

# THE EPOCH TIMES

# LIFE &

# TRADITION



BIBA KAVENICH

Pitch a tent in your own backyard. Bonus: Modern amenities await just a few steps away.

## Bringing the Fun Home

5 family outings for tight budgets

ANNIE HOLMQUIST

In 1987, a beaming New York Giants quarterback was the first person publicly asked what soon became a well-known question: “Phil Simms, you’ve just won the Super Bowl! What are you doing next?”

“I’m gonna go to Disney World!” Simms said.

Many average Americans couldn’t give Simms’s answer today. The reason isn’t Disney’s “woke” policies, but the fact that families can’t afford the cost of a trip to “the happiest place on earth.” But it’s not just

Disneyland that’s unaffordable, according to a recent article in *The Hustle*. Other classic American outings, such as baseball games and movies, are also beyond the budget of many average families.

That hasn’t always been the case. In 1960, it required 3.8 hours of work to afford a baseball game, 1.4 hours to afford a movie, and 13.5 hours to go to Disneyland. Now, the cost of those activities has increased by 32 percent, 22 percent, and 96 percent, respectively.

Given that times of togetherness are essential to the well-being of the most basic building block of society,

the family, it’s a shame that these activities are out of reach to many. Perhaps it’s time to think outside the box and consider how families can still have bonding time, just with a cheaper price tag. Having grown up in a family with a limited budget, I have a few practical ideas up my sleeve.

**Water Parks, Homestyle Version**  
On hot summer nights, your family can lounge around inside, or you can drag everyone outdoors and have a water fight.

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## Why Culture Matters

We need to give our children a healthier, better culture than what they’re exposed to now

LEONARD SAX

I saw a teenage boy for a school physical the other day. He was playing a game on his phone when I came into the room, while his mom scrolled through emails on her phone. Mom put her phone away when I came in, and we chatted briefly. She said she had no concerns about her son, who continued playing his game while we talked. The physical exam was unremarkable.

Toward the end, I asked the boy, “So, what do you want to be when you grow up? Where do you see yourself in 10 years?”

“Gamer,” the boy answered without hesitation. “E-sports are huge and they’re just gonna get bigger. I’m gonna make a ton of money as a professional gamer.”

Mom nodded—she had clearly heard this before—but she didn’t smile.

Where do kids find a sense of purpose, of meaning, and of work worth doing? Historically, the culture provides the context in which kids figure out what kind of adult they want to become. A century ago, American kids were immersed in the *McGuffey Readers* and other books of that ilk, which portrayed the good life as a life morally grounded and biblically sound.

American kids don’t read for fun anymore. They watch movies and YouTube and TikTok, and they listen to music. But the songs have changed. A generation ago, the most popular songs were about love. Kenny Loggins scored a huge hit in 1971 with “Danny’s Song”:

“Even though we ain’t got money / I’m so in love with you honey / Everything will bring a chain of love / And in the morning, when I rise / You bring a tear of joy to my eyes / and tell me everything is gonna be alright.”

Now the most popular songs are about sex, often transactional sex in which the act is offered in exchange for money.

*Continued on Page 3*

The kind of music children listen to influences their behavior.



SHAROMKA/SHUTTERSTOCK

# Bringing the Fun Home

## 5 family outings for tight budgets

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Throw a few water balloons or squirt guns into the mix or just use the garden hose and buckets of water. Cooling down this way guarantees many hearty laughs, bonding families, and lifting spirits in the process.

Better yet, invest in a large, sturdy kiddie pool and have everyone pile in. Apologies in advance to my family for sharing secrets, but we did this when I was little. My parents donned swimsuits, and Dad would swim around in a circle, often with one of us kids riding his back, making a current in which we would all float. The absurdity of the situation alone explains the many peals of laughter emanating from that pool, and that laughter echoes today when one of us reminisces about those hot nights.

### Pitching a Tent in Your Own Backyard

Compared to Disneyland or other expensive hotels, heading to a state park and setting up a tent is far more economical. An additional perk of tent camping is that kids learn to “rough it” by chopping wood, carrying water, and observing real nature rather than a screen of virtual nature. Putting the tent in the backyard provides the same cheap thrills, but with modern amenities and fewer wild creatures lurking at your tent flap.

### Theme Parks the Historical Way

Who needs theme parks when you have historical sights to visit? OK, so maybe I was a strange child, but I always found visits to the old mansions or turn-of-the-century farms in our state to be way more fun than roller coasters. It's particularly fun if you know a fair amount about history, enabling you to either impress or stump your tour guides with informed questions. (Yes, the time my family and the group of old ladies we were with hijacked a tour of Glensheen Mansion in Duluth, Minnesota, from our cocky, college student tour

guide because of our combined historical knowledge was a barrel of laughs for all involved—even the humbled guide—and it still ranks as one of the most memorable tours we took!)

### Hitting the Movie Theater, Family Style

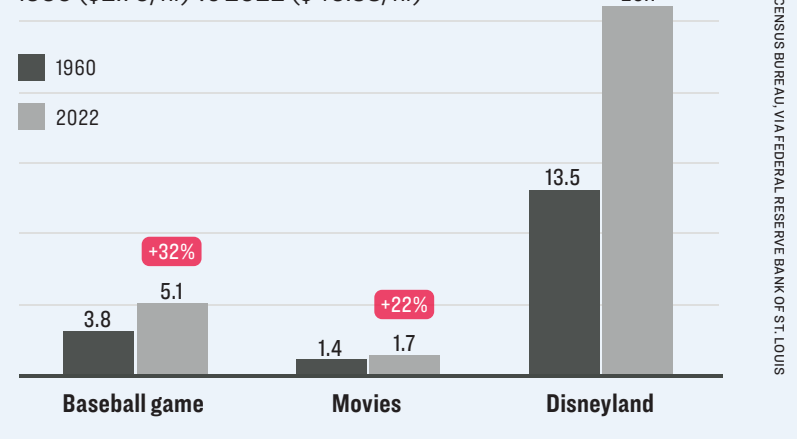
I haven't been to the movie theater in years, but that doesn't mean I don't watch movies. When I hear of one that I want to see, I head to my local library's website and put in a request for the DVD version of it—some libraries even offer streaming now—getting my name down first on the waiting list, which usually means I only have to wait a few months from the time the movie hits the big screen to see it. You may laugh at the slowness of this method, but seriously, when has a little delayed gratification ever hurt anyone?

### Take Me Out to the Ball Game

It's probably been at least five years since I've been to a professional baseball game, but the last time I was there, it seemed like there was far more attention on extra entertainment than there was on the field. So if you really are interested in baseball, why

### Hours of Work Required to Afford Family Excursions

1960 (\$2.70/hr) vs 2022 (\$40.38/hr)



DATA: US CENSURE BUREAU VIA FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ST. LOUIS

**Perhaps it's time to think outside the box and consider how families can have bonding time, just with a cheaper price tag.**

not just start your own team? Get the kids together, round up a few other families, and plan regular baseball nights. Such a plan gives everyone exercise, builds community spirit, and perhaps most importantly, gives kids a chance to interact with adult role models to learn about teamwork and good sportsmanship.

These approaches to family outings are economical, but they also cultivate something essential to a thriving society, namely, freedom.

These events are locally driven, only happening when individuals plan and provide the entertainment and an event for gathering. By contrast, the other outings—traditional ball games, movies, and even Disneyland—are all driven by massive conglomerations, taking families out of their local communities and using them to make a fast buck. And when families move away from these mega corporations and create their own activities and fun, they have a better opportunity to breathe free.

“People are less than whole unless they gather themselves voluntarily into groups of souls in harmony,” author John Taylor Gatto wrote in “Dumbing Us Down.”

“Gathering themselves to pursue individual, family, and community dreams consistent with their private humanity is what makes them whole; only slaves are gathered by others. And these dreams must be written locally because to exercise any larger ambition without such a base is to lose touch with the things which give life meaning: self, family, friends, work, and intimate community.”

Do you want to ensure you're not a slave? Then work toward bonding with your family and friends at a local level. It will free you financially—and physically, mentally, and emotionally as well.

