

# THE EPOCH TIMES

# LIFE &

# TRADITION

JIAN PING/EPOCH TIMES



The packed theater for Shen Yun Performing Arts' curtain call at Palais des Congrès de Paris on Jan. 16, 2022.

## SHEN YUN

### ART TO END THE PANDEMIC

CATHERINE YANG

**W**hen Paris rang in the new year this year, thousands felt they had in their grasp the ticket back to normalcy. For two years, New York's Shen Yun Performing Arts had been unable to tour Europe, much less Paris, because of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions across the world. News of its return to France created excitement not only for those who wished to see the buzzworthy show, but also for the those who had purchased their tickets before 2020 and held on to them, waiting. On Jan. 14, the Palais des Congrès was

**Amid the ongoing pandemic, Shen Yun's performance became all the more significant.**

flooded with people, not all of whom could make it into the theater. Because of city government restrictions, the theater's seating capacity was capped right before the performances, and a chance to attend the long-awaited event became all the more rare.

Those entering the theater could see tears in the eyes of those whom theater staff had to turn away, including some who had traveled from distant corners of France and booked accommodations in the city all in preparation for enjoying the show. The local capacity restrictions were lifted after the opening weekend of performances, and the audience

members who couldn't make it hoped that they would have their chance when Shen Yun returned to France in March.

Amid the ongoing pandemic, the event became all the more significant for many in the audience.

"We need it," said professor François Bricaire, a renowned infectious disease specialist known for publishing the prophetic 2005 book "Pandemic: The Great Threat."

"It is very important to go out, to see shows despite this pandemic, which is coming from China.

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The resilience that students learn in the course of their music practice transfers to other subjects as well.



ANDERSEN ROSS PHOTOGRAPHY INC./GETTY IMAGES

PARENTING MATTERS

### The Joy of Music

Not only is it fun, but music helps kids be better learners, too

PARNELL DONAHUE

Some time ago, my friend Brian sent me a short video of his 6-year-old granddaughter playing the piano. It truly was spell-binding. Tears ran down my face as I listened to the very familiar strains of "America," metered out by 10 tiny fingers on a beautiful grand piano. She sat straight and tall on her piano bench with her arms parallel to

her lap, as her feet, in pretty black patents, dangled far above the floor.

Her performance reminded me of how important music is to families all over the world, and how valuable a tool that music becomes in helping kids learn, and enjoy life.

While visiting a museum in New York once, my wife, Mary, and I were awed by a display of cultural development. Archeologists and anthropologists told us that most ancient cultures had music; they played it on instruments they invented. They danced to it, sang it, and lived it. Much of the early music was little more than rhythm, but it picked up depth and body as time went on.

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# SHEN YUN

## ART TO END THE PANDEMIC



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François Bricaire, infectious disease specialist



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Gilles Maroteaux, teacher and translator



“  
The show is a good antidote to the pandemic.

Philip Lancaster, real estate company owner



“  
You cannot just cocoon yourself in your house and get depressed. Come out!

Richard Hart, audience member



“  
I really enjoyed the power of overcoming, that message of overcoming.

Ed Gainey, Pittsburgh mayor

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This situation forces us to try to do something else, and the shows are part of it.”

Bricaire brought his granddaughter with him to the show. Formerly the head specialist on infectious and tropical diseases at a hospital, he was still very actively involved in the management of the pandemic. For him, a virus couldn't stop the human yearning for great art.

“You're transfixed, you're moved, and you can't get enough of watching,” he said. “We are rocked by all of the dances.”

Gilles Maroteaux, a teacher and translator, had been waiting four years to see the renowned classical Chinese dance company. In a voice broken by emotion, he said there were no words to adequately describe Shen Yun, but the experience was something superb and left him inspired by the vision of humanity he glimpsed in the show.

“If we humans could become like that again, it would be good for many [in the] world ... and probably all of humanity,” Maroteaux said.

The New York-based dance and music company promises a performance this season that brings to life “China before communism”—a world few are familiar with. Once dubbed the “Celestial Empire,” ancient China was a land where civilization was divinely inspired and society revolved around the maxim of harmony between heaven, earth, and humankind.

Watching Shen Yun, Maroteaux felt that it conveyed something that “can give us humans this desire to learn other things, to open up to people ... to also connect with Heaven and the superior beings who direct us a little.” He felt that it was something “that is good for the soul and the heart.”

“It's a lot of beauty and goodness ... all that we miss, especially right now!” he said.

Across the ocean, audiences watching one of Shen Yun's six other touring companies shared similar sentiments.

“The show is a good antidote to the pandemic. The pandemic makes you turn into yourself and become depressed and alone and isolated. And a program like this teaches you that you're connected to other

“  
It's so wonderful to see so many people who want to see this show that talks about renewed hope.

Gordon Hamby, personal coach and speaker

### Shen Yun's Upcoming Performances

Phoenix Arizona	March 2-6
Columbus Ohio	March 5-6
Salt Lake City Utah	March 9-12
Mesa Arizona	March 10-13
New York City New York	March 10-20
Sacramento California	March 15-17
Portland Oregon	March 16-20
Reno Nevada	March 18-20
Worcester Massachusetts	March 19
Houston Texas	March 25-27

For additional performance dates, please visit [ShenYun.com/tickets](http://ShenYun.com/tickets)

people and that you need to. You need to think about something beyond yourself, something transcendent,” said Philip Lancaster, who saw a performance in Atlanta, also on Jan. 14.

“[Shen Yun] is uplifting, beautiful. [It] re-connects you with the world, the cosmos beyond yourself, and [it] shows the value of being connected to the physical world, to other people, and to the divine.”

Richard Hart, who saw a performance in Escondido, California, on Jan. 15, said that he was so moved by the show's beauty that he was brought to tears three times.

“I was so touched by the beauty I saw on the stage. I'm so happy to be human, to be alive, to be able to see what I saw tonight,” Hart said. “It's been a dream of mine to see Shen Yun since 2006, and finally I realized this dream after so many years.”

Not content to realize his dream alone, he had purchased 14 tickets for friends and family so that he could share it with his loved ones.

“I can tell you this much: If you want to see beauty in humanity and how our Creator created such an amazing thing, you don't want to miss Shen Yun,” Hart said. “It moves you. It moves your energy, it moves your soul. It moved me to my core, it really did.”

“It was like music to my eyes. It wasn't just my soul, it was my whole body-soul experience. I'm just in awe.

“You cannot just cocoon yourself in your house and get depressed. Come out! We're going to live with this virus for the next 20, 50 years. Now is the time to enjoy your life and see these beauties. Life is a risk. Driving a car is a risk. But coming to a beautiful show like this, I'm sure the Creator is taking care of us.”

Even before the pandemic, Shen Yun toured the world far more extensively than any other performing arts company. In 2022, the season seems to have been extended, with shows in June when most previous seasons ended in mid-May. For many venues, tickets sold out faster than ever.

Ed Gainey, mayor of Pittsburgh, felt the spirit of motivation when he saw a performance on Jan. 23.

“I'm glad I made it today. I'm glad I made it,

and I'm glad [Shen Yun] had it here. I think that the more people that would see that, they would be inspired,” he said. “I believe when you inspire people, you bring the best out of them.

“I really enjoyed the power of overcoming, that message of overcoming, that whole situation of where you never give up. It's thought-provoking. You use your divine inner spirit to continue to grow, even in the midst of adversity.”

Gordon Hamby, personal coach and speaker, saw hope for humanity in Shen Yun. He saw “the great act of compassion” that's sliding away in the modern world, as well as hope that people will regain it.

“It's so spiritual and open-minded toward beauty and nature and humanity itself,” Hamby said.

Watching the performance, he “felt a release, like some weight had been lifted.”

“That energy just washes over the audience,” Hamby said. “The cast has an ability to be larger than life. ... It's almost like you can feel the waves of energy coming at you. ... It's almost like a visible thing.”

“It's the grand compassion toward all of humanity ... toward everybody. We do forget that everybody has challenges, everybody has things to get through, and I think that spiritual aspect that includes, to me, the entire universe is really the binding glue for everyone.”

Hamby does anti-bias and anti-bullying training, with the philosophy that inner harmony begets external harmony. He bases his work on 11 core principles, including compassion, truthfulness, forgiveness, and enthusiasm, and he saw all of that in Shen Yun. “I feel really happy and joyous,” he said. “In Greeley, Colorado, it's so wonderful to see so many people who want to see this show that talks about renewed hope and compassion. That is just really enlightening and inspirational to me, when I look around the theater.”

