshops are really just classic communication skills, but he realized while talking to people from various disciplines from therapy to interfaith ministry that no one had thought to teach these in the context of talking about politics.

Listening is key to communication, and if you remember to listen instead of just waiting your turn to talk, you can have a real exchange.

Paraphrase what the other person said back to them when they make new points, because this lets them know that you have heard and understood what they said, or have misinterpreted it so they can correct themselves.

Some workshop participants found this easier said than done, as many realized that when they paraphrased they had a tendency to add their own interpretations, suggesting and implying things that the other party did not mean, and revealing their own assumptions of

people based on their policy preferences. Doing this will sound like a loaded statement, as if you're distorting what they are saying. The paraphrase still needs to be what they meant.

This doesn't mean you're signaling agreement, but rather acknowledgment. The other party knows that they have been heard, and will be in a better place to reciprocate and hear your side ("I hear you; what I want to say is ..."). If you do this, you move from "yes, but" to "yes, and," according to Doherty; the former is just taking turns sharing views and talking at each other, but the latter invites both people to think about both sides, and takes cooperation to communicate.

Listening also means asking questions, and practicing not asking "gotcha" questions, or argumentative questions. The point is not just to understand what the other person believes, but how they came to believe in it.

It's Personal

If the government is there for the people, it can only improve our understanding of it when we see and hear how policies have impacted people. Those no-compromise areas of belief, no matter what statistics someone throws out, typically come with a story of how you or someone you knew was personally impacted. Share those personal stories rather than just talking in the abstract; they are most effective, and maximize the chance the other person will really hear you.

And if you are sharing your view and your opinion of things, say "I." Statements that begin with "here's why" or talk about an eventuality like it is inevitable sound dogmatic and should be avoided ("I'm worried/concerned this will happen" versus "This [horrible outcome] will happen as a result of that policy"). Plus, if you only bring up the eventuality ("Climate change will destroy ..."), people will typically re-

spond with another policy solution and the conversation will devolve into an abstract policy debate. The other party will be less engaged, because there is no opening when you merely give a dogmatic statement.

Agreeing and Disagreeing

There is a tremendous benefit to stating what you both agree on and pointing out the agreement.

Usually, there is a similar underlying belief in a value, like justice, but very different pictures of how to get there ("It sounds like we both agree that justice is important"). Stating it can prevent those automatic assumptions ("They must be against equal opportunity") and invites goodwill, because it is human nature to reciprocate.

People in workshops found that when they gave validity and agreement to something their partner said, the other person wanted to be able to return that, too.



Something magical happens when people break bread together and there's this shared experience of, you may completely disagree with the person sitting next to you, but then you're still going to humbly ask them to pass the butter, you know?

Jason Atkinson, filmmaker and writer

There will likely be more disagreements than agreements, however, but this is probably already obvious to both people in the conversation. We can soften those flat-out disagreements by stating that our perspective is very different ("This one is very personal," "It's probably no surprise that I completely disagree here," "We see this one very differently"). That way, we aren't escalating the intensity of feelings, Doherty said, but just agreeing to disagree.

Maybe at some point, the conversation partner will escalate emotions, or try to turn it into an argument. We should give the person the benefit of the doubt first, without returning provocative statements, and we shouldn't respond to baiting questions. Instead, we can re-state our view. And then if, after attempts at civil disagreement, it becomes clear the other person has no intention of having a conversation, we can exit the discussion in a "low-key way," Doherty said—politely, or perhaps with some humor.

The Dinner Table

"People want respect, not agreement," said Jason Atkinson, who in the aftermath of the 2016 election brought diverse groups of people together for civil conversations over dinner.

Atkinson is a filmmaker, writer, and public servant who served 14 years in the Oregon Legislature. His documentary, "A River Between Us," tells the story of the largest river restoration project in American history. The Native community and partisan groups on both sides were deeply divided. Atkinson learned while he covered the project that in order to save a river, the people needed to be healed first.

This gave him the idea that what he'd seen after the 2016 elections didn't arise because we couldn't all agree, but rather because people didn't feel heard, and they didn't feel respected.

So Atkinson, a student and admirer of history, did what Thomas Jefferson did. "He would bring the best people together for dinner, he would sit down last, host conversations on everything from literature and science to politics

and foreign policy," Atkinson did.

These "Jefferson Dinners" have become a movement: 8 to 14 people come together at one table, with diverging views and backgrounds, and dine together while discussing one topic the host chooses and shares with the diners in advance. You can learn more at JeffersonDinner.org and even host your own or request an invite.

Atkinson filmed these dinners (Table-Show.online). He wanted people to see these conversations in action, and duplicate the format. He invited diverse groups of people and sat them next to people who were very different from themselves, hoping to mirror the makeup of our own country. He hoped that everyone would find someone they related to, sitting at that table.

"Something magical happens when people break bread together and there's this shared experience of, you may completely disagree with the person sitting next to you, but then you're still going to humbly ask them to pass the butter, you know?" Atkinson said.

Atkinson chose questions like "Have you ever experienced civility that changed the course of your life?" and "Has there been a time in your life when you experienced grace at just the right time?" As the moderator, he tried to help bring out the stories of the people attending.

