

# THE EPOCH TIMES

# LIFE &

# TRADITION

JOHN FREDRICKS/THE EPOCH TIMES



## Flag-Carrying 11-Year-Old Takes Big Steps to Thank Law Enforcement

Jordan Ramirez, 11, sits in front of an American flag painted on the fence at his home in La Puente, Calif., on Jan. 19, 2021.

CHRIS KARR

On any given Saturday morning, people living in Southern California might catch a glimpse of 11-year-old Jordan Ramirez taking his weekly stroll.

He isn't difficult to spot. Ramirez dresses in military fatigues and carries a large "Thin Blue Line" American flag as he walks from police station to police station, often accompanied by an escort of squad cars.

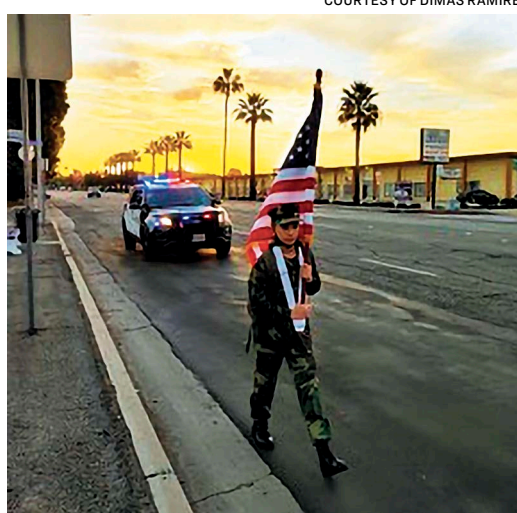
"I want to show the first responders that I respect them," Ramirez told The Epoch Times.

Since Sept. 26, Ramirez has visited 55 police, sheriff, highway patrol, and fire

“I want to show the first responders that I respect them.”

Jordan Ramirez, 11

COURTESY OF DIMAS RAMIREZ



Jordan Ramirez carries an American flag on his weekly walk between police stations in Southern California on Dec. 5, 2020.

stations during his "Thank You for Your Service Walk," covering nearly 120 total miles. At each stop, he presents officers with a plaque affirming his appreciation, and he says they're grateful.

He said he wants to show them that they're "not alone out there. You're not the only ones out there doing good. And there's more that support you as well."

*Continued on Page 2*

## Leave the Darkness at the Door: Evenings at Home

NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE



JEFF MINICK

Our new president has promised Americans "a dark winter." Whether he's simply noting a hard truth or whether he and his administration intend to make it so, the next few months will likely bring hardship and discouragement to a nation already beaten down by a year of pandemic, months of rioting, and the ugliest presidential contest in our history.

Combine these tribulations with winter-time's Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), and our mood may become as bleak as the brown Virginia fields near my house. The American Psychiatric Association recog-

Board games, cards, and charades lighten the mood and bring much needed laughter.

nizes SAD as a type of depression, afflicting in its most extreme form about 5 percent of all Americans. Some symptoms of SAD include eating too much, particularly carbohydrates, sleeping too much, and a loss of interest in activities once enjoyed.

As I read this list of symptoms, I wondered whether the good doctors might not add PAD (Pandemic Affective Disorder) to their list of ailments. Many afflicted with PAD show the same symptoms as those suffering from SAD. Even in regard to the milder cases of either disorder, this past year has left many masked and isolated Americans down in the dumps, and the coming months show no signs of bringing relief from these conditions.

*Continued on Page 3*





## DEAR NEXT GENERATION:

## ‘Choose Contentment Over Comparison’

→ Advice from our readers to our young people

Dear next generation,

When my son was 4 years old, he loved all things “construction” and was in his glory when he received a yellow plastic dump truck for his birthday. Jumping up and down excitedly, he begged me to take him to the park right away. At the sandbox, his eyes sparkled with delight as he made “vroom vroom” and “beep beep” noises, filling and emptying his truck with sand. He was in a state of utter bliss and could have played with his truck for hours. But, all of a sudden, he glimpsed something behind me and his face clouded over. I turned to see another boy arriving at the park. He was holding a dump truck: it was big, red, and had flashing lights and sounds. The glee my son had experienced only moments ago was replaced by disappointment, as he looked at his smaller, more “basic” truck. Pretty soon, he asked to leave and go home.

We are all going to be given different gifts throughout life—a talent for music, or a best friend who really understands us, or living in a safe, friendly neighborhood. When we notice, appreciate, and fully enjoy the good things we already have, we experience contentment. We are satisfied with what we have, and feel grateful.

On the other hand, when we compare what we have or what we do with others, we often lose that sense of satisfaction and happiness. Any time we compare, we either feel superior or inferior to another,

and that is a guaranteed way to feel discontent and unhappy.

In this age of technology, comparison is especially rampant on social media. It may seem like your peers all go on fabulous vacations, or frequently show off shiny, expensive things. It can be difficult to remember that we are all blessed, in different ways, and that a staged, filtered photo online doesn't always represent a person's true story.

Keep yourself in a state of contentment by reminding yourself every day of things you are thankful for. Affirmations such as “I love going fishing with my family” or “My new pink sweater feels so soft and cozy” instantly transports us to a place of appreciation and joy. It can be challenging work to choose contentment over comparison, but your life will greatly benefit from keeping your eyes on your own good fortune!

