

# THE EPOCH TIMES

# LIFE &

# TRADITION

LINDA KC REYNOLDS



**Art Thompson**, CEO of Sage Cheshire and president of A2ZFX, stands in front of a model capsule he built for Red Bull Stratos. On Oct. 14, 2012, Felix Baumgartner used Thompson's capsule as a launch pad and broke the sound barrier, reaching Mach 1.25, breaking the record for the highest freefall, largest manned balloon, and highest balloon flight. The famous capsule was featured at the Smithsonian in 2014.



**If you can imagine it,  
we can probably build it.**

*Art Thompson, CEO of Sage Cheshire and president of A2ZFX*

## A Modern-Day Da Vinci

Art Thompson works behind the scenes, fabricating dreams into reality

LINDA KC REYNOLDS

Along with more than 3 billion spectators, Art Thompson's anxiety grew as he intensely watched monitors in a packed control room in New Mexico. Austrian daredevil Felix Baumgartner was about to leap from a capsule, 128,560 feet (24.5 miles) above the earth's surface. On Oct. 14, 2012, 50 seconds after stepping off the capsule ledge, Baumgartner broke the sound barrier, reaching speeds of 843.6 miles per hour (Mach 1.25, or 1.25 times the speed of sound). He broke the record for the highest freefall, largest manned balloon (at 30 million cubic feet), and highest balloon flight that Col. Joe Kittinger set on Aug. 16, 1960.

Thompson, 64, of Sage Cheshire and A2ZFX is the eclectic genius behind a large number of projects spanning an incredibly diverse portfolio. He was responsible for the design, engineering, and building of the Red Bull Stratos pressurized capsule along with the life support system, technical procedures, and flight-testing. As the only company allowed to purchase spacesuits, Sage Cheshire modified the design with the David Clark Company for a higher-mobility spacesuit that is now integrated into the next generation suit for NASA.

"Someday, perhaps I'll write a book of all the behind-the-scenes action that took place—it's quite remarkable," Thompson said, adding that he could not have done it without his great mentor and friend Joe Kittinger and life-support engineer Mike Todd.

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## The Flushing Remonstrance: The Religious Magna Carta of the New World

PUBLIC DOMAIN



A governor demanded religious persecution of the Quakers. The citizens of Flushing refused.

LAWRENCE W. REED

A U.S. postage stamp commemorates religious freedom and the Flushing Remonstrance.

"To the Right Honorable Governor of New Netherland Peter Stuyvesant:

"You have been pleased to send unto us a certain prohibition or command that we should not receive or entertain any of those people called Quakers because they are supposed to be, by some, seducers of the people. For our part we cannot condemn them in this case, neither can we

stretch out our hands against them. ... We desire therefore in this case not to judge lest we be judged, neither to condemn lest we be condemned, but rather let every man stand or fall to his own Master. We are bound by the law to do good unto all men, especially to those of the household of faith."

With those words, Edward Hart, the town clerk of what is now the neighborhood of Flushing in Queens, New York, began a powerful 650-word document known as the Flushing Remonstrance. It was Dec. 27, 1657. Hart wrote on behalf of the 30 inhabitants of the village who also boldly signed their names below his.

This was a defiant shot across the bow

of the state, personified by Gov. Peter Stuyvesant. It was an act of resistance and an early declaration in favor of the freedom of peaceful worship. Moreover, it was not a self-serving stand for the freedom of those who signed it (none of them were Quakers), but rather a defense of the freedom of others.

Think of it in these terms: In contravention of the practice of tolerance back in the mother country of the Netherlands, Stuyvesant promulgated a policy of intolerance in the Dutch settlements of New York. He aimed to persecute those who did not adhere to the Dutch Reformed Church,

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# Darryl Strawberry: His Journey From Trauma to Faith

ANDREW THOMAS

If you follow professional baseball at all, or even if you don't, you most likely know who Darryl Strawberry is.

He was a star player in the 1980s and 1990s, playing for teams such as the Los Angeles Dodgers, New York Mets, and New York Yankees. He had 335 home runs, 1,000 RBIs, and earned four World Series championship rings.

Strawberry also was known for his controversy off the field. He often found himself in trouble with alcohol, cocaine, and the law. However, he'll be the first to tell he's more than a baseball player.

Strawberry was born March 12, 1962, in Los Angeles. His father was an abusive alcoholic who would often come home in a rage.

"He came home all the time with craziness, and we had to deal with it as kids being in fear, not knowing who was coming through the door night after night," Strawberry said.

One evening when Strawberry was 14 years old, his father came home drunk. His older brother Michael told him to leave them alone, and their father drew a shotgun and said he was going to kill the entire family. Michael seized a butcher knife, and Strawberry a frying pan.

Fortunately, his mother defused the situation and convinced the brothers to leave the house.

"Had it not been for my mother forcing us out of the house, we would have probably killed him that night. There's no question about it. I could just always remember that picture of seeing what it was like, and most people don't understand that brokenness is real and it happens behind closed doors," Strawberry said.

## Major League Trauma

Strawberry would carry this pain and trauma into his professional baseball career. Even though he was a successful and popular player, he nevertheless felt broken inside. He would try to cope with these struggles with drugs and alcohol, and often found himself in trouble with the league and the law.

Unfortunately, his behavior would often thrust him into the public eye. For a long time, people's only understanding of Strawberry consisted of the salacious stories of his latest transgression, not the man behind the uniform.

"It was my pain that led me to my greatness, and my greatness would eventually

lead me to my destructive behavior," Strawberry said.

"I was searching in women. I was searching in drugs. I was searching in money. I was searching in alcohol. I was buying more homes, more cars, more stuff to try to fill that empty void on the inside. The thing about it is, none of it ever fills that empty void."

Strawberry was one of the most iconic Major League Baseball players, but he was in the throes of an identity crisis. He found himself hiding behind the persona of the celebrity athlete, but knew that one day, baseball would end for him.

After a storied career, he struggled to find out who he was and who he would become when the game ended.

When Strawberry retired, he knew he needed to turn into somebody different. After Strawberry's mother passed away, he found her journal and discovered that she had been praying for him her whole life.

He continued to struggle with his own faith until he met his wife Tracy, and realized he had to take the uniform off and discover who he really was as a man.

Now, Strawberry's faith has made him feel grateful for his past struggles. Childhood trauma, incarceration, drug addiction, and surviving cancer are just a few of the obstacles he's had to overcome.

"My life has changed dramatically because of my faith, of operating in it and living it. Not just talking about it, but actually living it," Strawberry said.

## Beyond Baseball

Now, Strawberry's faith has motivated him to preach the gospel to others across the country 250 days a year. He's particularly focused on mentoring young people, and showing them how anyone can slip into despair.

"I think I'm doing something far greater than I ever did playing baseball, hitting home runs, and winning fans," Strawberry said. "Truly being able to win souls I think is probably the greatest gift that I ever received."

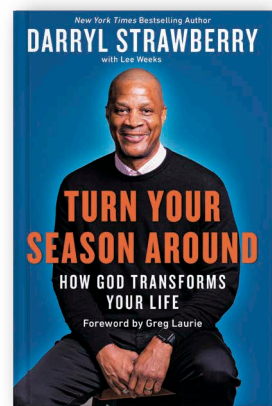
Strawberry doesn't talk about the star player he used to be, but instead, speaks about who he is as a man today. He's built a strong relationship with his children and with his wife, which he described as his foundation.

