

THE EPOCH TIMES

LIFE &

TRADITION

Every good fortune experienced by individuals uplifts the entire community.

Celebrating Others' Good Fortune

When envy starts creeping in, put it in its place with these 4 countermoves

By Barbara Danza

When you learn of someone else's good fortune—some positive development in their lives—what's your honest first reaction? Are you genuinely happy for them or do you feel a twinge of envy that the good fortune isn't yours?

Everyone can relate to the latter, even if it isn't always the case. That sense of envy is information that you can turn around and put to great use in your life and the lives of those around you.

Recognize

Becoming observant of your thoughts and emotions is a valuable skill. If you can recognize envy when it shows up, pause and notice how it makes you feel and ask yourself what you're really envious of.

For example, if you see someone enjoying more wealth and you feel a sense of envy, ask yourself, is it wealth you covet? Perhaps it's the status the wealth could bring or the freedom the wealth may allow. Dig deeply to uncover what it is that's bringing out this sense of envy.

Rather than allowing this envy to fester and engender negative emotions toward a fellow human being, you can utilize it to be a source of information. It can point to areas in your own life that you may want to dedicate more focus on, and you can, in turn, feel thankful to that person for showing you greater possibilities in life.

Resisting the urge to get bogged down in the negative emotion of envy allows you to quickly observe it and then set it down in favor of more positive and productive thoughts.

Celebrate

The good fortunes of others are truly
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BIBA KAYEWICH

World War II Veteran Celebrates 100 Years

At 22, Edwin Smith survived a deadly air crash. He shares his story of divine intervention.

By Paula L. Ratliff

U.S. Army Air Force veteran Edwin Smith celebrated his 100th birthday on April 12, and the community of Barren County, Kentucky, stepped forward to honor him with pomp and circumstance.

Reserve Officers' Training Corps members at Barren County High School posted flags and presented a folded American flag on behalf of a grateful

nation. Letters from elected officials and civic organizations were read. Hundreds of people mailed cards. Schoolchildren created cards filled with birthday greetings and messages of patriotic pride.

A local vintage aircraft enthusiast brought his World War II tail dragger, a 1941 L-9B Stinson, to the party. Veteran bike groups rode in from Lexington, Kentucky. Signs, banners, and balloons were on full display.

"I never thought I would live this long, but it's a wonderful day," Smith said as he greeted family, friends, and strangers.

His birthday celebration started the previous month when he was honored

by the Barren County Fiscal Court and his alma mater, Western Kentucky University, honored him with a distinguished alumni award. The award was presented to him by centenarian J. Lee Robertson, who also served in World War II.

Robertson welcomed him to the "Century Club," and the two shared stories of their remarkable lives. They teased each other about their college days, with Robertson saying that "he was in the library studying while Smith was chasing women."

Smith laughed as he recalled riding
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COURTESY OF FAMILY



2nd Lt. Edwin Fay Smith, USAAF - Pilot
World War II, B-17, B-29

While in the Air Force, Edwin F. Smith learned to fix and fly different types of planes.

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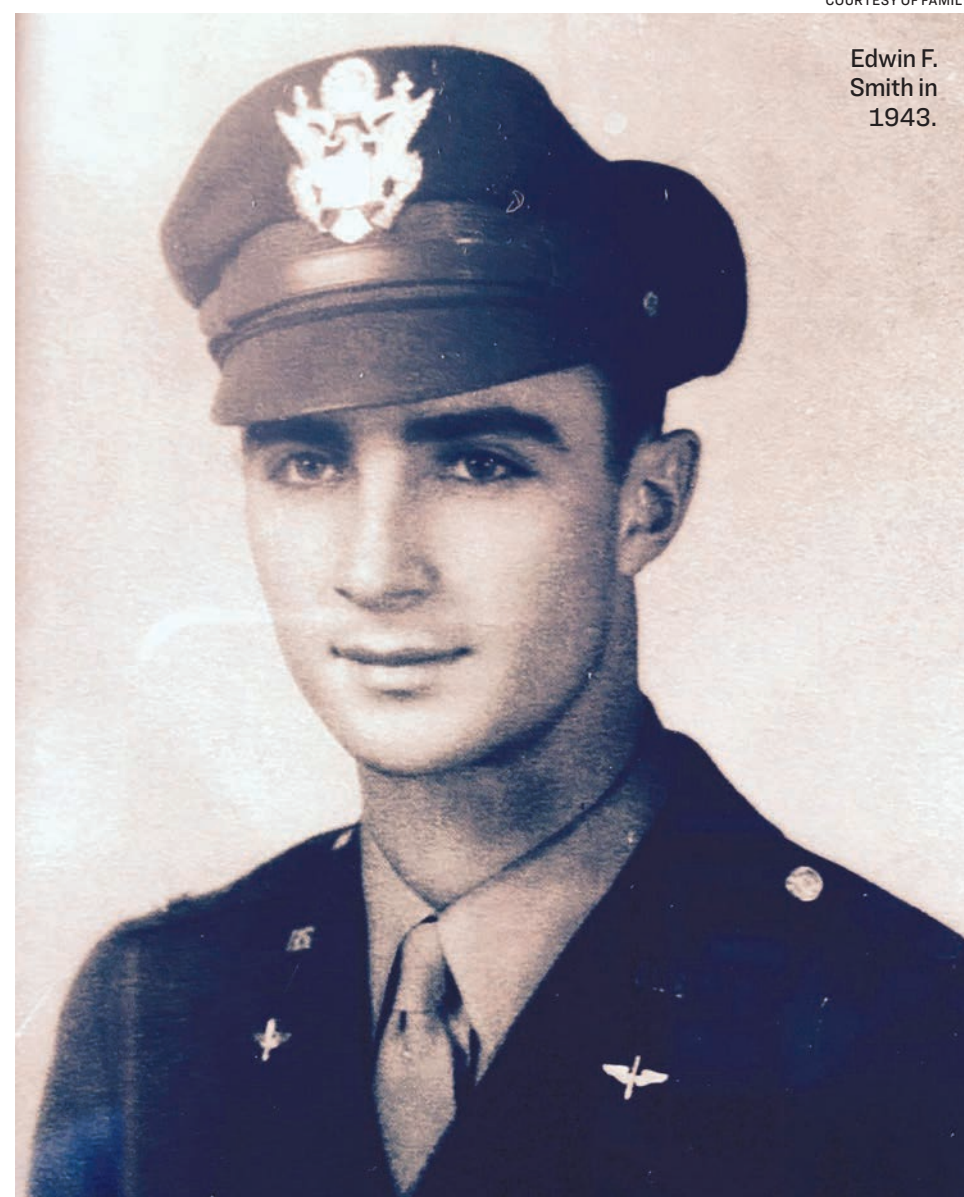


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COURTESY OF FAMILY
Edwin F. Smith in 1943.