Annie Holmquist is the editor of *Intellectual Takeout* and the online editor of *Chronicles Magazine*, both projects of the *Charlemagne Institute*.



Round up family and friends for a baseball game.

## Why Culture Matters

We need to give our children a healthier, better culture than what they're exposed to now

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In their No. 1 hit song WAP, Cardi B and Megan Thee Stallion advise women to “ask for a car” while having sex with a man, noting that a man “paid my tuition” in return for sex. Bruno Mars earned six Grammys for his song “That's What I Like,” in which he offered a woman gold jewelry and a shopping spree in Paris if she would just “turn around and drop it for a player” because “that's what I like.” Earlier this summer, the No. 1 song on the Billboard Hot 100, i.e. the most popular song in the United States, was a single by Drake titled “Jimmy Cooks.” The sexually explicit and profanity-laced lyrics are too graphic to print, but a New York Times reviewer praised Drake for his “lyrical vividness.”

We now have good evidence that the kind of music kids listen to influences their beliefs, attitudes, and behavior. In one longitudinal cohort study, researchers found that teens who listen to music with degrading sexual content are more likely to engage in sexually risky behaviors. Listening to music about love doesn't lead to bad outcomes. Listening to music about degrading sex does lead to bad outcomes. That's the lesson of that research.

**Where do kids find a sense of purpose, of meaning, and of work worth doing?**

But my concern goes deeper. As writer Kent Russell recently observed, contemporary American culture has become a culture in which “the value of human life has been reduced to the parameters of the marketplace, where little is sacred and even less is profane.” It's now common to find boys whose career goal is playing video games for money, despite the extremely long odds against ever actually making a living as a gamer. Pollsters offered kids in the United States and China a menu of choices in answer to the question: “What do you want to be when you grow up?” Career choices included YouTuber, astronaut, teacher, musician, or professional athlete. The No. 1 choice of U.S. kids was YouTuber; astronaut was the last choice. The No. 1 choice of Chinese kids was astronaut; YouTuber was their last choice.

Our kids can do better. We need to inspire them to want something more than social media or video games or the pleasure of the moment. And culture, broadly understood, should provide that inspiration. But by most objective measures, our culture now comes up short. That's not a guess, and it's not nostalgia. Researchers at UCLA, analyzing the most popular U.S. TV shows targeting children and teens, found that the most popular shows of the 1960s through the 1990s taught kids that what's most important is doing the right thing; being a good friend; and telling the truth, even if it hurts. But in more recent popular shows, such as “Survivor” and “American Idol,” the focus is on winning and becoming famous.

All this makes our job as parents that much harder. The culture has become toxic. That means that we must offer our kids an alternative culture, a healthier culture, a culture where doing the right thing is more important than trying to become rich and famous. It means we need to limit and guide our kids' exposure to the worst of American culture. More importantly, it means we should consider, every day and continually, how to give our kids a solid foundation in healthy arts and music.

My 15-year-old daughter just spent a week at a sleepaway music and dance camp, where cellphones weren't allowed. After camp, we visited extended family in Ohio, and next month we'll visit family in California, in both cases without cellphones, doing fun things together outdoors. Later today, my wife, my daughter, and I will hike the mountains. On the car ride to get to the mountains, we'll sing Peter, Paul, and Mary; Bruce Springsteen; and—yes—“Danny's Song.” My daughter knows all the words by heart. No screens. Just good music—and love.

This article was originally published on the *Institute for Family Studies* blog.

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## Couple Married for 70 Years Shares Advice

LOUISE CHAMBERS

A South Dakota couple who has been married for 70 years and is still as much in love as when they first tied the knot shared the secret to their happy, long-lasting relationship.

Melvin Lubbers, 92, and Nancy Lubbers, 87, first met at the local skating rink in Mitchell, South Dakota, in 1951.

“Grandpa likes to say that he ‘swept grandma off her feet’ while they were rollerblading,” said the couple's granddaughter, Anna Behning, 24.

They fell head over heels in love and were engaged within months.

Melvin recalled proposing to Nancy at a local park and jokes that he's “not sure she ever said yes!” The couple tied the knot on Jan. 6, 1952, at First Lutheran Church in Mitchell.

Nancy recalled buying her wedding gown from Jarold's Shop, a store owned by her neighbor's mother. She said her dress cost her \$35 and the veil cost \$15.

Looking back at the day, Nancy remembered the “gorgeous red rose bouquet,” while Melvin remembered eating cake and ice cream after the church service, with their entire extended families in attendance.

“Forget and forgive, and make the best out of your life situations.”

Nancy Lubbers, 87

- Melvin and Nancy Lubbers with their five children.
- The couple's granddaughter, wedding photographer Anna Behning, took photos in honor of their 70th wedding anniversary.

According to Melvin, the ceremony wasn't too glamorous.

Weeks after their special day, Melvin was deployed with the U.S. Army to serve in the Korean War. Communication with his new wife was limited.

“We couldn't just pick up the phone and call each other,” Nancy said. “We had to wait for letters to arrive, and that's the only form of communication we got.”

When Melvin returned home safely to Mitchell, he became a salesman and ran a hobby sheep farm on the side. Nancy worked at the local grocery store and raised the couple's five children.

Today, 70 years later, their family has grown to include 12 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

“Having our five children grow up at home and go on to have families of their own is something we are very proud of,” Nancy said. “Our family means everything to us, and we love it when they come and visit.”

In order to celebrate Melvin and Nancy's seven decades together, the couple's granddaughter, Behning, who works as a full-time wedding photographer, came up with the idea to have a romantic photo shoot of

her grandparents.

Behning, who grew up near Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and currently lives in Marshall, told *The Epoch Times*: “My mom and I were driving up to Mitchell one afternoon when we got onto the topic of wedding attire. I was preparing for my own wedding, which was about a month after this shoot took place, so I had weddings on the brain!”

She was aware that her grandmother still had her wedding dress, so she asked her mom if she thought her grandmother would wear it again.

“To our surprise, grandma was ecstatic to get in her gown again,” Behning said.

The mom and daughter duo then had the idea of coercing Melvin back into his old army uniform.

“He wasn't as thrilled to play ‘dress up,’” Behning said. “So you'll see in the photos we kind of strapped it on him!”

The impromptu shoot took place in Melvin and Nancy's backyard on April 3, 2021, about nine months before their 70th wedding anniversary. Behning claimed that the lovebirds were “so cute together” and that she'll treasure the photos forever.

While Melvin made lighthearted jokes during the photo shoot, Nancy was “just so

## for Successful Marriage

enamored” that she still fit into her dress.

On seeing Nancy in her wedding gown, Melvin let out a whistle and called her beautiful.

“Seventy years later, and he still thinks she's the prettiest thing to walk planet Earth, even when she's not in her wedding dress,” Behning said.

For their wedding anniversary in January, her mother and her sister brought cake and ice cream to Melvin and Nancy's house to celebrate.

“As a wedding photographer, I can almost predict whether a couple is going to stay together for a lifetime,” Behning said. “The main indicator is how they treat each other on their wedding day and before the wedding day when I'm working with them. “If they put their partner's needs in front of their own and display a selfless love, they are bound to be together forever.”

Behning, whose heartwarming anniversary photos of Melvin and Nancy turned into a blog post on her personal website, has received innumerable “sweet and well-meaning” comments from netizens, and she shares the best of them with her grandparents.

Being witness to their long-standing love,

“Grandpa likes to say that he ‘swept grandma off her feet’ while they were rollerblading.”

Anna Behning, granddaughter

3, 4. The couple got married on Jan. 6, 1952, at First Lutheran Church in Mitchell, S.D.

5. Nancy Lubbers in her wedding gown.

Behning admires the steadfast couple for their mutual respect and their ability to solve problems. She also appreciates them for passing their Christian wisdom down to their family.

Seventy years together has also given Melvin and Nancy insight into what makes for a long and happy marriage.

“Forget and forgive, and make the best out of your life situations,” Nancy told *The Epoch Times*. “Melvin can be pretty stubborn sometimes, and I had to learn how to take his teasing.”

Although Nancy gets aggravated at those times, she knows that Melvin loves her.