—Melanie Ely, Ontario

Dear next generation,

One of the most offensive conversations I had still resonates in my mind. I was working for a tooling company, as a customer service representative. Basically, I assisted customers with their tool purchases. One day the boss called me into his office and asked me a question. I answered the question and then he said this: “Who are you talking to? Look at me when you talk to me.” I was in my 20s when this occurred and I have to shamefully admit, I was embarrassed. My feelings were hurt, and I didn't like him talking to me like that. I did not realize at the time how low my self-esteem was and how terrible my communication skills were.

Young people, in this age of technology

**It can be difficult to remember that we are all blessed, in different ways, and that a staged, filtered photo online doesn't always represent a person's true story.**

where everyone is communicating on their phone, texting, posting, and even dating, the fundamental art of honest communication is falling to the wayside. As hard as it was for me back then, it is even harder now. I have spoken to many people throughout the years, and many of them do not look you in the eye when they talk to you.

The advice my boss gave me that day changed my life and my confidence. Conversations are vital. When Jesus recruited His disciples, they walked together, they talked together. There's a popular saying, well at least it used to be popular, that goes “Keep it real.” When you are communicating behind the protection of a phone or computer, it is not real. Dating online is not real. Look people in the eyes and talk to them. If you have never done this, as I hadn't those many years ago, it will be hard at first but trust me, you can do it!

—Mark Augustine, California

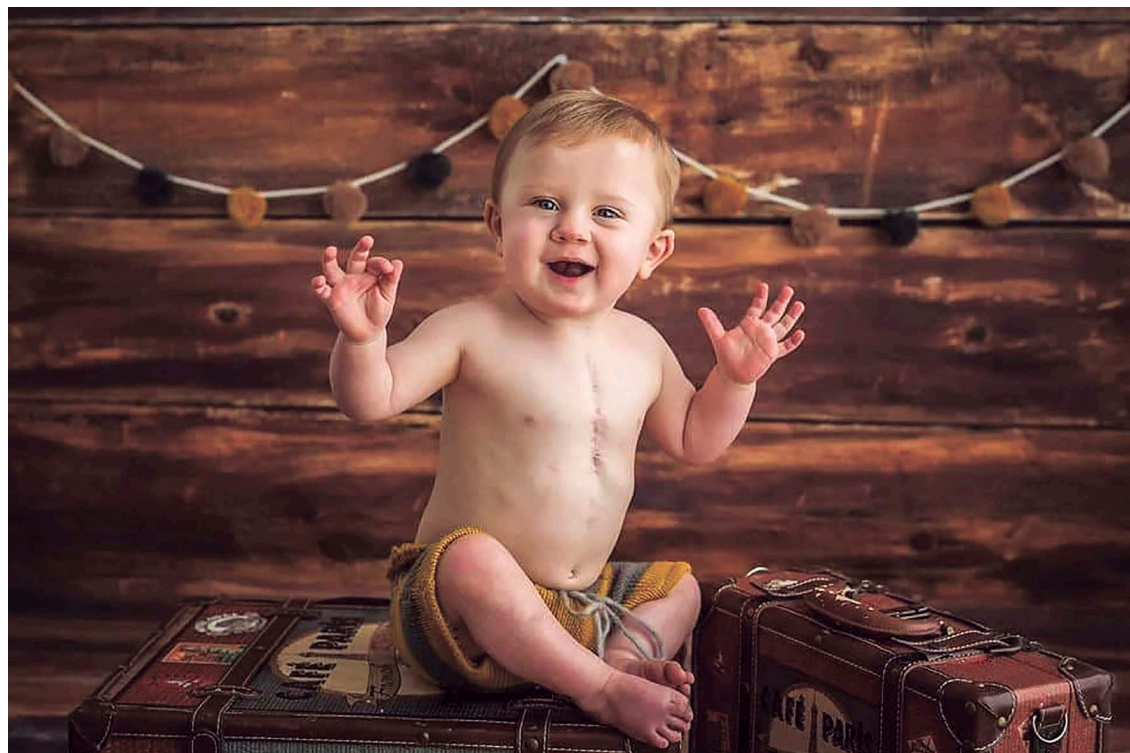
**What advice would you like to give to the younger generations?**

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](mailto:NextGeneration@epochtimes.com) or mail it to:

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

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF RENEE MCINTOSH



Samson Farkas, a 3 1/2-year-old from Far North Queensland, Australia.

## Tot With Rare Heart Defect Still Smiles as Family Gives ‘as Many Days as Possible’

LOUISE BEVAN

Born with a rare heart defect, 3 1/2-year-old Samson Farkas, has already undergone two open-heart surgeries and has clinically died nine times. But the brave boy, and his family, are still fighting.

At the very least, his mother hopes to “give Samson the opportunity to as many days, earthside, as possible,” she told The Epoch Times.

Renee McIntosh, 40, is also mom to 19-year-old twin boys Lachlan and Jordan, 17-year-old Brock, and 11-month-old Cruz. “The older boys have an unbelievable bond with Samson and have also felt a great deal of heartache with the traumatic rollercoaster ride our family set on, 3 1/2 years ago,” she said.

Renee and her partner, Jason Farkas, of Cairns in far north Queensland, Australia, learned at 16 weeks into pregnancy

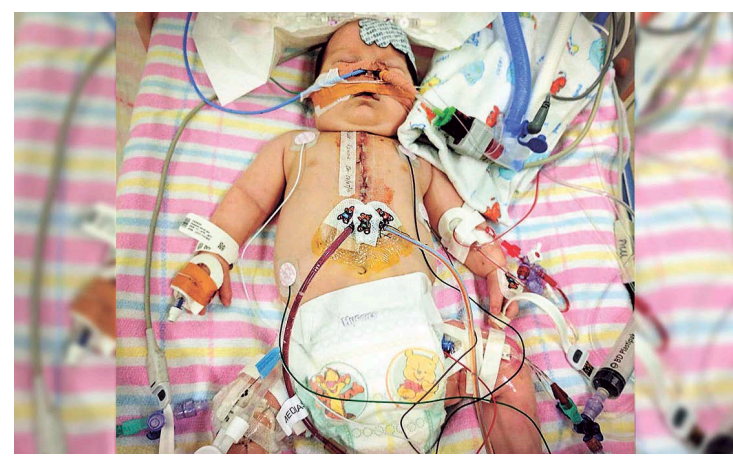
with Samson was at high risk for Edwards syndrome and Down syndrome.

