

# MOM *Links* MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2020



## Fortifying Our Homes

*“Our success as a society depends not on what happens in the White House, but on what happens inside your house.”*

*—Barbara Bush*

# A Time to Sow

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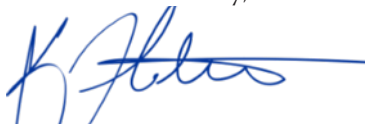
This month's theme is "Fortifying Your Home." In these challenging times with chaos surrounding us, it is more vital than ever that we provide a haven from the world where our children feel safe and values of faith, virtue and patriotism are fostered. We can't stop the storms raging around us but we can be a shelter from the storm. Society begins in the family and home is the place to save society. As C.E. Sargent sent in his book *Our Home*, "What home is, society will be."

He continues, "If your boys wrangle and contend at home, if they cannot discuss with dignity the little questions that arise in their daily intercourse with one another, be sure they will not honor the nation when they take their places in senate halls to discuss the great problems that confront the civilization..."

The books, movies and activities featured in this month's issue have been carefully chosen to help you fortify your home, foster positive communication, and strengthen family relationships.

By focusing on our building a foundation of liberty and virtue in the home, we will be able to raise and nurture strong, virtuous, resilient children who will grow into a mighty generation of youth filled with the knowledge, courage, and wisdom to raise the standard of civility, secure the blessings of liberty, and sustain a free and prosperous America. And that is how we will save our beloved America!

In Truth & Liberty,



Kimberly Fletcher

President & Founder, Moms for America®

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## Why Vote



## Are You Registered



## MomVote Promo



# Mom Vote 2020

# Join the Movement

Unleash the Power  
of your Voice through  
your Vote.



## YOUR VOICE. YOUR VALUES. YOUR VOTE!

*The two places where our voice has the greatest influence and impact are in our home and with our vote. We need to wield the power of both!*

*MomVote is your source for information on everything from how and where to register to vote, to information on the issues and candidates on your ballot. Our voice is our vote!*



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# Fortifying Our Homes

*to Withstand the Social and Political Contention Outside It!*

*by Lisa Cummins*

On a very popular conservative talk radio show, a young mom called in to the host, very worried about what was going on in the media and if there was a future for her toddling daughter. This young mom was scared and did not have much hope. The host, and audience, could tell she needed faith and encouragement. He quickly changed the tone of voice, it became softer, slower, almost grandpa like. He said, "Susanne, I want you to have hope. I want you to have faith. Will you do me a favor?"

"Yes," she says.

"Will you turn off your radio, your social media, the T.V., mainstream media, for a week and pay attention to your daughter, to your family. I promise you nothing will change drastically in that week. You will not miss anything. The news does not change." The host continued, "do what ever it is that brings you joy for a week. Will you do that for me?"

"Yes," she replied.

Now, I cannot tell you what advise was given after that, as I had turned off the radio at that point rushing to my next 'must do' on my list. But I remember this man's voice getting soft and patient and kind. I also remember the feeling that what I brought into my home must be intentional.

America is a combination of everything

good, beautiful, and wise, with lessons learned mixed in. It is the same with our homes. Our families, our faith, the artwork, the color, and the culture that we display in our homes that represent us!

In my home we have bright walls to reflect the sunlight. The pictures on the walls depict Christ or his teachings. We have chosen to display the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution to remind us of the freedoms that we have a responsibility to uphold. And of course, pictures scattered around of family.

The décor includes olive wreaths that represent eternal peace, bookshelves filled with uplifting books, and music that tie in the feelings and lifts the soul. We gather as family, tell stories, play games, laugh, and reminisce.

Sometimes just turning off the social media and the news is not enough. Sometimes that quick get away is not enough, and especially today, where government mandates and shutdowns have limited the convenience of getaway destinations.

There is no end in sight of things ever going back to the serene peace that Americans normally experience, on the outside. That is the tragedy of this.

However, we can be in complete control what happens in our homes.

American editor, lecturer and essayist, William George Jordan (1864-1928) wrote, "Calmness is the rarest quality in human life. It is the poise of a great nature, in harmony with itself and its ideals. It is the moral atmosphere of a life self-centered, self-reliant, and self-controlled. Calmness is singleness of purpose, absolute confidence, and conscious power, -- ready to be focused in an instant to meet any crisis."

Intentionally fortifying our homes prepares us to meet the contention of the world, when we are ready. We guard against what comes into our homes. And our children should be taught to do the same. They have

stewardship of helping to keep that peace which you have set.

By doing this our children and our friends will recognize the difference in the feelings they experience, and the right vs wrong that they see.

We must guard our homes, fortify the walls, and strengthen our family within to be able to overcome the propaganda, the anxiety, the confusion, and the contention that are being displayed on the outside.