“Whenever you have a disagreement, be sure to sit down and come up with a solution,” Melvin said. “Once you have a solution, don't bring it back up again.”

The couple also shared advice for young couples in love: “Always keep God at the center of your marriage and think of the other person before yourself.”

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ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANNA BEHNING



# Witness to Our Time

At 101, this World War II veteran has seen it all

DAVE PAONE

**D**ominick Critelli was born before the invention of parking meters, masking tape, bubble gum, and chocolate chip cookies.

On his date of birth, April 8, 1921, Warren G. Harding was the newly inaugurated president. Since then, Critelli has seen 18 commanders in chief occupy the White House.

Critelli has seen a great deal.

## Beginnings in Italy

Critelli was the first child born to a carpenter and a stay-at-home mom in Tiriolo, a small town in the Calabria region of Italy.

After his first sister was born, his father, who served in the Italian Army during World War I, was able to move the whole family to the United States, when Critelli was 8 years old.

Just as in the movies, the family arrived by ship and slept on the deck. They settled in the Richmond Hill section of Queens, New York, where they rented a house.

Critelli attended P.S. 99, not knowing the English language.

## The Great Depression

Critelli's arrival in the United States in 1929 coincided with the start of the Great Depression, as well as with Prohibition. During that period, four more siblings were born to his family, bringing the grand total of children to six.

"It was tough for him," Critelli told *The Epoch Times*, referring to his father. "It was tough."

In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Works Progress Administration, which employed Critelli's father every other week.

The family received canned goods from the Catholic church in the neighborhood, although at the time, a lot of families didn't want to accept charity.

"But we did," Critelli said.

According to film historians, the silent film era came to an end with 1927's "The Jazz Singer," the first movie to have synchronized sound. However, the transition didn't happen overnight, and Critelli

caught the waning days of silent movies. "Charlie Chaplin. I remember him. He was magnificent," he said.

The Great Depression also kicked off the golden age of Hollywood. Movie palaces dotted the streets of New York City, and Critelli would see two feature films, plus a short comedy, all for the admission price of 10 cents. (You read that correctly.)

Serials were popular at the time, where Our Hero would find himself in a predicament—such as dangling off a cliff—and the movie would abruptly end, forcing viewers to return next week to see what happened (hence the term "cliff-hanger").

"He'd survive somehow, and then get into another situation," Critelli said.

"Flash Gordon" was the 13-part outer space precursor to "Star Wars." In 1936, space travel was purely science fiction, which fascinated young moviegoers.

Also during the Depression was the golden age of radio. Critelli listened to all the kids' programs, such as "The Shadow," "The Lone Ranger," and "Little Orphan Annie."

In Critelli's 2nd- or 3rd-grade class was a boy named Jack Cohen.

"I wasn't crazy about the guy," Critelli said of Cohen. "He was a pain in the neck."

He recalled Cohen chasing a girl, pulling her pigtails, and playing tricks on her. Critelli didn't want to be seen with Cohen by his other friends.

Cohen grew up to be Rodney Dangerfield.

During Critelli's childhood, the refrigerator hadn't been invented yet. Kitchens had an "icebox," which was exactly what it sounds like—a box with a block of ice.

The ice would generate cold to keep food from spoiling, and, as it melted, a pan underneath would catch the water. The water needed to be dumped and the ice replaced a few times per week.

Even though this was New York City and not some rural area, Critelli remembers the "iceman" delivering blocks of ice from a horse-drawn cart.

"My mother couldn't afford ice," Critelli said.

So he and a pal would go to the Borden Dairy Co. a few blocks away where the milkmen would load up their horse-drawn carriages, then swipe some of the ice that

**Critelli remembers the 'iceman' delivering blocks of ice from a horse-drawn cart.**



A teenaged Critelli sits in the driver's seat behind his family (L-R) brother Johnny, sister Rose, sister Anna, and cousin Joe Montuoro, circa 1939.

fell to the floor, and bring it home to his mother in their carts.

Eventually, Critelli's father was able to buy the house they rented for the purchase price of \$3,000. (Houses in the area are currently on the market for more than \$600,000.)

During high school, Critelli took up the saxophone and clarinet, and by 18 was playing with a five-piece band that had a weekly gig at a restaurant. His compensation was \$3 and a chicken dinner.

## World War II

On Dec. 7, 1941, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and thrust the United States into World War II. The following day, Critelli heard Roosevelt's famous "Day of Infamy" speech on the radio.

Critelli was then 20 years old and of draft-eligible age. He was inducted into the Army on Oct. 28, 1942, and was trained as an airplane and engine mechanic. He also sewed parachutes.

After some time in England, Critelli arrived in France eight days after the D-Day invasion at Normandy, on the same beach, where he saw the aftermath of the battle.

By December 1944, Critelli was in Germany.

The Battle of the Bulge was the last major German offensive campaign on the Western Front during the war. It was carried out from Dec. 16, 1944, to Jan. 25, 1945, during a brutal winter.

"The guys were surrounded and they weren't going to survive," Critelli said. "They already knew they weren't going to get out."

An order came from above that Critelli and his unit were to airdrop supplies to the surrounded Allied soldiers, flying from a makeshift airstrip they had established nearby.

They loaded up C-rations, K-rations (both food), and ammunition into the planes, to be tossed out of the windows. Sometimes, Critelli would include a carton of cigarettes.

"Our planes could fly low," he said, making them less likely to be shot down.

They made more than 100 drops, 14 of which included Critelli in the back seat. For this, he received an Air Medal, which is awarded for single acts of heroism or meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight.

While in Germany, Critelli actually befriended a German family. He met a girl and could speak enough German to talk to her. She had a sister, and they invited him over to their house.

He made a couple of trips there over a few weeks, often bringing jars of orange marmalade he acquired from the supply sergeant.

Their father (or possibly uncle—his memory is a bit fuzzy) gifted a Garmisch pipe to Critelli.

"They treated me terrific," he said, but swears there was no romance.

Critelli was in Germany on V-E Day, when the Nazis surrendered. That was May 8, 1945. But there was still the matter of the Japanese.

"We were ready to go to Japan. We were all assembled," he said. "All of a sudden, it comes over the radio that they bombed [Japan]," effectively ending the war.

"Everybody started jumping up and down."

## Post-War America

The two decades following World War II brought many changes to life in the United States—refrigerators, for one. No longer did Critelli need to fetch ice for the icebox.

The 1950s brought the mass-marketing of television sets, which, in turn, created the golden age of television. Critelli bought his first TV shortly after the war.

He watched all the great comics of the era—Sid Caesar, Milton Berle, and Jackie Gleason—along with his entire extended family gathered around a 10-inch screen.

The decade also brought the birth of rock 'n' roll, only some of which Critelli liked. Elvis Presley left him unimpressed.

"I didn't care for him. I didn't think he was that good," he said.

Critelli watched the Beatles' U.S. debut on "The Ed Sullivan Show" in February 1964 and was left as unimpressed with them as



Critelli (R), with an Army buddy (L) and two German POWs, in Warendorf, Germany, on May 18, 1945.



Critelli holds his one-surviving dog tag from his service in World War II.

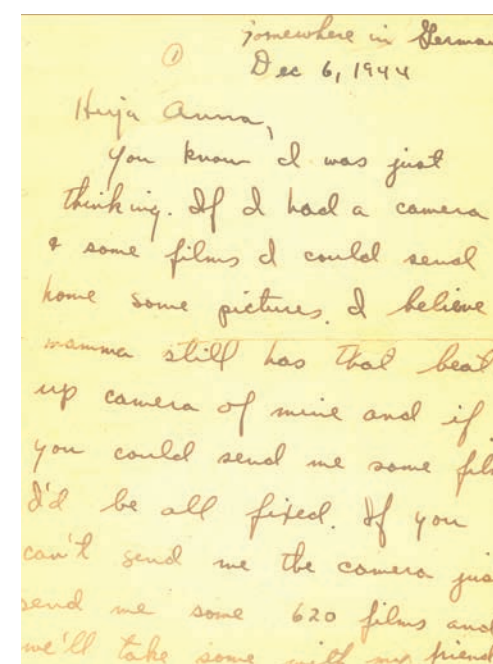
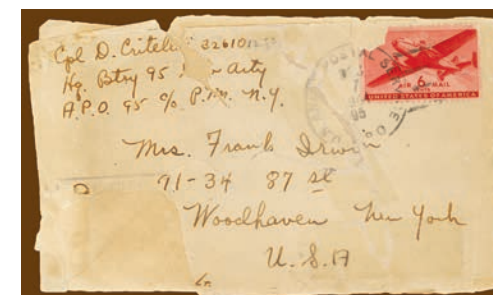
DAVE PAONE

THE EPOCH TIMES

Dominick Critelli, age 101.