She describes the catastrophic, and miraculous, events that occurred during the pregnancy.

“I stood up and had lost all fluid around the baby,” Renee, who has Type 1 diabetes, said. “I was sent home with the ‘bag of bears of hope,’ which is given to mothers whose babies pass.”

Yet, four days later, Renee's wa-

When he was born, Samson Farkas had to be resuscitated and spent his first 54 days on life support.



ters had reaccumulated. “This in itself said to me, ‘Wow, this kid really wants to be here,’” she said.

At 23 weeks, Renee flew to Brisbane, where a team of cardiologists diagnosed Samson with hypoplastic right heart syndrome (HRHS), a rare defect that affects normal blood flow through the heart. He was given a 5 percent chance of survival.

“We were given the option of termination multiple times,” Renee said, “but there was no backing down for me; this kid wanted to be here.”

Renee went into labor at 31 weeks. She was “flown with only the clothes on my back” by Australia's Royal Flying Doctor Service to Brisbane, where baby Samson, weighing approximately 4.4 pounds, was delivered via emergency cesarean section.

“Samson was born blue and needed to be resuscitated and put on life support,” said Renee. “I wasn't able to see my little boy until over 32 hours after I had given birth; he was too unstable.” Brokenhearted, Renee and Jason were asked if they would like to take their baby home to “love him for as long as he survives.”

Samson fought hard over the months that followed. At 14 days old, he caught rhinovirus. He spent 54 days on respiratory support, but by the age of 3 months, he had reached his goal weight.

He received a cardiac catheter but needed to be resuscitated after reacting to the anesthetic. He underwent his first open-heart surgery for a shunt, which failed, and then spent nine “long, grueling hours” on a bypass machine. Samson received donated tissue but lost oxygen during the procedure and began to have seizures. After Samson got an MRI, Renee and Jason were told that their son would never walk or talk.

The couple spent Samson's first 183 days of life in the hospital. Owing to the financial toll, they lost their home in Ravenshoe but relocated to Cairns with the support of family to await another procedure. After the operation, Samson turned 1.

“This was one hell of a celebration,” said Renee.

Today, Samson has only 60 percent oxygen saturation to his blood and exhausts easily, but Renee marvels at his bravery.

Samson loves his brothers, the moon, trains, the beach, and playing doctor. “Through all his battles and daily struggles he still manages to smile,” said Renee. “Our motto is, ‘God only gives his greatest battles to his strongest soldiers,’ and He chose us for a reason.”

Samson continues to defy the odds.

“He is walking and talking,” said Renee. “He has a team of great therapists. He was recently given clearance to attend daycare, [where] he just flourished and absolutely loved seeing all his friends.”

**“Through all his battles and daily struggles he still manages to smile.”**

Renee McIntosh

The toddler nonetheless requires further heart surgery; his family is awaiting their doctors' verdict. “It's like PTSD,” Renee said. “I just pray for the best possible outcome, and again, hold onto faith.”

In support of Renee and Jason, a family friend launched a crowdfunding page to help with rent, flights, and accommodation related to Samson's procedures. The financial help, said Renee, allows her family to remain “emotionally present” for Samson.

“He could live another 20 years or it could all end tomorrow,” Renee told Daily Mail. “It's a waiting game... if [the next surgery] doesn't go ahead, doctors say there's nothing more they can do.”

Renee and Jason maintain a Facebook group, Samson's Crew FNQ, to chronicle their son's ongoing journey.

“Just sharing his story and having people pray, or emit their positive energy our way, is more than enough for us.”



LARGER THAN LIFE:  
ART THAT INSPIRES US  
THROUGH THE AGES

## An American Renaissance Gem: ‘Mr. Morgan’s Jewel Case’

Ancient Greek, Roman, and Renaissance art and architecture gloriously unite in the McKim Building that houses the late financier John Pierpont Morgan's library.

In 1902, Morgan hired Charles F. McKim, of the architectural firm McKim, Mead & White, to build a library next to Morgan's brownstone on 36th Street and Madison Avenue, in New York.

McKim's design was influenced by two 16th-century Roman villas: Villa Giulia and Villa Medici.

The building's façade is made of Tennessee marble. A Palladian arch, supported by four ionic columns, elegantly frames the building entrance. Visitors are welcomed into the building by a grand pair of bronze doors, imported from Florence, Italy, and made in the style of early Renaissance artist Lorenzo Ghiberti's famous Florence Baptistery doors.