I promise it will strengthen us as a community and as a Nation!

## In Their Words...

"The boys [and girls] of the rising generation are to be the men [and women] of the next, and the sole guardians of the principles we deliver over to them. –Thomas Jefferson

"Parents, your child is the blank paper on which is to be written the record of your own lives. Be careful then what you allow to be written there, for the world will read it." —C.E. Sargent, *Our Home*

"May we think of freedom, not as the right to do as we please, but the opportunity to do what is right." –Peter Marshall

"Good manners will open doors that the best education cannot." –Clarence Thomas

"The hardest job kids face today is learning good manners without seeing any." –Fred Astaire

"Politeness [is] a sign of dignity, not subservience." –Theodore Roosevelt

"Manners easily and rapidly mature into morals." –Horace Mann

"Kindness and politeness are not overrated at all. They're underused." –Tommy Lee Jones

"Respect for ourselves guides our morals, respect for others guides our manners." –Laurence Sterne

# Mind Your Manners

By: Cherie Cawley

**Imagine being seated at the dinner table with someone** who decided to donate millions of dollars to your organization or support your start-up company you've been laboring over for years and now you've finally had your big break. Would you say please and thank you every time something was passed to you? Would you be as polite as possible? Of course you would! Not because you are pretentious but because you are grateful for the opportunity to be in the situation and you want to put your best foot forward.

**Now head to your own dinner table.** Amidst the craziness happening with littles or for that matter teenagers, do you speak kindly to one another? Are manners only relevant in big situations or are they important in the small ones? Are manners even relevant in today's society? Absolutely. Here are 3 great reasons for sowing the seeds of gratitude in your home.

**Number one, manners show appreciation.** Plain and simple. Manners, like holding the door open for someone older than you, not speaking with your mouth full and saying please and thank you consider other people around you and show them value. I've read that people may perceive it as old fashioned to do these things but is it really old fashioned to be respectful of those around us? I don't think it's ever old fashioned to treat others as we want to be treated.

**Number two, manners show that you have self-control.** Our society has become very "feeling driven." Doing only what we feel like shows very little self-restraint. Obviously there are deeper issues we could dive into here, but self-control means you are able to bypass that "I don't feel like it feeling," and do the right thing such as writing a thank you note to someone

for a gift. It is easy for children to think money and gifts grow on trees, especially very young ones. Teaching them to bypass what they feel by choosing gratitude gives them a lifelong tool.

**Lastly, manners actually show self-respect.** I know it sounds backward but if you have come to a place in life where you know sacrifice and hard work pay off you know that presenting your best, hardworking self-helped make a path for you. Along that path, you had enough drive and respect for yourself you most likely used manners. Otherwise many of those doors and opportunities might have been shut. If you respect yourself, you show constraint and appreciation for other people. What goes around comes around is often very true.

**If you are convinced manners are worth your training** and investment for your children, it can be daunting to start! If you haven't been intentional about manners in the past - don't stress. We all begin somewhere. If you have young children, it is easy to teach them to say please and thank you. The best way to implement this is to model in your own language toward them. For example, "Would you please pick up that toy, Hannah?" and "Thank you, Ethan for bringing mom your shoes."

**Manners will pay off when they head to school,** interact at church and can be helpful on the playground! If your children are older and you have taught manners in the past but see that middle schooler or high school aged child begin to slack - give them a vision for their future. Ask your middle school child why manners matter in their everyday life of being grateful and if your high schooler has a job, give them a vision

of manners along with their diligence at work. Give them examples of how these two aspects of holding a job go a long way with employers and bring them favor for raises and better positions. If they are working a customer service job, this can bring more tips and respect from customers. Remember, even when we use manners, there will be instances when others do not appreciate this intentionality. BUT...we don't live by other's standards. We live by our own standards,

so we respect others and ourselves enough to use manners even when they are not returned.

The easiest rule to follow with manners is the golden one: Treat others as we want to be treated. Attitudes of gratitude will always be in style for every generation. If you are looking for resources to help implement manners in your home, check these out:

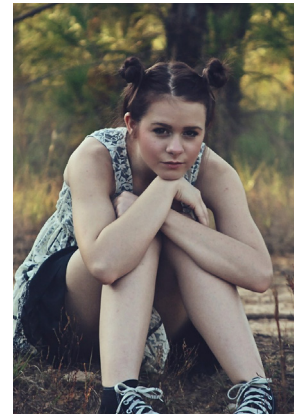


### Toddlers/Young Children:

- *Kindness Rules* by Eunice Moyle and Sabrina Moyle
- *Llama Llama* by Anna Dewdney
- [18 Fun Activities That Teach Good Manners](#)

