

Golden Age January 2023 Newsletter

Richard Buessing and Carol Pobanz
January 12, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Happy New Year!

Following is the *January 2023* issue of the Golden Age Newsletter produced by the Golden Age Club of the Clifton Family Church. It is filled with great news, inspiring stories and healthful tips especially designed to keep our beloved Senior Unification Members (60 years plus) connected through sharing God's love – what is positive in our lives as a result of finding Heavenly Parent and True Parents.

The motto of the Golden Age Newsletter is “This is the Dawning of our New Age”. We are always in the process of redefining ourselves as we grow older and as we add experiences to our lives. Therefore, we must consider how God can use us even when we may be decreasing in our physical capabilities!

We invite you to share your own article with us for inclusion in a future issue of the newsletter. See more at [Sharing Articles with the Golden Age Newsletter](#).

Please also share the good news about the newsletter with your friends, or complete a gift subscription for someone special at [Golden Age Newsletter Free Subscription Form](#).

Thank you!

Rev. Richard Buessing
Carol Pobanz
Senior Pastors Association (SPA)



Golden Age Club

This Month's Message

Values and Virtues
by Kristina Seher



As First Gen couples who have been directly trained by our TP, we are uniquely qualified to share our wisdom and insights on Values and Virtues with America's young people. I have been blessed to work with Dr. Durst and other dedicated First and Second Gen teachers for the past 35 years at The Principled Academy in California. Although we have always taught standard academic subjects, our "secret sauce" has been character education and community service.

Let me give you an example of character education that happened recently. When the floods devastated a third of the land mass of Pakistan, I thought through a plan in my mind of helping my privileged grandchildren do community service to help the children who lost everything in the floods. When I realized I had all the supplies we would need, I shared with six of my grandchildren (aged 4 to 10) my concerns for the children of Pakistan and showed a few photos of children in the flood waters (from the UNICEF website). I explained briefly that for many years I have been a supporter of UNICEF by giving donations annually.

I asked the six kids if they had any ideas about how we here in Berkeley could help the kids impacted by the flood. An older grandchild puzzled, "By giving money?" I immediately shaped the conversation by asking, "I am wondering how we can all work together to make money here in Berkeley today that we can give to help the kids in Pakistan. Is there something we could make and sell right here?" (I had in mind—from the beginning of the conversation – that we could pick lemons from my daughter's tree, squeeze them, make homemade lemonade and sell it right in front of our house.) Right away the kids with the lemon tree in their yard suggested picking lemons, making lemonade, and selling it. I exclaimed, "What a FABULOUS idea! I think I have some posterboard. (I had in fact bought enough previously so that each child could fashion a sign explaining we are selling homemade lemonade to support children in Pakistan through UNICEF.)



I wrote out a "word hoard" on a white board with words they might want to use in their posters: UNICEF, Pakistan, floods, lemonade, donation. You could hear a pin drop in the play room while each grandchild created a totally unique poster with colored markers.

After finishing posters, they helped to pick, wash and squeeze lemons. Others helped to set up their foldable play table and chairs in the front yard. Older ones helped stir the sugar and water to make syrup, then to stir in the lemon juice. Of course, everyone was on the tasting team to determine when the lemonade was perfect! Other grandchildren fetched large disposable cups, ice, ladles, etc. and set it up in the front yard.

Their enthusiasm was inspiring! Some of them brandished their signs and called out to passersby to help the flood victims from Pakistan. Others engaged neighbors in surprisingly informed conversations (given their ages) about why they were taking donations for UNICEF.



Here are two of them with the jar of donations they collected. The next day after school, we took the carefully counted money to the bank and purchased a cashier's check, which we ceremoniously placed into a mailbox, addressed to UNICEF.

Surprisingly, I have been able to use this experience to help my older grandkids to get a larger perspective when they are upset that they can't have something they want. I once remarked, "That's a First World problem" about something they wanted but couldn't have at the moment. They were curious about what I meant. I asked them to remember why we had sold lemonade. They worked out in their own thinking that the kids in Pakistan had lost virtually everything material, and that their own "problem" was very minor in comparison. Their upset feelings disappeared.

Dr. Durst and I are inviting you to join with us to add your own wisdom and insights on sharing Values and Virtues with younger generations as The Principled Academy poises itself to go virtual. We believe young people all over America, including our own children and grandchildren, are hungry for the clarity of principled discernment and decision-making.

Dr. Durst and I propose setting up a regular Zoom call where everyone is invited to share insights and input. We hope you will participate by joining us for the first Zoom community forum on Values and Virtues on Saturday morning, February 4, at 10:00am. Please email me at kseher.tpa@gmail.com to receive the Zoom invitation.

Best wishes and may our Heavenly Parent bless you and yours!