"What I learned, and what I think everybody took away, was that when you have dinner and you're forced to listen, you start to enjoy the people you're having dinner with. You find out that there is a beautiful fabric across the country, that people really do want the same thing," Atkinson said. "And if you listen and go through those shared experiences of not what somebody believes but the story behind why they believe it, and the human fabric of it, it's a beautiful thing.

"People are not divided as we might see on television, people actually want the same thing. The big takeaway is people want respect, not agreement.

"It really showed through those dinner conversations because people want to feel respected, and if they feel respected it's OK to disagree; it's all good if someone is actually being heard by being respected."

We don't see much or any of it if we turn to national media, and if we put all of our hopes for people in those national politics, we will end up seeing partisanship over people.

"There's no respect there, there are just talking points," Atkinson said. "People's lives aren't talking points, they're people's lives, and they're to be respected."

The people he invited to dinner were happy to accept; they didn't hold a wariness of disagreement and, on the contrary, were excited to take part in building an example of civility.

Atkinson agrees polarization has increased, but he's also seen people realize partisanship isn't what truly matters.

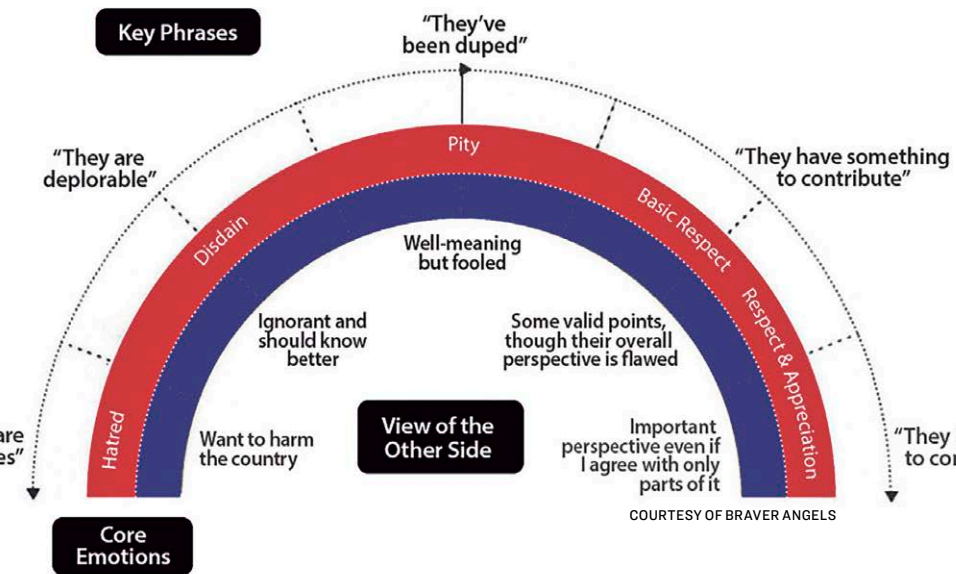
"Where I live, Oregon, was just ravished by these terrible forest fires, and the investigation has not been completed but the belief is that those arsoners were politically motivated. In one community, 1,200 families lost everything—no more house, gone. Now the national news only covered it for a day and they're certainly not going to pick up on the political motivations, but what happened in the absolute hopelessness of that situation is people came together, and started to help people who lost everything," Atkinson said.

"So while people are polarized, in the midst of that what makes our country so beautiful, we watched as these houses were restored and families were put back together."

People helped them, no matter who they were, and people accepted help, no matter who was helping. "It didn't matter if they were for Biden or they were for Trump, none of that mattered ... so yes, people are polarized, but what you see on the national news is just not America," he said.



(Above) A Braver Angels workshop at Temple Beth Elohim in Wellesley, Mass. (Left) A graphic from Braver Angels shows a spectrum of perceptions of "the other side."



A Braver Angels workshop at Arizona State University. Workshops are currently offered online.



A "Jefferson Dinner" brings together 8 to 14 people with diverging views and backgrounds to dine and discuss a topic chosen by the host.

Civil Disobedience, Homestyle

ANNIE HOLMQUIST

I committed an act of civil disobedience—the other night.

I threw open the dining room window, plopped down at the piano beneath it, and with the family gathered around, flipped open the hymn book and began singing. Starting with “Battle Hymn of the Republic,” my family and I soon moved on to “The Star-Spangled Banner,” “My Country ‘Tis of Thee,” “America the Beautiful,” and other rousing hymns offering comfort and exhorting courage in the face of difficulties.

OK, so it wasn't quite an act of civil disobedience—but the way things are going, it certainly could become one soon. Depending on the state one lives in it may be one already, for singing is a condemned activity in the COVID era.

Regardless, I was amazed at how cathartic singing was. I shouldn't have been surprised, for singing offers not only physical and mental benefits, but moral and emotional ones as well.

Singing, science tells us, releases a few hormones that naturally lift our spirits and make us happy. These include endorphins and oxytocin, the latter of which relieves anxiety and stress. Singing also promises to help our memory and health—could this be a COVID therapy we're missing out on?—while offering a sense of community.