Strawberry has published several books, but his most recent book "Turn Your Season Around" details how he has overcome his past struggles with his faith. Little did he know what 2020 would

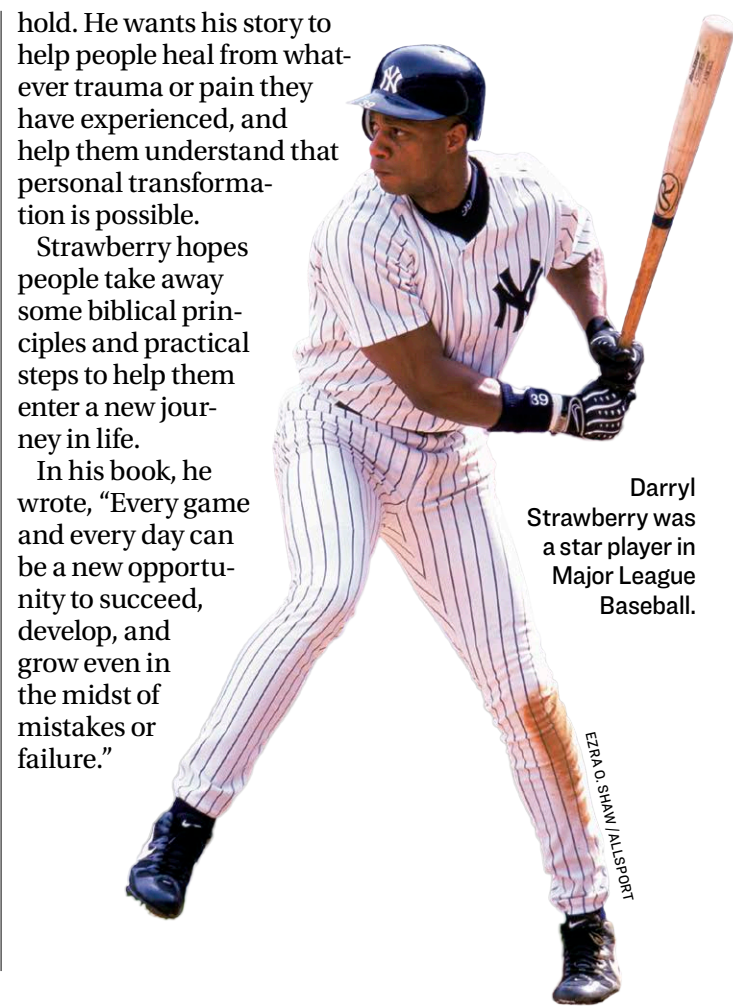


Darryl Strawberry with his wife Tracy. The couple married in 2006.

Even though he was a successful and popular player, he nevertheless felt broken inside.



Darryl Strawberry's latest book "Turn Your Season Around" will be released on Jan. 12, 2021.



Darryl Strawberry was a star player in Major League Baseball.

hold. He wants his story to help people heal from whatever trauma or pain they have experienced, and help them understand that personal transformation is possible.

Strawberry hopes people take away some biblical principles and practical steps to help them enter a new journey in life.

In his book, he wrote, "Every game and every day can be a new opportunity to succeed, develop, and grow even in the midst of mistakes or failure."

## The Flushing Remonstrance: The Religious Magna Carta of the New World

A governor demanded religious persecution of the Quakers. The citizens of Flushing refused.

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and the nonconformist Quakers were his prime target. In this response, the citizens of Flushing essentially stated: "You are commanding us to persecute Quakers. We will not. So take your intolerance and stick it where the sun doesn't shine."

If you are inclined to stop reading because freedom of peaceful worship is not important to you—perhaps you are not of any faith or you believe your faith is not threatened—think again. Freedom in one sense is indivisible; a successful attack on one of its elements

invites assaults on the others. Allow the state to breach one wall of freedom's fortress and you have invited it inside, where its agents will work to bring down the remaining walls.

A government that can tell you what to think and say and punish you for thinking and saying what it disapproves, will not self-limit its despotism there. This is likely what Voltaire had in mind when he reputedly asserted, "I disagree with what you say but will contend to the death for your right to say it." The timid multitudes stand idly by as freedom is crushed, doing nothing unless the danger appears on their own doorstep.

The uncommonly courageous few will rise far sooner, and it is to them that all of us who love freedom owe a special gratitude.

Stuyvesant's policy of persecution had begun in 1656 with an ordinance banning unauthorized religious meetings. Quaker preachers were harassed, arrested, jailed, and fined. In Flushing itself, a Baptist pastor was imprisoned and then exiled for the "crime" of baptizing without a license from the Dutch Reformed officialdom.

The Flushing Remonstrance stirs my blood with an abiding appreciation for principled courage. How fitting for such an enlightened document to appear two days after Christmas! Inspired by Jesus's teachings, the brave souls of Flushing were likely full of hope for the good that peace and tolerance could bring in the New Year. They concluded their statement thusly:

"The law of love, peace and liberty ... condemns hatred, war and bondage ... desiring to do unto all men as we desire all men should do unto us. ... Therefore if any of these said persons come in love unto us, we cannot in conscience lay violent hands upon them, but give them free egress and regress unto our Town, and houses, as God shall persuade our consciences."

Stuyvesant reacted in anger. Determined to quash the spirit of the Remonstrance, he dissolved Flushing's town government and put his own cronies in charge. He arrested four of the signers of the Remonstrance, including Edward Hart. To his credit, the

elderly Hart went to jail but never recanted.

Relief from Stuyvesant's harsh rule finally arrived in 1663, but not by the hand of any government. The Dutch West India Company, sponsor and investor in the Dutch colonies of North America, dispatched a letter to Stuyvesant ordering him to stop religious persecution. So much did Thomas Jefferson later revel in the spirit of the Flushing-inspired motto "Rebellion to Tyrants Is Obedience to God," he inserted it into his personal seal.

Today, the Flushing Remonstrance is known as "the religious Magna Carta of the New World." It proved to be a major influence on America's Founders to enshrine freedom of worship in the Bill of Rights, more than a century after the citizens of Flushing defied a governor. God bless America.

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 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 LawrenceWReed.com

This article was originally published on FEE.org

## DEAR JUNE

On Family and Relationships



## Advice to a Former Feminist

→ Some words of encouragement

Dear June,

I've been a subscriber to Epoch Times for about five months now and I've really been enjoying your column. I am a 39-year-old married woman with two boys, ages 6 and 8. This year has been profoundly transformational and challenging for me. I've lived my life as a strong, opinionated, career-oriented feminist who held tightly to the many beliefs and ideals of the liberal left. Well ... I've undergone a huge change in my beliefs and attitudes toward family, feminism, masculinity, religion, economics, and politics. It's been enlightening but also incredibly challenging because some of my relationships have changed.

My question for you is this: Can you recommend any resources, provide words of encouragement, or share experiences of those who have undergone a similar transformation? I feel like who I knew myself to be has been shattered and I'm trying to rebuild without completely losing myself. I'd be curious for your perspective. Thanks so much.

Amanda C.

→ Dear Amanda,

It is no small thing to overturn one's lifelong beliefs! But in my experience, when you disperse the fog of feminism, the men and boys in your life become amazing.

I never considered myself a feminist in theory, but in practice, my lack of understanding and appreciation for the inherent differences between men and women and our complementary virtues hung like a dead weight on my relationships, including my relationship with myself. Allowing myself to let go of always pushing myself to be strong and on task, and allowing myself to be gentle and adaptable has been so freeing and nourishing, both for myself and also for my family.

So my first resource recommendations would be the book "Fascinating Womanhood," written by a Christian mother and published in the late 1960s. I've recommended this before because I found it inspiring and a good counterpoint to some of the ideas of second-wave feminism that were coming to popularity in the '60s and that are now very generally accepted ideas.