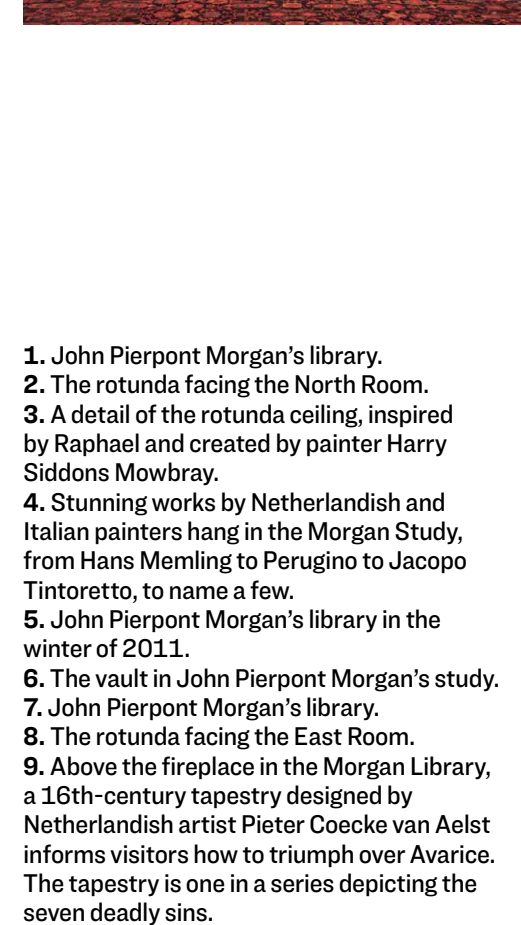
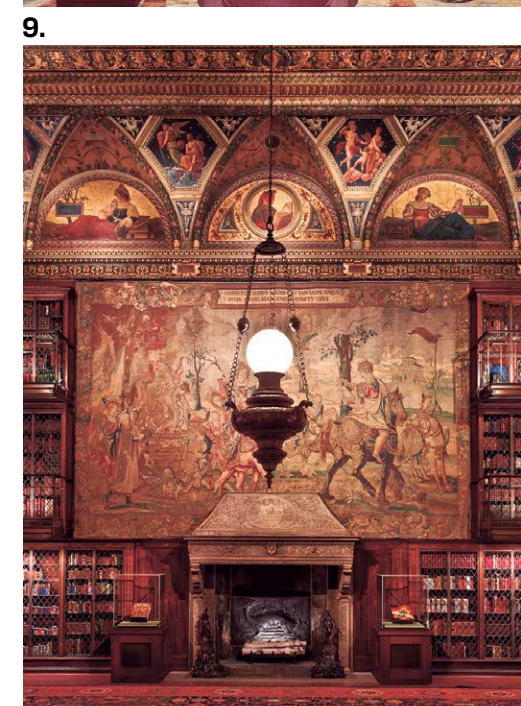
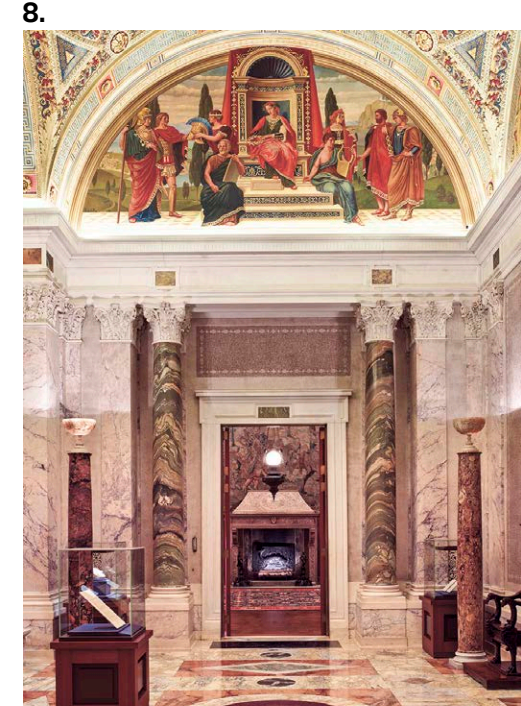
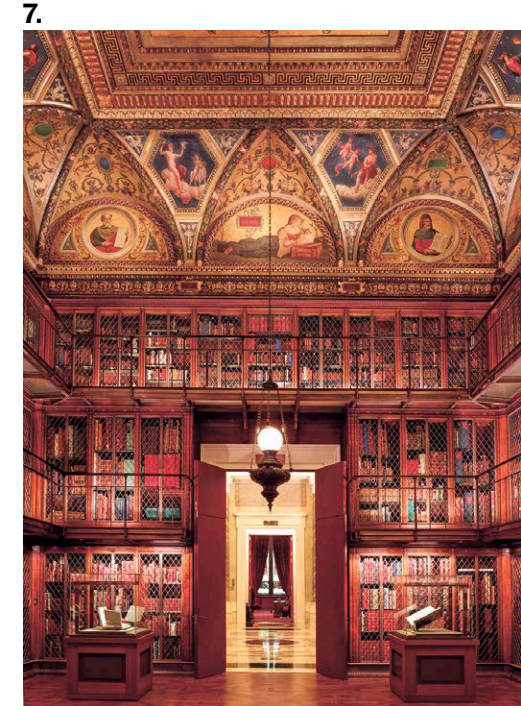
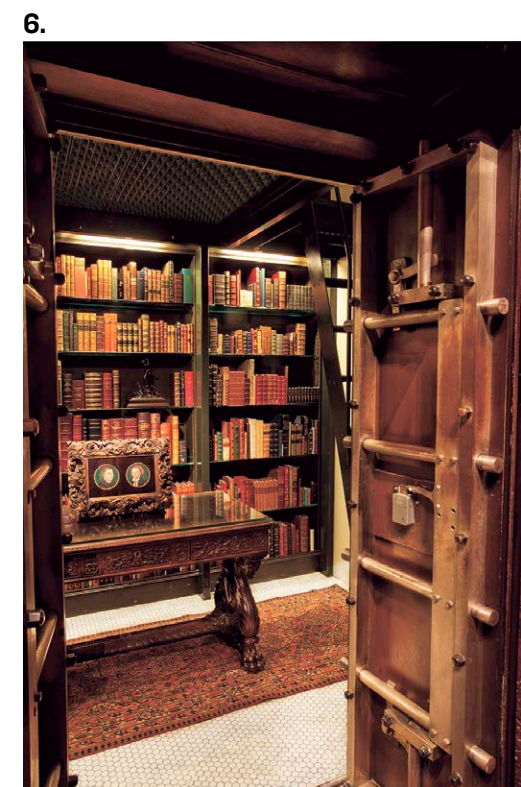
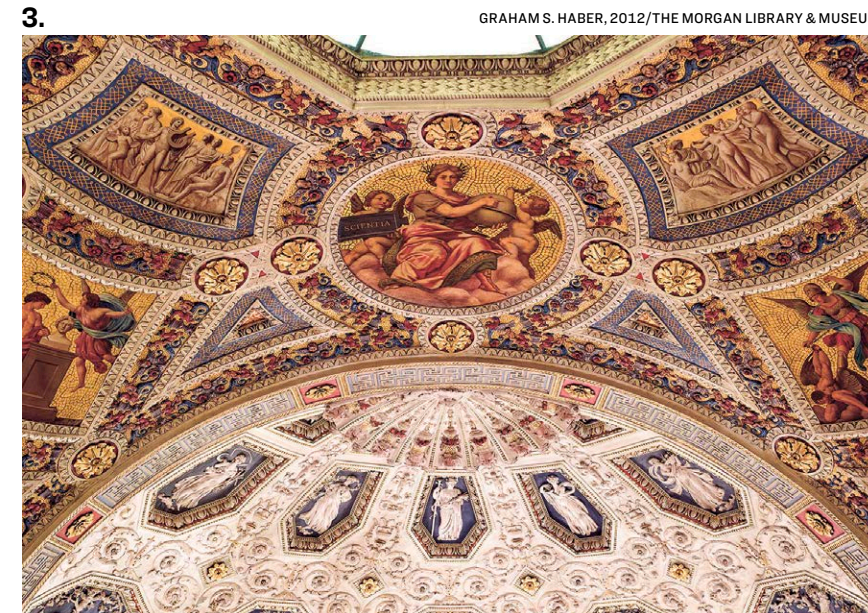
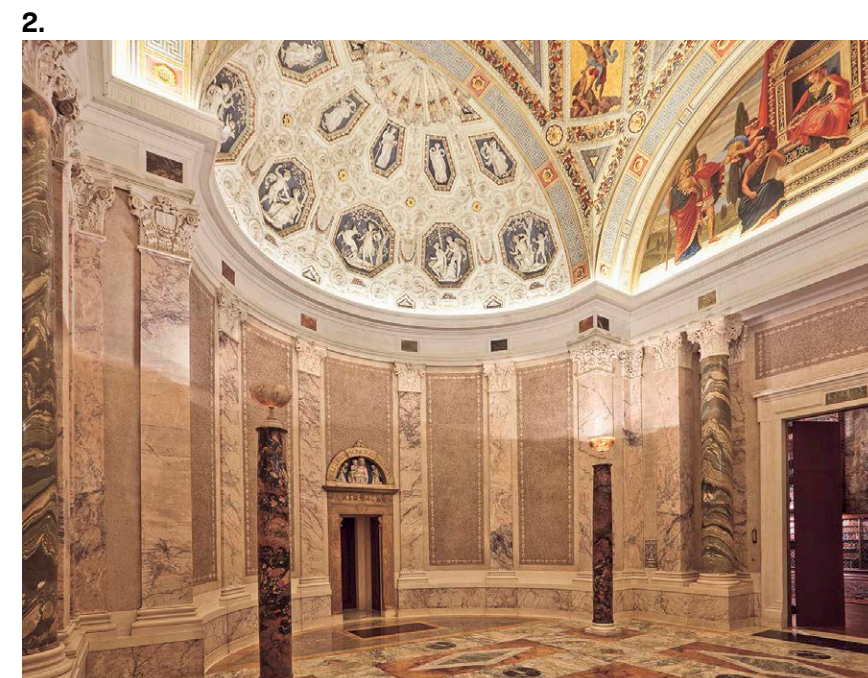
Once inside the building, it's easy to see why, by 1904, some people called the library “Mr. Morgan's jewel case.” Lapis lazuli columns, mosaic panels, and marble surfaces beautifully decorate the rotunda at the center of the building. Homer, Dante, and Petrarch are just a few of the ancient figures depicted in the rotunda, hinting at the caliber of the literary greats that visitors will discover inside.