World War II Veteran Celebrates 100 Years

Continued from Page 1

his bike nearly 30 miles to see a girl. "We couldn't go out when I got there because we didn't have any money. So I would visit and ride back home," Smith said.

While in the service, Smith learned to fix and fly various planes, including Boeing B-17 Flying Fortresses and B-29 Superfortresses, and his successful career was celebrated when he was promoted to second lieutenant.

"The Air Force taught me everything I know about planes. I had never even been on a plane before joining the service," he said. "I loved flying and learning every detail about the planes."

His service was by all accounts stellar; yet, a moment in time changed his life forever, leaving him with many regrets and scars when his unit was involved in a training accident involving two B-29 Superfortress bombers that left 18 service members dead and only two survivors with serious injuries. He's now the only living survivor of the tragedy—a night-time inferno that lit up the sky—which happened in Weatherford, Texas.

"The collision caused the plane to explode and catch fire quickly due to the massive amounts of fuel on board. As the plane veered toward the ground, its fate was sealed.

"I knew nobody was going to survive, and I figured my best option was to parachute out," Smith said. He adjusted his parachute and ripcord as he planned to escape out of the co-pilot window. He attempted to climb out of the window, but he couldn't pull himself through the small opening, unable to free his lower body. The parachute didn't open.

"The slipstream was so strong; I couldn't straighten up. I knew at that point I was

announcement of surrender and many considered that World War II was over; yet, we were still training and were told we were going to Saipan, where there was still resistance," Smith said.

He was the co-pilot that night and was confident in the skills of each member of the crew. They flew into Fort Worth at about 9 p.m. and completed the first round successfully, even with some mechanical issues. The plane would drop 200 feet, then correct itself and rise 200 feet above the 15,000 altitudes, then back down.

"The plane was going through the air like a dolphin," Smith said.

Yet, they persevered. As the pilot began to make the southerly bank, Smith heard him say, "Oh my God!" As he looked up from the instrument panel, Smith saw a blue light and felt an impact. He thought they had hit a passenger plane.

The collision caused the plane to explode and catch fire quickly due to the massive amounts of fuel on board. As the plane veered toward the ground, its fate was sealed.

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Surviving a Tragedy
Smith was stationed in New Mexico when his unit was assigned on Aug. 17, 1945, to complete five radar-controlled bombing runs and then return.

"This was just three days after the Japanese imperial government had made an

announcement of surrender and many considered that World War II was over; yet, we were still training and were told we were going to Saipan, where there was still resistance," Smith said.

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something to celebrate, even if you're thinking from the perspective of your own personal benefit. When you discover envy in yourself, begin fostering the habit of replacing that negative reaction with a positive one of celebrating good fortune.

After all, in addition to altruistically caring for and being happy for someone other than yourself, you can celebrate

Serve
When you've developed a habit of celebrating the good fortunes of others, you

the fact that that person has shown you what's possible, and that's hopeful for you, too.

The very fact that someone in your community experiences good fortune has an uplifting and inspiring effect on the community at large—another idea worth celebrating.

Be Grateful
Finally, a surefire way to squash a sense of envy is to foster one of deep gratitude. Envy and gratitude are incompatible. Rather than allowing your focus to cen-



(Above) Edwin Smith talks flight stories with Calvin Wiley, owner of a WWII tail dragger, a 1941 L-9B Stinson.



(Below) Edwin Smith accepts a flag from the Barren County High School JROTC.

going to die, and I began to pray that God would save my soul. I knew he couldn't save my life, but I wanted him to save my soul," Smith said.

As he pulled back inside of the window, in a moment of miraculous intervention, the ripcord on his parachute deployed, ripping his body out of the window and propelling him into the air. He floated in and out of consciousness for an unknown period of time. He believed that he was dead and mistook the silence and darkness for eternity.

He believes that he hit the ground at least three times, and each time, the parachute propelled him back into the air. His injuries prevented him from escaping or closing the parachute until it became entangled.

In the early morning hours, he was awakened when authorities found him in a field surrounded by burning debris from the aircraft. The doctor asked for a parachute kit and said to give him both shots of morphine.

"It might kill him, but he's near death anyway," Smith recalled hearing the doctor say.

Smith suffered extreme injuries and was hospitalized for 36 days. He was eventually reunited with the other survivor, Cpl. Earl E. Wishmeier of West Burlington, Iowa. The two became close friends and remained in contact until Wishmeier's passing in 2009.

No Clothes and Empty Barracks
Smith recalls that the hospital didn't have air conditioning or many modern comforts. Yet he persevered through several surgeries and physical therapy.

Eventually, while Smith was preparing to be dismissed, a commanding officer reminded him that officers had to pay for their clothes.

This created a challenge because Smith

didn't have any money. When they left that evening on the training mission, they were instructed not to bring any personal items or identification, only their dog tags.

He credits the American Red Cross with helping him obtain a khaki uniform with no insignia, a hat, and a pair of shoes from the PX. The Army gave him a one-way ticket to return to his base in Clovis, New Mexico.

"The barracks were empty, as if no one had ever been there. The beds were still made, and the windows were open just like they left them the evening we left. All of our personal belongings were gone," Smith said.

"I sat down on my bunk to pray for the souls of the crew and I cried. I was 22 years old and in the last 36 days had endured just about all I could stand. My personal belongings never arrived home. I don't know what happened to them."