It's likely that some of the uplift my family and I received from our songfest was related to these scientific benefits, but I would guess that much of it was also related to these songs' words.

For starters, many were militant, refusing to give up the fight for what is right and true, encouraging singers to give themselves selflessly for the country they love. They also recalled historical incidents important to our nation's birth and survival, such as the arrival of our Pilgrim forefathers, while also reveling in the freedom we have long enjoyed.

But many of these songs also include heartfelt prayers. Take “America the Beautiful.” Many know the famous pleas



American television show host Ralph Edwards and his family sing songs around a piano, circa 1955.

for God to “shed his grace” on the country and crown its “good with brotherhood,” but how many have forgotten the second verse?

“America! America!
God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law!”

Heaven knows our nation has many flaws, one of which is the lack of self-control demonstrated by the lawless abandon in our city streets. Yet, despite how bleak we may feel the outlook is, we still have recourse to cry out to God for His aid in a hopeless, messy situation.

Finally, these songs offer a pattern for

brightening our gloomy, contentious days. Moving on from the patriotic songs, my family ended with the old hymns “Count Your Blessings” and “Thanks to God.” The former encourages us to count our blessings when we are “tempest-tossed” and “discouraged, thinking all is lost.” The latter also encourages a grateful heart regardless of one's circumstances.

The ideals upon which America was founded are now forgotten by many. Yet these same ideals are buried in these songs of patriotism and faith.

My voice was hoarse by the time we finished, but my spirits were lifted and I felt ready to face whatever comes next.

Unfortunately, I'm not the only one wrestling with being a bit down these days, which is why I tell you about my little act of civil disobedience and encourage you to indulge in the same.

The ideals upon which America was founded are now forgotten by many. Yet, these same ideals are buried in these songs of patriotism and faith. By singing these songs, we instill the truths contained in their words in our hearts. We learn once again to have faith in God, to gather and build community within our own families, and to delight in the blessings of living in a country with a wonderful history and heritage.

That, my friends, is a little bit of homestyle civil disobedience which any American should be able to get behind.

Annie Holmquist is the editor of *Intellectual Takeout*. When not writing or editing, she enjoys reading, gardening, and time with family and friends. This article was originally published on *Intellectual Takeout*.

12-Year-Old Who Raised \$200K Running for Fallen Heroes up for Presidential Medal of Freedom

JENNI JULANDER

A 12-year-old Florida boy is up for consideration for the Presidential Medal of Freedom in recognition of his personal mission to run a mile in memory of fallen first responders.

Zechariah Cartledge started running in honor of fallen heroes in January 2019. Since then, he has run just under 700 miles and raised more than \$200,000 for law enforcement officers and first responders across the United States. “We are here to run for all fallen first responders who passed away in the line of duty,” he told NBC in an interview.

At such a young age, Zechariah has already founded his own non-profit, Running 4 Heroes.

The organization's mission is “to raise funds for our injured First Responders while also paying tribute to our Fallen Heroes through running.”

Chad Cartledge, Zechariah's father, told The Epoch Times that his son wants to honor all of our nation's heroes, not only firefighters and police officers.

“Zechariah's mission is to put aside politics and honor our fallen heroes who give their lives in service,” Chad said. “His non-profit also has a military branch in which our fallen service members are honored with a 1-mile run; though, those runs are done by a veteran who is part of Zechariah's Running 4 Heroes team.”

Most recently, Zechariah awarded a \$7,500 grant to Lexington County Sheriff's Office deputy Cameron Cain. The deputy was injured in the line of duty in July in a head-on collision while he was attempting



Zechariah Cartledge has raised more than \$200,000 for law enforcement officers and first responders across the country.

spiration for this venture.

“January 12, 2019, I ran for her, and that's what started my whole entire mission,” he said.

In late October, Zechariah had the opportunity to travel to meet Corona's family in Arbuckle. They visited a mural dedicated to Corona outside of the Arbuckle Ace Hardware.

“Natalie always holds a place in my heart, so knowing that I got to see her mural and get a picture with her and her family at the mural, that was also incredible,” he said.

Zechariah isn't running alone. His mission has inspired other children to follow in his footsteps, too.

When he ran in honor of fallen Sheriff's Deputy Brian Ishmael, an elementary school nearly 3,000 miles away in El Dorado joined him.

“We run for every single fallen officer and firefighter who lost their life in the line of duty,” Zechariah said.

He plans to continue running for fallen heroes until he turns 18, when he intends to hand over his mission to a younger runner.

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

COURTESY OF RUNNING 4 HEROES

DEAR NEXT GENERATION:

Youth Gone? Never

→ Advice from our readers to our young people

Her hair was white. Her cheeks, though pink, were covered with wrinkles, a network of deep, crisscrossed lines. The little girl who came to see her pondered all this, then asked gravely, “Are you an old lady?” Slow to respond but with a once quick mind, she said, “No, honey.” Her eyes, still bright with an unquenchable spirit, held a twinkle. “Not exactly. But I must say, honey, that I've been young for a mighty long time.” This story came to my mind from somewhere out there.