NTD contributed to this report.

The Epoch Times is a proud sponsor of Shen Yun Performing Arts. For more information, please visit [ShenYunPerformingArts.org](http://ShenYunPerformingArts.org)

for the day ahead fall on Mom. What a nice gesture it would be if Dad and the kids requested that Mom put her feet up while they took over. Of course, the key is to aim to do as excellent a job as Mom would, not forgetting anything critical. Mom would feel so loved.

**Something she would never splurge on.** Moms have a way of making sure everyone in their family is taken care of and has everything they could possibly need, while perhaps giving less attention to what she needs or might enjoy.

Think of the mother in question and consider giving her something that she has put off getting for herself or a service that you know she would love, but would never splurge on and give it to her.

**Flowers.** Especially for no particular

occasion (although don't forget them on Mother's Day) a simple bouquet of flowers to tell her you were thinking of her is always a sweet gesture.

**Surprise notes.** Hide sweet notes of love, thanks, or even a funny joke placed somewhere that you know she'll find it. A sticky note on her steering wheel, a doodle in her wallet, or a joke on her nightstand will surely put a smile on her face.

**Her interests.** Most moms spend a ton of time catering to their children's interests and hobbies, often setting aside those activities that used to interest them. Spark those interests again for Mom by signing her up for a class or giving her a book or tools to once again take up a hobby you know she would love to devote some time to.

### PARENTING MATTERS

## The Joy of Music

Not only is it fun, but music helps kids be better learners, too

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Music was a part of their lives, just like it's a part of ours.

Dr. Patricia Kuhl, a researcher at the University of Washington in Seattle, investigated the effects of early music exposure on speech processing in 9-month-old infants. She found that “When infants listen to people talking, or singing, the brain centers they use to talk back are activated, long before they are able to talk.”

Another study concluded that mothers singing to their infants “enhances the development of a broader set of perceptual skills, raising the possibility that music may be beneficial to infant learning.”

These are very scientific, erudite studies that show what most parents already know: Babies and kids of all ages love music, and music contributes to making them better, quicker learners.

Other studies tell us that the brains of babies who listen to their mother's singing have more positive cortical activity than the brains of babies listening to a recording of the same music—just like hearing a recording of a book is not as rewarding as having a parent read it to them. Babies, like all of us social beings, need people at every stage of life. Music training enhances the neural processing of pitch and improves speech perception in children.

Attendees at a live concert produce less



Attendees at live concerts were found to produce less stress hormones than those listening from home.

## Play: It's Not Just for Kids

JEFF MINICK

My aged 60-something friend John knows how to play.

When he and my grandkids get together, they spend hours playing card games such as Spit, Hearts, and even Old Maid. The kids scream and laugh, but John is the loudest of them all. When he gets a good hand or wins a game, I can hear him from the next room chuckling like a pirate over a chest of gold doubloons.

He's also a guy with several hobbies. One that brings him enormous pleasure is watching basketball and volleyball games played by Randolph-Macon College. John never attended this school, yet two or three times each week, you'll find him outside either in the school's gym or at an away game, intently following the games and taking enormous pride in the team.

Even in his work, John demonstrates a sense of play. For the past 12 years, he's made his money playing the stock market, doing all of his transactions with his phone, calculating trends in the market daily, taking delight when one of his investments pays out, and shrugging off his losses when he guesses wrong. Several times, he's told me that he's embarrassed making money this way, an admission that always astounds me.

“Are you kidding me?” I tell him. “Man, you're like a buccaneer riding the high seas. Lots of people would envy you for what you do.”

From the look he always gives me, I can see he isn't buying it, in part, I think, because he regards his forays into the market not as work, but as something frivolous.

Like play.

### Child Craft

Most grandparents, I suspect, get a charge out of watching their grandkids play. My little ones construct Lincoln Log towns, populate them with Play-Mobile figures, and carry on imaginative dialogues among these characters that they've made. They draw pictures,



ISB/JOHN/GETTY IMAGES

A study found that kids who started to study music at age 6 or 7 had evidence of better decision-making five years later.

Studies have found that mothers singing to their babies enhances their development.

stress hormone, while there, than do their peers listening at home. Maybe this is one fact you should keep from your teens, unless you want them out of the house for the evening.

I was telling one of my sons that studying music greatly enhances a child's ability to learn another language, just like already knowing a second language makes learning a third easier. Being a math major with a minor in music performance, he shrugged his shoulders and said, “Of course. Music is another language.”

Kids who take music lessons of any kind tend to do better in math, language, and other subjects, especially those that require memorization.

I recently had a chance to talk with Dr. Lesley Maxwell Mann, an assistant professor of choral music education and the coordinator of music education at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee. I asked her to tell us about any new find-

ings regarding music and learning. I was astounded to hear of a study showing that kids who started studying music at age 6 or 7 had evidence of better decision-making five years later. The children also showed MRI evidence of more cortical brain activity and a larger brain cortex.

Even more interesting, Mann said that college kids experienced in playing musical instruments had more resilience in the face of failure than those who didn't. She said that excelling at any instrument involves many wrong notes, much correction, and repetition in order to succeed. She claimed this resilience was transferred to other areas of learning.

What it is that makes humans desire music, I don't know. And today's music seems to change with each generation.

In today's world, while most everyone enjoys music and many are envious of those who perform, some schools are reluctant to spend the money it takes to buy the instruments and space needed to teach music. Some even leave out vocal music, which only requires a faculty member and sheet music. So why should kids study music, and why should schools teach music?

The National Association for Music Education lists many reasons. These include that mastering music requires memorization and increases memory, which will serve them throughout their lives. Music also teaches that there's no place for mediocrity; there's a right and wrong in music, as in life. Performing music helps in the search for excellence in other fields. Like sports, playing an instrument helps eye-hand coordination, discipline, goal-setting, and teamwork, all of which build

self-confidence.

Another great reason that schools should teach music is that it helps kids get involved in school. Fewer kids love English or math class, while more love music or sports and are motivated to study other disciplines so they can continue in those they love.

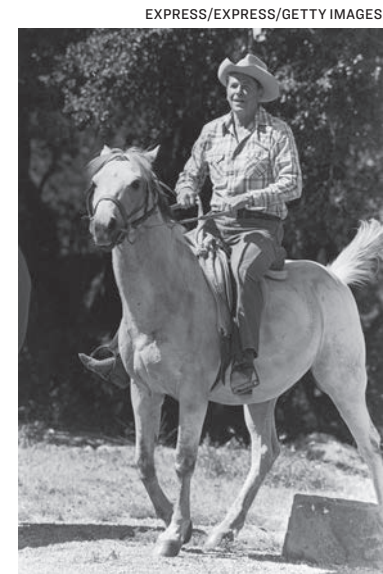
I checked with my friend Brian recently; he said his granddaughter is 10 years old now and still loving her piano, practicing, and doing well. He also sent a short video of her playing without sheet music! It was beautiful! It's too bad you can't hear it. Her two siblings and her cousins are taking piano lessons now. It looks like music is contagious, too.

I hope you all enjoyed the Super Bowl; I didn't like the final score, but had a great time watching with Mary and our dog Frosty! The best part of every evening for Frosty happens just before her bedtime.

Each night, I sing to her and rub her tummy. She loves it, and when we finish the final verse, she sits up and I put her into her bed. Try singing to, and with, your kids before they go to bed. You'll find they go to bed more relaxed and sleep better during the night.

Enjoy your kids and your spouse, and may God continue to bless you and your family!

Dr. Parnell Donahue is a pediatrician, a military veteran, and the author of four books, a blog, and ParentingWithDrPar.com. He writes The Parenting Matters Podcast and is host of WBOU's “Parenting Matters” show. He and his wife, Mary, have four adult children; all hold Ph.D.s, two are also M.D.s. Contact him at [Parenting-Matters.com](http://Parenting-Matters.com)



EXPRESS/EXPRESS/GETTY IMAGES

Public figures have their hobbies too. Here then-president-elect Ronald Reagan is riding a horse at his California ranch in 1981.

Closer to my own life, I knew a retiree, now long deceased, who enjoyed nothing more than retiring in the evenings to his basement to operate an enormous train set he had built there. A young woman here in town takes great pleasure in cooking, including some dishes prepared from recipes she has taken from The Epoch Times' Home section.