Dominick Critelli plays the saxophone every week with a jazz band on Long Island, N.Y.



Page one of a letter Critelli wrote to his sister, Anna, dated Dec. 6, 1944, from "Somewhere in Germany," and the envelope it was mailed in.



Master Sgt. Critelli while in Germany, near the end of the war.

**Critelli's arrival in the United States in 1929 coincided with the start of the Great Depression, as well as with Prohibition.**

He now has a plate and rod in his leg above his knee, and he credits antibiotics—which barely existed for the first half of his life—for saving his leg.

While he sometimes walks with a cane, he can still make it up and down a flight of stairs pretty quickly.

Believe it or not, Critelli didn't embrace reaching the milestone of 100 years old. Even when he was 90 years old, he'd tell people he was 75 or 80, he said.

"I'll tell ya, I didn't feel good telling anybody I was 100.

"You're 100 years old and you're thinking of what you had and what you can't get anymore."

At 101, Critelli is the picture of health. Some people say, "Age is just a number." His is 101.

# Teen Starts Lawn Care Business to Raise Money for Adoption Fees

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF TYCE REY DIAZ PENDER



Tyce Rey Diaz Pender, 14, on the job.

LOUISE CHAMBERS

A teen who wants his beloved stepfather to adopt him and his older brother has started a lawn care business to help pay for the legal fees.

Born and raised in Sandy Run, South Carolina, 14-year-old Tyce Rey Diaz Pender has lived in Cayce, South Carolina, with his family since 2017. His mother, Marcy, began dating Eric Jenkins in 2010, when Tyce was just 2 years old. Eric proposed to Marcy about four years later; they've been a tight-knit family unit ever since.

"I don't really remember our first meeting," Tyce told *The Epoch Times*. "I just remember him being with us and at my third birthday party. I remember him being really tall!"

Tyce, who has an older brother named Tylee, and a stepsister, Tierrianna, said he has no recollection of life before Eric.

"When I think of the word 'dad,' I picture him," he said.

Over the years, Tyce has developed an exceptional bond with Eric.

"When I was a lot younger, my mom worked and Eric was in college, so he was the stay-at-home parent," Tyce said. "He was the one taking us to practice and coming to lunch with us at school. I don't remember not having Eric in my life."

Eric has played a significant role in the family by supporting them.

"Sometimes, my mom goes to the hospital," Tyce said. "She has allergies that she has to use an EpiPen for, and Eric is the one who lets us know everything will be OK; he makes sure that our life continues on like normal."

Eric has also provided some of Tyce's fondest childhood memories, including family camping trips in the summertime.

"That was always a lot of fun, and funny, especially because Eric doesn't like to swim much!" Tyce said. "He would go along with it, even though my mom said it was 'out of his comfort.'"

According to "Today," two years after Marcy and Eric got married, they discussed adopting

Tyce and Tylee and even tried recently to hire a lawyer who would handle a pro bono case. However, the other legal costs were mounting. Thus, Tyce took it upon himself to help with the payment.

Marcy gifted her son a lawn mower and volunteered to drive him to jobs.

"We put my mower and weed-eater in her car, so I have to vacuum a lot!" the teen told *The Epoch Times*.

After kick-starting his new venture, the teen took to Facebook to explain his business: "I do have safety glasses and gloves and I am hoping to find some yards to cut and maybe even maintain them. I go to school during the week and I am available some afternoons and all day on Saturday and Sundays. I also have an electric leaf blower and a rake, too."

According to Tyce, Eric helps on weekends when the workload is heavier, and that's something that Tyce really likes.

The teen earns \$25 to \$50 per job and mows some lawns for free. He credits Eric, a machinist, for his drive.

"He taught me there is always a time for play and a time for work, and they are not usually the same time," Tyce said. "I think I got my

**"I think I got my work ethic from him, and I just want to make him and my mom proud."**

Tyce Rey Diaz Pender, 14

work ethic from him, and I just want to make him and my mom proud."

He's usually hired by word of mouth but has made flyers, business cards, and yard signs that customers allow him to pitch. He has mowed more than 40 yards to date, and the cause remains dear to his heart.

The industrious teen turns 15 this month and is headed into the 10th grade. The city of Cayce presented him with his own business license in June; he's still mowing lawns on a driving lawn mower and improving with every commission.

His strategy to deal with the challenge of which direction to mow in has been to "start cutting the outside first and [then] go through cutting the rest."

Being a witness to Tyce's efforts, a proud Marcy said, "It's a powerful thing that Tyce wants to give this recognition [to his stepfather]."

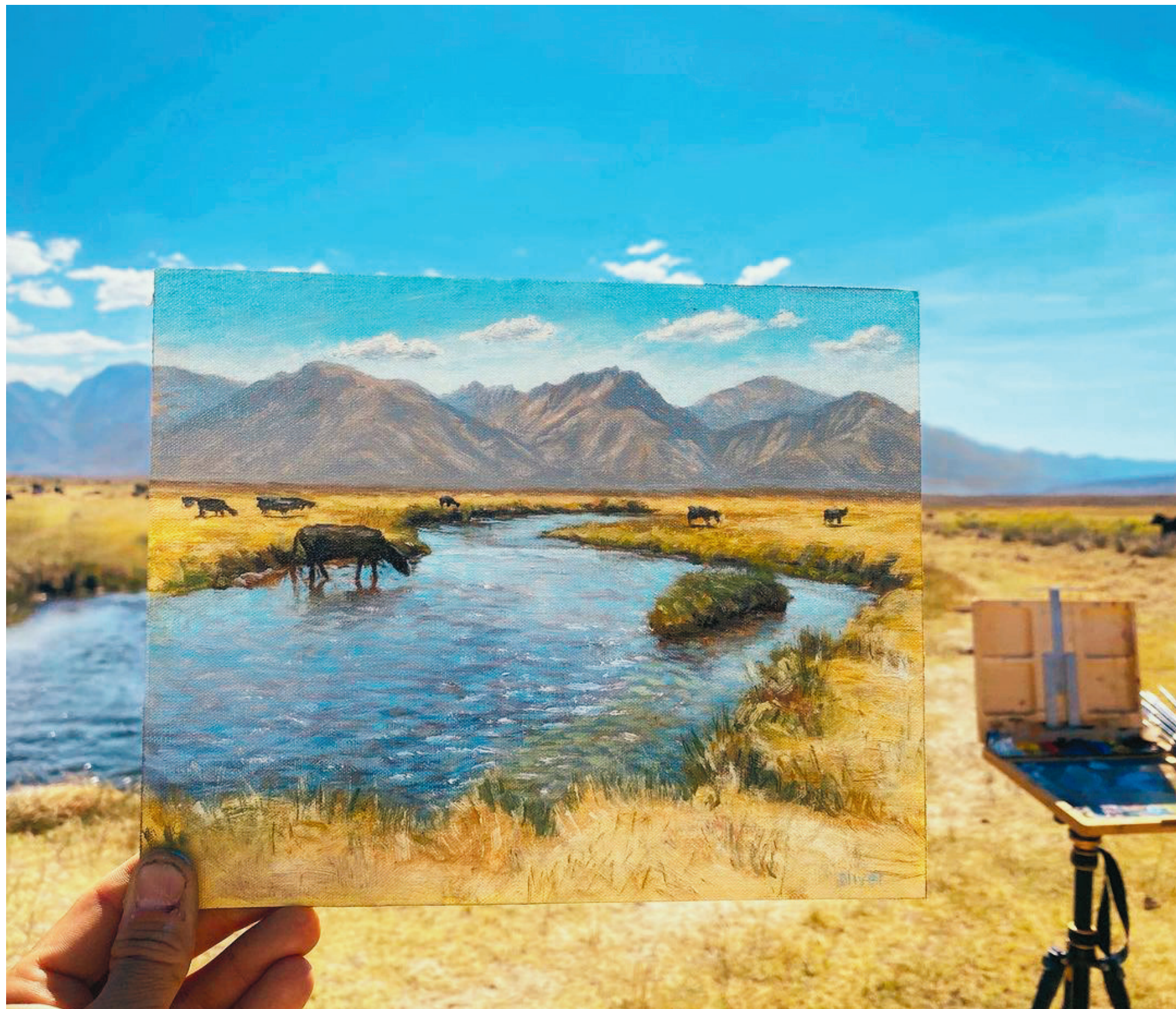
Eric says, "Caring for Tyce is my job. His heart is in the right place."