### Middle School Aged Children:

- *Dude, That's Rude! (Get Some Manners)* by Elizabeth Verdick
- *365 Manners Kids Should Know* by Sheryl Eberly
- [Learning and Practicing Good Manners](#)



### High School Aged Children:

- *How Rude: The Teen Guide to Good Manners, Proper Behavior and Not Grossing People Out* by Alex J. Packer
- *Tiffany's Table Manners for Teenagers* by Walter Hoving (Former Chairman of Tiffany's of New York)



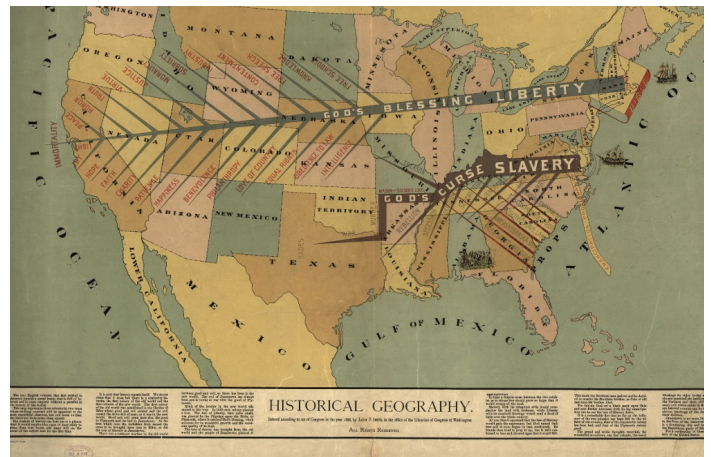
# Recognizing our responsibility in self-government

by Lisa Cummins

On October 3, 1888, a gentleman by the name of John F. Smith entered into the Congressional Record a map that depicted the United States. On this map contained two trees that grew from two locations. A very large, tall tree started out from Massachusetts, with a Bible as it's roots. The other tree was much shorter and crooked. That one grew out of Virginia.

On the much larger tall tree, three words are inscribed "God's Blessing Liberty." This tree stretched all the way off the coast of California, crossing the continent, with extended branches. On it extending branches are words: Free Schools, Intelligence, Knowledge, Obedience to Law, Free Speech, Equal Rights, Contentment, Love of Country, Industry, Philanthropy, Sobriety, Benevolence, Morality, Happiness, Justice, Patience, Virtue, Charity, Truth, Honor, Hope, Joy, Peace, and at the very tip it reads "Immortality." Notice how each of these words build upon each other. We must teach each other and become knowledgeable about our past and who our people were, if we are ever to move forward into the future.

Now, let's look for a moment at the other tree. The tree is short, crooked, sickly, lacking branches and strength. The word's "God's Curse SLAVERY" are etched into the trunk. At the base of the tree, which is based in Virginia, specifically Jamestown. At the base of the tree is a stamp that reads "Jamestown, One Dollar." With the word "MAMMON" underneath. Out in the harbor is a slave ship waiting to dock. Very low hanging branches start to form off the trunk, most of them point to the south. "Avarice, (which means insatiable greed for riches), Lust, Ignorance, Superstition, Sedition, Secession, Treason, Rebellion, Murder, War, and at the tip of that tree "HADES. 5 stakes seem to try and hold this tree up: Missouri Compromise, Compromise of 1850, Fugitive Slave Law, Kansas Nebraska Bill, and Dred Scott Decision.



Under the base of the tree, is the tip of an axe and on the handle are the words "Emancipation Proclamation." This axe was swung in 1862 by our 16th U. S. President, Abraham Lincoln, toppling this tree and it's supporting stakes in one blow.

But let us back up to the tree coming from Massachusetts. These characteristics come from God. They are Biblical, and they are inherit in each of us. Government cannot bestow these traits on us, like a King would bestow a Knighthood. Where Jamestown was founded on greed and commerce, Plymouth was founded on faith, family and freedom, in that order.

Let's look at 3 short stories that touch on the responsibility of self-governance.



## William Penn's Holy Experiment

On March 4th, 1681, a charter was signed between the King of England and William Penn to acquire the land north of Maryland, between "the fortieth and forty-second degrees of latitude, extending through five degrees of longitude west from the Delaware River." This land was named Pennsylvania, after William Penn's father. In a royal proclamation to the settlers in Pennsylvania, Penn wrote of the idea of self-government was first made it known. In the letter to the settlers and the Susquehannock, Shawnee and Leni-Lenape nations, in the language of heartwarming friendship, dated April 8th 1681, he wrote: You are 'at the mercy of no governor who comes to make his fortune great; you shall be governed by laws of your own making, and live free and, if you will, a sober and industrious people.'