They're all playing.

### What Gives Us Joy

Over the years, I've belonged to several gyms. When my youngest son still lived at home, I would often drive him to the YMCA in Asheville so he could play basketball, and I would dutifully exercise on the various machines and even swim in the pool every once in a while. Those many excursions left me in reasonably good shape back then, but did they bring me joy?

Not really.

But once in another gym, I did encounter a highly entertaining exercise machine: an elliptical with a television screen mounted on it. As the rider pedaled and pushed the bars, enemy tanks would appear on that screen, and the bars contained buttons allowing the rider to shoot those tanks. For 30 minutes, I rode my “tank” over hills and through fields, gleefully shooting away at those other tanks without ever noticing the exercise I was getting.

It was a blast.

And that's my point. It's wonderful to know that having fun is beneficial, but it's also wonderful just to have fun.

In “Letters to Malcolm,” C.S. Lewis wrote, “Joy is the serious business of heaven.”

Finding joy and even having fun is also the serious business of life.

Jeff Minick has four children and a growing platoon of grandchildren. For 20 years, he taught history, literature, and Latin to seminars of homeschooling students in Asheville, N.C. He is the author of two novels, “Amanda Bell” and “Dust on Their Wings,” and two works of non-fiction, “Learning as I Go” and “Movies Make the Man.” Today, he lives and writes in Front Royal, Va. See [JeffMinick.com](http://JeffMinick.com) to follow his blog.

## Sweet Gestures for Mom

Whether it's a special occasion or a small surprise, here are ways to show you appreciate her

BARBARA DANZA

Whether you're thinking ahead to Mother's Day or just wanting to do something nice for your wife, daughter, or mom—here are a few very simple ideas that will surely put a smile on her face.

**Acknowledgment.** Moms can some-

times feel invisible or unappreciated for the things they do, although they probably understand that their work is cosmically important.

Pause for a moment to think of all of the selfless, caring, magical things your mom does. Whether it's her amazing roast chicken dinner or her warm and cozy hugs, her willingness to always listen or support her family no matter what—pick something specific and tell her how much you appreciate it. You'll warm her heart.

**The evening routine.** More often than not, nightly tasks such as cooking dinner, filling lunch boxes, cleaning up, and preparing



Nathan and Amy Duncan with their children and baby Marshall.

## The Gift of Adoption

A North Carolina couple's journey to adopt a premature baby with severe birth defects deepens their faith

LOUISE BEVAN

Parents Amy and Nathan Duncan from North Carolina, who always knew their adoption journey would be a little different, became adoptive parents to a premature baby boy with severe birth defects before he was even born. Doctors thought he wouldn't survive, and yet, after 104 days of fighting and fervent prayers, the baby headed home and is now "completely healthy."

"What we learned is that God is with us in sorrow and in joy," Amy said. "The Lord will either deliver us from trial, or he will walk with us through it. And either way, we have his presence, and his sustaining strength to endure whatever trial it is—and that's exactly what happened."

### A Calling

Amy and Nathan both knew early on that they wanted to adopt. "The question was, 'When?'" Amy, 30, told *The Epoch Times*. "We had three of our own children kind of quick."

She said that, with so many children in need, they started doing some research on private-lawyer adoption, agency adoption, and foster care. "I really felt like the Lord was whispering to my heart that our adoption was not going to happen through any of these avenues," she said. "It was going to be someone in need just approaching us and asking us to adopt their baby. We felt like God's calling us to open our home to children in need and to be a safe place for them."

Sure enough, on July 2, 2021, Amy received a text message from a woman she had befriended 18 months prior.

Describing the expecting woman as someone in need, Amy said: "She reached out to us and said, 'I'm pregnant, and I can have it no other way than you and Nathan being the parents of this baby.' What a surprising gift that was! We grieved for her but also rejoiced that she saw us and wanted us to be Marshall's parents. The birth mom gave us such a wonderful gift in choosing us to be the parents."

"I really felt like the Lord was saying that this is not about just getting a baby, this is about loving this person in need, hurting, and looking for help. You need to offer them all of your love, as long as they're willing to take it."

Baby Marshall was born on Aug. 30, at around 33 weeks' gestation, at Brenner Children's Hospital in Winston Salem, an hour from the Duncans' home.

Amy, a stay-at-home mom who homeschools her kids, and Nathan, who runs his own battery-selling company, Nathan's Batteries, knew Marshall's fight would begin immediately. Amy said Marshall underwent an emergency surgery "immediately after birth" as his stomach was "blown up huge and his lungs weren't able to function." He was diagnosed with intestinal perforation, meaning the meconium that usually constitutes a baby's first ex-

cretion had leaked into his abdomen. He had small lungs and was intubated, as he couldn't breathe alone.

"They found when they opened his stomach, an incision across probably 75 percent of his abdomen, that his intestines had holes throughout them," said Amy. "We were told on the phone that he was gravely ill and would likely not survive."

"My husband and I still desperately wanted to be with him at the time. We had our three children, and a foster daughter that had been with us six months, but we both felt an urgency that this baby in the NICU was our son."

As only the parents were allowed inside the ward due to COVID-19 restrictions, four days after Marshall was born, the birth mother brought the birth certificate to the hospital, met with a social worker, and told them that Amy and Nathan—who chose Marshall Nate as their son's given name—were the adoptive parents and "have full rights" to visit him.

To the couple's great surprise, the birth mother also added their family name to the birth certificate. "It was a real gift to not have to wait, you know, for everything to be finished for him to have our name," Amy said.

Despite the joy of the adoption, Marshall's prognosis was poor.

### Prayers

Once they got to the hospital, Amy said, Marshall's surgeon, doctors, and nurses were all coming in one after the other to tell them how severe his situation was. The doctors told them that the baby boy would need multiple surgeries to cut out sections of his intestines and attach them together, with multiple possible outcomes; he might have a "Crohn's-like deficiency" for life, or he might have to receive his daily nutrients through an IV, she added.

Yet neither Amy nor Nathan once considered quitting; instead, they were overwhelmed by a "fearless peace." Amy said when Nathan asked about the likelihood that Marshall's intestines would heal spontaneously, the doctors told them, "That's not going to happen." The couple then turned to prayer.

"Nathan prayed on our first day meeting Marshall," Amy recalled. "He read scripture to Marshall, saying he wanted that to be the first thing he spoke to him. He then laid his hands on his stomach and just so sweetly called out to God to please spare our son from all of the suffering foretold to us by the doctors and to heal his intestines. If that was not his will, then we trust him still and ask for his strength to handle it."



The Duncans encourage other families to consider fostering or adopting.

“What we learned is that God is with us in sorrow and in joy.”

Amy Duncan



Marshall was born early, around 33 weeks' gestation.



Marshall today.

Three days later, Marshall started passing food by himself and the drain attached to his stomach stayed clear, she said.

"The doctors and nurses couldn't believe it," Amy recalled. "After that, the drain always stayed clear. And dye tests showed there were no holes or leaks or kinks in his intestines whatsoever. Finally, the doctor said, 'You know, I can't explain it. I don't understand how, but somehow [Marshall's intestines] are just as if they were made perfectly, without the holes that were in there before.'"

"It was truly the Lord who healed them perfectly," Amy said. "We have just been in continual amazement that the Lord gave us this gift and our Marshall eats normally and won't have lifetime stomach problems. What a gift!"

It then took 104 days in the NICU for Marshall to breathe fully on his own. During this time, the Duncans drove back and forth from their home to Ronald McDonald House every evening to be with their baby.

Amy juggled visits with her foster daughter's birth mom, social workers, and homeschooling. Friends and family brought meals and helped babysit. "Our needs were met, and even exceeded," said Amy.

On Dec. 12, 2021, Marshall was discharged from the hospital, just in time for Christmas.

Amy and Nathan, who had built strong relationships with Marshall's care team, learned how to monitor his oxygen, use his NG (nasogastric) feeding tube and work the feeding pump, and felt prepared. At first, the mass of cords and equipment felt intimidating, Amy said. But the joy of Marshall's homecoming and the sheer thrill of the Duncan kids meeting their long-awaited sibling overshadowed it all.

"What's really neat is that Marshall has fair skin and red hair, just like my husband and my son!" Amy marveled.