His injuries were so severe that he was discharged in September 1945, and the Army gave him \$400 cash for his travels home.

He arrived home wearing his khaki uniform with no insignia of rank.

Building a New Life
After his time in the service, Smith enrolled at the University of Tennessee for two years and then transferred to Bowling Green Business University, which became Western Kentucky University, where he earned a degree in accounting. His career included working with the IRS, selling and buying real estate, and auctioneering.

"My life was tough," he said as he reflected on his early years.

Smith was raised in a one-room log cabin without water and electricity. As a young child, he caught typhoid fever before the vaccine was invented, and he nearly died.

"At that time, the standard of treatment

may find yourself inspired to engender more good fortune for others. Whether in your career, your community, your family, or elsewhere, how can you put your particular skills and talents to use in service of others? Approaching life in this way, one in which you aim for others' good fortune, is an excellent way to kick the envy monster to the curb. Your success becomes tied to the success of others. You're sure to find this approach more meaningful and joyful, and the sense of being stifled by envy will dissipate.

Be Grateful
Finally, a surefire way to squash a sense of envy is to foster one of deep gratitude. Envy and gratitude are incompatible. Rather than allowing your focus to cen-

ter on what you lack, focus on all of the beauty, goodness, and immense blessings you have in your life.

If you're reading this article right now, you're literate, you have access to information, you have a moment to pause and read something you (hopefully) find valuable, and you're alive with air in your lungs and eyes that can see. Water flows when you turn on your faucet, and when you open your refrigerator, I bet there's some food in there you could eat.

You may be grateful for your family, your education, your home, your spiritual beliefs, your friends, your favorite sweatshirt, or your great potential.

Everyone is walking their own

unique path in life, complete with ups and downs. Celebrate when you see others enjoying good fortune.

Unchecked envy can color every aspect of your life, encourage a victim mentality, and hinder your ability to reach your fullest potential. When you sense envy in yourself, do what you can to eliminate it and live with more gratitude, hope, and lightness as you go forward. You'll not only uplift the quality of your own life but that of those around you as well.

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STEVE ROBERTSON
J. Lee Robertson, a World War II U.S. Army veteran, and Edwin Smith celebrate being members of the "Century Club." Both men graduated from Western Kentucky University.



PAULA RATLIFF
(Left) Edwin Smith holds a congratulatory letter from Son, Rand Paul (R-Ky).



PAULA RATLIFF
(Right) Edwin Smith's uniform, which he wore home with no insignia.

was to starve the fever. Thankfully, a traveling doctor came to the house and told my parents to feed me," he said with a smile.

Smith often reflects on his high school football career in which his team was undefeated.

"I was offered a football scholarship to attend the University of Louisville, but after the attack on Pearl Harbor, I joined the military in December 1941. I wanted to serve my country," he said.

Smith followed in the footsteps of his father, who served in World War I, and his grandfather, who served in the Confederate States Army during the Civil War.

"We were a strong and patriotic family. They are all gone, except I have one living sister, Willa Taylor. She is older than I am, but don't tell her age, she wouldn't like that," he said, thrilled that she attended his 100th birthday party after having not seen her since before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Smith stands at 6 feet, 1 inch tall, and his gait is steadied by a simple walking cane. Perhaps the injuries from war are a frequent reminder of the tragedy that changed his life, yet a reminder of the miracle that saved his life. His voice is calm and low, yet, as he shares his memories, his countenance lightens and history becomes alive again.

Honoring the Flight Crews
There isn't a great deal of information available about this accident. It's unknown if any investigation was conducted or if there were mechanical glitches. Open record requests to the Department of Defense haven't been fulfilled as of this writing.

However, one veteran learned about the accident and began a quest to know the story.

While working at the local firehouse, U.S. Navy veteran Bob Hopkins liked to read through old log books. He found an entry from Aug. 17, 1945, that read, "Plane crash. No survivors."

He began researching local newspapers and eventually learned that there were two survivors. As he learned their stories, he felt compelled to coordinate efforts with

the local historical society to erect historical markers to honor the crews of the two bombers.

On Oct. 18, 2003, 58 years after the crash, historic markers were placed. At that time, Smith was 75 years of age.

Twenty-five years later, Hopkins was thrilled to hear of Smith's 100th birthday celebration and the community's efforts to honor him.

"Imagine being alive before the end of World War II, before modern highways, before television. I believe there are a handful of unforgettable people that come into our lives, those that make incredible impressions and do unforgettable and fantastic things. He is that kind of person. He has lived an incredible life of greatness and honor," Hopkins said.

"A failed ripcord, yet an opened parachute. Nothing short of a miracle."

Paula L. Ratliff is a published author and freelance writer in Kentucky.

Words to Live By

When Edwin Smith's daughter, Becky Smith Kingery, graduated from high school in 1987, he used his manual typewriter to prepare eight statements of advice. Kingery carries these with her to this day.

- Fill your mind with thoughts of peace, courage, and good health.
- Never try to get even with your enemies.
- Expect ingratitude.
- Count your blessings—not your troubles.
- Do not imitate others.
- Create happiness for others.
- Be thankful for what you have and don't worry about what you don't have.
- Pray often.



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EPHREIM/GETTY IMAGES

Gratitude keeps envy at bay, whether it's for family, education, home, faith, friends, or a favorite sweater.

“Dog at Rest,” 1650, by Gerrit Dou. Oil on panel; 6.5 inches by 8.5 inches. Rose-Marie and Eijk van Otterloo Collection, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.



ALL IMAGES IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

FINE ARTS

The Power of the Dog: Centuries of Canines in Art

By Michelle Plastrik

Tens of thousands of years ago, though the exact date is disputed, dogs were domesticated by humans. Likewise, the depiction of canines in art has a rich history that runs the gamut. Dogs have made their appearances in early cave and rock paintings, ancient Greek ceramics, Roman mosaics, medieval tapestries and statues, and Old Master portraits.

In art history, the dog has signified a range of qualities, including loyalty, protection, power, strength, and intel-

ligence, as well as, on the other paw, companionship. A canine-centric analysis, spanning French, Flemish, Dutch, and English artworks across the centuries, gives one a sense of the powerful, multifaceted symbolism of the image of the dog.