It's hard to grow old. I might better say it's hard to grow older. But I think it's even harder to grow up. There's no way of stopping the inevitable slowing down of the bodily processes. Happily for all of us, though, while we lose the outward signs of our youth, it is possible to retain forever that same buoyant, hopeful spirit that filled our earlier lives.

There is a time in our lives when sheer drive and energy or physical attractiveness overshadows such foul traits as selfishness, irritability, or an insistence on dominating others. When that youthful drive or loveliness of youth is gone, those unpleasant traits have a way of standing out with startling clarity.

It is wise to stop and take stock of ourselves before too many years pass, while there is still time enough to correct those offensive tendencies in our character that we have managed to gloss over with our youth. If not remedied early on, they could cause real unhappiness later.

We need to cultivate generosity, kindness, unselfishness, sympathy, and tolerance. We need an appreciation of the value of every person as an individual, and we need to develop a tolerance for letting others think and feel differently than we do. These are the qualities of mind and heart that will enrich the passing of the years. Without them, we invite a sad, embittered loneliness in our later years.

Most people who age before their time do so ... not because of stiffening joints or muscles, but because of stiffening minds, which become rigid and intolerant. As long as the mind remains alert, flexible, tolerant, and not dominated by hatred and resentment, it can function at peak efficiency for many years. And [remember] the old saying, which goes something like this: “Grow old with me ... for the best is yet to be.”

—Herb Carlson

What advice would you like to give to the younger generations?

We call on all of our readers to share the timeless values that define right and wrong, and pass the torch, if you will, through your wisdom and hard-earned experience. We feel that the passing down of this wisdom has diminished over time, and that only with a strong moral foundation can future generations thrive.

Send your advice, along with your full name, state, and contact information to NextGeneration@epochtimes.com or mail it to:

Next Generation, The Epoch Times, 229 W. 28th St., Floor 7, New York, NY 10001

ALL PHOTOS BY SHUTTERSTOCK



A view of the façade of Palais Garnier in Paris.

LARGER THAN LIFE: ART THAT INSPIRES US THROUGH THE AGES

Paris's Opulent Opera: PALAIS GARNIER

The Palais Garnier's façade acts as a stupendous billboard for the streets of Paris. Its marble friezes, columns, and statues introduce and pay homage to the arts.

Ancient Greek figures such as Apollo and Pegasus are cast in bronze; Harmony and Poetry are also in bronze but gilded. Allegorical sculptures of Painting, Sculpture, Industry, and Architecture are seen in low relief; and different categories of

music and theater, also allegorically depicted, are seen in high relief. And many astounding personalities in the arts are also featured, composers such as Mozart and librettists such as Eugène Scribe.

The sumptuous interior is both highly decorative and functional. For instance, a grand white marble staircase with a red and green marble balustrade leads audience members up to a grand foyer with a 59-foot-high painted ceiling featuring the



A statue representing Harmony.

history of music. And alcoves and landings allow audience members to easily socialize.

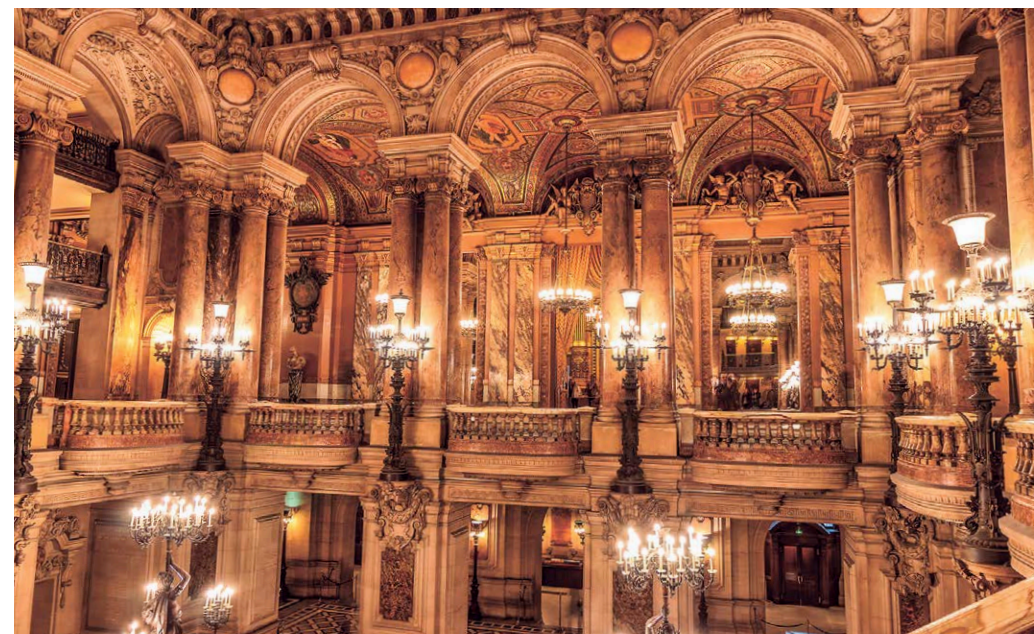
Charles Garnier designed the Palais Garnier for the Paris Opera between 1861 and 1875 at the request of Napoleon's grandson, Napoleon III.