The Duncans gave an update on Feb. 17 that Marshall is now "completely tube free and completely healthy." "He is now like a normal baby with no NG tube and no oxygen. Praise the Lord!" Amy said.

She hopes others will be inspired by their very unique adoption story.

"If anyone is questioning whether they want to foster or adopt, our encouragement from our family would be to do it," she shared. "You have the opportunity to change the trajectory of a child's life forever, being able to show what it's like to have a healthy, stable, loving family."

"Don't look at it from what you can handle, or what you can do, but look at their perspective."

Arshdeep Sarao contributed to this report.

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### HISTORY

## The Argentine Author Who Opposed Collectivism and Never Flinched

Jorge Luis Borges received the Miguel de Cervantes Prize in 1980, the most important literary award in the Spanish language

EMMANUEL RINCON

It's no secret that Jorge Luis Borges of Argentina is one of the most outstanding authors in literature. His unique stories, which explore eternity, pain, time, and metafiction, have made him an obligatory reference in this field.

Despite his introverted character, the blindness from which he suffered in his last decades, and his undeniable inoffensiveness, Borges spent the last years of his life being canceled for his staunch defense of individualism by an academic and literary world increasingly committed to collectivist causes.

Unlike the authors of the Latin American boom, made up of the Colombian Gabriel García Márquez, Argentine Julio Cortázar, Mexican Carlos Fuentes—who would later withdraw his support from Castroism—and Peruvian Mario Vargas Llosa—who did the same as Fuentes and became a great classical liberal—Borges never endorsed the Cuban revolution or expressed himself in favor of any movement that tried to enhance the figure of the collective over the individual. This was very clear to him from an early age.

"The most urgent of the problems of our time (already denounced with prophetic lucidity by the almost forgotten Spencer) is the gradual interference of the state in the acts of the individual; in the fight against this evil, whose names are communism and Nazism, Argentine individualism, perhaps useless or harmful until now, will

find justification and duties," Borges wrote in "Our poor individualism" in *Collected Works II*.

Borges received the Miguel de Cervantes Award—the most important literary award in the Spanish language—for his global work in 1980. However, despite being a candidate for the Nobel Prize in Literature for more than 20 years, he never received the recognition that was given during that time to the Chilean communist Pablo Neruda in 1971 or to Fidel Castro's personal friend Márquez in 1982.

María Kodama, the wife of the late Borges, said that on the occasion of an honorary doctorate being granted to him by the University of Chile in 1976, the writer scheduled a visit to the country, which was then ruled by the dictator Augusto Pinochet.

When the Nobel authorities found out about the trip Borges was planning to make, they called him from Stockholm to try to dissuade him, to which the writer replied: "Look, sir; I thank you for your kindness, but after what you have just told me my duty is to go to Chile. There are two things a man cannot allow: bribes or letting himself be bribed. Thank you very much, good day."

Borges fled from politics

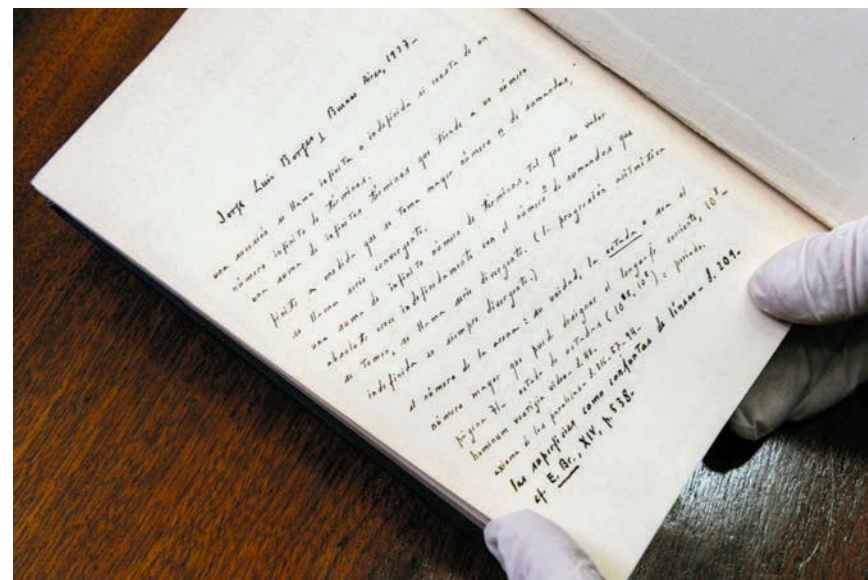
Borges—the author of such works as "Ficciones" ("Fictions"), "El Aleph" ("The Aleph and Other Stories"), and "El Libro de Arena" ("The Book of Sand")—always tried to dissociate himself from any kind of political struggle. However, he couldn't

find justification and duties," Borges wrote in "Our poor individualism" in *Collected Works II*.

Borges fled from politics

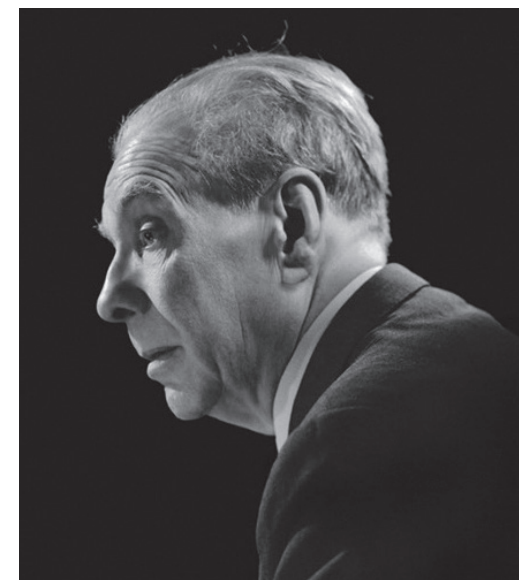
Borges—the author of such works as "Ficciones" ("Fictions"), "El Aleph" ("The Aleph and Other Stories"), and "El Libro de Arena" ("The Book of Sand")—always tried to dissociate himself from any kind of political struggle. However, he couldn't

JUAN MABROMATA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



A book with handwritten notes by Argentine writer Jorge Luis Borges (1899–1986) at the National Library in Buenos Aires on Sept. 24, 2010.

PUBLIC DOMAIN



A portrait of Jorge Luis Borges by Annemarie Heinrich in 1967.

avoid being sincere every time he was asked in interviews about his ideological positions or his very determined anti-Peronism.

"I have never belonged to any party, nor am I the representative of any government ... I believe in the Individual, I disbelieve in the state. Perhaps I am nothing more than a peaceful and silent anarchist who dreams of the disappearance of governments. The idea of a maximum of the individual and a minimum of the state is what I would like today," said Borges, who declared himself to be a follower of Spencerian liberal anarchism, something very similar to what we know today as libertarianism.

The Argentine writer wasn't forgiven for his anti-communism by leftist intellectuals and the press, and it earned him—as it happens today with those who defend individual liberties—insults and barbarities, for which he was forced to reflect on the matter.

"There are communists who maintain that to be anti-communist is to be fascist. This is as incomprehensible as saying that not to be Catholic is to be Mormon," Borges said.

Curiously, his comment has held true over time, because decades later, communists (and collectivists in general) continue to cry "fascist" when anyone opposes their coercive policies that infringe on individual freedoms.

Unlike most "intellectuals" of the time, Borges was one of the few who understood that Nazism and communism, far from being two opposing ideologies, were monsters of the same left-wing collectivist strand, which sought to make individuals submit to the absolute power of the state.

"You start with the idea that the state should run everything; that it's better to have a corporation running things, and not have everything 'left to chaos, or to individual circumstances; and you get to Nazism or communism, of course. Every idea begins as a beautiful possibility, and then, well, when it gets old it is used for tyranny, for oppression," he wrote.

Clearly, Borges wasn't the typical intellectual who smiled before governments to receive awards, money, and applause. He was, from the beginning, faithful to his ideas and criticized—as few did—the ineffectiveness of states to manage people's lives. He always tried to create awareness in humanity about the importance of protecting the rights of the largest minority on the face of the earth: the individual.

"To me, the state is the common enemy now," he said. "I would want—I have said this many times—a minimum of the State and a maximum of the individual."

Emmanuel Rincón is a lawyer, writer, novelist, and essayist. He has won several international literary awards. He is editor-at-large at *El American*. This article was originally published on *FEE.org*

### DEAR NEXT GENERATION

## Mottos to Live by

→ Advice from our readers to our young people

I'm 81.