In the same vein, there is a TED Talk titled "Meeting the Enemy" by filmmaker Cassie Jaye (bit.ly/37ZwSDq), who considered herself a feminist until she decided to make a film about the men's rights movement. What I found fascinating about her story is that she spent a year interviewing men without really being able to hear what they were actually saying because in her head she translated everything through feminist rhetoric. It was only after she had to transcribe the interviews that she saw how biased she had been. So her story is a good reminder of the importance of truly listening.

Since you have sons, and if you have not already done so, I would recommend becoming familiar with their unique needs and forms of expression. I've appreciated the ideas of Kim John Payne, Meg Meeker, and Ted Braude, and on my list to explore is the work of Michael G. Thompson.

Helen Andelin, the author of "Fascinating Womanhood," also wrote a helpful book about raising children (she had eight).

And if you want to understand the connections between feminist ideas and communism, you can read chapter 7 of "How the Specter of Communism Is Ruling Our World," a series published by The Epoch Times. This is available online (ReadEpoch.com/Specter).

On the lighter side, the YouTube channel The Daily Connoisseur offers a lot of inspiration for homemaking and creating beauty in daily life.

Regarding the challenge of transformation, I think it is important to acknowledge that in order to grow, there is pain and suffering. The hardest moments in my life have ultimately been what pushed me to strive to be and do better. I cannot think of any example in history where someone achieved greatness without pain and suffering, and at some level, I think we need this suffering to ennoble us. All this is to say that I think the person you will become through this process will be stronger, clearer, and more beautiful.

I realize that words like these may not offer much in the way of inspiration or solace when one is in the midst of hardship, so I'd also like to share some of the soul-stirring beauty that is available once one lets go of the mentality of struggle that comes with a worldview based on "-isms."

In opposition to the struggle mentality is what I would call a reverence for life. It allows you to appreciate the strength, bravery, and stoicism of men; to be awed by the sacrifices of our ancestors; to be moved by great art; and to be humbled by the complexity of truth—how little we can actually know of it and how thrilling the discovery!

And what a joyful thing that you will be able to share this beauty with your boys.

One visual art piece that I've found inspirational is "God Speed" by English painter Edmund Leighton. It shows a knight saying a last farewell to his lady before riding off—presumably to battle. In his strength, her beauty and delicacy, and their evident mutual fondness I see the wonderful harmony of balanced masculine and feminine.

For more spiritual imagery, see the ceilings of Versailles—where gods and goddesses reign amidst luminous clouds. I find these works awesomely beautiful and inspiring.

"Innocence" by French painter William-Adolphe Bouguereau shows a mother holding her son and a young lamb. The baby is supposed to be the Christ child and the woman Mary, but to me, it looks like a shepherdess relishing a quiet moment while her child sleeps in her arms. There a feeling of softness and tranquility in the picture that I find very soothing.

And for the more mundane, "The Milkmaid" by Dutch painter Vermeer also captures a beautifully quiet moment as a woman goes about her task of pouring milk.

## In opposition to the struggle mentality is what I would call a reverence for life.

As a final thought, once we step beyond the limited groupthink and start thinking for ourselves, we are on very shaky ground because we can no longer trust sources and knowledge as we used to. But I think there is an innate part of us that is able to discern truth—I would describe the feeling physically as a kind of warmth in the solar plexus, sometimes accompanied by a fullness in the heart, and a knowing that is calm. Conversely, when we lie, people report a feeling of pain or constriction in the solar plexus.

And in addition to a reverence for life, a reverence for truth is an important guide. I will end with a passage from Aristotle, who, much more eloquently than I could, explains the importance of precision in knowledge, the humility to acknowledge the limits of our knowledge, and the importance of maturation of intellect (which is something that for many of us, was not accomplished by our childhood schooling).



"God Speed" (1900) by Edmund Leighton.



"The Milkmaid" (circa 1660) by Johannes Vermeer.

"It is the mark of an educated man to look for precision in each class of things just so far as the nature of the subject admits; it is evidently equally foolish to accept probable reasoning from a mathematician and to demand from a rhetorician scientific proofs.

"Now each man judges well the things he knows, and of these he is a good judge. And so the man who has been educated in a subject is a good judge of that subject, and the man who has received an all-round education is a good judge in general. Hence a young man is not a proper hearer of lectures on political science; for he is inexperienced in the actions that occur in life, but its discussions start from these and are about these; and, further, since he tends to follow his passions, his study will be vain and unprofitable, because the end aimed at is not knowledge but action. And it makes no difference whether he is young in years or youthful in character; the defect does not depend on time, but on his living, and pursuing each successive object, as passion directs. For to such persons, as to the incontinent, knowledge brings no profit; but to those who desire and act in accordance with a rational principle, knowledge about such matters will be of great benefit."

And in closing, please give yourself and those around you an abundance of grace. I would guess some of your

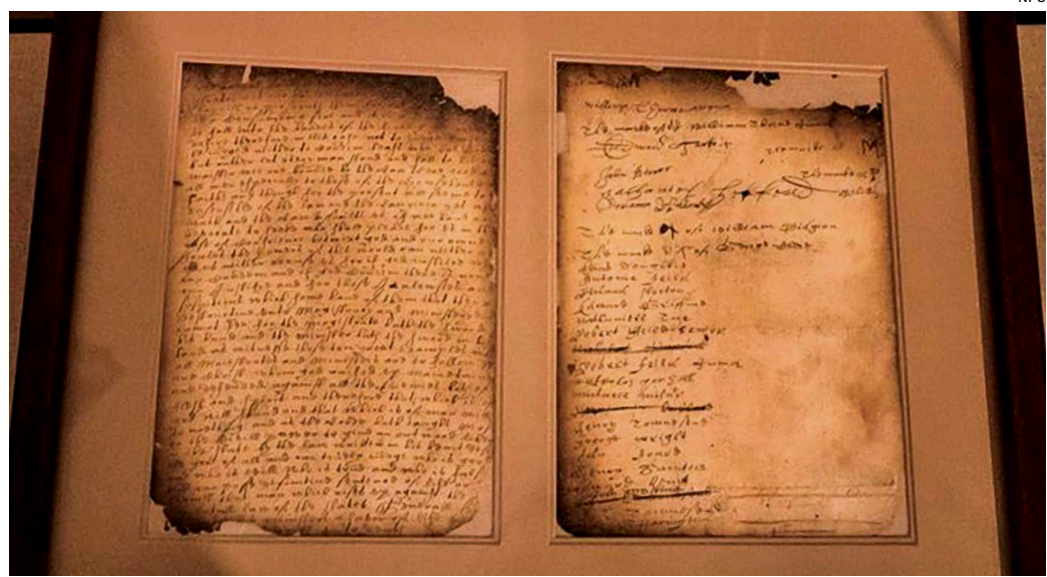
acquaintances might think you are crazy or are being brainwashed. I would not be too concerned about actively maintaining connections that now feel strained, but neither strain connections unnecessarily. Some people will be open to your transformation; some relationships may become more superficial or come to an organic close. So in the same way that many cultures give mother and infant a period of quiet time together before baby meets the world, give yourself some incubation time to adjust to your new world.

And give yourself permission not to have abundant answers but to frame your questions well and embrace the journey to discover the answers. This is actually one of the most empowering things I can think of, because it allows you to seek ever higher and deeper truths.

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.



The original Flushing Remonstrance. It sustained damage from a fire at the New York State Capitol in Albany in 1911.

"I'm coming home," Austrian skydiver Felix Baumgartner said just before stepping off the Red Bull Stratos capsule on Oct. 14, 2012. Art Thompson served as technical project director for Red Bull Stratos.

# A Modern-Day Da Vinci

Art Thompson works behind the scenes, fabricating dreams into reality

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"If you can imagine it, we can probably build it," he said from his humble shop in Lancaster, California, smack in the middle of the Mojave Desert and Aerospace Valley. "No project is too big or too small. We can build big, creating an over the top project or vehicle, or make something small like a special award for your favorite organization."