Garnier chose the eclectic style of architecture—the Napoleon III style—that flourished under the emperor's reign. The style combines elements of historical architecture while incorporating new innovations. Garnier incorporated Baroque, Palladian, and French Renaissance architecture into the Palais Garnier along with the modern invention of iron framework.

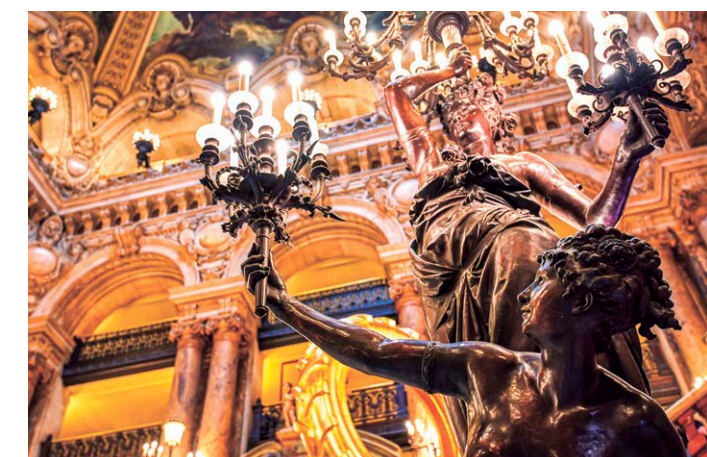
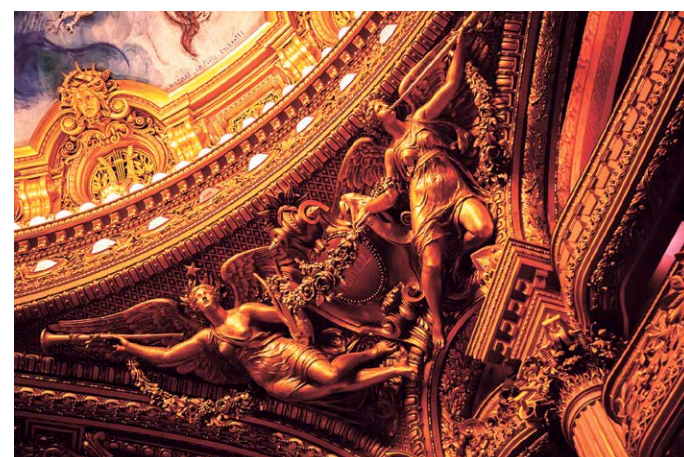
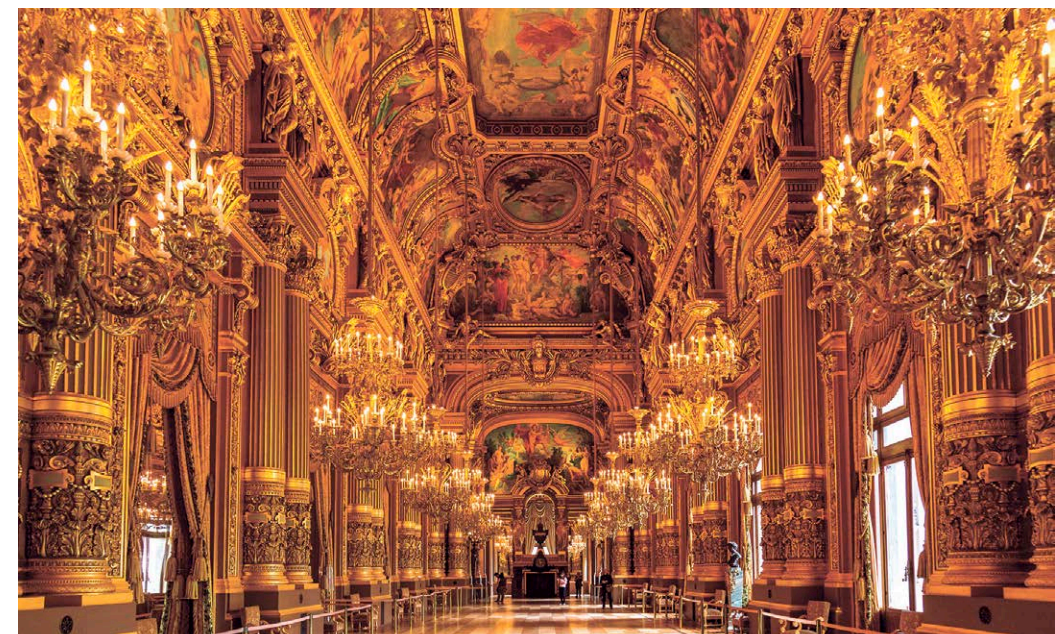
The Napoleon III style influenced 19th-century European and American decoration and architecture. The Palais Garnier, as the epitome of Napoleon III architecture, directly inspired many buildings, including the Thomas Jefferson Building in Washington.



(Left) The auditorium is in a traditional Italian horseshoe shape. (Right) The grand ceremonial staircase is made of white marble, with a balustrade of red and green marble.