‘Tomb Effigy of a Lady’

At The Met Cloisters, there’s a gallery called “Gothic Chapel” that aesthetically takes the form of a 13th-century chapel. One of its featured medieval works is “Tomb Effigy of a Lady,” which likely represents the noblewoman Margaret of Gloucester, the wife of Robert II, baron of Neubourg.

In this effigy, Margaret, with her arms in a prayer position, is shown wearing the aristocratic clothes and accessories of her day. The wimple (female headdress) denotes her as having been a married woman. An amuñière, or purse, containing coins for the needy, a needle case, and an eating knife in its sheath are suspended from her belt. However, the most telling symbol of her virtuous domesticity lies at her feet in the form of a sculpted dog, albeit an unidentifiable breed. Medieval tombs often feature dogs, representing attributes such as fidelity and devotion, at the feet of an effigy.

During the Renaissance, marriage portraits continued the tradition of using dogs to reinforce a pictorial image of a woman’s fidelity. Examples include globally recognizable paintings such as Jan van Eyck’s “Arnolfini Portrait” and Titian’s “Venus of Urbino” (though there’s scholarly debate as to whether the latter work’s central figure is indeed a married lady). In subsequent centuries, whether the dog’s historic symbolism was applicable or not, female society portraits—from the aristocratic, such as Queen Charlotte, to the notorious, such as Lady Hamilton—often show a woman accompanied by the highly fashionable lap dog.

The Royals’ Mastiff

Flemish-born Baroque painter Anthony van Dyck was the greatest student of Peter Paul Rubens. He spent the latter part of his career as a court portraitist to Charles I of England, creating authoritative and flattering paintings of the royal family with rich colors and bold brushstrokes. A commissioned work from this productive affiliation is “The Five Eldest Children of Charles I.”

Former Surveyor of The Queen’s Pictures Desmond Shawe-Taylor calls it “one of van Dyck’s greatest portraits.” The composition shows an informal but elegant grouping of royal



“The Five Eldest Children of Charles I,” 1637, by Anthony van Dyck. Oil on canvas, 64.2 inches by 78.2 inches. Royal Collection, United Kingdom.

children. Their manner is in marked contrast to the earlier portraiture tradition of showing royal children as miniature adults in stiff and formal arrangements.

At the center of the canvas is a boy and his dog. The boy is Charles I’s heir, Prince Charles, who later became King Charles II. The dog is a spectacularly rendered massive mastiff.

Mastiffs have a rich history as guard dogs, stretching back to Roman times. Thus, in addition to the dog symbolizing loyalty, this dog also represents power and protection. However, the positioning of the prince’s hand on the dog’s head suggests that it’s the prince who’s the master of this powerful creature, capable of one day ruling the country.

By the first quarter of the 17th century, mastiffs had become an almost endangered breed. As curator Robin Gibson explains in his book “Pets in Portraits,” its presence in the painting can also be interpreted as a status symbol. At the lower right-hand corner of the painting sits a charming, eagerly alert spaniel. Spaniels were popular with the Tudor and Stuart royal families, and they’re especially associated with King Charles II, who gave his name to two breeds of toy spaniels still popular today: the King Charles spaniel and the Cavalier King Charles spaniel.

The Exquisite Little Picture

One of the most accomplished and innovative painters of the Dutch Golden Age was Gerrit Dou, a student of Rembrandt. Dou’s artistic talents so impressed Charles II that he invited the artist to his English court, but Dou chose to remain in his homeland, where he was a member of the Leiden *Fijnschilders* artistic group. Their output is characterized by small-scale formats, which give a great sense of intimacy, along with

In art history, the dog has signified a range of qualities, including loyalty, protection, power, strength, and intelligence.

carefully observed, meticulously precise, and highly realistic painted details.

Dou was a virtuoso in rendering surfaces and usually worked on oak panels. He’s especially known for painting

genre scenes, vignettes of everyday life. One of his masterworks is the tiny 6.5-by-8.5-inch painting “Dog at Rest,” whose subject matter and format are unique within the artist’s work. In 1834, English art dealer John Smith, who specialized in 17th-century Dutch art, said that “it is impossible for painting to be carried to higher perfection than that displayed in this exquisite little picture.”

In “Dog at Rest,” which was inspired by a Rembrandt drawing and etching of dogs, Dou depicts a napping, wire-haired, spotted dog that’s sweetly curled up on a shelf or table. He’s in the

state between waking and dreaming, with eyes just barely open. Nestled next to him is an arrangement of everyday household objects: a large earthenware jug, a straw basket, a bundle of branches, and a slipper.

Dou’s paintings frequently contain symbolic imagery of an instructive moral theme. “Dog at Rest” could be perceived as a *vanitas* still life. The viewer is reminded of the transitory nature of earthly achievements, pleasures, and worldly goods, and is asked to consider their own mortality. This was a prevalent topic in artworks created in Leiden in Dou’s time. However, the exact symbolic nature of “Dog at Rest” remains enigmatic and is part of the work’s enduring appeal.

‘Tristram and Fox’

The painting “Tristram and Fox,” by 18th-century English portraitist and landscape artist Thomas Gainsborough, is currently on view in the exhibition “Portraits of Dogs: From Gainsborough to Hockney” at The Wallace Collection (through Oct. 15, 2023). Curator Xavier Bray says, “The way that our relationship with dogs—that unexplainable, loving bond—transgresses into art history is fascinating, and a greater reflection of society.” The genre of dog portraiture thrived from the 17th century onward, especially in Britain. The exhibit showcases the special bond between people and their pet dogs, and “Tristram and Fox” is an especially winning example.

Gainsborough was a lover of dogs, and he commonly featured canines in his portraits and landscapes. In several of his artworks, dogs were the main subject. According to family lore, “Tristram and Fox” was a canine portrait of Gainsborough’s own pets, though the work wasn’t titled by the artist. The painting is known to have hung over the chimney piece of his London home. Gainsborough’s naming of his dogs reflects his engagement with the literature and politics of his time: Tristram, on the right, is named after the eponymous character in Laurence Sterne’s novel “The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman.” While Fox takes his name from the Whig politician Charles James Fox.