Posters of blockbuster films he worked on, along with numerous memorabilia, adorn his office. Some of his projects include building an eight-foot giant yo-yo, one-foot stomp rocket, and rocket-powered wagons for Nitro Circus; vehicles for "Batman and Robin"; Mini Coopers and DJ party vans for Red Bull; and one of his favorites, the HumRider (an SUV fitted with hydraulics that elevates it over traffic), which reached more than 35 million views in the first 48 hours and hundreds of millions of total views on YouTube.

"We have created the highest-viewed programs with the most success for our customers but have never advertised to promote who we are," Thompson said. On the Red Bull Stratos program alone, Red Bull's return on investment for international exposure and increased business was \$3.9 billion.

## Childhood Memories

One of his earliest memories he clearly recalls was at the age of 2, when his father, working as an industrial air-conditioning technician, took him and his sister, Sunny, to work.

"I remember playing in a backyard, and this man picks me up, sets me in his lap, and drives me and Sunny around his yard on this little train. I was so fascinated by all the little villages and models," Thompson said. "I later found out that that man was Mr. Walt Disney. I think it helped spark a fascination in me that contributed to what I am today."



**"I love inspiration—when we can touch a child's mind to never give up and continue to dream of the possibilities no matter what has to be overcome."**

Art Thompson, CEO of Sage Cheshire and president of A2ZFX



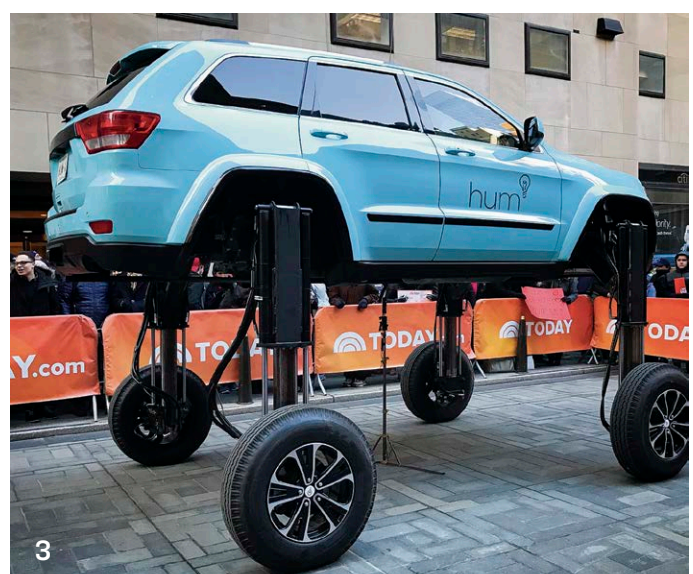
ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF ART THOMPSON UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE



1. A giant Radio Flyer wagon was designed and built for a Nitro Circus "Life Size Toys" series, where it was launched off a ramp into a lake.



2. Thompson designed and built a 45-foot-long paper airplane with a wingspan of 24 feet, here being lifted by a helicopter for its flight for the Pima Air & Space Museum's Great Paper Airplane Project, on March 21, 2012. During the flight, it reached a top speed of 98 miles per hour and an altitude of 2,703 feet; it was in free flight for almost (0.93) a mile. The project aimed to excite kids about aviation and engineering, and the design was based on a 12-year-old Tucson student's design.



3. The HumRider, featured here on "The Today Show," can be elevated above traffic thanks to its advanced hydraulics. It was built to promote Verizon's Hum diagnostic and tracking system.

Typically, children might receive tricycles and jump ropes for entertainment. Thompson was handed an armful of wood, a handful of nails, hammer, saw, paint, and plenty of drawing paper. His parents, who were science teachers, exposed him at an early age to science, art, music, animals, and so many fascinating topics.

"Unfortunately, parents today rely too much on TV, iPhones, and video games to educate and entertain kids. I don't think it does much to grow their imagination. The younger you can engage them and teach the fascinations of the world the better. The earlier you pack their brain, the more they will produce when they are older," he said.

After running an R&D department at Northrop Corp. as part of a team of engineers to build the B-2 "Stealth" Bomber, Thompson supported design, fabrication, and testing for other aerospace companies on varied projects such as UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles), electric helicopters, low observable vehicles, and rocket programs. He claims he can do things because his company is small and there is no red tape. "We handle everything, so we don't have to wait on anybody's approval," he said.

One customer, Gullstream, contracted his company Sage Cheshire to build a certain missile avoidance component.

"It would typically take a year and a half to produce, and we did it under three weeks with FAA approval. That saved the company a ton of time, money, and headaches," he said.

Thompson recently became involved with the acquisition of XCOR, a rocket company

that filed for bankruptcy.

"I'm not sure what we are going to do with all the patents and technology but the XCOR team was brilliant in many of their designs. They were competing early on with Elon Musk of Space-X, Blue Origin, and Virgin Galactic; they just didn't have the marketing, management, or a billionaire behind them. I am hoping someone will want to do something with the technology because it will help revolutionize affordable space systems," he said.

## Inspiring Others by Doing the Impossible

Inspiring kids of all ages and helping his community is a top priority. When the City of Lancaster asked him to design and build a memorial for Sgt. Steve Owen, an officer who was horribly killed on duty, he didn't hesitate. Along with sculptor Nay Shudder, they built a beautiful bronze memorial, honoring Owen's memory and giving hope to the community.

Constantly thinking of ways to support STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, math) education, Thompson is the president of the Flight Test Historical Foundation, a nonprofit that is raising money to build a new museum at Edwards Air Force Base.

"We want to preserve the memory of aerospace that happened mostly here in the Antelope Valley, and inspire the next generation by including hands-on learning stations," he said.

"I love inspiration—when we can touch a child's mind to never give up and continue

to dream of the possibilities no matter what has to be overcome. We can create and inspire the world by just doing it and following through with what many people would think of as impossible."

His latest project was the Ascension project, helping David Blaine to float across the Arizona sky, carried by 52 helium balloons and reaching an altitude of 24,900 feet before he parachuted to earth.

"David dreamt of flying with a handful of balloons since he was a child and was inspired to do something beautiful for his daughter and bring hope to a public torn by the pandemic," Thompson said. "We were honored to be a part of David's dream and work with friends from the Stratos project again, like Luke Aikins who managed the David Blaine Ascension project."

Thompson hired Aikins on Red Bull Stratos to test the parachute and safety systems for Baumgartner, and Aikins went on to be the first person to jump from 25,000 feet without a parachute into a net on the ground.

"Don't let people tell you something can't be done," Thompson said. "With faith and determination, more than likely, your dreams can become reality."

Linda KC Reynolds began her photography career in the U.S. Air Force. After serving six years, she worked full-time for Northrop Grumman on the B-2 Stealth Bomber and now freelances for various aerospace companies and other venues. She is passionate about free speech, musical production, and sharing peoples' stories.

# The Secrets of Dealing With People

Advice from an American classic

JEFF MINICK

In The Epoch Times article "An American Mindset," Scott Mann reflects on the broken trust and lack of connection in our country and urges us to work toward what he calls "bridging trust."

He writes, "How we conduct ourselves at an individual level, and at a community level, will set the tone for how we come out on the other side of this thing, regardless of who holds political office, regardless of who sits in the Oval Office or Congress."

Whatever our politics, most of us would surely agree with Mann that a breakdown in our ability to communicate with others has occurred, a demolition reflected in bitter congressional debates and in some mainstream media outlets seemingly intent on pitting one group of Americans against another. This "cold civil war," as some commentators now call it, is commonplace in the private sector as well, damaging friendships and splitting apart families.