(Left) The opera house borrows elements from baroque and classic styles, as well as Renaissance architecture. (Right) The spectacular Grand Foyer was intended as a place to meet and mingle.



Ornate gilded figures of angels with trumpets, sumptuous paintings, and statues around every corner are a feast for the eyes.

COURTESY HEDGER/UNSPLASH



FAMILY

5 Ways to Give Thanks With Your Family

BARBARA DANZA

Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and after a year that has challenged most people in one way or another, a focus on gratitude could not be more apropos. Despite a year of pandemic illness, natural disasters, political strife, and societal upheaval, there is still much to be thankful for. As the year be-

gins to wind down and the holidays draw near, bring your family members close and make an intentional effort to celebrate the many things you have to be thankful for. Here are a few ways to do just that.

Start a List

Perhaps you keep a list on your refrigerator of groceries you need to buy. Well, how about a list of things you're thankful for? Keep a pen at hand and invite your family members to add to the list whenever they think of something new. You'll be surprised how quickly the list grows.

Make It a Topic

Simply make gratitude a topic of conversation in your home. Each night at dinner get into the habit of asking what everyone is thankful for. Allow it to become a new routine you follow during your nightly meal together. This may also be a nice topic at bedtime. When tucking the kids into bed, have them name something they're thankful for. Consistently embracing gratitude is a habit that will warm everyone's hearts.

Grow a Thankful Tree

My personal favorite: Place a couple of branches in a vase and cut out some cardboard leaves. Punch a hole in each leaf and attach a string

for hanging. Then keep the leaves in a basket or desk next to the vase, along with a few writing instruments.

Each day, have your family members write down something they're thankful for on a leaf and hang it on the tree. By Thanksgiving, you'll have a lovely centerpiece to remind you of the many blessings you enjoy.

Give Thanks

I mean really give it—to others. Thank anyone you can think of to thank: your parents for bringing you up, a former teacher for helping you through math, an old friend for being there through thick and thin, the mailman for delivering each day.

You can get crafty with cards and small gifts or simply send a quick note or make a phone call to give thanks where thanks are due. The more you do this, the more people you'll think of to thank.

Bless Someone Else

As you bask in a mindset of gratitude, it doesn't take long to recognize that the blessings in your life are abundant. Share your abundance with others by blessing someone else.

Perhaps you could find a family in need and provide them some holiday cheer, or declutter your home and carefully donate toys and clothes to others, or deliver homemade cookies to someone who could use some cheering up.

The thing about generosity and charity is that you'll reap a reward in your heart you won't soon forget—and you'll find yourself with even more to be thankful for.



There are many ways you can cheer up others. Your family could bake a tray of cookies for someone or donate unused toys.

HOMESCHOOLING

A Montessori Approach to Homeschooling

BARBARA DANZA

Larry Shiller founded ShillerLearning: Montessori at Home in 2002. Since then he's been serving homeschooling families with resources to learn math and language arts using a Montessori approach.

I asked Mr. Shiller about his curriculum company and for advice for the many homeschoolers who are just stepping out along this journey. Here's what he said.

The Epoch Times: What inspired you to start a curriculum company?

Larry Shiller: There are two main reasons: I have always loved math, from the earliest I can remember, and thought everyone did, too. When I was 7 or 8, I discovered with great disappointment that not everyone loved math as much as I did, and wondered how they lived each day without experiencing the joys of struggle and epiphany that studying math brought me. It's been my goal since my youth to bring the excitement of learning math to children everywhere.

I had the opportunity to familiarize myself with the Montessori philosophy and methods because my children attended Montessori school as young as six months old, and we all found the experience to be both respectful and effective. I realized I now had a vehicle to deliver math in a way that young children could enjoy and parents could employ: ShillerMath was born! A few years later, we added Montessori-based language arts and our product line now encompasses what I consider to be the two key subjects from which knowledge in all others springs.

The Epoch Times: Your products incorporate a Montessori educational approach. What differentiates the Montessori style of learning from others?

Mr. Shiller: Montessori may be summed up in one word: Respect. Respect for the child, respect for family and others, respect for the environment. Montessori doesn't care about intelligence or comparisons to others; it merely seeks to encourage chil-

dren—and their parents and educators—to reach their own individual capabilities. Montessori uses language that keeps children motivated and avoids stress. Knowing parents likely have not studied Montessori, we provide scripted lessons that by and large accomplish the same excellent results, without the need for any lesson preparation.

“Forget about putting children into buckets that bureaucrats have developed to make their jobs easier, and remember that your child offers the world a unique view and presence.”

Larry Shiller, founder, ShillerLearning: Montessori at Home

The Epoch Times: Homeschooling has experienced a surge in popularity this year. What advice would you give parents who are just starting out?

Mr. Shiller: Montessori ideas, such as follow the child and never interrupt a focused and concentrated child, are so simple yet so powerful. And we encourage parents to learn about the importance and application of competence and closure, and the 2 Cs that explain all four outcomes—see our YouTube video on the 2 Cs and four lesson outcomes (YouTube.com/watch?v=rqQgZcGrWN8). Finally, take comfort in knowing that the journey you are about to embark on will have its struggles that the rewards far outweigh.