Three rooms lead off the rotunda: the West Room (Morgan's study), the East Room (Morgan's library), and the North Room (the former office of the Morgan library's first director).

Deep-red silk damask inspired by Villa Chigi, the Rome home of the Renaissance banker Agostino Chigi, adorn the walls of Morgan's study. The rich red and the 16th-century coffered wooden ceiling create a luxurious cocoon effect, allowing some of Morgan's most prized possessions to shine.

In Morgan's library, a world of books can be discovered in the 30-foot wall-to-ceiling bookcases, inlaid with Circassian walnut. Socrates, Galileo, Botticelli, and Michelangelo are some of the cultural icons depicted in the ceiling murals by noted muralist Harry Siddons Mowbray.

In the North Room, Morgan's earliest works are on display from the ancient Near East, Egypt, Rome, and Greece, including a set of ancient Near East cylinder seals, which were pictorial communications, dating from 3,500 B.C.



1. John Pierpont Morgan's library. 2. The rotunda facing the North Room. 3. A detail of the rotunda ceiling, inspired by Raphael and created by painter Harry Siddons Mowbray. 4. Stunning works by Netherlandish and Italian painters hang in the Morgan Study, from Hans Memling to Perugino to Jacopo Tintoretto, to name a few. 5. John Pierpont Morgan's library in the winter of 2011. 6. The vault in John Pierpont Morgan's study. 7. John Pierpont Morgan's library. 8. The rotunda facing the East Room. 9. Above the fireplace in the Morgan Library, a 16th-century tapestry designed by Netherlandish artist Pieter Coecke van Aelst informs visitors how to triumph over Avarice. The tapestry is one in a series depicting the seven deadly sins.

FAMILY

# How to Help Kids Build Strong 'Financial Foundations'

A conversation with financial expert Anthony O'Neal

BARBARA DANZA

It's commonly lamented that students aren't taught life skills in school, such as how to balance a budget or manage their money. Ramsey Solutions, the company founded by financial expert Dave Ramsey, aims to change that with "Financial Foundations," financial literacy programs specifically designed for middle school and high school students.

The programs, created for school teachers and homeschoolers, feature video lessons from Ramsey personalities including Anthony O'Neal, a dynamic speaker, the author of "Debt Free Degree," and co-author of "The Graduate Survival Guide."

I asked O'Neal about his advice for students who want to understand how to manage their money. Here's what he said.

**The Epoch Times:** Your work is dedicated to inspiring young people to understand how to manage their finances well. What inspired you to walk this path?

**Anthony O'Neal:** I've seen firsthand the lack of financial literacy young people have today. They graduate high school not knowing how to handle their money, because financial literacy is not a mandatory class in most schools. And unfortunately, many parents aren't having those conversations with their kids. This is a major reason why 73 percent of Americans are living paycheck to paycheck—they were never taught how to handle their own money. I want to do my part in helping people build wealth, and that starts with teaching young people how to handle their money with wisdom.

**The Epoch Times:** What are the benefits of teaching financial literacy at a young age?

**Mr. O'Neal:** The caliber of your future will be determined by the choices you make today. We need to help educate young people how to make the right choices when it comes to their finances. They need to be taught the basics, so

that moving forward, they can make the right financial choices with the correct information. I made some unwise money decisions when I was young, and I want to help young people avoid those same mistakes that I made.

**The Epoch Times:** What are the key fundamentals kids need to understand about money?

**Mr. O'Neal:** Money doesn't grow on trees. There isn't an unlimited supply of money, and your parents aren't going to take care of you financially forever. Kids need to have a plan for their own money—a budget. A budget will give them structure for their money, and this is the time in life they need structure the most. They also need to take debt off the table, not even making it an option for themselves. Debt will rob you of your future, and we see this happening now with the student loan debt crisis. Preparation at a young age will help these kids walk into a much better financial future.

**The Epoch Times:** What misconceptions do young people tend to have about money?

**Mr. O'Neal:** Young people typically think that taking on debt is inevitable, and a lot of times they learn this from their parents. They think that you need a credit card because without it you can't get a credit score. And without a credit score, you can't make a life for yourself as an adult. This is false. There are ways around needing credit to get what you want and sometimes the answer is simply to save for what you want and pay for it in cash. They also think that there is no way you can go to college without student loans, but that's also not true. Yes, it will take work and dedication, but in the long run you'll be so thankful that you didn't borrow from your future to get through the present.

**The Epoch Times:** How can you make the topic of personal finance fun for kids?



Anthony O'Neal, the author of "Debt Free Degree."

**Mr. O'Neal:** You have to relate it to real life. Tell them the kind of life that they can have in the future if they start doing the hard work now. Have them envision it! Like most things, they won't see the results tomorrow or the next day, but good decisions multiplied by time will give you a healthy financial life. Give them a sense of vision and show the steps to take to get there. If they are looking to make money, encourage them to work around the home for commission (not allowance). Allowance doesn't require work, commission does. This empowers them to make their own money, but gives them the foundation that you can't make money without putting in the work.

**The Epoch Times:** What advice do you have for parents and teachers who want to

encourage their kids to take responsibility for their finances?

**Mr. O'Neal:** Do not baby your kids financially. They are capable of taking on some financial responsibility, but you have to give them the opportunities and tools to do so. When you're making your budget, have them sit down with you and do theirs. Whether that income be from a household chore commission or a job, show them that they need to have a plan for their money. If they choose to spend it all, don't give them any more. In life, there are consequences to your money decisions and learning that early on is important. I also believe that if college is in your kid's future, they should pay for 10 to 20 percent of it on their own. This can be from a job or scholarships or grants that they apply for. Kids need sweat equity in the game.

TRAVEL

# Carlisle, 'Gateway to the West'

A vibrant historic town in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania

RACHAEL DYMSKI

The heart of downtown Carlisle, Pennsylvania, marked with stately architecture, hidden alleys, and old homes, is akin to that of an elderly great lady: mature and put together at first glance, but, upon closer inspection, privately bursting with stories of her vibrant past.

The streets, lined with austere brick townhomes, arched doorways that lead to small alleyways, and private gardens, largely reflect the original plan of the town from the 1750s. Plaques nailed into plaster siding or erected as wayside markers along the main sidewalk are etched with details that offer a window into Carlisle's rich and varied history.

Tucked between the Blue Mountains of Cumberland County, in the heart of south-central Pennsylvania, the town of Carlisle began as a trading post in the 1720s. Named after the town in the north of England, Carlisle was elected county seat of the newly formed county in the 1750s.