Consequently, most of us would also agree with Mann that "in this time of political polarization, there's no mindset more American than one of bridging trust."

His article set me to thinking: What are some practical ways we might find common ground with others? What are some skills we might hone to restore the arts of dialogue and genuine conversation in our battered country?

## Turn Off the Gadgets

For several years now, readers, friends, and even a few family members have told me of bruised or broken relations with others, caused in many cases by political disagreements. Their accounts never fail to shock me, because unless Uncle Bob is a Stalinist or Aunt Mary a goose-stepping fascist, from where I stand only fanatics or fools cut off their parents or give the cold shoulder to a friend over political differences.

While discussing this topic with a conservative friend, she pointed out that social media could wreck a friendship or cause a family member to "unfriend" her cousin. For all the good these electronic platforms deliver—keeping us in touch with our acquaintances, letting us share pictures of our daughter's baby girl—a wrong word or a controversial opinion posted online can whip up a maelstrom of wrath in its wake. As many of us know, "social media" is often a contradiction in terms.

No—if we want to breathe some life into Mann's bridging philosophy, we should aim for personal, face-to-face encounters.

My friend agreed, but neither of us came up with any good solutions to her dilemma, which was how she might maintain her friendship with her liberal acquaintances while at the same time defending her beliefs. Speaking up, she feared, might fracture those relationships. We kicked around a few possible solutions, but nothing seemed workable.

Over the next few days, I kept returning to our conversation. Is this divide now so vast that keeping friends means keeping silent? So it seemed.

Enter Dale Carnegie.

## Honey and the Beehive

I don't know why Carnegie's 1936 classic "How to Win Friends and Influence People" popped to mind. I'd never read the book; the title seemed

sort of hokey and dated, and hinted at manipulation, as if by some mathematical calculation we might draw others to us. But the next day, there I was in our public library, finding not one but three copies of the book on the shelves and carrying the latest revision home with me.

Boy, was I ever wrong in my assumptions.

The updated version of "How to Win Friends and Influence People" offers excellent advice from the very first chapter, which is titled "If You Want to Gather Honey, Don't Kick Over the Beehive." Here, Carnegie furnishes bridge builders with a vital girder to that project with these words: "Don't criticize, condemn, or complain."

How well that fiat applies to our nation should be apparent to even the most casual observer. We are baraged by criticism, condemnation, and complaint, or the 3Cs as I now call them, and some of us lead the way in that bombardment.

Of course, in some circumstances, those 3Cs are justified. But in regard to the individuals around us, Carnegie is right on target. If we wish to make or keep friends, we should leave the 3Cs locked in the closet. None of them will win hearts and minds.

## First, They Have to Like You

In "Part Two: Six Ways to Make People Like You," Carnegie gives us some tips we so often forget. By listening to others, for instance, or becoming "genuinely interested in other people," we can forge stronger bonds with them, especially "if you want to develop real friendships" or "you want to help others at the same time as you help yourself."

**These propositions, supported by excellent examples, point us to the heart of civility, yet too often go missing these days.**

A friend of mine, John, has a knack for striking up conversations with strangers, in large part because he is "genuinely interested" in what they are saying or doing. Over the years, I've seen him engage in prolonged conversations with the owner of an ice cream stand, a convenience store clerk, and several other strangers, drawing them out by asking questions and then truly paying attention to their answers.

One of Carnegie's recommendations in this section consists of a single syllable: "Smile."

He writes: "Your smile is a messenger of good will. Your smile brightens the lives of all who see it. To someone who has seen a dozen people frown, scowl, or turn their faces away, your smile is like the sun breaking through the clouds."

After months of wearing masks in public, many of us are feeling disassociated from our fellow human beings. We miss those smiles we get when we bump into a friend in the grocery store or from that pleasant checkout clerk in the pharmacy.

But we can still smile with our eyes and with our voices. I deliberately tried this tactic in our local grocery store, talking to a woman waiting in the checkout line and then with the clerk, and both times received some laughter in return.

## Agreeing to Disagree

"Part III: How to Win People to Your Way of Thinking" is perhaps the most pertinent section of Carnegie's book to our discussion here. Several of his ideas strike me as especially valuable for healing our wounded culture: "Try honestly to see things from the other person's point of view," "Let the other person do a great deal of the talking," and "If you're wrong, admit it quickly and emphatically."

My favorite piece of advice was "Show respect for the other person's opinions. Never say, 'You're wrong.'" To illustrate what we might otherwise say, Carnegie cites the example of Elbert Hubbard, a writer whose "stinging sentences often aroused fiercer resentment." Yet when a critic or angry reader wrote protesting some piece he'd written, Carnegie tells us Hubbard often replied in this way:

"Come to think it over, I don't entirely agree with it myself. Not everything I wrote yesterday appeals to me today. I am glad to learn what you think on the subject. The next time you are in the neighborhood you must visit us and we'll get this subject thrashed out for all time. So here is a handclasp over the miles, and I am, Yours Sincerely,"

Now that, my friends, is bridge building.

## Becoming Bridge Builders

In "You Can't Win an Argument," Carnegie concludes with these admonitions:

"Welcome the disagreement."  
"Distrust your first instinct."  
"Control your temper."  
"Listen first."  
"Look for areas of agreement."  
"Be honest."  
"Promise to think over your opponent's ideas and study them carefully."  
"Thank your opponents sincerely for their interest."  
"Postpone action to give both sides time to think through the problem."

These propositions, supported by excellent examples, point us to the heart of civility, yet too often go missing these days. How many of us, for example, honestly practice these recommendations?

It may be impossible to discuss, much less argue, politics with true ideologues, those who aren't interested in truth, who live locked up in a prison cell of their own making. But it is possible to build a friendship in spite of a chasm of political differences. To offer but one example, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Antonin Scalia were at the opposite ends of the political spectrum, but these two Supreme Court justices were also the best of friends, no doubt in part because they practiced what Carnegie preached.

My 1981 edition of "How to Win Friends and Influence People" reports 30 million copies sold.

Maybe it's time we purchased and read a few million more.

Jeff Minick has four children and a growing platoon of grandchildren. For 20 years, he taught history, literature, and Latin in seminars of homeschooling students in Asheville, N.C. He is the author of two novels, "Amanda Bell" and "Dust On Their Wings," and two works of nonfiction, "Learning As I Go" and "Movies Make The Man." Today, he lives and writes in Front Royal, Va. See JeffMinick.com to follow his blog.

BELUSHI/SHUTTERSTOCK



Taking genuine interest in others is key to forging stronger bonds.



(Above) The author's mother and father, Joan and Robert Owens. (Top right) The author's family at Christmastime. (Bottom right) Robert Owens with his grandson Robby, the last of his grandchildren to get married, and Summer.

#### DEAR NEXT GENERATION:

## It's All About Family

### → Advice from our readers to our young people

Our family is so blessed to still have our parents so involved in our families' lives! They are both vibrant, active, and still the rocks of our family. My dad is 93 and my mom is 89. I remember my dad telling his three girls—Kathleen, myself, and Lori—that he would pay for our college education as long as we maintained a B average and we stayed local. I thought that was an odd request at the time, but having a college education paid for was ideal.

My father, Robert Owens, was a school principal and my mom, Joan Owens, was an appreciated homemaker, the backbone of our family. She was the best seamstress, entertainer, and cook! She'd sketch clothes that she would see and come home and make them. I felt we were the best-dressed girls around. All our friends loved my mom, she had so much love to give. Our dad is a man of wisdom ... he would always sit us down and have those father-daughter talks, always encouraging us and telling us we

could do or be anything our hearts desired. We never lacked anything as a family. In fact, it was my dad whom the family went to if they needed to borrow money. We weren't wealthy, but we were loved. My parents are both competitive, and all three of us girls love to play. We grew up playing football in the streets, having walnut and water fights with our neighbors. During the summers, we went on great family trips, and when my dad worked, we would go to my aunt and uncle's house in Woodland Hills to swim and play with my cousins. It was a wonderful childhood.