The two lifetime mottos that I still constantly use are, "Do what you have to do when you have to do it" and "I can do this" (I whisper this to myself).

I was raised in the 1940s and 1950s when laughter and fun plus a positive attitude were plentiful, probably in contrast to World War II and all of its trauma.

Fortunately, I was raised in the 1940s and 1950s, when laughter, fun, and positive attitudes were plentiful, probably in contrast to World War II and all of its trauma. Dad was a pilot who loved to tell jokes. I know he honed them while flying the dangerous HUMP in World War II. Mom was a homemaker who always sang and whistled. Because her parents were born in Bohemia (Czechoslovakia) and educated in Austria, singing and dancing were forever part of our huge family's heritage.

In my 20s, I had six children. When my marriage went awry, I decided that I had

to go back to college (do what you have to do when you have to do it). I finished in two years and started teaching high school at age 33 (I can do this, I whispered). It was tough!

At age 34, I bought five acres of desert for pennies south of the charming town of Cave Creek, Arizona, and plunked a new double-wide there. We had no water. We hauled water for two years, thanks to the help from Mom, who bought an old pickup. My children had tons of fun riding motorbikes and horses through the empty desert, which is now filled with hundreds of expensive homes.

In my 40s, I asked my oldest son, "Do you think we can build a house?" Our trailer was saying, "Absolutely," he said. We put our resources together, with family members, got it done in two years (do what you have to do when you have to do it).

In my 60s, I decided to paint the interior of my house, which was sorely needed. Climbing on a tall ladder and planning one month per room, I finished the job (I can do this).

In my 70s, I decided to become a writer. I finished four self-published novels. The fourth is a World War II historical novel about pilots who flew the Himalayas (do what you want to do when you want to do it).

Dear readers, choose two mottos that work for you and refer to them when needed as a psychological brace. Keep them simple and put a lot of love in your heart.

—Dottie Gomez, Arizona



Dottie Gomez and her family in the Arizona desert.

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 DOTTIE GOMEZ

## A VIENNA TRADITION

# A Miniature World in Snow

Snow globes were invented in Austria by a designer of surgical instruments

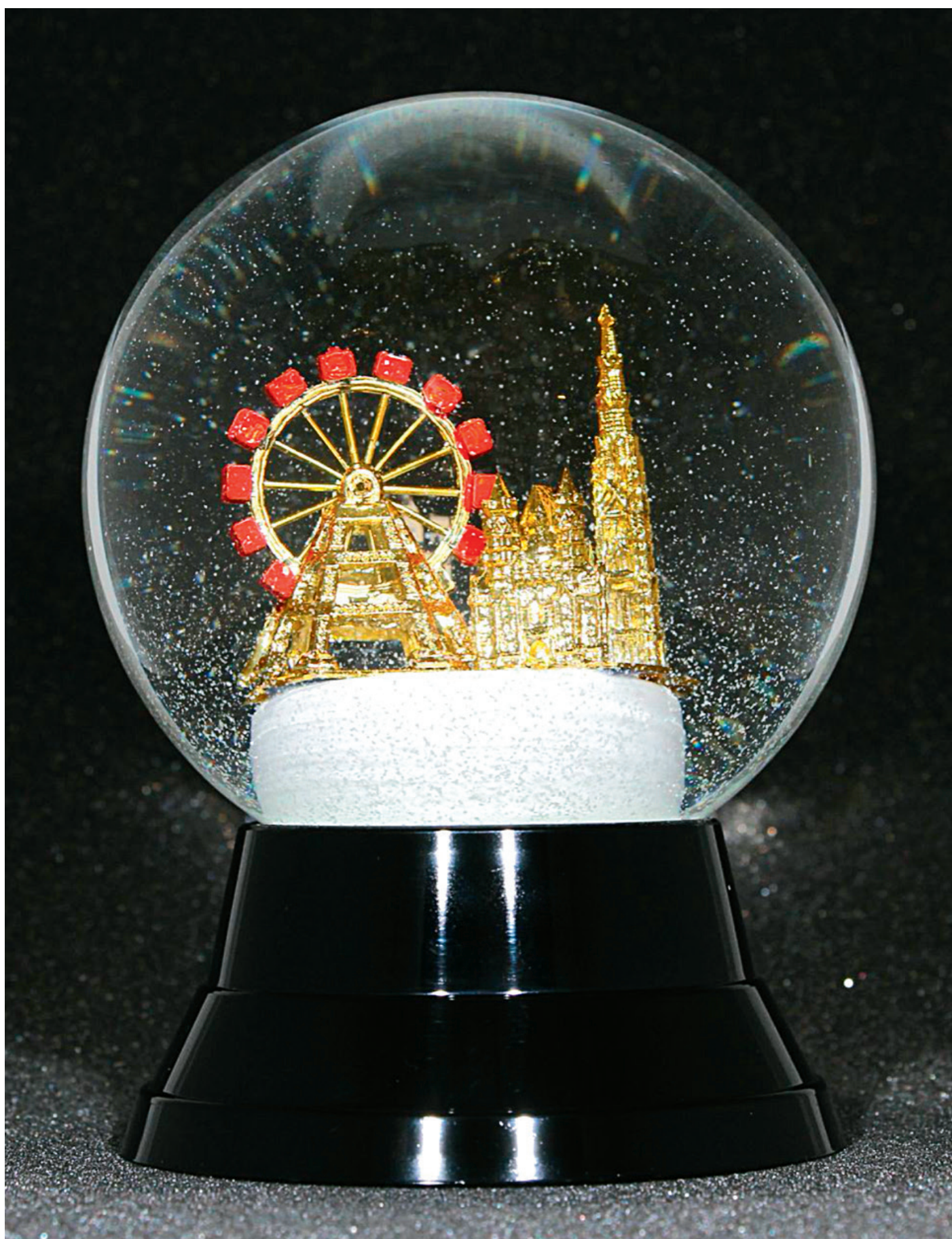
WIBKE CARTER

There is a quote that says, “To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake, it is necessary to stand out in the cold.”

These days, you might get away with appreciating it in the palm of your hand in the warmth of your home, thanks to an inadvertent invention from more than 100 years ago.

Not many people know that the inventor of the snow globe was actually a designer of surgical instruments. Erwin Perzy, a Viennese man credited with designing and patenting the first snow globe as we know it, was looking for a way to improve the lamp used for medical surgery, originally called the Schusterkugel (or shoemaker’s lamp in German), which various craftsmen had been using to enhance the lighting for their work.

In 1900, he found that putting glass shavings as glitter inside a water-filled glass globe to boost the light didn’t work because they fell too quickly. He then tried using semolina. It failed as far as enhancing the light, but the way it suspended in the water and floated gently back down reminded him of snow falling. Perzy had been interested in toys and toy making, and when he put a ceramic figurine of the Mariazell Basilica (a baroque church in the Austrian region of



(Above) “A snow globe of Vienna’s Stephansdom and Ferris wheel.

(Left) Vienna’s Ferris wheel.



PAUL BAUER/WIENTOURISMUS

Styria) into the semolina Schusterkugel and gave it to a friend who then ordered more in order to sell to the visiting pilgrims at his stall, the snow globe was born.

Perzy mainly focused on religious themes, and many well-to-do Austrians wanted a piece of this novel art in their homes. Perzy’s firm became a success. In 1908, he was honored for his invention by Emperor Franz Joseph I.

### Snow Globe Craze

However, several more developments—thanks to new materials and production processes—had to happen before the snow globe occupied a spot in every family home. News of this new object had reached across the pond to the Americans. In the 1950s, the snow globe craze really hit the United States

after several exhibitions at the Nuremberg International Toy Fair.

In Europe, the small glass sphere had become the Christmas present to get for Roman Catholic children, but U.S. buyers managed to convince the Perzy firm to branch out from its mainly religious themes. Disney, tourist landmarks, Christmas scenes, and different worlds began to appear in the snow globe. Tiny soldiers were put inside to boost civilian morale during World War II, and the post-war tourist boom placed snow globes in every tourist gift shop in the country. Walt Disney’s earliest snow globe dates back to 1959, with a tiny figurine of Bambi.