Share your stories with us at [emg.inspired@epochtimes.com](mailto:emg.inspired@epochtimes.com), and get your daily dose of inspiration by signing up for the *Inspired* newsletter at [TheEpochTimes.com/newsletter](http://TheEpochTimes.com/newsletter)



"I was cutting grass today, and the city of Cayce came to the yard I was mowing and presented me with my very own business license. I am a real business owner at 14. This is big to me!" Tyce said.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF RICHARD OLIVER



Oliver made this painting while on a camping trip in the Eastern Sierras of California.

## Plein-Air Painting

Richard Oliver captures the outdoors on canvas

MICHAEL WING

Plein-air painter Richard J. Oliver knows the more the artist can say with a single brush stroke, the more rewarding. He channels the maxim: "Less is more."

"I often explain it metaphorically as a process of making paintings like haiku poems rather than lengthy, descriptive essays," Oliver said. Based in Los Angeles, he joined the 19th-century tradition of plein-air (French for painting "out of doors") for a change of pace after pursuing the old masters for two decades.

The style stemmed from the advent of oil colors that came ready in the tube, making it more practicable for the artist to carry them, set up easels, and paint abreast sun dappled gardens, cafés, and open landscapes.

Traveling to places such as Provence, France, the eastern Sierras, and the California coast became the most rewarding artistic sabbatical for Oliver, who hails from Wales originally.

He keeps his gear light for his excursions—toting painting materials adds up—but nevertheless loves backpacking to remote and enchanting places located

off the beaten trail. "The light in Provence is so warm and the buildings and vineyards give endless inspiration," he said. "I've visited and painted the mountain range of the Sierras a number of times and it always calls me back."

Of his ultimate aim, he shared, "I'm trying to express the primary feeling that the particular scene or motive invoked in me. I wish my work to be less descriptive and more suggestive, using shape, texture, value, hue, saturation, masses, and variety as my main tools."

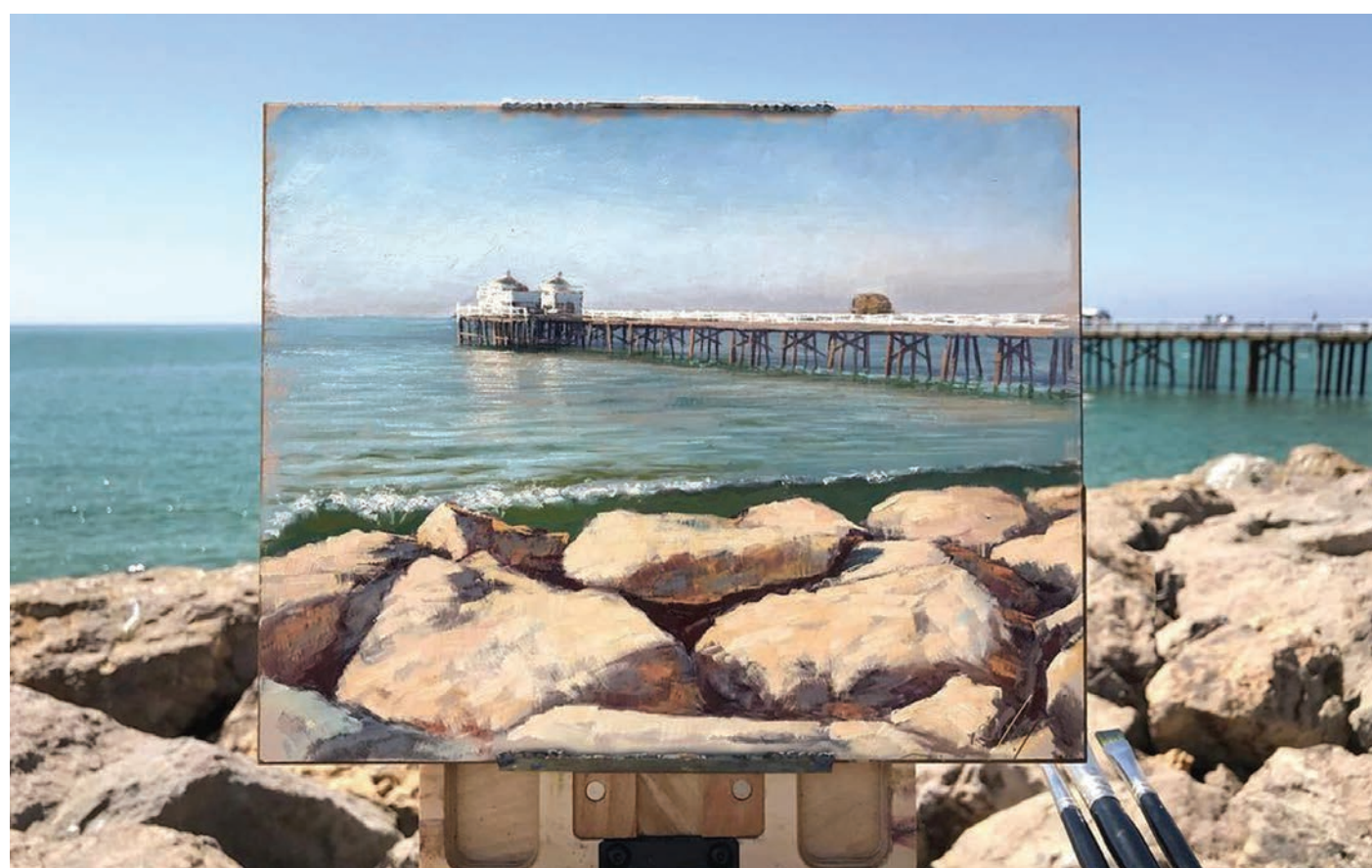
On location, he sets up realistic, still wet plein-air canvases so they magically blend into their surroundings. Snapping and posting these, he leaves his audience on Instagram wowed.

Oliver follows in the tradition of other artists: Constable ventured outdoors, Turner following, for loose oil sketches direct from nature, contrasting laborious

**"I'm trying to express the primary feeling that the particular scene or motive invoked in me."**

Richard J. Oliver, painter

Oliver says he approaches his plein-air paintings more as a study field note. "I usually use a warm neutral value ground and build a rough value sketch before adding color. I take a split temperature primary color palette with me, which I have developed over the years and suits all the environments I go to while keeping the paintings harmonious."



The pier in Malibu, Calif.



Oliver captured this view of the California coast.

studio practices of painting in layers, waiting for each to dry before going overtop, taking weeks, months, or years. These direct sketches were used for reference in studio, to be scaled up and made into larger "finished" works.

"While outdoors there is an emphasis on recording and reacting to the scene and capturing as much information as quickly as possible as it changes around me," he shared, "I try to record colors and light so that it will guide my studio paintings where I have more time to contemplate and infuse style in the controlled studio environment."

Oliver finds painting plein-air "extremely challenging" but "deeply rewarding once you've developed a speedy working system of techniques."



A field of poppies in France.

**"While outdoors, there is an emphasis on recording and reacting to the scene and capturing as much information as quickly as possible as it changes around me."**

Richard J. Oliver, painter

## Gotham City Band Keeps Ragtime and Jazz Alive in the Big Apple

DAVE PAONE

The scene in the jazz club was "The Great Gatsby" meets "Sultans of Swing."