Unification Thoughts

Rearing Monarchs - #20

by Prof. Gerry Servito

Dominion and Creativity, part 5

Welcome back

Welcome to the new year. I hope that your close to the last one was very refreshing and this new one will bring many new blessings. In case you're joining us for the first time, it'd be best to take a look at the purpose and focus of this Rearing Monarchs series, of which this article is the 20th. In this article, rather than introducing a new concept, we must continue developing a critical one expressed at the end of the previous article. To start, here's the quote that closed

that article:

"... Cheongpyeong will become the place where all the historical traditions of each of these (185) countries can be displayed. Moreover, on this foundation we will build a training center and educational institution that will teach people how to **renew the traditions** of various national cultures, and show how to **connect them with heaven...**" 9282-046, 1973/03/10) *Chambumo Gyeon, Book 5, Chp 1, Sec 6, p. 4

We must look more closely into those two words in the last sentence, renew and connect. Because those are the two actions which would allow the harmonious coexistence of the world's different cultures and traditions, raising them from an interesting but disparate collection into diverse yet complimentary expressions of the original ethical values that underpin the "heavenly culture" of the future.

Renewal of tradition

To understand this how this would be achieved, we need only to consider how the ancient institution of monarchy is transformed by the Ethics of Godism (i.e., Great Kingships, Great Subjects, Realms of True Love, etc.). When we look at actual history, it's rather evident that beginning to royal family usually granted its members power and privilege over the population, a situation which unfortunately lent itself to exploitation, injustice and suffering. And which all too often resulted in rebellions that either succeeded or were crushed. As we'd previously observed, the vertical structure was there, but it had lost its original, Principled foundations.

More precisely, what was missing was an understanding or proper ethical dominion. As we'd previously explained, the foundational points of original ethics are "God's love, the Four Position Foundation and the Three Objects Purpose (Those foundational ideas were explained here.) These three ideas completely enrich and elevate the understanding of dominion, so that the notion of monarchy is thoroughly renewed. This is possible because the ethics of Godism explain that in vertical relationships, there are complementary virtues to be expressed "downward" from the subject, as well as "upward" from the object (as was explained here) and illustrated in Figure 1:

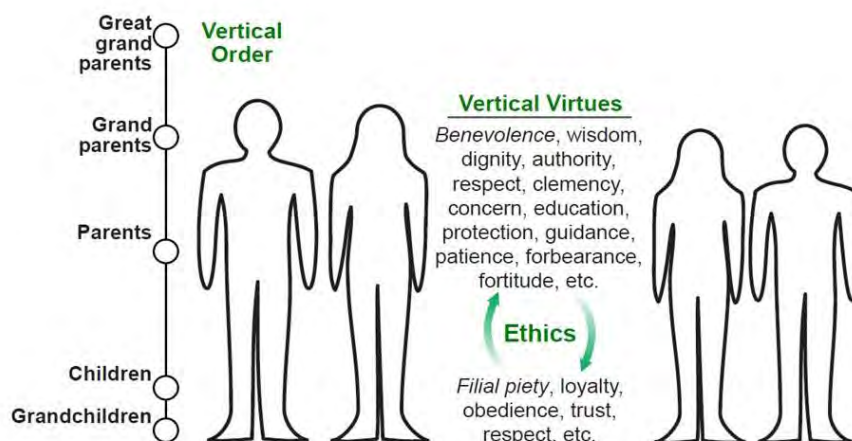


Fig. 1: Virtues "downward" from the subject and virtues "upward" from the object.

And why would this be so?

[To read the whole article, please click here!](#)

History Bytes

A Unificationist's Blessing, Marriage and Family Education Providence - Our Movement Has Come Full Circle and the Time is Ripe to Invest in this Work

by Alice Fleicher



I experienced a flash of insight a few days ago while looking at True Father's picture. The gist of that revelation was that 30+ years ago, I was in a position to help facilitate the development of a Unificationist's Blessing, Marriage, and Family Education (UBMFE) Providence as inspired by the revelations of the True Parents. What happened back then?

The USA Blessing and Family Department (USA BFD) began its activities in the 1970s, pioneered by two 777-couples wives, Nora Spurgin and Betsy Jones, and one 43-couples wife, Linna Rapkins, who was heavily invested in youth education. I was Betsy Jones's administrative assistant beginning in 1987 and was even the Director of the USA BFD for a few months. In the early days, the main work of the USA BFD work consisted of supporting and administrating the very intense and providentially cutting-edge Blessing providence. Efforts to guide couples and families consisted mainly of preparing couples for their 3-day ceremonies, counseling, and the publication of two Blessing-related magazines, which included True Parents' speeches and some educational material, titled "The Blessing Quarterly" and the "The Blessing Journal".