The Perzy snow globe was forever immortalized in the 1941 classic film “Citizen Kane” in its dramatic opening sequence where it falls from the dead man’s hand to the floor

and shatters into pieces. This certainly wouldn’t be the case today with most other snow globes, as plastic or plexiglass came to replace glass in the making of the globes. Other changes brought on by new materials included injection molding of figures and even the snow itself being replaced by plastic flakes, as well as glycol being mixed with water to increase the viscosity. This made snow globes even more accessible and cheaper to produce; places such as Hong Kong and China could now mass-produce them.

### Family Business

Despite all this, the original Wiener Schneekugelmanufaktur (a Viennese snow globe manufacturing) has kept its tradition alive as a family business. Perzy’s grandson, Erwin Perzy III, only recently retired and his daughter, Sabine Perzy II, is now in charge.

“In cheap imitations, the snow drops after only a few seconds. In our models, depending on size, it can take up to two minutes,” Sabine said.

Semolina might have been replaced by a secret concoction of plastic and wax, but the exact composition is a closely guarded family secret known only to Erwin Perzy III and Sabine.

So what about the ornaments inside? They used to be made by hand, cast out of pewter, milled, and carved by Erwin Perzy himself, but now they’re made in small batches drawn using a program and produced by 3D printers. There are more than 350 models of Perzy snow globes, from the Vienna Ferris wheel to the Stephansdom and characters from the latest Disney movies to purple dragons or red glitter shoes all occupy a place. However, what sets the Perzy snow globe apart is the customizability, as tailor-made orders make up 20 percent of total sales. The most illustrious custom ordered Perzy snow globes might be those created for former U.S. presidents, including Bill Clinton and Ronald Reagan.

A manifestation of these strange times also lives on in the Vienna snow globe, thanks to Sabine, who came up with the idea of putting a roll of toilet paper in the snow globe during the pandemic. She had the inspiration when she saw that even bakers were making bread in the shape of a toilet paper roll to make fun of the strange phenomenon of stockpiling the bathroom necessities during 2020. These particular snow globes sold very well, with her customers appreciating the humor encapsulated in a snowy setting as a memento.

“We have also made snow globes for many famous movies, snow globes with industry logos, and giveaway snow globes for large corporations,” she said.

They even have Japanese corporate customers. The car manufacturer Mitsubishi has ordered hundreds of thousands of snow globes over the years.

“Some models take half a year to make. We once had a customer who wanted her own home in a snow globe as a present to her husband for their 50th wedding anniversary,” Sabine said.

*Wibke Carter is a travel writer who hails from Germany. She has lived in New Zealand and New York, and presently enjoys life in London. Her website is WibkeCarter.com*

**In the 1950s, the snow globe craze really hit America after several exhibitions at the Nuremberg International Toy Fair.**



ORIGINAL WIENER SCHNEEKUGEL E.U.



2



3



4

1. Stephansdom, or St. Stephen’s Cathedral, a Vienna landmark.

2. The Stephansdom snow globe produced by the Perzy family.

3. Inventor Erwin Perzy, at age 25 in this photo.

4. Erwin Perzy I created the first snowglobe in 1900.

5. The Perzy family.

6. Erwin Perzy III at work.

7. Old casting molds.

8. Old equipment used to make the Perzy snow-globes.



7



8

## GOLDEN AGE FILMS

## ‘Two Smart People’ from 1946: Masks, Mystery, and Mardi Gras

TIFFANY BRANNAN

It has many names: Shrove Tuesday, Fat Tuesday, Pancake Day. As the day before Ash Wednesday—the first day of Lent for Christians—this holiday has a rich tradition. Italy has its masked Carnevale and Brazil its colorful Carnival, but in the United States it is mainly celebrated in Louisiana, where Mardi Gras is the event of the year. One tradition all these events have in common is the wearing of masks—and I don’t mean surgical ones.

Most classic films that feature Shrove Tuesday in their plots depict the South American Carnival rather than New Orleans’s Mardi Gras. One exception to this is “Two Smart People,” an obscure 1946 film starring Lucille Ball, John Hodiak, and Lloyd Nolan. Directed by Academy Award nominee Jules Dassin, this black-and-white features Lucille Ball, the famous comedienne of “I Love Lucy,” who plays it straight as conwoman Ricki Woodner.

Her leading man, swindler Ace Connors, is played by John Hodiak, a Ukrainian American actor who got his big chance during World War II because his 4-F status made him a prime replacement for the A-list actors in the service. Lloyd Nolan completes the trio as Bob Simms, a kindhearted detective on his last assignment.

### A Crime Mystery

Ace Connors and Ricki Woodner meet by

chance at a Beverly Hills hotel, where each plans to swindle a gullible millionaire (Lloyd Corrigan). Both shady characters succeed in spoiling the other’s racket. Connors concludes that they could make a great team, but Ricki wants revenge on him because he spoiled her swindle. These two crooks have another mutual business associate, nervous criminal Fly Feletti (Elisha Cook Jr.). After unsuccessfully attempting to locate Connors’s \$500,000 of stolen government bonds, Feletti tries to blackmail Ricki into using her wiles to learn Connors’s secret.

Meanwhile, detective Bob Simms is finally caught up with Connors. After years of playing cat and mouse, they’ve become good friends, so they amicably discuss the case. Connors has agreed to serve five years in prison, having wired his intention to give himself up in New York to the authorities. However, he proposes to Simms that they savor the train trip together as friendly traveling companions before Connors turns himself in and Simms retires. The detective warily accepts this suspicious proposition because he hopes to learn where the swindler is hiding the bonds during the trip.

As the two settle into their comfortable train compartment, they meet Ricki, who acts delighted at their “surprise” meeting. The pretty con-woman joins the strange duo in their adventures during the trip, while she and Connors kindle a romance. While heading east, they stop at a few places, including Santa Fe



1

and New Orleans, always with Simms at their side and Feletti hot on their trail.

Is the lady in cahoots with our nervous criminal? Is she trying to get the bonds for herself, or is she really falling in love with Connors? The adventure culminates in a masked chase around New Orleans on the evening of Mardi Gras.

### Action at Mardi Gras

Connors and Ricki couldn’t have visited New Orleans at a better time. They arrive in town

after nightfall on Mardi Gras itself. The streets are filled with parades and costumed revelers, all of whom are wearing festive masks. Confetti fills the air, and streamers twist around people like jungle vines. Although this sequence was doubtless filmed on a Hollywood soundstage, it seems like the real streets of the Big Easy. The chaotic energy in the throng of costumed merrymakers is so real it makes you remember what it’s like to be in such a pulsing crowd of strangers wearing masks that cover the upper part of their faces!



2



3

1. A Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans circa 1945. “Two Smart People” (1946) is one of the few classic Hollywood films to feature a Mardi Gras scene.

2. Ricki Woodner (Lucille Ball) and Ace Connors (John Hodiak) in fabulous Mardi Gras costumes.

3. A publicity still of Ace Connors (John Hodiak) and Ricki Woodner (Lucille Ball), two con artists who may be falling in love, from “Two Smart People.”

meaning is like the characters’ personal situations. Connors and Ricki have a meaningful conversation about the background and significance of Mardi Gras. As they enjoy a romantic supper aboard a riverboat, Ricki muses, “Why can’t this go on forever?”

Connors responds, “Because that would be a contradiction in terms. Do you know what the word ‘carnival’ means?”

Ricki guesses, “Fun, I suppose. Everybody having a good time?”

“Yes, but only because the good times are coming to an end. In Latin, it’s ‘carne vale.’ It means ‘farewell to the flesh.’ ... None of this would have any meaning unless it was defying a time limit.”

“Is that the meaning of Mardi Gras?” Ricki asks.

“Mardi Gras is only Shrove Tuesday. After that comes Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Tomorrow is sackcloth and ashes, fasting and repentance. Now let’s yet drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die!”

This conversation is a reminder of what Mardi Gras really is: It’s a time of feasting and celebration before the fasting and sacrifice of Lent. Mardi Gras falls on a different date each year, depending on when Easter is. The feasting, parties, and wearing of masks last from approximately the end of the Christmas season until Ash Wednesday.

Symbolically, everyone removes his mask at the stroke of midnight after Mardi Gras, when Lent officially begins. (In the past few years, this custom has taken on a whole new meaning.) This reminds us that the two-some’s romantic dreams are short-lived,

since eventually the masks must come off. They can’t hide from the law or their past crimes—personified by Simms and Feletti—for long as Connors tries to escape in the throng after he’s removed his mask.