Gainsborough’s tender portrait of his pets, which weren’t working or hunting dogs, also embodies his era’s attitudes about canine companions. Alexander Collins, another curator of the exhibition, says there was a “philosophical dialogue in the 18th century about the nature of animals and whether they are receptive and emotionally intelligent. It’s part of the spirit of the age of respecting animals and understanding their intelligence and giving them identity.”

Gainsborough’s composition and brushstrokes encourage one to view the dogs as sentient beings. Fox’s eyes gleam and his mouth is partially opened. The dog’s smooth and shiny eyes, nose, and mouth are precisely executed and are contrasted by the feathery brushwork Gainsborough employs for the dog’s fur and frilly, white collar. Tristram’s fur has a rougher surface finish, and he has silky floppy ears.

An appraisal of art history shows that the connection between humans and dogs has a long and storied past. Indeed, images of dogs in artworks often make the viewing of such works more accessible, relatable, and enjoyable. That’s the power and draw of the dog.

Michelle Plastrik is an art advisor living in New York City. She writes on a range of topics, including art history, the art market, museums, art fairs, and special exhibitions.



“Tristram and Fox,” circa 1775–1785, by Thomas Gainsborough. Oil on canvas, 24 inches by 20 inches. Tate, UK.



“Scene at the Signing of the Constitution of the United States,” 1940, by Howard Chandler Christy.

AUTHOR INTERVIEW

Michigan Judge Appeals to Americans for Morality Reform

Judge authors 3-volume work on the founders’ views of religion

By Dustin Bass

Judge Mark Boonstra has been on the cutting edge in witnessing the social and moral decline of America. After practicing private law for nearly three decades, he has sat on Michigan’s 3rd District Court of Appeals for the past decade.

His adherence to the letter of the law and his disdain for judicial activism has drawn the ire of the left. His appreciation for textualism, commonly referred to as constitutional originalism, has led him to place his needle within the social fabric of American society in hopes of sewing back some of its tears.

Boonstra diligently spent eight years working on his “In Their Own Words” multi-volume project, which presents the beliefs and ideas from all 118 signers of America’s three foundational documents: the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the Constitution. His third and final volume was released late last year. It was indeed a massive undertaking, but according to Boonstra, the work was more than worth it if it can help right the ship of state back on course toward what the Founding Fathers had intended for the republic.

“I think the country is in trouble and it’s been increasingly in trouble for a long time. It’s what compelled me to write the book,” Boonstra said during an interview on “The Sons of History” podcast. “Our Founding Fathers must be rolling over in their graves looking at what we’ve done to the country they gave to us.”

A Return to the Founding Principles

His goal is simply to refresh the American mind concerning the founding principles. The founders believed corporately in the need for a virtuous nation, and, as Boonstra tries to demonstrate in his books, that virtue stems from religion.

“Religion was fundamental. The belief in a supreme being and the need for His guidance and direction was fundamental to the founding of this country,” he said. “It was the essence of why they came here and why they founded this country. We’re becoming secularized in every aspect of our society. I think they would be aghast.”

He believes that religion has been completely undermined in the United States, even to the point that it’s held in contempt by much of the general public, along with local, state, and federal

governments. A notion that has driven this narrative is what he believes to be a misinterpretation of the establishment clause in the First Amendment, commonly referred to as the “separation of church and state” clause.

Boonstra noted that the establishment clause was absolutely necessary when the founders began forming the republic. Colonists had come to the New World to escape religious tyranny via an established church. Most of the colonies, however, still had established churches.

“A lot of them brought over what they came from, such as Massachusetts was established as a Congregationalist colony, Virginia was Anglican. They were taxed to support a particular church,” he said. “The founders agreed that they wanted freedom of religion. They believed they should promote religion. Most of them were Protestant Christians of various denominations. Some wanted to restrict it to that, but ultimately, it was agreed there would be no established church. They would allow all religions and everyone would be able to exercise their religion as they see fit.”

Boonstra’s books are testaments to the founders’ belief in religion as an absolute necessity

A Misconstrued Phrase

Since the phrase “separation of church and state” isn’t in the Constitution but is rather a reference to the spirit of the law in a letter from Thomas Jefferson responding to ministers of the Danbury Baptist Association, it apparently has allowed for some people, from politicians to political commentators to professors to the average citizen, to misconstrue the spirit of that law.

“Today we say ‘separation of church and state’ and we make it appear antagonistic, but it wasn’t at all,” Boonstra said. “When Jefferson wrote that, it was because Baptists had been persecuted in certain colonies, including his colony of Virginia, and they wanted assurance that they would be able to practice as they wished. He said, ‘Absolutely.’ There would be a ‘wall of separation.’ What he was not trying to say—if you look at the context and his words was that we need to protect the government and society from religion, but that we need to protect the churches from government interference so that everyone is free to worship as they see fit. That’s what the wall of separation was intended to be.”

The “wall of separation” is important, but Boonstra emphasized how



The founders believed freedom of religion was essential to the republic and that personal liberty came from God. The logo for the Founders Own Words website.

important religion within a society was to the founders. He said the reason the founders believed freedom of religion was essential to the founding of the republic was because they believed that personal liberty came from God. Freedom of religion was the freedom to decide for themselves about what they believed and about how to worship. Without that freedom and without religion in general, the societal structure would fall apart.

Religion to Move Forward

“So many of them talked about how the government and our society was founded on virtue and morality; and what was the underpinning of morality? It was religion,” he said. “They were very much Christian almost to a person in varying degrees and believed fundamentally in a supreme being and that our government and society needed to rely on that to move forward.”

Boonstra’s books are testaments to the founders’ belief in religion as an absolute necessity. They are full of short biographies and excerpts from letters and documents referring to virtue, morality, and religion. One of the more notable references that Boonstra quotes comes from the “Father of Our Country,” George Washington, during his farewell address, in which he stated, “Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports ... And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion.”