One thing my parents stressed over and over again was the importance of family. My dad had a miserable home life. His stepfather did not like him. He grew up as a Chatsworth boy in California ... (the Chatsworth Boys were a group of friends who hung out together, picked crops, played in the hills of Chatsworth, Louisiana). His stepfather made him go out and do his chores before school. Often, it would be freezing outside, and my dad's stepfather said he could not come back in the house. My dad would sit in the corner of the house where the sun would be peeking over the horizon and warm himself by the sun. He

**His stepdad told my dad that he would never amount to anything, and boy was he wrong!**

has always appreciated beautiful sunrises because of that experience. His stepdad told my dad that he would never amount to anything, and boy was he wrong! He left home and joined the Navy early. He is a hard-working, proud, and determined man. He went on to earn a college degree and was one of the top principals in the Los Angeles Unified School District. He also taught at the college level.

My mom has such a loving heart and an extraordinary love relationship with God. It was her love that helped free my dad to be the loving father he is and to appreciate family like he does. Every holiday, we gather as a family. My dad always included his mom and stepfather over every Christmas Eve, for family dinners and holidays, and my dad continued to visit our grandfather daily in his assisted living facility after work in spite of his cruelty to him.

We are a family of five, but we would always gather for holidays with our cousins, my mom's parents, and her sister and brother. Our family grew as the kids married and had children and families of their own, but we always gathered. We always made time for family celebrations and family support as we lost family members before their time. Over the years, family has always remained important. We have our arguments and our different perceptions about life, but our parents always instilled in us the importance of forgiveness and learning to get along. It's difficult to gather, especially when people in our family have little kids, but it's a priority in our family. Our extended family all live in California and within 50 miles of each other, except for my cousin and his wife who live in Texas, but they take the time to fly in every Christmas to be with family.

My dad knew what he was doing when he said he'd pay for college if we stayed close. I continue to appreciate more and more the importance of family. People with mass amounts of wealth and status at the end of life seem to place more value on those family relationships than any other!

Thanks, Dad and Mom, for instilling this in your family. Love, love, love conquers all!

—Leslee Owens

#### 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 Next-Generation@epochtimes.com or mail it to:

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

## How a New Pair of Shoes Made a Boy's Day

LOUISE BEVAN

When a senior from Lund High School in Ely, Nevada, heard that someone had taken his eighth-grade buddy's shoes and put them in the toilet, he responded with a heartfelt gesture by buying him a new pair of basketball shoes.

Tanner's mother, Meghan Hendrix, told The Epoch Times via social media that she felt "heartbroken and helpless" upon learning that her son's shoes had been dumped in the toilet.

"I was also very sad because we live in a very small community and we know all the kids in the school, which meant we knew whoever had done this," she said.

Luckily for the 14-year-old, who is in eighth grade and plays on the junior high school's basketball team, he had a champion in the form of his buddy Skyler, who plays the sport for the high school team.

Skyler had come across his friend sitting alone in the school canteen and joined him to eat lunch. "We were talking about his shoes and he said, 'It's OK, they might be joking,'" Skyler said via his mother, Amy Janet Carter. "This is the kind of person Tanner is."

"I felt bad for Tanner because he did not deserve that," Skyler said. "He is always smiling and happy, no matter what."

However, the school bell rang before the senior could ask Tanner for his shoe size. Determined, Skyler asked a teacher's aide instead. He texted his mom to share the upsetting incident and sought her approval for buying a new pair of shoes.

"I was wondering if I could buy him new shoes?" Skyler texted.

"Yes of course!" his mom responded.



(Left) Tanner Hendrix shows his new shoes.

(Right) Basketball enthusiasts Tanner Hendrix (L) and Skyler Carter.

"Why don't you find him and put your arm around him. Having you support him will mean a lot."

Skyler put his plan into action. A week later, he showed up on Tanner's doorstep with a brand-new pair of Nikes in hand. Meghan, touched by the senior's gesture, shared doorbell cam footage on Facebook. "This act of kindness has me in complete awe," she wrote.

Skyler admitted he had no idea how much his gesture would mean to Tanner's family. The shoes are a little big for Tanner, he said, but the eighth-grader doesn't want them exchanged; he insists they are his "basketball shoes for high school."

"I saw Tanner at school and he called out, 'Thanks for the shoes, bro!'" Skyler recalled to The Epoch Times. "This made me feel happy. I could hear him telling other kids about the shoes."

On being on the receiving end of the

heartfelt gesture, Tanner, according to Meghan, was "a little starstruck" that a high school player would buy him basketball shoes.

"I had been very emotional trying to come to terms with what had happened, and Skyler's act of kindness softened my heart," she added. "It was a very positive spin to what started out as a very negative experience."

Life hasn't been easy for Tanner—he has endured multiple surgeries since birth, and sometimes needs extra help with things that come easily to most people—but he "has more heart than any person I've ever met," Meghan said.

**“I had been very emotional trying to come to terms with what had happened, and Skyler's act of kindness softened my heart.”**

Meghan Hendrix, Tanner's mom

"Today if you were to ask Tanner if he has ever been bullied, he would tell you he never has," Meghan said. "He's always the first to offer help and to cheer everyone on, he will be the loudest one clapping when someone on the opposing team makes a basket. ... Everyone needs a Tanner!"

Skyler's take-home message for others is pure and simple: "When you think of something nice to do for somebody," he said, "you should just do it."



(Above) Himeji Castle, in west Japan, is the finest surviving example of early 17th-century Japanese castle architecture. (Below) A shachihoko, a mythical Japanese creature.

#### LARGER THAN LIFE: ART THAT INSPIRES US THROUGH THE AGES

## Himeji Castle: Japan's Finest Surviving Early 17th-Century Castle

Since 1333, a fort has stood on a hill summit in Himeji, in west Japan, where Himeji Castle now stands. The current castle was built between 1601 and 1609, and all previous structures were demolished.

The early 17th-century castle is the finest surviving example of its kind. Primarily built of wood, the castle is also known as Shirasagi-jo (White Heron Castle) due to the white plaster that covers the castle's earthen walls. Inside, a series of sliding panels (fusuma) and folding screens (byo-

bu) divide the interior space into rooms.

The castle grounds graciously stretch across 41 square miles and contain 82 fortified buildings around a Tenshu-gun, or keep, a last refuge at the heart of the castle. The Tenshu-gun is further fortified by a series of gates, moats, ramparts, and high stone walls.

A maze of meandering paths and walkways lead up to the castle through meticulously manicured parks and gardens, for public and private use. Each route to the

castle had been thoroughly thought out to maximize military defenses. Sometimes a path narrows or even turns back on itself, all to confuse intruders and for the castle defenders to easily spot danger. Likewise, the meandering paths meant that the castle archers could easily shoot their enemy from the many small windows.

The Japanese believe in living in harmony with the natural world, and touches of nature are expressed throughout the castle architecture. For example, some of the roof tiles feature butterflies on family crests. And a creature called a shachihoko, with the head of a tiger and the body of a carp, appears on the corner edges of the roof gables, giving the castle roofs the distinct Japanese silhouette.

But the creature is not just for show. According to Japanese folklore, a shachihoko summons rain and is often found on buildings to protect them against fire. A similar creature, called a chiwen, can be found on traditional Chinese architecture dating as far back as the Han Dynasty (202 B.C.–A.D. 220).