It didn't play out in "London Town," but on a summer night in New York City's Greenwich Village. There was actually a "group of young boys" (well, they were 23) who were there to see a "trumpet-playing band."

The venue was the historic Zinc Bar, which retains its original Art Deco design, and the cabaret-style space is aptly called "The Gatsby Room."

It wasn't the Sultans of Swing playing but Terry Waldo's Gotham City Band, and they played ragtime, classic jazz, standards, and a few original compositions for about 50 patrons.

New York City has a thriving, vintage music scene, and Waldo and his band are in the center of it.

### Beginnings

Waldo was born in Ohio in 1944 and had the good fortune of living across the street from a lawyer who had an enormous collection of jazz records. The lawyer let any interested neighbors, such as Waldo, listen to them if they wanted to.

Down the block was Anthony's, which Waldo described as "literally the world's largest record store." Back in the day, there were "listening booths," where a customer could play the record he was thinking of buying before making the purchase. Waldo spent a lot of time in those booths and bought records with paper route money. Having been born in 1944,

Waldo was there for the birth of rock and roll and, several years later, the arrival of The Beatles. But it was ragtime that was the right fit.

"Ragtime was the first music I got really crazy about," Waldo said. "It just spoke to me."

He had his first piano lesson in third grade and by high school, had his own Dixieland band, The Fungus Five Plus Two. Their slogan was, "Our music grows on you." The band performed "Tiger Rag" on national television on "Ted Mack & the Original Amateur Hour" in 1963.

### Piano Lessons From Eubie Blake

Eubie Blake was a famous ragtime composer and pianist and one of the greats of the genre.

While in high school, Waldo heard a reissue of Blake's composition and recording, "The Charleston Rag," from 1921. In an effort

to learn how to play it, he searched for the sheet music but it wasn't available.

Someone suggested writing to Blake in New York and asking him for it, which Waldo did. Blake responded by mailing Waldo a stack of sheet music, which included the song.

Waldo and Blake met in 1967, when Waldo performed "The Charleston Rag" at the St. Louis Ragtime Festival. Blake also performed at the festival and said to the audience, "This man, Terry Waldo, played my 'Charleston Rag,' and if he'd been a woman, I would have married him!"

Years later, Waldo visited Blake at his Brooklyn residence, with tape recorder in hand, and received his first private piano lesson from a living jazz legend. Waldo used the recording for a radio series he had at the time.

It didn't end there. Blake's music was enjoying a resurgence, and Waldo invited him to Ohio, where he was teaching on the university level. Waldo was able to secure some television time for Blake there, who stayed at Waldo's house for a week.

The converse played out when Waldo would stay in Brooklyn with Blake for a week at a time, with more piano lessons.

Waldo formed his Gotham City Band in the early 1980s when he relocated to New York, and it's had various incarnations since then, with Waldo being the only constant.

### The Band Members

Ricky Alexander plays the clarinet and sometimes saxophone for the Gotham City Band.

He switched from the sax to the clarinet for two reasons. One was professional: "Everybody and their mother plays the saxophone already, so the clarinet kind of sets me apart which is useful professionally," he told The Epoch Times.

The other reason was practical: "The primary reason that I like the clarinet is because of the schlep. I don't have to carry around a heavy instrument with me all the time."

Although he owns an alto sax, which is one of the smallest saxophones, he finds it "surprisingly heavy" and said, "every ounce counts when you're in New York City, you know what I mean?"

The 33-year-old was first introduced to jazz by a music teacher in elementary school.

Alexander purposely dresses in a classic style, and with his round, wire-framed glasses and thick mustache and eyebrows, he resembles Groucho Marx, making his



Waldo had the opportunity to meet and receive some private piano lessons from ragtime composer and pianist Eubie Blake (above). PUBLIC DOMAIN



As part of the 34th Street Partnership, the Gotham City Band performs a free concert outside of the Moynihan Train Hall in New York City, with (L-R) Mike Hashim, Mike Davis, and Ricky Alexander.



It may not be Madison Square Garden, but it's across the street. The Gotham City Band performs a free concert for New Yorkers.

look even more authentic to the era.

Danny Tobias started playing trumpet in a big band at age 15, which had gigs three nights a week. But it was at 25 that he discovered trumpeter Louis Armstrong's jazz band The Hot Five.

"It flipped me out," the 59-year-old said. "I just loved it."

"I'm very lucky that this bunch of younger musicians who are interested in this stuff are now in New York and I have access to them," Waldo said.

Tatiana Eva-Marie is the band's vocalist. She had heard of Waldo through her network of musicians in New York City and eventually became a fan.

"I went to hear him religiously once a week—maybe two years—I was always there," she told American Essence.

A record producer who is known for throwing lavish parties hired Waldo to perform at one and Tatiana to sing there, thus starting their professional relationship.

"He has a wonderful sense of humor and he likes to talk a lot of nonsense and I like to do that, too, so we were just peas in a pod," Tatiana said.

Speaking of which, there's a lot of witty banter between Waldo and his band on stage, and Tobias swears none of it is scripted, although Tatiana said they have their "recurring jokes."

At the Zinc Bar performance, after playing a number, Waldo said, "I wrote that, by the way," to which a band member quipped, "I

didn't think you had it in you," which delighted the audience.

The music the band plays is anywhere from 70 to more than 100 years old yet Tatiana feels it's not just a relic of a long-gone era. "I don't think that they're trying to be a museum piece," she said. "It's not historical reenactment [of] any kind."

Kimberly Hawkey filled in for Tatiana in the show at Zinc Bar. She had been singing with the band for a few months, but had met Waldo several years ago when they performed at BlackTail Bar in Manhattan.

"I have been singing since I could make sound," Hawkey told The Epoch Times. "But singing jazz is a different story. I began singing jazz professionally after college."

At age 23, Hawkey knew about classic jazz but sang it for the first time when she entered (and won) the American Traditions Vocal Competition in Savannah, Georgia.

She sang the Harry James-Helen Forrest swing number, "I Had the Craziest Dream," and has been singing songs in the genre for the past 11 years.

Not only is Hawkey a throwback to the era, she even looks the part, and has been told she resembles Lauren Bacall.

### Regular Gigs

Earlier this year, the band recorded a CD with Tatiana on vocals and they hope to record a second one before the year is out. In addition to the Zinc Bar's weekly shows, the band performs weekly at a second jazz club, Arthur's Tavern, also in Manhattan.

Both venues attract a younger audience, which Waldo is very happy to see.

The band regularly plays free, sidewalk concerts for busy New Yorkers, through the 34th Street Partnership. While the music is free for the pedestrians, the band gets paid.

Since its inception, the band has recorded three released albums.

"We've been on a recording jag the last few months here, so we've recorded enough stuff for two more albums," Waldo said.

"These guys are the best in the city," Hawkey said of the Gotham City Band. "I'm honored to be singing with them."

## A Sobering Look at Mob Rule

IAN KANE

Director William A. Wellman ("Yellow Sky," "Battleground") based his thought-provoking Western "The Ox-Bow Incident" on a book about mob justice (of the same name) authored by Walter Van Tilburg Clark. Coming in at a mere 75 minutes, this tautly paced film was adapted for the screen by the brilliant scriptwriter Lamar Trotti. It's a scathing indictment of mob rule and is perhaps the most powerful anti-lynching movie ever made.

The story takes place in the small town of Bridger's Wells, Nevada, in 1885. Two rough and tumble drifters, Gil Carter (Henry Fonda) and Art Croft (Harry Morgan), ride into town and commence to drink a bottle of whiskey at the local saloon. After Gil gets plastered and starts a fight with local cowboy Jeff Farnley (Marc Lawrence), the two drifters learn that another local man, rancher Larry Kinkaid, has been killed and had all of his cattle stolen.

Furious to the point of not thinking rationally, Farnley gathers a posse to catch those responsible for the murder and cattle rustling. One of the only voices of reason belongs to a kind-hearted, elderly shopkeeper named Arthur Davies (Harry Davenport). He implores the men to wait until the town's chief lawman, Sheriff Risley (Willard Robertson), returns from a trip, to properly and legally get to the bottom of the matter. Davies also insists that Judge Daniel Tyler (Matt Briggs) calm the men so that any suspects they do catch will be

hanged only after a proper trial.