The early years of Carlisle were tumultu-

ous and rocky, marked by skirmishes, negotiations, sieges, and warfare. Just a few years after its founding, Carlisle found itself at continuous odds with the Native American Iroquois Confederacy. Benjamin Franklin arrived to negotiate a treaty in 1753, one that was albeit short-lived, as a year later, the French and Indian War began. He stayed at a tavern which, until its demise in 1906, was marked as the Franklin House.

From 1750 to 1815, Carlisle held the title of Gateway to the West, the door to the frontier. Crossed by major roads and routes, Carlisle played a key role in westward expansion. Today, the town still sits at the intersection of two major trucking routes.

During the Revolutionary War, the town became a munitions supply line, offering much needed logistical support through the Carlisle Barracks, the second-oldest Army post in the United States. For a short time, Maj. John Andre of the British forces was held prisoner in Carlisle.

The statue of Mary Ludwig Hays McCauley, widely known as "Molly Pitcher," is located in the Old Public Graveyard in Carlisle. Molly is said to have earned her fame by bringing pitchers of water to soldiers fighting at the Battle of Monmouth, New Jersey, in 1778, and then bravely fighting in her husband's place after he was wounded in battle. A brewery in her name on High Street honors her heroic actions and patriotic spirit.

After the Revolutionary War, Carlisle was a contender for the nation's capital. In 1794, George Washington spent a week in Carlisle, reviewing and organizing and reviewing his troops before heading west to quell the Whiskey Rebellion.

Carlisle was no less active in the years leading up to and including the Civil War. After abolishing slavery in 1847, many counties in Pennsylvania became routes



A statue of "Molly Pitcher" in Carlisle's Old Public Graveyard.

for the Underground Railroad, leading fugitive slaves from southern states to freedom in the North or Canada. A few routes ran through Carlisle and its surrounding towns. The Old Courthouse, an impressive brick structure with a bell and clock tower, was the stage for two runaway slave cases, the ruling of one sparking a riot that resulted in the death of a slaveholder.

In 1861, Carlisle came under siege by Gen. Jeb Stuart. The Union militia, led by Maj. Gen. William Smith, refused to surrender, famously replying, "Shell away, and be damned."

Carlisle Today

In the years since the Civil War, Carlisle has become a center for arts, education, entertainment, and outdoor recreation. Home to Dickinson College, the Army War College,

and the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, Carlisle attracts students and visitors from all over the region and world.

Situated near the midway point of the Appalachian Trail, the 2,200-mile hiking trail that stretches from Maine to Georgia, Carlisle is surrounded by beautiful, accessible hikes. The town of Carlisle is bike-friendly, encouraging its residents and visitors alike to explore its corners on two wheels.

Carlisle is perhaps most famous for its annual car shows, put on regularly at the Carlisle Fairgrounds.

Where to Eat

With the addition of microbreweries and flavorful independent restaurants, Carlisle is putting itself on the map as a food destination. Denim Coffee Shop, a specialty coffee shop and roaster near the square in Carlisle, provides smooth, unique roasts, carefully sourced with deep care and respect for the farmer who grows the bean.

Issei Noodle and 1794 The Whiskey Rebellion serve unique foods with fresh, local ingredients. Molly Pitcher Brewing Company and Desperate Times Brewery stock their menus with craft beers and flavorful food, perfect for enjoying after a day of exploring Carlisle's history.

At every turn, the quaint, historic town of Carlisle invites visitors and residents in for a closer look. Brimming with far more stories and anecdotes than a single article can contain, Carlisle beckons lovers of nature and history to explore its streets, squares, and trails, uncovering what lies beneath its picturesque façade.

Rachael Dymski is an author, florist, and mom to two little girls. She is currently writing a novel about the German occupation of the Channel Islands and blogs on her website, RachaelDymski.com

# FOR KIDS ONLY

THE EPOCH TIMES

Don't despair as yet broken heart  
Cupid in patching it will make a new start.

To my Valentine

## Of Love: A Sonnet

Robert Herrick (1591-1634)

How love came in I do not know,  
Whether by the eye, or ear, or no;  
Or whether with he soul it came  
(At first) infused with the same;  
Whether in part 'tis here or there,  
Or, like the soul, whole everywhere  
That troubles me: but I as well  
As any other this can tell:  
That when from hence she does depart  
The outlet then is from the heart.

## WHAT DID THE BEE SAY TO HIS VALENTINE?

I LOVE BEE-ING WITH YOU, HONEY!

Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage.

LAO TZU, ANCIENT CHINESE PHILOSOPHER

# This Week in History

## THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE'S FIRST VOTE



An illustration of George Washington receiving the news of his election as the first American president, 1789. Martha Washington (R) looks on.

On Feb. 4, 1789, the first Electoral College met. Ten states: Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Virginia cast their votes. Three states were absent: New York due to a failure to field a slate of electors, and North Carolina and Rhode Island because they hadn't yet ratified the Constitution. Washington was unanimously elected, receiving 69 electoral votes.

By Aidan Danza, age 14

# OWLS (PART I)

## OWLS

Owls are a unique group of birds that humans have always been interested in. The ancient Greeks revered the owl as their goddess Athens's pet. The scientific name of the little owl is still Athene noctua, and this designation led to our perception of the owl as wise.

Other cultures feared the owl, which is why there are always a few owls in the annual Halloween decorations. However the owl is perceived, there is no denying these days that it's one of the most interesting birds to fly around the earth.