### A Meaningful Season

“Two Smart People” features an intriguing, different take on a crime or detective story by showing both the criminal and the policeman as very reasonable men, who are friends despite being on opposite sides of the law. This obscure film also offers an interesting opportunity to observe a very different side of Lucille Ball’s talent than most people remember. It also features some other talented actors with whom most people are unfamiliar.

This movie’s finale at Mardi Gras makes it timely. Obviously, it’s an appropriate choice of film for the seasons of Shrovetide and Lent. Beyond the seasonal appropriateness, the vivid example of two rogues celebrating Mardi Gras illustrates a truth modern society needs to learn during this season: The masks must eventually come off, revealing the sordid truths.

*Tiffany Brannan is a 20-year-old opera singer, Hollywood history/vintage beauty copywriter, film reviewer, fashion historian, travel writer, and ballet writer. In 2016, she and her sister founded the Pure Entertainment Preservation Society, an organization dedicated to reforming the arts by reinstating the Motion Picture Production Code.*

**That this story’s climax takes place at Mardi Gras is no coincidence.**

MOMO PRODUCTIONS/GETTY IMAGES

ALL ILLUSTRATIONS BY SHUTTERSTOCK



Some homeschooling days may be great; some may be miserable. Keep your eye on progress, not perfection.

# What to Do When Homeschool Feels Overwhelming

Tips to move forward with focus

BARBARA DANZA

There are a number of things that make homeschooling a wonderful choice for so many families. At the top of most parents' lists are the endless options and resources available to homeschoolers, not to mention the relentless stream of ideas and dreams a homeschooling parent can conjure once they embrace the freedom homeschooling allows.

With so many ideas and options, though, homeschooling can quickly become an overwhelming proposition—leaving parents frozen like a deer in the headlights or covering like an ostrich in the sand.

Whether you're embarking on a new homeschooling journey or you've been homeschooling for a while, here are a few tips to break through those feelings of overwhelm so you can move forward with focused action.

## Define Your Goals

What are you fundamentally aiming to do? Take the time, preferably with a pen and paper in hand, to define long-term, medium-term, and short-term goals for your homeschool. Setting some boundaries around what you're doing and fine-tuning your focus will go a long way toward reducing anxiety.

For each day, define no more than three short-term goals. As a prompt, you might say, "Today, it would be great if we..." Further, define three medium-term goals, perhaps for the current season or semester or period before your next break. As a prompt, you might say, "By the end of this semester, it would be great if we..." Finally, define your goals for the "school year," however you define that in your homeschool. What would you like to have accomplished at the end of this year?

Doing this regularly, and considering the extent to which your daily goals support your longer-term goals, will continually refine and improve your focus.

In addition to specific goals like these, you should also define your overall aim, your mission, and your purpose in homeschooling. Why are you doing this? What are you trying to provide for your children and your family? What is your north star?

## Cut the Fat

Some common habits can exacerbate a sense of overwhelm significantly. Homeschooling requires focus and attention. By virtue of embarking on the journey of homeschooling, you're deeming this endeavor a priority.

With that, aim to eliminate distractions and less important drains on your time and energy—like screen time, for example. Curb your consumption of news and online content, rein in your tendency to overcommit yourself, and clean up your calendar to ensure that the only appointments you have align with your responsibilities and priorities. Give homeschooling the place it deserves in your life at this time.

**You're raising human beings, not programming robots. Embrace flexibility, free time, and boredom; be willing to toss the schedule out the window.**

## Focus on Progress, Not Perfection

You may have a vision of the perfect home-school day, where you and the children greet the sun on your morning nature walk, head back home for chores and math before breakfast, spend the afternoon engaging in art and science projects, and round out the day with poetry teatime with friends.

It's great to envision beauty and even perfection in your homeschool, but don't allow that to cripple you or steal your joy in experiencing the reality before you on a day-to-day basis. You're not going to have a perfect day. You'll have some great days, tons of good days, and a whole bunch of crummy days, too. Such is life. Focus on progress, both from an overall perspective and in specific areas. You need only aim to be a teensy tiny bit better than the day before to experience a sense of progress and thus great joy and meaning.

## Let Go

It can be tempting for some parents to devise a host of elaborate plans, specifying activities for every second of every day, and then feel frustrated when things don't go according to plan. If you're feeling overwhelmed by either what you're defining as noncompliance on the part of your kids or just overall failure because your grand vision isn't manifesting in real life, let go of the reins a bit.

You're raising human beings, not programming robots. Embrace flexibility, free time, and boredom; be willing to toss the schedule out the window. Allow projects to wrap up when they naturally do. If a Lego city is in development and you're stressing because you haven't done math yet today, take a deep breath and consider how much geometry is built into the making of said Lego city—not to mention valuable sibling connection. Let go of a need to control, and see if the sense of overwhelm doesn't lift just a bit.

## Define Nonnegotiables

Your ideal education for your kids is probably rich and robust, with a variety of subject matter. When you strip it down to the bare bones, though, you should be able to identify the most important topics to continue making progress on, such as reading, writing, and arithmetic.

It can calm a sense of overwhelm to define what the baseline of the education you're providing for your children is so that when life gets crazy and everyone just needs a slower pace or a lighter week, you can still move forward.

## Have Fun

Let me let you in on a little secret: Children are natural learners. Given a loving home, healthy boundaries with screens, and a stocked bookshelf, it's actually unlikely that children are not learning. So, rather than worry your way through this amazing enterprise you've signed up for, have fun! More important than mastering fractions is the connection and adventure you share with your family. Enjoy your kids and this journey while you can.

# Spring Cleaning: Time for a Fresh Start



Ensure your time is being spent on what matters, including downtime if you're not getting enough rest.

BARBARA DANZA

Regardless of what the groundhog may have predicted, it won't be long before we notice longer days, warmer sunshine, budding flowers, and the onset of glorious spring. After the "dark winters" we've been through during the past few years, this year, more than ever, it seems apropos to embrace the spring cleaning season and get ready for a fresh start.

The mindset of spring cleaning can be applied to many areas of life. Here are a few ideas to inspire you and put that pep back in your step.

## The mindset of spring cleaning can be applied to many areas of life.



**Home** Obviously, we traditionally think of spring cleaning in reference to our homes. This is a great time of year to open up the windows and let the fresh air in, even if it's still a little chilly. Go through those closets and drawers that have been neglected for a while. Gather items that no longer serve you into donation receptacles. Tackle some of the less frequent deep-cleaning tasks that you've been meaning to get to. Infuse some new, fresh scents in your home and repair or replace things as needed.



**Car** Not to be overlooked, your car might benefit from some spring cleaning as well. Clean out the clutter, give it a good wash, purchase a new air freshener, and enjoy cruising around in a fresh, clean ride.



**Digital Devices** Your computer, your phone, and wherever else you keep digital apps and files could likely use a spring cleaning. Delete the clutter, organize the folders, get your inboxes to zero, print out the pictures you might never have gotten around to printing, and remove the apps that are distracting you from what matters or just taking up space.



**Your Calendar** Your calendar can tell you how you've been spending your most precious resource—your time. Apply a spring-cleaning mindset to a calendar review where you renegotiate or cancel obligations that don't align with your priorities, add events or appointments that bring joy or meaning to your life, and ensure that your overall time is being spent on what matters, including rest and downtime if you're not getting enough of that. Your calendar should largely make you feel inspired and not stressed.



**Your Plans** If you're like many of us, plans and goals may have taken a back seat in recent years. Well, dust off those hopes and dreams and allow yourself to brainstorm again for the future. Spring is the season of sowing seeds, of hope and new beginnings. Take time to think about your future, set some goals, aim at something inspiring and meaningful, and launch into this spring full of hope.



# FOR KIDS ONLY

THE EPOCH TIMES

Week 9, 2022

## A SWING SONG

By William Allingham

Sing, swing,  
Sing, sing,  
Here's my throne, and I am a King!  
Sing, sing,  
Swing, sing,  
Farewell earth, for I'm on the wing!  
Low, high,  
Here I fly,  
Like a bird through sunny sky;  
Free, free,  
Over the lea,  
Over the mountain, over the sea!  
Up, down,  
Up and down,  
Which is the way to London Town?  
Where, where?  
Up in the air,  
Close your eyes, and now you are there!  
Soon, soon,  
Afternoon,  
Over the sunset, over the moon;  
Far, far,  
Over all bar,  
Sweeping on from star to star!  
No, no,  
Low, low,  
Sweeping daisies with my toe.  
Slow, slow,  
To and fro,  
Slow—  
slow—  
slow.