However, since there's been a recent rash of cattle rustlings, the men have grown impatient. Therefore, they have Deputy Sheriff Butch Mapes (Dick Rich) illegally swear in the angry group as a posse.

The mob eventually includes an arrogant ex-Confederate soldier Maj. Tetley (Frank Conroy), who leads the group while wearing his uniform, as well as a single scurrilous woman, Ma Grier (Jane Darwell), who turns out to be one of the more ruthless posse members. Since both Gil and Art were initially suspected of being cattle rustlers, they reluctantly join the rapidly expanding mob.

Although Judge Tyler and Davies make one last ditch effort to convince the lynching posse that what they're about to do is illegal, the surly group wants what they consider justice and ride out of town in a cloud of thick dust.

As night falls, the posse comes across a stagecoach and attempts to stop it in order to see its passengers. But in the darkness, the stagecoach's guard mistakes the posse for bandits and attempts to outrun them. One of the guards shoots at the group and strikes Art in his shoulder.

When the lynching party catches up to the stagecoach, they find that it's occupied by Rose Mapen (Mary Beth Hughes) and her new husband, a well-to-do gentleman named Mr. Swanson (George Meeker).

After treating Art's shoulder, the posse rides into the titular Ox-Bow Canyon, where they come across three men sleeping near a campfire with what they assume are Kincaid's stolen cattle nearby.



The posse gathers under the hanging tree in 1943's "The Ox-Bow Incident."

May. Tetley orchestrates the capture of the three men—which consist of a rancher named Donald Martin (Dana Andrews), his hired hand Juan Martínez (Anthony Quinn), and old clogger Alva "Dad" Hardwicke (Francis Ford).

After the posse captures the suspected cattle rustlers, it becomes apparent that the trio probably didn't commit the crimes. But the posse is too fired up to listen to their pleas of innocence. Will cooler heads prevail?

The acting in "The Ox-Bow Incident" is fantastically convincing all around, with Fonda's performance as an unwilling member of a sluggish lynching party taking center stage. Andrews is also outstanding as a suspected cattle rustler trying to appeal to any shred of humanity in the ugly posse.

As a whole, this film is a brilliant exposé on mob "justice" and how emotions can sometimes interfere with rational thinking.

### "The Ox-Bow Incident"

**Director**  
William A. Wellman  
**Starring**  
Henry Fonda, Dana Andrews, Mary Beth Hughes  
**Running Time**  
1 hour, 15 minutes  
**MPAA Rating:**  
Unrated  
**Release Date**  
May 21, 1943  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

# School Success: Building Character and Good Habits

5 ways to help your children in school and life

JEFF MINICK

Off we go again! For students and parents, this is a time for “Back to School Specials,” hunting down composition books, pens and pencils, lunch boxes, clothes or uniforms, backpacks, and other necessities for the classroom.

And now is also the perfect time for parents or guardians to pause and ask themselves: What do I want for my child’s education? If Johnny and Sarah are going to spend thousands of hours over the next nine months riding a bus, sitting in a classroom, and staying after school for clubs and team sports, how can I help them gain from all that time and effort?

Here are some tips that should not only ease some of the stress of school, but will build character and good habits in the bargain.

**‘Be Prepared’**  
Practice that Boy Scout motto right from the start.

Because of our different work situations, for years I rather than my wife was the principal teacher of our homeschooled children. When they were quite small, we’d often spend the first 10 or 15 minutes of the school day rounding up textbooks, readers, and notebooks. Finally, I bought a bunch of storage bins, assigned one to each child, and made those the receptacles for their school supplies. With this simple solution, we ended the frustration and wasted time of searching all over the house for missing items.

Kids can learn this skill at an early age. Every night before bed, have that first-grader lay out his clothing for the next day. (Don’t forget the shoes. How do young children manage to misplace shoes so often?) Get that backpack by the front door, packed and ready to go for the morning. Make the older children responsible for setting an alarm and getting themselves out of bed. Explain that when they enter “the real world,” Mommy won’t be there to roll them out of the sheets in the morning.



The idea is to develop in them the habit of knowing when they leave the classroom what the assignments are for the next day.

**‘Stop, Look, and Listen’**  
For years I taught history, literature, composition, and Latin to seminars of homeschoolers. With the exception of Latin, I gave out a hard copy syllabus to every student, detailing for the semester the weekly reading and assignments. At the end of each class period, we went over the syllabus for the following week. Yet in the larger seminars, particularly among students new to me, there were always some who arrived in class missing a composition or having forgotten at home their copy of Shakespeare’s “Romeo and Juliet.”

Here again, parents can take a hand. Beginning with their elementary school gang, they can inquire every day whether their students came home with any school work. Shrugs, rolling the eyes, and vague answers won’t do here. Once they begin to answer in specifics, it means they are thinking in specifics. The idea is to develop in them the habit of knowing when they leave the classroom what the assignments are for the next day.

Two special notes here. One, if your son has forgotten to get the homework, do not call the teacher. Have him call a friend instead. And have him make the call. Older students especially need to take responsibility for calling coaches or other mentors. Two, homeschoolers also need to be aware of the next day’s assignments. Many of them used packaged curriculums, which include a daily syllabus. Having talked to several academic counselors at a large home education outfit here in Front Royal, Virginia, I’m told that parents and students sometimes fail to get tests and papers back on time for grading, in part because they’ve misread, or didn’t read at all, the instructions.

**Neatness Counts**  
Often as a teacher, when I collected essays or homework from a class, one or two of the students would rummage through their backpacks and finally pull out a wrinkled or torn sad-looking piece of paper. Not only were they disorganized, they were also messy.

Teach your children that, like a great meal in a nice restaurant, presentation counts. The teacher who must spend extra time deciphering the smudged answers to questions from the U.S. history text or the all-over-the-page algebra problems will not be a happy diner.

For more help in this department, read and use Ana Homayoun’s “That Crumpled Paper Was Due Last Week: Helping Distracted and Disorganized Boys Succeed in School and Life.” Don’t be put off by the title; Homayoun’s ideas work just as well for disorganized girls.

**Make Them Responsible**  
You get a call from the school or your child. Michael has left his lunch on the kitchen counter or

Elizabeth has forgotten to bring that essay on “The Scarlet Letter” that is due today. Do you go into the delivery business or do you let them take the consequences? It’s your call, but sooner or later—and hopefully, sooner—the kids need to suck it up, suffer some consequences, and assume responsibility for their actions.

Responsibility means assuming ownership of who we are and what we do, is a foundation stone for maturity and freedom of choice. School can help teach that lesson to our young people.

**Home Life**  
Whatever sort of school your children attend, you need to know that their education doesn’t come to a halt when the bell rings at the end of class or they close that chemistry book. Their real education is taking place every day, summer or winter, in the home you provide for them. You can enhance their knowledge by reading stories to them, discussing politics and history at the supper table, or taking them on nature walks. These are all good and noble endeavors, but the truth is, they are learning from you every minute they spend your company: the difference between right and wrong, the practice of courage and patience in the face of hardship and setbacks, and the meaning of justice.

The home and the family, even when that home may be a one-bedroom apartment and that family may be a single mom or dad, is the birthplace and incubator of character and virtue. The tips mentioned above, aimed at success in school, are just a small part of the map we can give children for making their way in life’s journey.

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.

# Family, Not Preschool, Is the Secret to a Good Education

ANNIE HOLMQUIST

“I was so worried my son wouldn’t pass his kindergarten entrance exam,” one of my friends recently told me, noting that his child hadn’t attended preschool.

“That’s my pet peeve!” another friend sputtered at the mention of preschool.

She noticed that many schools today want to make sure kids know their letters before entering kindergarten, but those same students can barely read by the time they’re ready for first grade, even when they had attended preschool. The kids almost seem burnt out, she observed.

In contrast, she witnessed firsthand how, without attending a “professional” preschool, her young son was reading quite well by the time he finished kindergarten in their homeschool.