The Epoch Times: What are some common mistakes you see parents making in homeschooling their children?

Mr. Shiller: We've observed that some parents who homeschool their children make the assumption that their job is to recreate the public school experience in the home. That may work for some students, but homeschooling offers each family the opportunity to develop an educational experience that matches their child, not the nonexistent hypothetical “normal” child. We can get sneaky with our name on them—why not an education? Forget about putting children into buckets that bureaucrats have developed to make their jobs easier, and remember that your child offers the world a unique view and presence.

The Epoch Times: What do you believe are the keys to a successful homeschool experience?

Mr. Shiller: Ultimately, it's about principles and values, and how well parents help children develop those first. At Rising Stars Foundation, which is the nonprofit through which we provide ShillerLearning, we have only two principles: one, when ego and truth collide, we value truth; and two, we follow our passion and do so in such a way to better both ourselves and the world. Parents are welcome to adopt these or discover their own; what's important is for the family to believe in them.

Next come abilities, without which we cannot live with integrity with our principles and values. How can we know the truth when we don't know how to prove something? How do we know we're getting better if we don't know how to measure that? These questions point us to the specific knowledge we need to be able to live with integrity: What are common logical fallacies? What forms the basis for calculating those measures? This flips the knowledge-first public school approach to a values-first homeschool approach. Children become eager to learn, not because they're told what they need to learn—ouch!—but because they are driven to learn what they themselves decide is important to behave and grow in support of their passions. That goal is what drives me and ShillerLearning.



FROM A READER

Oh Dearest Mr. Farmer

Note: This story was sent in by proud grandmother Ursula Solimine. It was written by her granddaughter Ellis Solimine, age 10. Ursula says, “We are planning on reading her story this Thanksgiving and everything Thanksgiving in the future... just for laughs!”

Oh dearest Mr. Farmer, You see, I'm in no turkey to eat! I swear! I have been going to the gym! I'm all skin and bones! And nobody wants to chew on bones like that nasty dog of yours. Hey! I have an idea! Eat the dog! Or just take my little brother! I don't care! As long as I'm not the one on your dinner plate. I have a family and twelve chicks! I'm begging you! Have you ever had pumpkin pie? It's a lot better than turkey. What about becoming vegans? You can go on strike with me! “Save the turkeys!” “Save the turkey!” “They have lives too!” We'll become best friends you see... Give me a chance this Thanksgiving. I'd really appreciate it. —Gobble, gobble,

Turkey (Also PS, if you're considering my brother, like I said, he is up for grabs)



FOR KIDS ONLY

THE EPOCH TIMES

Week 47, 2020



A Home Song-Poem

by Henry Van Dyke

I read within a poet's book A word that starred the page: “Stone walls do not a prison make, Nor iron bars a cage!”

Yes, that is true; and something more You'll find, where'er you roam, That marble floors and gilded walls Can never make a home.

But every house where Love abides, And Friendship is a guest, Is surely home, and home-sweet-home: For there the heart can rest.

HOW DOES A PENGUIN BUILD ITS HOUSE?



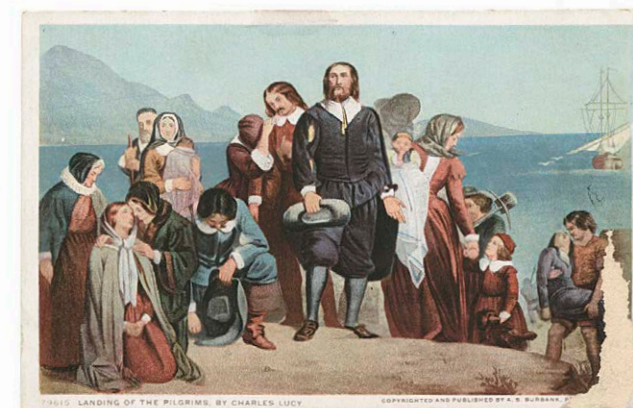
“Home is the nicest word there is.”



LAURA INGALLS WILDER 1867-1957

This Week in History

THE MAYFLOW LANDS



Landing of the Pilgrims, by Charles Lucy, Painting

After a 66-day journey, on Nov. 21, 1620, the pilgrim-piloted Mayflower landed on the coast of Massachusetts.

The 102 passengers aboard encountered rough seas and storms along this difficult crossing from England. Along the way, they agreed to and signed “The Mayflower Compact,” establishing a standard rule of law including the rule of the majority, paving the way for future American democracy.

Upon landing on the tip of Cape Cod in what is now Provincetown, Massachusetts, they began to explore and look for an adequate place to settle. They later did so in nearby Plymouth.

LIVESTOCK AROUND THE WORLD

(PART II)

There are many kinds of farm animals around the world, in many shapes, sizes, and colors. Most of the livestock below are widely used in farms and homesteads in the United States, but they come from different areas around the world and are some of the most useful livestock you'll find.