As a legal scholar who’s practiced the law in some form or other, from law clerk to attorney to judge, Boonstra has witnessed personally the moral degradation within society and within governments. He referenced Samuel Adams on the idea that religion and public liberty are connected and how they “rise and fall together.”

Adams wrote, “For this Reason, it is always observable, that those who are combin’d to destroy the People’s Liberties, practice every art to poison their Morals.”

“I think that’s a lot of what you see going on in our country today,” Boonstra said in the podcast interview. “We’re poisoning the morals and we’re undermining the fundamental underpinnings of our society. I think we’re at a crossroads. I think we are in danger of losing our country, if it’s not late already to save it. It’s time for people to stand up and say, ‘We’re not going to let you do this to our country.’”

Dustin Bass is an author and co-host of *The Sons of History* podcast.

For more arts and culture articles, visit [TheEpochTimes.com](https://www.theepochtimes.com)

“The Arnolfini Portrait,” 1434, by Jan van Eyck. Oil on oak panel of 3 vertical boards, 32.4 inches by 23.6 inches. National Gallery, London.





Preschoolers are encouraged to compete with their peers for toys, space, and attention.

EDUCATION

The Unforeseen Problems of Preschool

Preschool is often touted for its benefits, but some experts say differently

By Annie Holmquist

We have more preschool programs all the time. In fact, a recent article in The New York Times indicates that there are more preschool openings than can be filled by children, noting that “early childhood advocates say more families would likely sign up if they knew about the benefits of preschool.”

But these so-called benefits often fail to materialize. As various academic studies indicate, children who attend preschool can have difficulties later in life, falling behind their non-preschool peers in both behavior and academics, and having an increased likelihood of being held back a grade later in their school career.

Raymond Moore, an American educational expert and father of the modern homeschool movement, foresaw these problems nearly 50 years ago, noting them in his book “Better Late Than Early.” Because it makes people nervous to voluntarily keep a child out of school for a while, which allegedly allows the child’s peers to “get ahead,” Moore set

out to put parents at ease by answering their concerns about keeping children out of preschool and showing some of the unforeseen difficulties presented by starting children in school so early.

His advice holds true today, and every parent should consider the following before entrusting a child to an educational institution.

Preschool Promotes Learning Difficulties
All parents want their children to succeed and get ahead of the curve in education and behavior. Unfortunately, sending a child to preschool can cause the exact opposite, as it separates the children from the adults they need most: parents. Separation at such a young age, Moore writes, “usually causes a degree of insecurity to all children.” And that separation often “lays the base for severe emotional and learning problems later on.”

Many parents say that their children enjoy going to school at such a young age, often showing excitement and enthusiasm. But Moore urges caution, noting that excitement is often a cloak for anxiety. And that anxiety or insecurity only

increases when children are placed in a preschool with a fluctuating or limited staff, a seemingly common occurrence in today’s workforce.

Preschool Often Brings Bad Influences
The idea that children need to be socialized and exposed to influences outside the home is one often glibly voiced. That may be sound advice once a child gets closer to adulthood, but not at only 3 or 4 years old.

By sending a child to preschool, Moore writes, “parents subject their children to influences that they cannot control,” including teachers and fellow classmates. This is especially true in the present era, in which philosophies such as transgenderism are increasingly prevalent and encouraged in the classroom.

“Since the children are unable to reason consistently, they are often confused by mores and values in the home that conflict with those in school,” a fact that can create unnecessary friction, as children are more prone to “place the word of their teachers ahead of their own parents.” Preschool can also influence children

to develop a more entitled attitude. Moore notes that “the abundance of toys and equipment and the absence of chores may make them resentful of home restrictions before they are able to understand the reasons for the differences.” Allowing children to spend time in the home during their early years can direct them toward a more service-oriented attitude, rather than that of a spoiled child who expects every whim to be fulfilled.

Preschool Presents Too Much, Too Soon
Hustling a child out the door and sending him to an educational institution erases the simple, easygoing stage of childhood and replaces it with overstimulation, Moore explains.

“Competition with a number of his peers for toys and space, and in physical or mental abilities usually is a strain on young children,” Moore writes. Children will have plenty of time for a hectic, fast-paced schedule when they are eventually forced to compete in the real world. Why make them give up their freedom from such a lifestyle before it’s necessary?

Moore encourages family life instead, writing, “Family life for the first 8 years tends to prepare a child more gently for the competition he must eventually face.”

So if preschool can cause so many problems, how do we navigate a child’s early education successfully without it?

Moore has a simple answer for that: a good home.

“There is no systematic evidence from research that supports the need for nursery schooling for the child who has a good home,” he writes. So provide a good home for them. Let them play and create. Teach them to work alongside you, enabling them to “learn responsibility, order, industry, honesty, and similar values.”

Because of an economy that has made two-income families the norm, this is harder to do than it once was. However, there are other families who simply “use preschool as a crutch—passing to the preschool certain childhood problems they cannot handle or behavior they cannot understand,” Moore writes.

Given the dangers and lifelong problems that institutionalizing children at such a young age can bring, let’s not use preschool as a cop-out. Let’s take every opportunity we can to give our children a chance to be in a loving home environment, letting them learn just by living life with the parents, grandparents, and siblings around them. In doing so, we’ll be giving those children a far greater academic and behavioral advantage than even the most prestigious preschool could ever hope to.

Annie Holmquist is a cultural commentator hailing from America’s heartland who loves classic books, architecture, music, and values. Her writings can be found at Annie’s Attic on Substack.

FAMILY

Summer: Time to ‘Deschool’

Encourage your children to reengage with their interests and the world around them, and watch them shine

By Barbara Danza

If you are a parent of schoolchildren approaching the glorious summer break, might I suggest you use the time to reap the many benefits of deschooling.

Deschooling is a process familiar to many homeschoolers during which you and your family shake off and let go of the many notions, assumptions, and beliefs about learning that have been impressed upon you and your children by school.

We’ve all been taught, for example, that in order to learn and become educated, you have to go to school. A cursory glance at many great scholars and achievers throughout history proves otherwise—as does any independent learning by you or your children.