To a large extent, the work of the USA BFD ministry was limited to the greater New York area (with periodic trips to Korea), but towards the end of the 1980's the USA BFD began to gradually extend their activities throughout the country. Even despite these germinal efforts, family education was not pressing because most couples were just starting out and most did not even have children, but anyone connected to the BFD who was even remotely observant, could see that we were eventually going to need education material and programs that could minister to these precious Blessed Central



Families (BCF).



Unfortunately, budgetary concerns and administrative decisions occurred that had a major impact on the existence of the BFD. In around 1990 the USA BFD was shut down completely, an action that wasn't reversed until 2004 (due to True Father's prodding). With the benefit of hindsight, I believe that 30+ years ago I would have gravitated towards investing in the development of family life guidance educational material, since this is an arena where I currently focus much of my energies and heart. I strongly believe that the sequence of events surrounding the USA BFD going dark in the 1990s directly caused, among other repercussions, True Parents' UBMFE providence to stagnate and eventually stop altogether.

I believe it was not a coincidence that during the time that the USA BFD was dormant, the Coalition for Marriage, Family, and Couples Education, LLC (CMFCE) was founded by Diane Sollee in 1996. I believe through the CMFCE and the Smart Marriages Conferences that they sponsored, God worked to encourage faithful professionals who were caring for beleaguered families to identify and make available to the greater public, ministries, clinical practices, and educational programs dedicated to enriching healthy marriages and saving marriages that were in trouble. The purpose of the CMFCE, on their website, is as follows. (I find these as worthy and laudable goals.):

[To read the whole article, please click here!](#)

Culture and Art

Following My Passions

by Lawrence Baer



I believe that we find God through our passions, when they are aligned with the larger purpose. God placed those passions into our hearts and longs to see us develop and manifest them. Father often spoke about “Hobby Life,” and spent hours fishing, watching soccer, and even playing billiards. And he loved to be in nature. Growing up, one of my passions was music. My mother was a piano teacher, and I started learning piano at age 5, but switched to guitar at age 12.

I transferred to Cal Berkeley in my junior year of college, and my roommate and I formed a two-man band, “Wildwood”. He played flute and guitar, and I played guitar, mandolin, banjo, and recorder. We both sang. We weren’t great, but we got gigs at some of the restaurants in the Bay Area. As the band’s manager, I was so excited when I landed a dream gig – 6 nights per week at the Belgian Waffle House in Berkeley, for \$10 each per night PLUS all the waffles we could eat! At the end of that year, I met our movement, and finally moved in on June 2, 1974.

[To read the whole article, please click here!](#)

Kyoko Jewel - A Gem Of An Artist

by Christine Libon

photos by Jennifer Yashiro



Upon entering the main public area of Kyoko’s home, evidence of her elegant, artistic sense caught my eye – a small white bird cage connected to leafy strands of the Philodendron plant and suspended in one bright corner, sofa pillows featuring a curved fabric overlay and floral motif, a large window framed in white wood, arched at the top and gracefully adorned in a soft light green sash.

While we sipped tea and coffee, Kyoko shared about her life and art. She was born in Sendai, Japan, which is located north of Tokyo. Her father was skilled in traditional Sumi, black ink landscape art on watercolor paper, and was also a professional calligrapher. As a young girl, Kyoko liked to paint and draw. Her art teachers were her inspiration. As a high school student, she independently took a correspondence course from the Tokyo School of Design. At age 18, Kyoko went to college in Tokyo and later worked in a kindergarten in Tokyo where her artistic skills, including origami, were required.



[To read the whole article, please click here!](#)

Health

The Changing Horizons of Health and Healing and The Need for an Expanded Understanding of Mind/Consciousness

by David Carlson



David met the TPs in 1972 while serving in the US Army in Korea, and studied UT with Dr Sang Hun Lee. Returning to America he taught UT at Belvedere, helped with MSG, YS and WM campaigns and was selected by True Father to attend UTS. Upon graduation, he worked in Upstate NY and was then called to UTS to teach DP, UT and world religions. In 2004 he returned to Korea, teaching at the Cheongshim Graduate School of Theology in Cheongpyeong until 2014. He presently lives in Indianapolis, engaged in church outreach.

Introduction

This essay makes an effort to elaborate on the system of *Unification Thought*. The philosophical perspective of *Unification Thought* is a holistic, comprehensive worldview. Its stated purpose is “to achieve the goal of one-world family and to realize an everlasting ideal world of God’s love, through solving—fundamentally and once and for all—the numerous and difficult problems that afflict humankind.”

(1) *Unification Thought* “holds that in God there can be found the standard for solving actual problems of the individual and society.”