Despite failing to deliver educationally, universal preschool is finally becoming a reality, at least in states such as California, Maryland, and Michigan. But that dream-come-true is shaping up to be more of a nightmare due to unintended consequences, Politico reports.

The expansion of public preschool programs coincides with the teacher exodus from classrooms around the country. Thus, to staff these new and expanded preschool programs, cries for teachers are going out to childcare centers.

But pilfering childcare workers could

potentially cause a couple of serious problems. Already stretched thin because of the pandemic, having “11 percent fewer workers than it did in February 2020,” Politico reports, childcare centers aren’t enthusiastic about losing more of their workforce.

The exodus would also put a strain on working parents who are trying to find daycare for their children, as well as on the reduced number of childcare workers left to look after the same number of kids. Many may end up jumping ship eventually, looking for the greener pastures of salary and benefits that public preschool offers.

Those greener pastures raise another problem. To quickly fill the labor force needs, “states have mulled easing the requirements for teaching in pre-K programs,” Politico reports. In other words, these new pre-K classrooms may simply be glorified daycares, paid for by your tax dollars.

That problem might not be an issue if these public pre-K programs actually helped students overcome the learning deficits so many of them have. But, as my friend observed, preschool really doesn’t seem to help children much at all. In fact, it often seems to set them back.

A number of studies and experts back up her personal observations. Vanderbilt University researchers found that by 6th grade, children who attended government preschools do worse academically than those who didn’t.

Similarly, early childhood educator Erika Christakis observed that preschool makes young children “less inquisitive and less engaged.” It’s conversation—especially conversation with adults—that children need, she said.

Perhaps this is why researchers have found that “family-centered” preschool actually works—and why my friend found that her homeschooled kindergartener was easily reading by the end of kindergarten, while his counterparts who had experienced preschool were struggling.

“Family is the main engine of education,” John Taylor Gatto, a former New York “Teacher of the Year,” once said. “If we use schooling to break children away from parents—and make no mistake, that has been the central function of schools since John Cotton announced it as the purpose of

Early childhood educator Erika Christakis says that young children need conversation, especially with adults.



PAULAPHOTO/SHUTTERSTOCK/SHUTTERSTOCK

the Bay Colony schools in 1650 and Horace Mann announced it as the purpose of Massachusetts schools in 1850—we’re going to continue to have the horror show we have right now.

“The curriculum of family is at the heart of any good life, we’ve gotten away from that curriculum, time to return to it. The way to sanity in education is for our schools to take the lead in releasing the stranglehold of institutions on family life, to promote during school time confluences of parent and child that will strengthen family bonds.”

What would a confluence of children and parents look like in education? Why not have a daily time when parents are welcome to come into the classroom and read with their children? Or sit and eat lunch with them? Or better yet, why not just bring them home and learn together around the kitchen table—oh wait, we already have something like that.

It’s called homeschooling, and millions of students are experiencing its benefits firsthand.

When it comes to kids and their education, there will always be a new, bright, shiny object on the horizon that will allegedly cure all our academic woes. But in the search for that panacea, maybe we have overlooked the best educational tool of all—strong families who love, train, and teach their children far better than any institutional school could ever hope to do.

Annie Holmquist is the editor of *Intellectual Takeout* and the online editor of *Chronicles Magazine*, both projects of the *Charlemagne Institute*. This article was originally published by *Intellectual Takeout*.

# FOR KIDS ONLY

THE EPOCH TIMES

**Twinkle Twinkle Little Star**  
By Jane Taylor

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,  
How I wonder what you are!  
Up above the world so high,  
Like a diamond in the sky.

When the blazing sun is gone,  
When he nothing shines upon,  
Then you show your little light,  
Twinkle, twinkle, all the night.

Then the traveler in the dark  
Thanks you for your tiny spark,  
How could he see where to go,  
If you did not twinkle so?

In the dark blue sky you keep,  
Often through my curtains peep  
For you never shut your eye,  
Till the sun is in the sky.

As your bright and tiny spark  
Lights the traveler in the dark,  
Though I know not what you are,  
Twinkle, twinkle, little star.

“It suddenly struck me that that tiny pea, pretty and blue, was the Earth. I put up my thumb and shut one eye, and my thumb blotted out the planet Earth. I didn’t feel like a giant. I felt very, very small.”

NEIL ARMSTRONG (1930–2012), AMERICAN ASTRONAUT

**WHY DID THE RESTAURANT ON THE MOON GO OUT OF BUSINESS?**

## THE MOON

By Aidan Danza

**N**owadays, there’s lots of talk of going to Mars. A journey to Mars by humans always seems to be a few years away, just out of our technological reach. It seems odd how quickly we forgot about the moon, to which astronauts haven’t returned since the moon missions between 1969 and 1972.

It isn’t known to science how the moon was created, but the moon certainly plays an integral part in life on Earth, as if by design. It’s thought that the moon’s gravitational pull influences the tides. The explanation runs that as the Earth rotates around its own axis, the oceans face the moon at different times, and that when they face the moon, the moon exerts a stronger gravitational pull upon them, which pulls the oceans a few inches higher in that place, creating a high tide. The reverse happens when the moon is on the opposite side of the Earth, yielding a low tide. The moon also stabilizes the Earth’s orbit. With the moon, the Earth wobbles slightly in a predictable pattern, which is thought to regulate our seasons. Without it, it’s thought that the Earth would wobble violently, creating extremely cold winters in some parts of the year, extremely hot winters in others, and sporadic ice ages. The Earth and moon are also “tidally locked,” meaning that the same side of the moon always faces the Earth. The other half of the moon remains unseen to most eyes. This “dark side of the moon,” as it’s called, can only be seen from space. Astronauts did, however, witness the dark side of the moon beginning in the late 1950s, when the Soviet probe Luna 3 took a few photos of the dark side. This probe was one small part of the so-called Space Race, the part of the Cold War when the Americans and the Soviets engaged in a soft technological battle in an effort to demonstrate superiority in space, which ended with the Americans landing men on the moon in the famous Apollo missions.

## AMAZING ESCAPES!

START

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

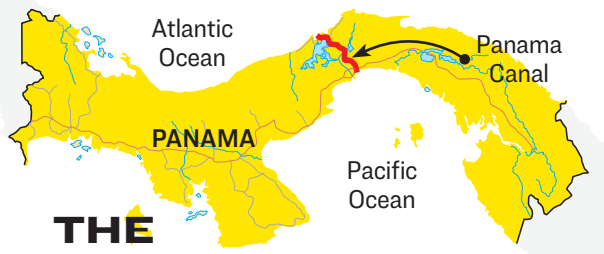
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**HIDDEN TREASURES** by Liz Bal  
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**WORD SEARCH:** Space, The Final Frontier

G	Z	J	H	P	G	H	N	E	P	T	U	N	E	
A	P	V	E	L	A	T	U	N	A	I	G	S	G	
L	E	J	E	L	A	S	T	E	R	O	I	D	R	
A	M	F	N	U	N	O	S	A	T	U	R	N	T	
X	T	O	U	T	E	N	P	S	H	D	G	U	E	
Y	O	E	S	O	T	A	S	T	R	O	N	A	U	
M	J	S	H	U	T	T	L	E	A	L	I	E	N	
F	U	A	S	T	R	O	N	O	M	X	H	I	R	
S	P	A	C	E	S	T	A	T	I	O	N	S	V	
A	I	T	E	L	E	S	C	O	P	E	T	E	C	
D	T	C	G	R	A	V	I	T	Y	H	A	R	K	
E	Q	W	A	W	M	I	Y	M	R	S	E			
P	R	M	M	E	R	C	U	R	Y	Y	W	D	E	
L	B	E	M	S	P	H	E	M	O	R	B	I	T	
R	L	T	D	J	P	M	E	T	I	O	R	G	I	N

Aliens Saturn Shuttle  
Asteroid Space station  
Astronaut Star  
Astronomy Sun  
Comet Telescope  
Earth Universe  
Galaxy Venus  
Gravity Jupiter Mars  
Mercury Meteor Moon Neptune Orbit Planet Pluto Rocket



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PANAMA/SHUTTERSTOCK

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