

## Family Living Focus

by  
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### Connecting The Generations

How many of you ponder over the perfect gift to give parents or grandparents? How do you help a child pick the right gift to give their grandparents or what do you as a grandparent, give your grandchild for the holidays? It is that time of year for both younger and older people to be thinking about buying gifts for loved ones.

In our household we try to reinforce the fact that it is not the value or size of a gift that counts but the thoughts that are behind it. Gifts that have a part of the giver invested in the gift mean more to most receivers than some store bought, high priced item. This year our nine-year-old is painting unfinished picture frames to give to her grandmothers. Yes, it means messy paint and paint brushes, some spilled paint on her shirt and newspapers strewn across the table but the gift will mean more than a

store bought frame. In giving this gift, Katrina will be giving a part of herself and her talents.

In the midst of all the holiday excitement, we often barely notice that a dilemma has crept into the world of gift-giving; we have increasingly less time and live farther apart. This has a profound impact on all facets of our social lives, not just choosing gifts. Even under the same roof, family members are spending less time together. This raises concerns about family cohesion, particularly between the young and old.

"Intergenerational studies" literature provides many useful clues for how to re-connect the generations.

One principle emphasizes activities that tie into what people-no mat-

ter what their age-have in common. Activities such as eating, talking, singing, dancing and craft making work well to re-connect the generations.

The question remains, "What kinds of gifts most readily lead to quality time spent between older and younger family members (or friends)?"

If we view a gift item as an opportunity to enter into the rhymes and rhythms of a loved one's life experiences, the quest for the perfect gift becomes a search for ways to share time and build relationships. The gift is seen less as a product and more as a vehicle for bringing people together across geographical and generational distances.

Generations that are separated by distance can still be connected. Have you ever thought of sending a grandchild a storybook and tape with you as the narrator?

Simply make your own with a blank tape, using a bell or tap on a glass for the page turning signal. Adding your own goodnight message at the end could add a special touch to this special gift.

Some other gift giving ideas that older adults and young people can give each other as well as gifts they can develop together

## Ephrata Cloister Lantern Tours Put Brothers On Trial

EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) — Ben Franklin once said the only sure things in life are death and taxes. In 1737 the Brothers of the Ephrata Cloister tried to test the need for taxes by refusing to pay.

for others include:

- A family recipe and time to make it together.
- Hand down a hobby, such as wood carving, sewing or coin collecting.
- Seeds for a garden you can plant together.
- A family heirloom and the story (written or taped) that goes with the heirloom.
- A package of supplies to make a family history book together.

The list could go on and on, but remember that the essence of the great gift is that it helps us locate the 'we' not the 'me' in giving. Let's use the holiday season as a time to journey beyond our private worlds and feel—and be—closer to our loved ones.

The result was some time in the county jail, and a trial.

This Christmas season, the Ephrata Cloister will recreate that episode in history with the annual Christmas Lantern Tours offered at the historic site on Dec. 26, 27, 28, and 29 starting every half-hour from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Reservations are required for these special tours, and can be made by calling the Ephrata Cloister Visitor Center during business hours at (717) 733-6600, ext. 3001.

The Ephrata Cloister is located in the Borough of Ephrata at 632 West Main Street (Route 322) at the intersection with Route 272. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$6.50 for senior citizens, and \$5 for youth ages 6-17. For more information, or persons with disabilities who need special assistance or accommodation should call (717) 733-6600 in advance to discuss their needs. Pennsylvania TDD relay service is available at (800) 654-5984.

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### LOST STREAM MAP

The STREAM MAP OF OHIO resembles another map--known to Pennsylvania anglers as the "Lost Stream Map"

The "Stream Map of Pennsylvania" was completed in 1965 after a 30 year effort by Howard Higbee, a former Penn State Professor

Professor Higbee succeeded in creating a map of the highest detail possible - a map that shows every stream and lake. He painstakingly plotted by hand, the location of 45,000 miles of streams onto a 3 by 5 foot map

The map sold extremely well - until it was lost several years later. Incredibly, the printer entrusted with the original drawing and printing plates declared bankruptcy, then carelessly hauled Higbee's 30 years of work to the landfill

The few remaining dog-eared copies became a prized fisherman's possession. Professor Higbee was offered \$400 for one of his last maps. And state agencies were forced to keep their copies under lock and key

The experts had always told Professor Higbee that reprints were impossible, because the maps were printed in non-photographic blue

Then, in 1991, at the age of 91, Howard Higbee's dream came true. Computers made it possible to reprint the map. Holding an updated map, Howard said, "I never thought I'd live to see this day"

Then by combining Professor Higbee's knowledge with computer technology -- the STREAM MAP OF OHIO was created

### RAVE REVIEWS

"It is amazingly detailed and names some creeks in the Mohawk Valley that can't even be found on topographic maps"

—John Pitarres, OBSERVER-DISPATCH, Utica

"If you're looking for the most definitive maps ever created depicting every single creek, river, stream, pond and lake then 'Professor Higbee's Stream Maps' are without question the finest"

—Howard Brant, THE NEWARK STAR-LEDGER

"It is in showing where to find out-of-the-way trout streams that makes the map such a treasure to the fisherman"

—Joe Gordon, TRIBUNE-DEMOCRAT, Johnstown