(2) This is an ambitious vision and it must be tested, through an actual and realistic application of its various paradigms to the different problems which afflict us. One important area of human life is that of health and healing, and *Unification Thought* sets forth a number of paradigms which can give us new perspectives and suggest new solutions. I would like to explore some of these new paradigms in this essay, and offer for discussion some new ideas concerning sickness, health, and the healing process. Let me first touch on some basic notions about health and healing.

Traditional Ideas Concerning Human Health

Although there are important differences between them, concern for one’s health has been of enduring interest in both the East and the West, and it is not difficult to find extended reflections on restoring and maintaining one’s health. It is fairly widely recognized that the body by itself (if it is not burdened by environmental toxins, or by drugs, pills, and other artificial supports) possesses significant healing capacity. Nevertheless, at times the body’s healing capacity is exceeded, and it is then that one becomes sick.

The Eastern tradition has traditionally taken a holistic approach to health, preferring to take into account the body’s overall balance, especially in terms of the balance of yin and yang.

[To read the whole article, please click here!](#)

Bulletin Board



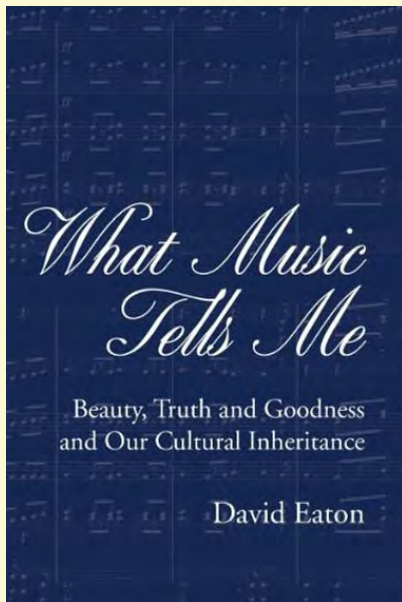
DAVID EATON has been the music director of the New York City Symphony since 1985 and his career as a composer, arranger, producer and conductor has spanned over fifty years. He has worked with orchestras as both a composer and conductor in Asia, Canada, Europe, Russia, Israel, the United States and Central and South America. He has conducted numerous concerts in New York at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the Manhattan Center, the Apollo Theater, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Merkin Hall and the United Nations.

As a music-for-peace advocate, he has produced numerous events and has performed in international concerts sponsored by the Universal Peace Federation, the Middle East Peace Initiative, the

International Cultural Foundation, the Women's Federation for World Peace, the American Clergy Leadership Conference, and the recently established Hyo Jeong Cultural Foundation where he serves as an artist-in-residence and the director of the Hyo Jeong Youth Orchestra.

Historically, music has played a significant role in shaping the attitudes and moral dispositions of virtually every known culture, from the ancient Sumerians to the present day. Because art and music can affect human consciousness in profound ways, the responsibility of creative individuals in the process of establishing a culture of peace-the hope of all ages-remains an important factor. The effect of music on self and society is a central narrative of these essays.

Greetings from Korea,



At long last, my book is available. If you're interested in purchasing it, go to Amazon and search my name and the book title ---*What Music Tells Me*. Below is the table of contents and I've attached the Preface to provide a glimpse into the various narratives.

The essays in this book span several decades and some were written for publications including *World & I Magazine*, the *Journal for Unification Studies*, the *Peace Music Community Blog*, and the *Applied Unification* website, and draw upon many of my experiences as a musician, as well as my interest in music in relation to politics, philosophy, commerce, education and religion.

Also on Amazon is the first of four CDs of music I've composed going back over 40 years and includes the birthday hymn I composed for TPs in 2016 (Music attached).

www.amazon.com/What-Music-Tells-Me-Inheritance/dp/B0B592YNCX

Thanks,
David Eaton



BLESS-ED

***Blessing Life Guidance by
True Parents' Words***

Creating a Blessing Culture

We are looking for volunteers to join our team of researchers who are carrying out a systematic review of True Parents' speeches in

order to extract a representative sample of True Parents' Words on the values, conventions and practices of Blessed Central Families. Our ultimate goal is to create a Blessed Central Family Life Guidance manual.

Since the "Blessing" is a vertically revealed and initiated sacrament of rebirth and proper growth to the ideal and "culture", which according to Merriam-Webster, is a "set of values, conventions or social practices" as well as "the characteristic features of everyday existence", we believe that initial efforts to create a Blessing culture should tap into the ultimate vertical source, i.e. Heavenly Parents and True Parents.

Contact Alice Fleisher for details at

Bcfcurriculum2017@gmail.com.

The Blessed Central Family Guidance Curriculum Project is a grassroots initiative started in 2017 by Alice Fleisher and a small team of like-minded Unificationists. Our target for completing Phase 1 (collecting quotes phase) is 2022, with the manual being completed by 2025.

For inquiries or information

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