Some argue that our modern-day public school system actually impedes learning and is, in reality, detrimental to education. (To learn more, look into the work of John Taylor Gatto, a New York City and state teacher of the year who shared his eye-opening experiences; or simply consult the alarming data measuring literacy rates in the United States.)

The truth is, one doesn’t need school to learn. Summer is an opportune time to uncover that spark of curiosity, that joy of learning that your children may have

exhibited when they were younger—before they went to school.

Benefits of Deschooling
Quite the opposite of the so-called “summer slide,” deschooling for the 10 or 11 weeks of summer break will allow your children to remember the natural processes of tinkering, exploring, reading for enjoyment, using imagination, creating, building, designing, inventing, pretending, and playing. These are the activities that, when self-directed, result in immeasurable learning opportunities.

When allowed the freedom to partake in these rites of childhood without pressure or coercion, your children will be

free to experience their innate enthusiasm and curiosity that school tends to leave little room for.

How to Deschool
Deschooling is simple and joyful. Let go of the hustle and bustle of the school year schedule and become one with the calm of summer. Reconnect with your kids. Spend time with them, listen to them, play with them, and get to know what their current interests are and what lights them up inside. In essence, do all the things your children are naturally inclined to do when they aren’t in school.

Rather than screen-centric activities, encourage ones that engage their minds

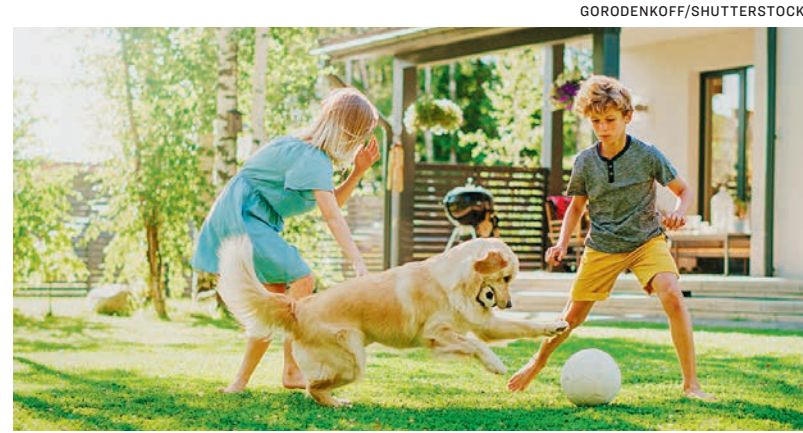
and hearts. Spend lots of time outdoors and in deep conversations with your kids. Listen to and watch them closely. Notice how their innate curiosity begins to reengage with the world and how the drudgery of school becomes a distant memory. You’ll feel like you’re doing a lot of nothing but will likely at some point find yourself astonished at how much they’re learning without the “help” of school. That’s when you’ll know deschooling is working.

Visit the library and bookstores, and stock up on a feast of delightful reading. Enjoy an audiobook here and there. Play music. Watch documentaries. Go to the park. Swim in the ocean. Start a project just for fun.

Amid it all, your child is going to learn things. And so are you.

You’ll know deschooling is working when you witness your child’s true self shining and is, in reality, detrimental to education. You’ll experience the joy of deschooling when you stop worrying about your child’s reading level or what the other kids are learning in their grade. You’ll understand the deep benefits of deschooling when you begin to ask yourself how you were ever convinced that conventional schooling was the only way for your kids to learn.

Deschooling, simply put, is letting go. Take as long as you need.



GORDENKOFF/SHUTTERSTOCK

Summer is the ideal time to reconnect with your kids and get to know what their current interests are.

FOR KIDS ONLY

THE EPOCH TIMES

A Patriotic Creed
By Edgar Guest

To serve my country day by day
At any humble post I may;
To honor and respect her Flag,
To live the traits of which I brag;
To be American in deed
As well as in my printed creed.

I must always in trouble’s hour
Be guided by the men in power;
For God and country I must live,
My best for God and country give;
No act of mine that men may scan
Must shame the name American.

To stand for truth and honest toil,
To till my little patch of soil
And keep in mind the debt I owe
To them who died that I might know
My country, prosperous and free,
And passed this heritage to me.

To do my best and play my part,
American in mind and heart;
To serve the flag and bravely stand
To guard the glory of my land;
To be American in deed,
God grant me strength to keep this creed.

WHAT DID ONE FLAG SAY TO THE OTHER FLAG?

Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty.

PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY (1917-1963), 35TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

This Week in History

JULIA WARD HOWE
IS BORN

On May 27, 1819, the future American author and lecturer Julia Ward Howe was born. Howe became best known for writing the famous “Battle Hymn of the Republic,” which became an anthem for the Union army during the Civil War.

The still-famous hymn begins:

“Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord:
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fatal lightning of his terrible swift sword:
His truth is marching on.”

Howe lived to be 91.



Julia Ward Howe in 1909

By Aidan Danza

THE CANADA GOOSE

The Canada Goose is one of the most common and likable birds of suburban lawns and lakes.

Even though their name says “Canada” goose and not “American” goose, their V-formation flights and their characteristic honking are a fixture across the United States.

The Canada goose’s preferred habitat is open, grassy areas, which makes the growing suburban sprawl of America very convenient for them. The average lawn is usually a bit small for them, but schoolyards, office complexes, parks, farmyards, and ponds are perfect habitats for a Canada goose.

One of the Canada goose’s major claims to fame is its familial nature. Canada geese mate for life, only choosing another mate if the previous mate has died. Canada geese couples also stay together after the year’s goslings have grown, something rather unusual in birds. (Often, a pair will separate in the nonbreeding season, getting back together when it’s time to nest again.)

Choosing a mate for a Canada goose seems very simple: They appear to select a mate based on size similarity; smaller birds will choose mates the same size as themselves, and the same is true for larger birds. Males also tend to be slightly larger than their mates.

The pair will start the nesting process from April to May in most of America, maybe later in a colder climate. The nest is built on the ground on the shore of a pond or lake, usually on an elevated place like a muskrat mound. The female will sit on the eggs and brood the chicks while the male stands guard. Geese are extremely protective of their nests and may attack threatening presences, including human beings.