Later, Penn, after drafting Pennsylvania's Constitution, said "I do not find a model in the world that time, place, and some singular emergencies have not necessarily altered, nor is it easy to frame a civil government that shall serve all places alike. I know what is said by the several admirers of monarchy, aristocracy, and democracy, which are the rule of one, a few, and many and are the three common ideas of government when men discourse on that subject. But I choose to solve the controversy with this small distinction, and it belongs to all three, - any government is free to the people under it (whatever be the frame) where the laws rule and the people are a party to those laws; and more than this is tyranny, oligarchy, or confusion... Liberty without obedience is confusion, and obedience without liberty is slavery." (excerpts taken from Frederick D. Stone's "The Founding of Pennsylvania," 1884, Winsor', Vol. III)

William Penn's faith came from being a follower of George Fox, founder of the Religious Society of Friends. We know them as Quakers. They believed in the Golden Rule, right of private property, religious tolerance, freedom from regulations on business, freedom of the press, and trial by jury, and above all peace rejecting war.

William Penn treated the Native people as equals and learned to speak their language. Because his approach, Penn was respected by the people and he was able to purchase property and settle disputes fairly.

Another trait of Mr. Penn that was rare in the 1600's was that he believed that women should be treated on the same level as men. He encouraged women to get an education and be involved in public affairs.

This ideal form of government from William Penn was called the 'Holy Experiment.'



## Washington's Rules for Civility

At age 14, George Washington transcribed "110 Rules for Young Gentlemen," written by Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits, in 1595. He renamed it "Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior in Company and Conversation." George memorized each rule and put them into practice daily, which is said to be the most formative influence in the development of his character. Below are some examples of these rules. You can find the whole list at [here](#).

Rule #1: Every Action done in Company, ought to be with Some Sign of Respect, to those that are Present.

Rule #6: Sleep not when others Speak, Sit not when others Stand, Speak not when you Should hold your Peace, walk not on when others Stop.

Rule #10: When you Sit down, Keep your Feet firm and Even, without putting one on the other or Crossing them.

Rule #15: Keep your Nails clean and Short, also your Hands and Teeth Clean yet without Shewing any great Concern for them

Rule #10: When you Sit down, Keep your Feet firm and Even, without putting one on the other or Crossing them.

Rule #15: Keep your Nails clean and Short, also your Hands and Teeth Clean yet without Shewing any great Concern for them

Rule #19: Let your Countenance be pleasant but in Serious Matters Somewhat grave.

Rule #22: Shew not yourself glad at the Misfortune of another though he were your enemy.

Rule #24: Do not laugh too loud or too much at any Plublick [Spectacle].



much later, after the white people complained, that Will would get passed along trousers.

Will would at one point wear his mom's repurposed petticoat as a suit coat, because it was white for a school event. He would do so well with his speech, that his white landlord gave him a quarter dollar.

In winter, Will would continue to walk barefoot to school. Most times, he would come home with frozen and bloodied feet, and put them in the hot tub of water that his mom had prepared for him. His feet would be healed enough to do it again the next day.

When it came time to bring in the cotton crop, Will's mother would hide her son behind the skillets, ovens and pans so that the foreman would not find him to force him into the field. Will's mom would then slip her son out the back way and walk with him through the woods, keeping him out of sight of the plantation. She would then bid goodbye to Will, once they reached the public road, and race back to the fields to try to make up the work that two people needed to do.

William H. Holtzclaw (1870-1943) grew up to graduate from the Tuskegee Institute and became an educator and founder of the Utica Institute in Mississippi. You can read his autobiography "The Black Man's Burden."



### **Holtzclaw: Opportunity and Resourcefulness**

When William H. Holtzclaw was 6 years old, he and his 4 year-old brother would be sent through the woods to bring their father his food for the day, while he was working at a sawmill. The white man, who's name was Frank Weathers, owned the sawmill and paid Will's father sixty cents a day. Weathers was known as one of the best and most upright men in that area of the country. Weathers took it upon himself to build a schoolhouse near the sawmill, hired a teacher and encouraged all black children to get an education. Not many black people took advantage of this, but Will's father and mother were adamant that their sons would go. However, that opportunity was in jeopardy when the Sawmill needed to move to another district. Weathers and members of the Black community built another school for the children. It was built from pine, and so where the benches. Rosin would seep through the wood onto the children's clothes, but William felt he had the great fortune to not have that problem, because all he owned was a shirt. It wasn't until

Responsibility and self-governance helps us to control our behaviors, as well as helps us to see the cause and effect of any given situation, which then allows us to provide a solution and better ourselves and our community!