## WHY COULDN'T THE PIRATES PLAY CARDS?



VASILEV ALEXANDR/SHUTTERSTOCK

**Man is most nearly himself when he achieves the seriousness of a child at play.**

HERACLITUS (535 B.C.-475 B.C.), GREEK PHILOSOPHER

HERACLITUS: PUBLIC DOMAIN; (FLAG) SHUTTERSTOCK

By Aidan Danza, age 15

# EAGLE COURTSHIP AND CHICK-REARING

(EAGLES) GETTY IMAGES; (BACKGROUND) SHUTTERSTOCK



**The process of bringing another animal into the world is a beautiful thing,** and this holds true especially for our national bird. Perhaps the Founding Fathers (Ben Franklin aside) were on to something when they named a bird that stays with its partner with undying fidelity to be the symbol of our country.

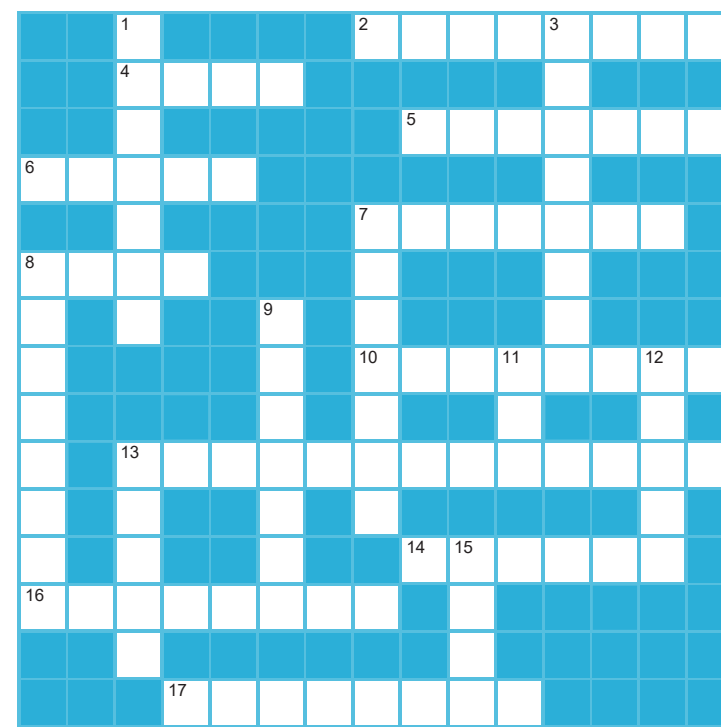
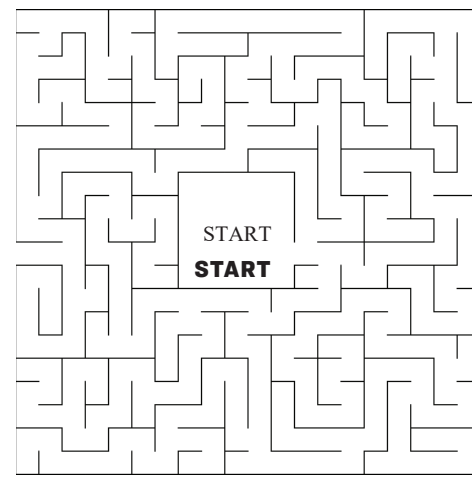
Whereas humans have dancing and dating, the eagles have death-defying aerobatics. The two eagles fly up, high into the air, stretch their legs toward each other, and lock themselves together. In this way, they free-fall a long distance until they get close to the ground, when they (hopefully) are able to disengage their talons and fly up again to repeat the process. In rare cases, the talons become hopelessly entangled and the eagles fall to their deaths. Perhaps this is some sort of extreme trust exercise: Both eagles must let go of each other at exactly the right moment in their fall. Another interesting feature of the eagle's courtship is their nest. Eagle

nests are used for years. Prime real estate for an eagle is in an evergreen tree in a secluded area near water, but they will build in other types or on the ground if need be. Eagles build their enormous nests with mostly sticks and branches piled on top of each other. When the female is ready, she'll line the nest with soft plants and lay her eggs. On a side note, the largest eagle nest, located in Florida, was actually used for 30 years until it fell out of its tree. At that time, it weighed two tons. It's in this enormous house that the young eagles are brought up. Each year, an eagle will raise 1 to 3 eaglets. The female

A pair of Bald eagles do a bonding ritual of flying together and touching or locking talons together and then tumbling down through the air.

takes the lead role in chick-rearing, while the male brings fish and other foods. About 50 percent of his time is spent with the eaglets, as opposed to 90 percent of the female's time. The rearing of a baby eagle is a long process by bird standards. Eagles fledge (leave the nest) between 8 and 14 weeks, and are cared for by their parents until anywhere from 4 to 11 weeks after fledging.

# AMAZING ESCAPES!



## Down

- Headbone (7)
- Board game with letter tiles (8)
- "Left foot blue" party game (7)
- Dick's dog (8)
- Game with five die (7)
- Afternoon hour in Italy (3)
- A king and a queen rule this game (5)
- I beg your pardon (5)
- The Game of \_\_\_\_\_ (4)

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

Easy puzzle 1

4	7		
3	6		
+	-	x	÷

Solution For Easy 1  
Z = (6 + 7 + 9) (6 + 9) = (9 + 2)

Medium puzzle 1

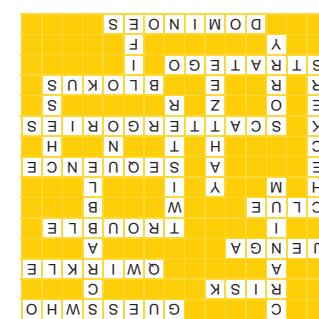
4	17		
3	10		
+	-	x	÷

Solution for Medium 1  
V = 01 + 6 = 21

Hard puzzle 1

9	29		
2	13		
+	-	x	÷

Solution for Hard 1  
6 - 2 = (21 + 62)



## Across

- Figure out the name on your opponent's Mystery Card (5,3)
- WWII world conquest game (4)
- Tile game where six-tile rows score (7)
- 54-piece wooden block game (5)
- Don't get in \_\_\_\_\_! (7)

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Epoch Times reporter Charlotte Cuthbertson interviews Yuma County Sheriff Leon Wilmot in the desert by the U.S.-Mexico border.



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*Full-Time*

Contribute articles that give health-related practical tips, philosophical insights, research-backed findings, and expert advice. You will work remotely with a health editor.

**Requirements**

- Bachelor's degree or 2 years of combined experience in news reporting or health-related reporting
- Knowledge and interest in a wide range of health-related topics, trends and methods
- Knowledge of how to interpret and report on scientific studies

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**Assistant Food Editor**  
*Full-Time*

Help shape and execute food content strategy, build, and work with a team of writers, and manage day-to-day operations, including editing and occasionally writing a wide range of food and cooking articles for web and print.

**Requirements**

- 4+ years journalism experience, with at least 2 years' experience editing food, including developing and editing recipes
- Professional cooking experience preferred (culinary school, restaurant/catering jobs, test kitchen work, etc.)
- A passion for food and home cooking
- Enthusiasm for growing the Epoch Times brand

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**Food Reporter**  
*Freelance*

Contribute feature articles about time-honored culinary traditions and recipes, from across the U.S. and around the world. Cover profiles of inspiring people dedicated to keeping these culinary traditions alive—whether chefs, artisans, entrepreneurs, family business owners, farmers, or home cooks.

**Requirements**

- 2+ years journalism experience, preferably with a focus on food/drink
- Professional cooking and/or recipe development experience a plus
- A passion for food, people, and storytelling

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**Education Features Writer**  
*Freelance*

Contribute Education-related feature stories. This may include, but is not limited to, stories about specific educational schools or programs, education methods, homeschool, or lifelong learning.

**Requirements**

- Experience in writing on education
- Excellent communication skills

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Send your author bio, 2+ samples of your work (URLs and/or attachments, please include links to any relevant photo or videos samples), and pitch an idea for the article you would like to write for us to [editor@americanessence.net](mailto:editor@americanessence.net)