Most owls are sedentary, meaning that they usually don't migrate, and they mostly live in woods (though there are exceptions). Most owls are nocturnal—active at night—though there are exceptions to that as well. Usually, small owls eat insects and very small rodents, medium-sized owls eat medium-sized rodents, and large owls eat large rodents or even larger mammals.

It's the ways owls go about catching their prey where things get very interesting. First of all, owls take great care not to compete with other birds for their prey by hunting at night and keeping their distance from other raptors. Owls have large brains and very large eyes. Contrary to what might be expected, owls fall somewhere in the middle on the intelligence spectrum. They have demonstrated considerable intelligence to bait prey with their favorite food, and to target animal feeders.

Their eyes are very large, and are oriented to the front, giving binocular vision and depth perception. The face is bordered by a large disk, amplifying sound coming into the ears. Sometimes one ear is near the top of the head, while another is closer to the bottom, giving the owl depth perception in their ears, as well. This way, some owls can catch prey without seeing it until they have it in their talons.

Their wings beat silently, allowing them to take prey by surprise, and they are cryptically colored in browns or grays, to hide from prey.

## 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: 6, 9, 3, 9, 30

Medium puzzle 1: 7, 16, 3, 13, 96

Hard puzzle 1: 11, 35, 6, 24, 28

Solution For Easy 1: 6 + 9 - 3 = 9 - 9 + 6 = 6

Solution for Medium 1: 91 - 7 + (6 + 61) 6 - 61 - 7 + 91

Solution for Hard 1: 62 - 9 + 11 + 58

- ### Down
- Lovey stuff (7)
  - A single red one is a sign of love (4)
  - Boy who wants to date a girl (6)
  - Beau (5)
  - Valentine's Day gift (7)
  - A boy's date (10)
  - Affection (8)
  - Chocolate kisses, possibly (5)
  - Bat an eye? (5)
  - Go "out with" (4)
  - Shape of some Valentine's Day candy (5)
  - It may be on a Valentine's Day card (4)
  - Male suitor (4)

- ### Across
- "Finding Nemo" turtle (5)
  - Love a lot (5)
  - Dating, old style (8)
  - What you may receive from an admirer on Valentine's Day (4)
  - Gifts (8)
  - Hearthrob (5)
  - It may last forever (10)
  - A girl may receive chocolates from her \_\_\_\_\_ (9)
  - Worship (9)

# Truth and Tradition

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TRUTH and TRADITION

**In Our Own Words**

# For Our Parents, for Our Children, for Generations to Come

Dear Epoch VIP,

Once again, thank you for being a subscriber this week—you've probably seen this message a million times on this very page, but I assure you it's because we really do appreciate you that much!

I'm Channaly Philipp, your editor for Life and Tradition. But not just that: I'm also the daughter of a Khmer Rouge survivor, a former liberal arts college student, and now a mother.

Each one of these identities gives me one more reason why I must keep doing what I do at The Epoch Times every day.

You see, my father, like many other fathers, has a story.

Only 45 medical doctors survived the killing fields and death camps of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia, and he, Dr. Nal Oum, was the only doctor lucky enough to have escaped one of the Khmer Rouge camps.

But what he saw before he walked 22 arduous days through the jungle to Thailand, leaving him on the brink of death, left a mark on his psyche like no other: he had seen humanity at its absolute worst. He had seen what people were capable of when performing under a system that enabled their worst vices—the communist system.

The Khmer Rouge's rampage left 2 million Cambodian corpses in its wake, a faceless statistic to many. To my father, however, around 100 of them will always have names and faces, because they belonged to the sick children and infants that the Khmer Rouge forced him to abandon as they drove the populace from the city to the countryside in pursuit of a doomed agrarian utopia.

He remembers their tiny faces, their tiny beds. He remembers them every day.

At gunpoint, he was forced to leave his hospital and the lives of his patients to the Khmer Rouge, to communism—to death.

He's never forgotten what he had to do on that fateful day, and even now, he's unable to forget the pain in the eyes of these children formerly under his care.

His life now is dedicated to ensuring that the rest of the world never forgets, either.

Twenty years later, and half-way around the world, as I embarked to enroll in one of our nation's elite colleges, I was met on campus and in some classes with—what else? Socialism, cloaked in the ideals of social justice, and as an impressionable young mind, it saddens me to admit that because I was young and well-intentioned, I fell for it.

It wasn't until years later, after leaving the hallowed halls of American academe, and then becoming a parent, I realized all of it was a lie. A beautiful lie, and probably the same beautiful lie that was told to the youths who had held my father at gunpoint.

I saw how subtly the indoctrination began at my daughter's public elementary school, as early as kindergarten. Looking ahead, I could see the gears of the machine turning. Mass public schooling churning out generation after generation of youth perfectly calibrated to these new, false definitions of kindness, equality, truth, and righteousness.

This is why The Epoch Times' motto of "truth and tradition" has always spoken to me; today, it's a guiding principle for me in how I run my small corner of the paper.

**In the Life and Tradition section, I aim to preserve and protect the best of what's been left to us by the generations who came before: their values, their traditions, their stories—history as our families lived and experienced it, so we that we can learn from their wisdom and their sacrifices as we create our future.**

And perhaps most importantly, I want to give hope to anyone that's still looking for a beacon of light—of real truth, of real goodness—in our modern society.

It is admittedly a lofty goal, but for all the children—for those in my father's memory, for my own, and for yours—I have no choice but to at least try.

*In Truth and Tradition,*

Channaly Philipp  
The Epoch Times



**Channaly Philipp**  
Editor for Life and Tradition Section

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