1. A detail showing Himeji Castle's elegant yet functional wooden architecture. 2. Numerous small windows help the military spy encroaching enemies. 3. Family crests of the ruling families feature on the roof tiles of Himeji Castle. 4. A corridor inside Himeji Castle. 5. Japan's national costume, the kimono, is on display in Himeji Castle. 6. Japanese armor inside Himeji Castle.



(Left) Two shachihoko, mythical Japanese creatures with the head of a tiger and the body of a carp, protect Himeji Castle from fire. (Right) Meandering paths and walkways on the Himeji estate are part of the castle's elaborate defense system.

# 5 Ways to Redeem the School Year

BARBARA DANZA

So, 2020 was rough. This school year, so far, hasn't been stellar for many. With a fresh, new year, however, let's take on a fresh, new outlook. There are a number of ways parents can redeem the school year before it's done. It just takes a basic shift in mindset and a little bit of effort.

First the mindset shift. Are you ready? Here it is: Instead of seeing school as the primary place where your child is educated, see school as a supplement to the education that happens at home. Whether you have realized it or not, it has always been that way. If you embrace it and make home a more educational place, you set you and your children up for an epic year.

Just as the Good Witch says to Dorothy in "The Wizard of Oz," "You don't need to be helped any longer. You've always had the power."

Next up: the effort. Here are five simple ways to make home a place of learning and the school year one of progress and success.

## Decorate With Learning in Mind

Yes, decorate. Your home environment plays a larger role in your child's education than you may be aware. The objects you fill your home with, the media messages you invite in, the spaces, the light, the smells, and the coziness all contribute to the environment in which your children do much of their playing, exploring, and learning.

If your home is very cluttered, it's likely difficult to find the freedom to explore. Likewise, if temptations of passive entertainment such as video games, television, YouTube, and so on, are always beckoning to your children, time they may have been creating or learning is being usurped.

On the contrary, if you've got maps on the wall, clear tabletops to create things on, books galore to explore, craft supplies in abundance, and toys that call for imagination and ingenuity, your home environment is set up as an invitation to play and explore and learn.



EVGENY ATAMANENKO/SHUTTERSTOCK

Rather than let video games or other passive entertainment beckon to your children, you can transform your home into a place for exploration by setting out crafts, books, maps, and toys that call for imagination.

When you consider changes to your space, think from the perspective of designing your child's learning environment and see what new ideas come to mind.

## Get Excited About Books

Fill your home with copious books and read them. Allow for quiet reading time in your home and encourage reading independently and together. Talk about books. Take care of your books. Appreciate your books.

Strong readers become strong learners. Until your children are very strong readers, read aloud to them as much as you possibly can. Ignore "reading levels" and don't compare their abilities to their peers. Your job is to impart a love of reading and show them what a joy a good book is. Literacy will naturally follow.

## Dive Into Curiosity

Whether it is your intention or not, those little sponges of yours are learning all the time. Involve your kids in whatever you are doing, whether it be as mundane as laundry or as exciting as visiting a space museum. See the learning opportunity in your family's activities and capitalize on them as much as you can.

Encourage endless questions even if it makes things take longer. Encourage self-sufficiency by giving kids the freedom to make their own lunch, fix a broken faucet, change a lightbulb, or map the way to the park.

Learning happens 24/7, not just within

the confines of a school day.

## Encourage Making and Doing

Before your kids come home from school one day, set out paints, paintbrushes, and paper and see what happens to their afternoon. Encourage your kids to use their hands and make things.

Any new skill they are curious about, follow their interest. Lessons, video tutorials, and good old-fashioned trial and error are all great ways to learn to make and do.

## Allow for quiet reading time in your home and encourage reading independently and together.

## Let Them Be Free

The truth is your children are probably more likely to realize their potential within a robust and free learning environment at home than within the confines of a typical school system.

Shift your thinking to view school as a supplement to their true education that happens at home. Give them as much freedom and support as possible to explore, and watch them soar.

EVGENY ATAMANENKO/SHUTTERSTOCK



Encourage kids to follow their interests.

## HOMESCHOOLING

# From Public School Teacher to Homeschooling Mom

A conversation with homeschool expert Erin Weidemann

BARBARA DANZA

More and more it seems, there are stories of school teachers choosing the homeschooling route when it comes to teaching their own children. I spoke to one such mom, Erin Weidemann, who made that decision and now helps other parents succeed in homeschooling. Her advice may be just the push you've been looking for to take that big leap yourself.

**THE EPOCH TIMES:** Please tell us about your journey from school teacher to homeschooling mom.

**ERIN WEIDEMANN:** I taught full time in the classroom for almost 10 years before quitting my job and homeschooling my daughter (currently in first grade). Professionally, I taught children at every age and stage (K-11th grade), from language arts to leadership to foreign language.

When I became a homeschool teacher, I really had to learn to let go of the traditional school model (schedule, routine, structure) and embrace the freedom that comes with customizing a school at home situation that works best for every member of our family and sets each of us up for success.

**THE EPOCH TIMES:** What advantages have you found in the homeschooling approach?

**MS. WEIDEMANN:** There are myriad advantages to spending more time men-



Erin Weidemann taught full time for 10 years in the classroom before homeschooling her daughter.

**Our homeschool situation is highly adaptive, flexible, and reflective of our family culture and values.**

Erin Weidemann

toring your children and nurturing the voices they will use to interact with the world. I've enjoyed strategic implementation of character development and confidence-boosting activities while keeping core classes a high priority. I am able to craft learning experiences that engage her in the ways she learns best and we've become more connected and collaborative throughout this season. Our homeschool situation is highly adaptive, flexible, and reflective of our family culture and values.

**THE EPOCH TIMES:** What advice would you give parents who are struggling with their school's online learning options and are thinking about homeschooling?

**MS. WEIDEMANN:** Work with your children to set up routines, expectations, and strategies for how learning will happen in your home. You do not have to model your days after a traditional public or private school schedule. Invite your children into a dialogue about what school at home looks like for them and decide together how it will look. Make a plan and reevaluate the plan often in case adjustments or changes need to be made. This is how you will create buy-in and enthusiasm for children who aren't used to schooling at home and honor them for the unique contributions they can make.

**THE EPOCH TIMES:** What habits or strate-

gies, if any, have you brought into homeschooling from your experience as a teacher?

**MS. WEIDEMANN:** I've brought my passion for certain subjects into my homeschool classroom, but I've also become aware of my lack of enthusiasm for subjects for which I'm not particularly passionate. I've learned to adjust my approach to every subject by encouraging my child—and myself—to 1. be and stay curious and 2. to find the fun in every lesson or unit of study.

**THE EPOCH TIMES:** How can parents measure or simply recognize whether their homeschooling efforts are working for their children?

**MS. WEIDEMANN:** Set yourself up for success by gaining an understanding of what should be covered at your child's grade level for each of the subjects. What should my child know and be able to do by the end of the year and work backward from there, building lessons that will achieve those goals?

**THE EPOCH TIMES:** Do you have any other advice you'd like to give current or potential homeschooling parents?

**MS. WEIDEMANN:** You do not have to be an expert or have all the answers to teach your children. No one knows your kids like you do, so lean into the fact that your unique gifts, talents, personality, and experiences have positioned you to develop your children in every facet of life, including their academics.



# FOR KIDS ONLY

THE EPOCH TIMES

Week 1, 2021



This Week in History



## Winter

by Walter de la Mare

Clouded with snow  
The cold winds blow,  
And shrill on leafless bough  
The robin with its burning breast  
Alone sings now.