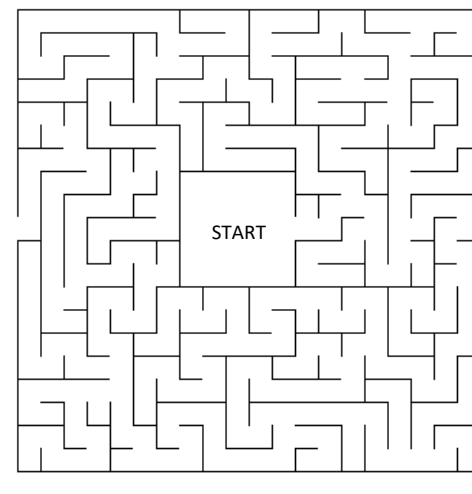
MERINO SHEEP Merino sheep originated in Spain, where their wool was a vital part of Spain's economy, so much so that it was once a capital crime to export a Merino out of the country. Spain managed to greedily guard its Merinos until Napoleon invaded in 1808, and allowed the export of the precious sheep around the world. Now, most Merinos live in Australia and New Zealand, where they are, again, a large part of the countries' economy.

BRAHMAN CATTLE These cattle hail from India. They are actually classified as a different species than most European cattle. As do all cattle of their species, they have a large hump at their shoulder. Brahmans are usually used as beef cattle, though they have a few other uses. Sometimes they are ridden, and in parts of the Middle East, they are the breed of choice for the sport of bull-butting, in which two Brahman bulls butt heads until one collapses or concedes the match.

JERSEY CATTLE Jersey cattle come from the British Isle of Jersey, in the British Channel that divides Britain and France. They are a small brown cow used solely for their milk, which is extremely rich in butterfat, used for butter and buttermilk, as well as in protein and calcium. Jerseys are widely used on small farms and homesteads as a family cow, where their small size is important. Since such a small cow doesn't require a large pasture, they make very efficient use of the small Island of Jersey.



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

4	7		
62			
2	5		
+	-	x	÷

Solution For Easy 1

2 = (7 - 5 x 2)

Medium puzzle 1

18	19		
65			
9	19		
+	-	x	÷

Solution for Medium 1

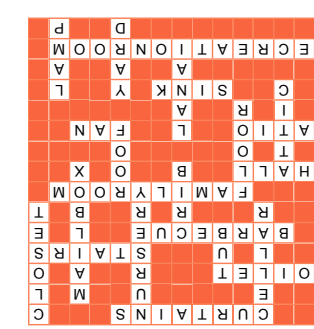
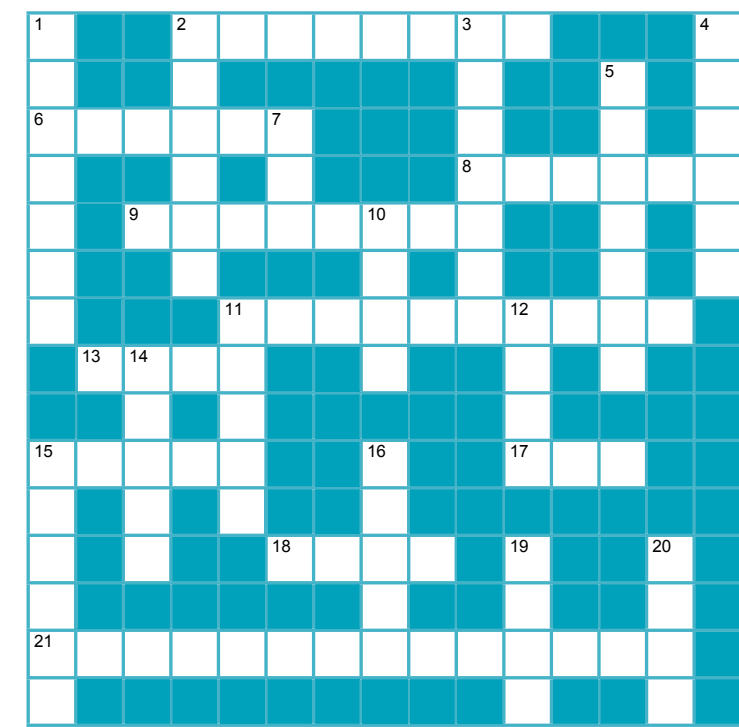
6 + 81 = 81 + 61

Hard puzzle 1

5	31		
18			
3	5		
+	-	x	÷

Solution for Hard 1

8 x (9 - 9 - 18) = 9 - 9 - 18



- Down**
- Place for cooking (7)
 - Place to store things (6)
 - Baby's room (7)
 - A place to hang jackets (6)
 - A place for mail (7)
 - Where you take baths? (3)
 - Baby bed (4)
 - It may be tiled or carpeted (5)
 - Something to keep the rain out (4)
 - Another good storage place (5)
 - Food closet? (6)
 - Hawaiian patio (5)
 - It needs to be mowed (4)
 - Light (4)
- Across**
- Window coverings (8)
 - Sitting room? (6)
 - Steps (6)
 - Grill (8)
 - Gathering place, perhaps (10)
 - Walkway to the bedroom? (4)
 - Place to lounge outside (5)
 - It keeps the air moving (3)
 - A place to wash hands? (4)
 - Play place (14)

What Our Readers Say (#28)

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WESLEY FORTNEY



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CYNTHIA PHILLIPS



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