**If My People**  
*pray*

*The Moms for America Team is committed to praying for the restoration of our country. Will you join us?*

# September 17th is Constitution Day

*and It Was Started by an Ohio Mom!*

Olga Weber was an Ohio homemaker who, in 1951, became very concerned that American citizens were taking their freedoms too much for granted. After reflecting on the matter Olga decided she needed to do something to remind the people of America just how important freedom is. She began distributing copies of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, flag booklets, and other patriotic leaflets to the local schools, churches, and libraries. Then, in 1952, Olga decided it would be a good idea to establish a Constitution Day to commemorate the signing of the Constitution of the United States. Olga met with Mayor Gerald Romary and members of the Louisville, Ohio city council and shared her idea with them.

On September 17, 1952 Mayor Romary declared the day as Constitution Day in the city of Louisville. It was such a success that Olga decided to approach members of the Ohio General Assembly and ask that Ohio make a statewide designation for Constitution Day. The general assembly thought it a fine idea and Constitution Day was signed into law by Governor Frank J. Lausche. Olga's efforts didn't

end there however, she had one more stop—the United States Congress.

In August of 1953 Olga urged the United States Senate to pass a resolution designating September 17-23 as Constitution Week. The Senate and House approved her request and it was signed into law by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Today, Constitution Week is nationally recognized and children all over America celebrate it in their classrooms. The city of Louisville is now known as Constitution Town and for over fifty years they have been faithfully celebrating Constitution Week in grand fair—and all because of an Ohio

homemaker named Olga Weber.

I know we're all busy with our homes and families. I know how hard you work and the long hours you keep, but I also know how desperately you want to be heard. I know how deeply you ache for your country and mourn the loss of the society that once supported families, revered God and cherished freedom. I know you long to have those days back and I know that's why you feel such a need to get involved and yet you wonder what you can possibly do to make a difference. But the fact is, it is you that has the greatest influence on society simply by being who you are!



Don't ever sell yourself short. There is no greater place where we have profound influence on the future of our country than in our own homes and families. Nurturing a love of liberty and virtue in the hearts of our children and grandchildren is how we will return to a culture of liberty, civility and prosperity.

It is not extraordinary people that make this world better. Its ordinary people like you and me who stand up for what's right and do extraordinary things without even meaning to. And that is what makes you extraordinary!

### **Ideas to Celebrate Constitution Week with Your Family**

Watch the film "A More Perfect Union" on DVD and available in the MFA Store. Become an eyewitness to the Constitutional Convention of 1787. This stirring 2-hour film will bring the Founding Fathers to life as you witness the struggles and miracles that produced the Constitution of the United States and the freest nation on earth.

#### **Constitution for Kids**

This is a fantastic animated video series produced by Freedom Factor. Check out all these outstanding videos at [FreedomFactor.org](http://FreedomFactor.org)

Here is a list of Great Books you can read with your children to help them better understand the Constitution. "The Land of Fair Play" is an outstanding curriculum for children that presents the constitution in a way kids can understand it.

*We the Kids: The Preamble to the Constitution of the United States by David Catrow*

- *We the People: The Story of Our Constitution by Lynne Cheney and Greg Harlin*

- *Our Constitution Rocks by Juliette Turner*

- *A More Perfect Union: The Story of Our Constitution by Betsy Maestro and Giulio Maestro*

- *If You Were There When They Signed the Constitution by Elizabeth Levy and Joan Holub*

- *Shh! We're Writing the Constitution by Jean Fritz*

- *The Land of Fair Play by Geoffrey Parsons*



#### Day 1 Discuss A Quote

“On matters of style, swim with the current, on matters of principle, stand like a rock.” --Thomas Jefferson

#### Day 2 Discuss A Quote

Freedom is not the right to do as you please, but the liberty to do as you should. Read and discuss the following quotes.

“We have staked the whole future of American civilization not upon the power of the government--far from it. We have staked the future of all of our political institutions upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.”

~James Madison

“Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.” --John Adams

#### Day 3 Read A Story

Read the story “Yertle the Turtle” by Dr. Seuss (available on Amazon)

#### Day 4 Share A Story

Read “The Magic Mask” on page 20. How did the prince’s countenance change? Why did it change?

#### Day 5 Discuss A Quote

Discuss the following quotes.

“Respect for ourselves guides our morals, respect for others guides our manners.” – Laurence Sterne

“Kindness and politeness are not overrated at all. They’re underused.” – Tommy Lee Jones

#### Day 6 Share A Story

Read or share the story of the Good Samaritan from the Bible.

#### Day 7 Share A Poem

I am a child of Royal birth.  
My Father is King of Heaven and Earth.  
My spirit was born in the courts on high.  
A child beloved, a prince or princess am I.

Keep the Conversation Going! American History Stories by Mara Pratt is a great Table Talk conversation starter. You can also download our TableTalk Sampler for more ideas.



# Cottage Meeting

## PREPERATION

In preparation to lead the Cottage Meeting Presentation, read through the presentation and highlight areas you would like to share in your meeting. View the 30 minute video "[Manners and Civility](#)" by David Barton. Send the link to those participating in your group and have them view it before your meeting.