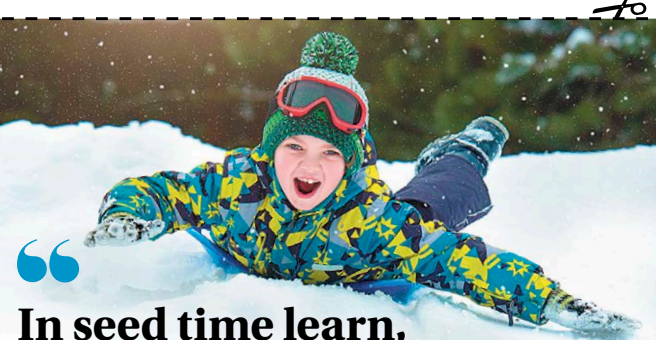
The rayless sun,  
Day's journey done,  
Sheds its last ebbing light  
On fields in leagues of beauty spread  
Unearthly white.

Thick draws the dark,  
And spark by spark,  
The frost-fires kindle, and soon  
Over that sea of frozen foam  
Floats the white moon.

WHAT DID JACK FROST SAY TO FROSTY THE SNOWMAN?

...I'VE AN ICE DAVE.

SAVITSKAYA IRYNA/SHUTTERSTOCK



In seed time learn, in harvest teach, in winter enjoy.

WILLIAM BLAKE (1757-1827), POET

ALL PHOTOS BY SHUTTERSTOCK

KOLTSOV/SHUTTERSTOCK

**WASHINGTON MARRIES**

An engraved scene depicting the wedding of George Washington to his wife Martha in New Kent County, Va., on Jan. 6, 1759.



On Jan. 6, 1759, George Washington married a young widow named Martha Dandridge Custis. Her first husband, Daniel Parke Custis, had died two years prior, leaving her with two young children.

The wedding took place at her home (which was interestingly called the "White House").

By Aidan Danza, age 14

ALL PHOTOS BY SHUTTERSTOCK

# BEAVERS

(PART I)

**B**eavers are large aquatic rodents that live in the forested rivers, marshes, and streams of Canada and the United States.

They are quite unique among mammals in that they build enormous residences and dams, effectively re-engineering their environment and making it their own.

A beaver dam is a large obstruction made to stop the flow of water in a river. Water gradually backs up behind the dam, so much so that eventually the water behind the dam floods the surrounding and makes the water directly adjacent to the dam very deep. This is essential for the beaver. Beavers must have an area of deep water near their lodge, or house, so they can swim easily and dive deeply to escape predators. What's more, they locate

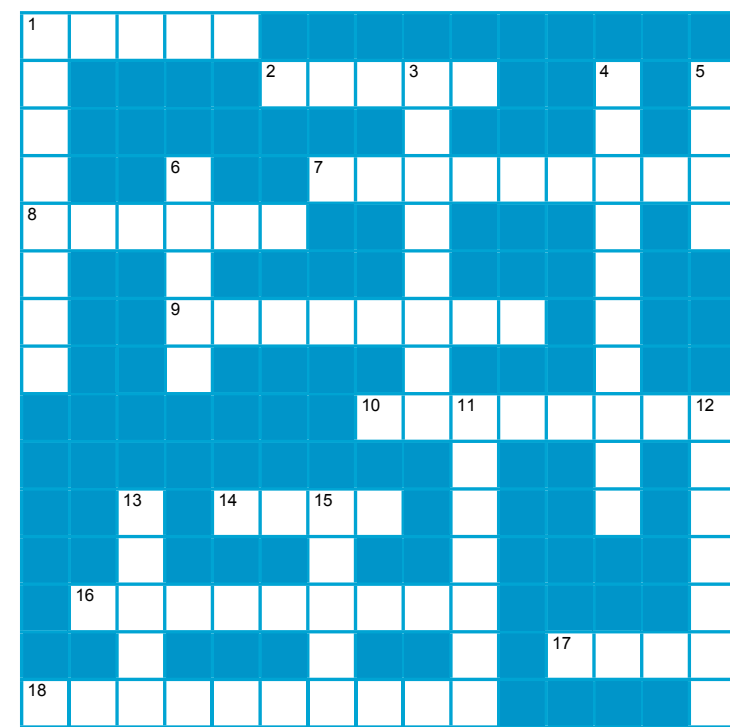
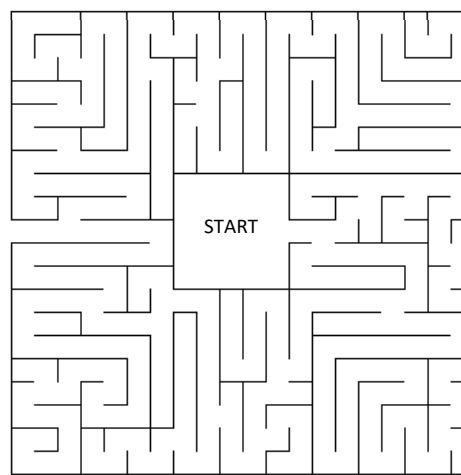
the entrance to their lodge underwater. If the entrance is too close to the surface, it will freeze over and lock the beavers in. Therefore, the water near the dam must be deep, in order to facilitate a deep lodge. As water backs up behind the dam, it also floods the surrounding areas with shallow water, allowing the beaver to access them and harvest whatever wood might be in there to eat or to build with. Not all beavers build dams—those that live in deep ponds

and lakes don't need to. Beaver dams vary greatly with location. You may be picturing the quintessential beaver dam built with sticks and branches, but there are other types. In areas with almost no trees, some beavers will build with stones, grasses, or even the bottom sediment. However, when beavers have access to many trees, they usually cut them down, drag them into the water, and place them where they want their dam to be. After

these large foundations are laid, the beavers lay all sorts of small stuff on top of the dam, such as twigs, stones, mud, grass, and all other things that the beaver finds. Most beaver dams are around six feet high, though they vary in size. Over many years of the beavers' residence in a place, the beavers will add to their first dam and create a network of dams, creating canals down which the beavers can travel to harvest food and more building materials.



## 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  $1 + (7 \times 3) + 6 = 28$

Easy puzzle 1

3	9		
25			
2	5		
+	-	x	÷

Solution For Easy 1

$6 - 2 \times (5 + 6)$   
 $6 \div 2 \times (6 + 5)$

Medium puzzle 1

3	16		
62			
1	14		
+	-	x	÷

Solution for Medium 1

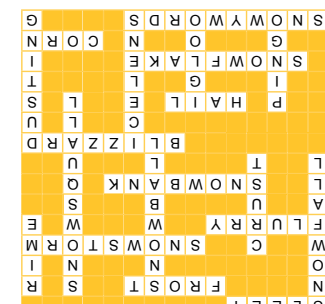
$1 \times (91 + 6 \times 91)$

Hard puzzle 1

26	30		
44			
7	28		
+	-	x	÷

Solution for Hard 1

$06 \div 2 \times (92 - 82)$



## Across

- Winter hazard (5)
- Jack \_\_\_\_ (5)
- Common cold occurrence in the Northeast (9)
- It can be blinding (6)
- Blizzard-by-product (6)

## Down

- 'White Christmas' wish (8)
- A snowman has three (8)
- It may cause a whitout (10)
- Another word for icy frost (4)
- Icy surface of a snowbank (5)
- Feature of tundra landscapes (7)
- Just a light coating of snow (7)
- Hills caused by ice in the tundra (5)
- Alaskan white house? (5)

- Another "Brrr!" inducer (8)
- Ice from the sky (4)
- "The Nutcracker" dancer (9)
- "Chunky" snow (4)
- What's in this puzzle! (5,5)

# NTD TELEVISION

## INDEPENDENT, UNBIASED NEWS



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THE EPOCH TIMES

TRUTH and TRADITION

UPDATED

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