The goslings will remain with their parents until near maturity, when they will sometimes form “gang broods,” which are basically large groups of goslings from different nests accompanied by one or more adults. These gang broods are more common in the South. After about 50 days under the care of their parents, the goslings go off to fend for themselves.

After about 50 days under the care of their parents, the goslings go off to fend for themselves.



The nest is built on the ground on the shore of a pond or lake.



After about 50 days under the care of their parents, the goslings go off to fend for themselves.

AMAZING ESCAPES!

USE THE FOUR NUMBERS IN THE CORNERS, AND THE OPERANDS (+, -, AND X) to build an equation to get the solution in the middle. There may be more than one “unique” solution but, there may also be “equivalent” solutions. For example: 6 + (7 X 3) + 2 = 28 and 1 + (7 X 3) + 6 = 28

Easy puzzle 1

4	10		
26			
1	10		
+	-	x	÷

Solution For Easy 1: 01 - 7 x (1 - 01)

Medium puzzle 1

4	18		
12			
4	15		
+	-	x	÷

Solution for Medium 1: 7 x 51 - 7 x 81

Hard puzzle 1

19	33		
52			
2	26		
+	-	x	÷

Solution for Hard 1: 2 x (92 - 61 + 65)



HIDDEN TREASURES by Liz Ball
www.HiddenPicturePuzzles.com

WORD SEARCH: Memorial Day Words to Remember

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

American	Loyal
Annual	Noble
Brave	Outdoor
Celebrate	Passionate
Ceremony	Persevering
Civic	Picnic
Devoted	Proud
Earnest	Remembered
Esteemed	Unafraid
Fun	Respectful
Gallant	Serve
Happy	Soldier
Heroic	Solemn
	Thankful
	Valiant
	United
	Unfearing
	True

DEAR NEXT GENERATION Advice from our readers to our young people

Give It All You've Got

You have everything you need to make your life a success

My advice to the younger generation is to give it all you've got. And you have plenty to give, even just starting out.

You have your time to give, and whenever you have heard an old timer say they would scrub toilets to get ahead, or that they would not ask a worker to do something they hadn't done themselves, you too have your time and effort you can give toward your higher goals.

Give your attention and get as educated as you want or need to be. After some trifling paperwork, your attention is the most valuable part of a community college or trade school enrollment, and you own all of that required attention right now.

Pick a good company with a good boss and give your loyalty, a commodity he or she cannot even buy. And don't talk yourself out of that to say loyalty is seldom rewarded. It almost always is rewarded but never enough in stories told later. It is a worthy part of the whole and one more thing you already have to give. Give it a shot.

And the same goes for giving your love, your whole heart, and your support to a wonderful mate, which cannot be replaced by all the rest together. A supportive partner has everything to do with your success, more than anything you will ever hold in your hand.

Give your faith that all this will work, blindly at first if required. This will not guarantee that it will all work, but that faith, which you already freely have to give, is what joins the links of your chain together.

All these things you can do starting tomorrow morning, without a dime yet to your name. You have but one real go at the whole scope of your life; give it all you've got and don't wait to start. You have everything you need already to give it your all.

—David Sullins, California

I am semi-retired from a family business that is going on to a third generation. I am in the process of writing a book about the history of the company and my life experiences, for my grandson mostly. Below is some of the advice I wrote in my book.

Advice for the next generation:

Practice humility. Controlling your temper and emotions leads to so many benefits from more friendships, better teamwork, and thinking more about others than about yourself.

Be frugal. As a business owner, you can never run out of cash. You need to be frugal, as you never know when that unexpected storm will hit. It is a good way to be environmentally conscious too! Live below your means. This reduces financial



stress and keeps life simple and easier.

Do everything in moderation. Whether it is drinking, TV, or having fun, do it in moderation and you will enjoy life more and miss life events less.

Do not expect work to be easy. One of the best things my father did for me was to have me work my way up the company ladder, starting with cleaning the floors and toilets. I believe you should not handicap your children by making their lives too easy.

Love is a four-letter word spelled "G-I-V-E." Be a giving person. It is important to give and make a difference in the lives of everyone you meet. I like this Jackie Robinson quote: "A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives."

Be thankful and grateful. Being grateful is easy when things are going well. It is important also to be grateful when life is a struggle. Things will get better.

Do more than you are asked. Go the extra mile on and off the job.

Don't look back. People tend to dwell on the past. Don't look into the rearview mirror too long. Learn from yesterday, live today, and lean into tomorrow.

Don't play the blame game. Take personal responsibility, always.

When things don't go according to plans, don't panic. Improvise, adapt, overcome! You cannot think clearly when stressed out.

It is always right to do the right thing, as it is always wrong to do the wrong thing. Doing the right thing is never wrong, even if it puts you out of your comfort zone.

Self-reflection results in self-improvement. At the end of the day, reflect on what went well, what did not, and what you

▲ **Hard work and a willingness to do more than what is required will pay off in the long run.**

“
It is important to give and make a difference in the lives of everyone you meet.”

David "Mickey" Nolen, Florida

can to make things better next time.

Be disciplined. This is one of the most important attributes. Once you learn something beneficial, make it routine. I have a lot of exercise routines I do daily to prevent injury. One of my sayings is: The older you get, the harder you must work to stay young! Another of my sayings is that pain is fine if it does not linger in the same place too long. The Marines like to say that "pain is weakness leaving the body."

I once had an assistant who made me coffee every morning when I arrived at work. At the time, I was putting two packets of sugar in my coffee. She told me that was too much sugar. I quit putting any sugar in my coffee that day. The ironic part of the story is that she left our employment to work for her family business, which was wholesale cotton candy—pure sugar!

Learn from history. Ronald Reagan once said that we are only one generation away from communism. Learn from history by reading The Epoch Times, and beware of communism. Be a great American!

Once you are a leader, success is all about growing others.

Gratefully,
—David "Mickey" Nolen, Florida

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

Send your advice, along with your full name, state, and contact information to NextGeneration@epochtimes.com or mail it to: **Next Generation, The Epoch Times, 229 W. 28th St., Floor 7, New York, NY 10001**

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