## MEETING OUTLINE

**Welcome & Gathering:** We recommend starting your meeting with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance

Hostess Presentation & Group Discussion: Manners & Civility

Review highlights from the David Barton video "[Manners & Civility](#)" by David Barton Reference the following quotes and scriptures as you lead the discussion.

Romans 12:10, 1 Corinthians 15:33, Proverbs 13:20, Proverbs 29:11, Philippians 4:8

"I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him." –Abraham Lincoln

"If your boys wrangle and contend at home, if they cannot discuss with dignity the little questions that arise in their daily intercourse with one another, be sure they will not honor the nation when they take their places in senate halls to discuss the great problems that confront civilization." –C.E. Sargent, Our Home

Q. How do manners influence society and culture? How does teaching your children good manners lead them to be good citizens? How can teaching and promoting good manners in the home create a peaceful environment and strengthen family relationships.

Share the Video "[Manners are Important](#)" by Joe White

**Hostess Presentation & Group Discussion:** Read the following quote by Thomas Jefferson, "Adore God. Reverence and cherish your parents. Love your neighbor as yourself, and your country more than yourself."

Q. What are examples of good manners and etiquette we can teach our children to help them understand, grow and flourish in these four areas?

**Take Home Assignment:** Encourage the group commit to eating dinner together as a family for one week and share their experience with their group at the next meeting. Send them the pdf link to the Moms for America® TableTalk Sampler and have them read the introduction to help them maximize their family dinner experience.

Announce date, time and location for next meeting. Close with prayer if desired.



# Momi U

## Weekly Discussion Outline

### WEEK 1:

Read "September 17th is Constitution Day and It Was Started by an Ohio Mom!" on page 12 of the September 2020 issues of MomLinks Magazine. What things can you do to celebrate Constitution Week with your children and/or grandchildren? Share ideas. You may consider joining with other families for an activity day.



### WEEK 2:

Nicholeen Peck is a mom mentor who has spoken all over the world helping parents teach self-government in the home. She has several awesome videos on YouTube. View the following videos on your own and then meet to discuss the concepts presented with your group.

- [How to have a loving and caring family](#)
- [How to get kids to stop fighting with each other](#)

This quote by C.E. Sargent can help add to your discussion.

If your boys wrangle and contend at home, if they cannot discuss with dignity the little questions that arise in their daily intercourse with one another, be sure they will not honor the nation when they take their places in senate halls to discuss the great problems that confront the civilization of the nineteenth century. (C.E. Sargent, *Our Home*, 1884)

### WEEK 3:

[Manners and Civility](#) (David Barton)

[Manners are Important](#) (Joe White)



### WEEK 4:

Two more great videos from Nicholeen Peck present powerful ways to manage conflict resolution and help children develop respect and rational behaviors when dealing with emotions, disappointments and disagreements. View the videos on your own and then meet to discuss the concepts presented with your group.

"What the home is, society will be." C.E. Sargent, *Our Home* (1884)

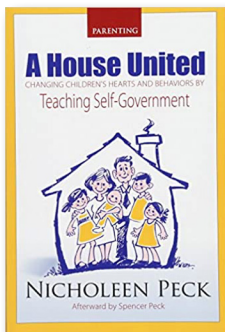
- [How to teach kids emotional intelligence](#)
- [Teaching children Problem Solving Skills](#)



# Mom Reads



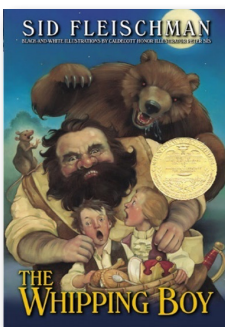
Book of the Month:  
**A House United -- Teaching Self-Government**  
*By Nicholeen Peck*



This book is absolutely phenomenal. Author, Nicholeen Peck, and her husband Spencer, were foster parents to several children including troubled teens—as well as the parents of four of their own children. The Pecks taught children with ADHD, OCD, kleptomania, compulsive lying, anger control issues, etc. Nicholeen said, “I taught behaviors, not medication. They would come to us on many medications and usually leave not on any medications. Many children are misdiagnosed. They just need to learn cause and effect better.”

Nicholeen has been teaching self government skills to people all over the world for over 15 years and now you can get the secrets to her success in her book “A House United” and her audio seminar “Teaching Self-Government”.

Read-a-loud Book:  
**The Whipping Boy**  
*by Sid Fleischman*



As the whipping boy, he bears the punishment when Prince Brat misbehaves, for it is forbidden to spank, thrash, or whack the heir to the throne. The two boys have nothing in common and even less reason to like one another. But when they find themselves taken hostage after running away, they are left with no choice but to trust each other. A riveting, adventurous story to help kids understand the importance of good behavior, good manners, dealing with conflict and friendship. After reading the book you can watch the 1994 film adaptation for a fun family movie night. You can use the following quote by Abraham Lincoln to aid in your discussion. “I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him.”

[Prince Brat and the Whipping Boy \(1994 Film\)](#)



# Liberty Tree

**Liberty Tree** (formerly Family Lobby) is the MomLinks group that engages the entire family and provides stories and projects for families to read and do throughout the month to promote the monthly theme. Once a month, families can join together in a 3 hour “Activity Day” to do engage in projects and fun activities in a group setting. Family Lobby is organized by stories and activities individual families can participate in all month long, followed by an Activity Day Plan in co-op type setting where multiple families can share what they’ve learned and enjoy a fun day of activities, stories and games highlighting the monthly theme.

## Monthly Theme Activities

*(Things families can do at home all month long)*

This month’s theme is “Fortifying Your Home.” In these challenging times with chaos surrounding us, it is more vital than ever that we provide a haven from the world where our children feel safe and values of faith, virtue and patriotism are fostered. The books, movies and activities featured this month have been carefully chosen to help you fortify your home and strengthen your family.

**Book of the Month:** A House United by Nicholeen Peck  
See Book descriptions in MomReads section.

**Read-Aloud Book of the Month:** The Whipping Boy by Sid Fleishman  
See Book descriptions in MomReads section. This story opens the door to great discussions with your children on dealing with trials, building friendships and good character.

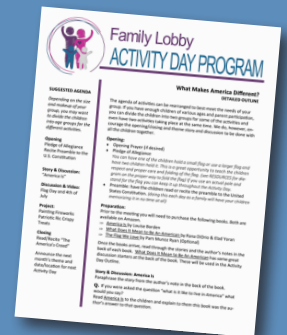
## Recommended Books

The story of Olga Weber in this month’s issue is great introduction to Constitution Week (September 17-23) and the Ohio mom who founded it. You can celebrate Constitution Week as a family with these great books. Another great way to celebrate the Constitution is to watch the film “A More Perfect Union” a powerful, inspiring film about the Constitutional Convention and the miracles that led to the creation and signing of that sacred document.

- **We the Kids: The Preamble to the Constitution of the United States** by David Catrow
- **We the People: The Story of Our Constitution** by Lynne Cheney and Greg Harlin

## Activity Day

Play some games, tell some stories, and learn foundational truths with your kids! This month’s Activity Day Outline features to reinforce the truths in this issue. Gather your family and friends for a summer day of fun and learning!



- **Our Constitution Rocks** by Juliette Turner
- **A More Perfect Union: The Story of Our Constitution** by Betsy Maestro and Giulio Maestro
- **If You Were There When They Signed the Constitution** by Elizabeth Levy and Joan Holub
- **Shh! We’re Writing the Constitution** by Jean Fritz
- **The Land of Fair Play** by Geoffrey Parsons

## Suggested Films for this month’s theme

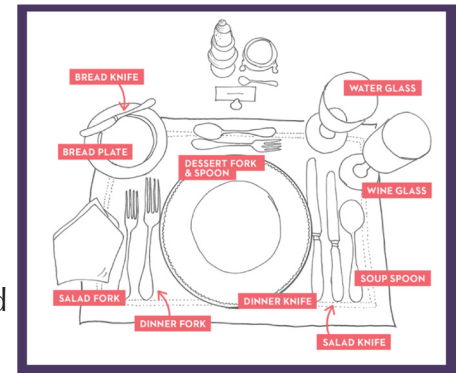
- [Prince Brat and the Whipping Boy](#)
- [A More Perfect Union DVD](#)
- [The Count of Monte Cristo](#)
- [The Berenstain Bears: Say Please and Thank You](#)

# Family Projects

## Formal Family Dinner

Table Talk is a powerful way to connect as a family and promote the principles and values of liberty during family dinner. Ronald Reagan declared, "All great change in America begins at the dinner table."

Mealtime is a fantastic opportunity to teach good manners, foster respectful communication and strengthen family relationships. Good manners and etiquette taught in the home will lead to good citizens, respectful adults, and a more civil society.



A fun project this month is to plan and hold a formal family dinner. You can choose a theme like a tea party, or time period like Elizabethan era, colonial America or tuxedo night. Kids love to dress up. As you prepare you can teach the children proper table setting, dinner décor, and discuss proper etiquette.



[This YouTube video](#) has some great ideas for roleplaying good manners at the table. There is a great article complete with diagram on how to properly set a formal table. You can view it here: [Setting A Table](#). Children love to use fancy dishes and glasses. Sparkling cider is a great addition for the fancy stem glasses so even young children can enjoy the full experience and learn the importance of taking care of things. They will love being a part of this special occasion. Make sure and take pictures to document the fun memories you're creating.

You can also use the following list of books to help teach these things as you plan.

- Emily's Everyday Manners by Peggy Post and Cindy Post Senning.
- The Bad Seed by Jory John
- The Berenstain Bears Say Please and Thank You by Jan and Mike Berenstain
- Its Hard to Be Five by Jamie Lee Curtis and Laura Cornell
- Manners by Alike
- Cookies: Bite-Size Lessons by beloved author, Amy Krouse Rosenthal
- Fancy Nancy: Tea Parties by Jane O'Connor
- Mind Your Manners, Biscuit! by Alyssa Satin Capucilli
- Roses Are Pink, Your Feet Really Stink by Diana deGroat
- How to Behave at a Tea Party by Madelyn Rosenberg
- What Do You Say, Dear? by Sesyle Joslin



# The Magic Mask

There was once a great and powerful prince. He had hundreds of soldiers in his army, and with their help he had conquered vast strips of country, over which he ruled. He was wise as well as brave, but, though all men feared his iron will and respected his strong purpose, no one loved him. As he grew older, he became lonely and unhappy, and this made him sterner and colder, and more severe than ever. The lines about his mouth were hard and grim, there was a deep frown on his forehead, and his lips rarely smiled.

Now it happened that in one of the cities over which he had come to rule was a beautiful princess whom he wished to have for his wife. He had watched her for many months as she went about among the people, and he knew that she was as good and kind as she was beautiful. But, because he always wore his armor and his heavy helmet when he rode through his dominions, she had never seen his face.

The day came when he made up his mind that he would ask the lovely princess to come and live in his palace. He put on his royal robes and his golden coronet; but, when he looked at his reflection in the 319 Stories That Teach Values glass, he could see nothing but what would cause fear and dislike. His face looked hard and cruel and stern. He tried to smile, but it seemed an unnatural effort and he quickly gave it up. Then a happy notion came to him. Sending for the court magician, he said to him: "Make for me a mask of the thinnest wax so that it will follow every line of my features, but paint it with your magic paints so that it will look kind and

pleasant instead of fierce and stern. Fasten it upon my face so that I shall never have to take it off. Make it as handsome and attractive as your skill can suggest, and I will pay for it any price you choose to ask."

"This I can do," said the court magician, "on one condition only. You must keep your own face in the same lines that I shall paint, or the mask will be ruined. One angry frown, one cruel smile will crack the mask and ruin it forever; nor can I replace it. Will you agree to this?"

The prince had a strong will, and never in his life had he wanted anything so much as he now wanted the princess for his wife. "Yes," he said, "I agree. Tell me how I may keep the mask from cracking."

"You must train yourself to think kindly thoughts," said the magician, "and, to do this, you must do kindly deeds. You must try to make your kingdom happy rather than great. Whenever you are angry, keep 320 Kindness and Friendliness absolutely still until the feeling has gone away. Try to think of ways to make your subjects happier and better. Build schools instead of forts, and hospitals instead of battleships. Be gracious and courteous to all men."

So the wonderful mask was made, and when the prince put it on, no one would have guessed that it was not his true face. The lovely princess, indeed, could find no fault with it, and she came willingly to be his bride in his splendid palace. The months went on, and, though at first the magic mask was often

in danger of being destroyed, the prince had been as good as his word, and no one had ever discovered that it was false. His subjects, it is true, wondered at his new gentleness and thoughtfulness, but they said: "It is the princess who has made him like herself."

The prince, however, was not quite happy. When the princess smiled her approval of his forbearance and goodness, he used to wish that he had never deceived her with the magic mask. At last he could bear it no longer, and, summoning the magician, he bade him remove the false face.

"If I do, your Royal Highness," protested the magician, "I can never make another. You must wear your own face as long as you live."

"Better so," cried the prince, "than to deceive one whose love and trust I value so greatly. Better even that she should always despise me than that I should go on doing what is unworthy for her sake."

Then the magician took off the mask, and the prince in fear and anguish of heart sought his reflection in the glass. As he looked, his eyes brightened and his lips curved into a radiant smile, for the ugly lines were gone, the frown had disappeared, and his face was molded in the exact likeness of the mask he had worn so long. And, when he came into the presence of his wife, she saw only the familiar features of the prince she loved.

**Discussion Questions:**

*How did the Prince's countenance change?*

*Why did it change?*

*What made the Prince look old and mean?*

*How did the love of the Princess influence the Prince?*

*All boys are princes and all girls are princesses because we are all daughters of a king!*

*What can we do behave more like princes and princesses?*

*How does true royalty conduct themselves and treat others?*



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