

ENJOYING OUR NEWSLETTER?

SHARE IT WITH A FRIEND!

Help them scan this QR code to join our mailing list, or scan it yourself to reach us any time with questions, concerns, or ideas for future articles. We're here to listen!



PRST STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
BOISE, ID
PERMIT 411

The PACKARD PRESS

A collection of thoughts and stories to educate, entertain, and inspire.

1. More Than Old Stuff
2. Brides Who Wore Parachutes
Justice Without Compromise
3. Celebrating Gondor's Greatest Victory
Spinach Artichoke Pizza
4. Find Their Fun Without Forcing It

The Packard Family Is Here to Help Your Family! *Personal Injury | Social Security Disability | Car Accidents | Special Needs Planning*

When Grandkids Grow Up

WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED THROUGH THEIR TEENAGE YEARS



Many grandparents know the feeling all too well: Grandchildren who used to love spending time with you now seem distant, grown up, or too busy for family time. It's normal for this special relationship to drift a bit when children become teenagers and start to explore their independence. This is not the end of your bond; it's just a break that comes with the territory of teenagers. The good news is that there are ways to stay engaged and enjoy time together with your older grandkids.

Step into their world.

Your grandchildren have not outgrown you; they're simply maturing in their hobbies and pastimes. One of the best ways to stay connected with them is to explore their new interests. Find out

what they love to do and start learning more about it. If your granddaughter is a budding artist, consider taking her to an art gallery or signing up for a pottery class together. Read up on your grandchild's favorite sports team or watch their favorite movie so you can have great discussions together.

Share your wisdom wisely.

Your grandchild's teenage years can be a confusing time as they take their first true steps toward adulthood. You have important wisdom, advice, and guidance you can share with them, but only if you do it at the right time. Be the person they can call when they just need someone to listen. As they share what's going on in their lives, ask them questions and wait

until they ask you what you think before you start to guide them.

Make moments that matter.

You don't have to spend the whole day with your grandchildren to make meaningful memories. Teens are always on the go with after-school activities, hobbies, and time with their friends. Aim to spend at least a few hours with them every few weeks or once a month, and ensure it's something they genuinely want to do. Attend their events, whether a basketball game, school play, or concert.

It can be difficult watching our grandchildren grow up, but remember, you are still an important part of their world. Walk with them through these teenage years, and the memories will last a lifetime.



An Old Table Full of Memories

The Quiet Power of Family Heirlooms

For most people, it would look just like a normal table. It's close to 12 feet long and can easily fit 10-15 people. It's a little old and rickety, but it does the trick. On any given day, it has books and papers spread out and my kids are doing homework. Sometimes, there's a board game still set up from the night before. Other times, we all gather around it to eat and have great family conversations.

It's more than an old piece of furniture, it has a sort of ... magic to it. It's not a mystical kind of magic, it's more like the magical power of a relic. Every time I'm at that table, it brings back memories of my many years sitting there, doing my homework, eating dinners, and experiencing the things my siblings and I tell stories about.

We recently celebrated National Old Stuff Day, and that big kitchen table in my home today is exactly the type of "old thing" I really love. It doesn't necessarily have any historic value or unique features. It's special because it's a family heirloom, something that jogs my memory and makes me think of growing up.

I remember watching my mom sitting at the end of that table doodling on an envelope while she was on the phone. That table is where I learned that a hot glue gun is a really neat (and dangerous) toy. I could tell you about the time in second grade when I had to write a bunch of lines for talking too much in class. (I still remember my dad chuckling at what I had gotten myself into.) I could tell you hundreds of stories that happened there.

I got the table from my older sister, who had inherited it and used it as a craft table. I overheard that she was finally going to toss it out, but I knew I wanted it for my home. It was covered in glue, glitter, and Mod Podge, but we loaded it into a U-Haul and drove it halfway across Texas. It took some work, but we got it refinished, and it

looks great! Every time I see my own children gathered around it, I feel something special.

I had a similar experience this past Christmas at my wife's parents' home. We played a game kind of like a white elephant gift exchange, except we got to choose a family heirloom as a gift. We drew slips of paper naming a location somewhere around my in-laws' home. Each person got to pick one heirloom from that location to take home. One sister got her great-great-grandmother's recipe box. Another sister got some jewelry that her great-grandfather had given as a wedding gift.

The item I chose was my father-in-law's old trombone he played in high school. It was tucked in a back corner of the shed, and I barely found it! It brought me back to the days when I played trombone in junior high. A few weeks later, when I played a tune for my kids, my band skills all kind of came back to me. It's a rickety old trombone, but with some story behind it. That old thing is definitely going to stay in the family.

On a philosophical level, these old family heirlooms have me conflicted. On one hand, I don't believe that sitting at an old table or playing an old trombone is going to give me magical powers. I don't believe objects carry power. But at the same time, I kind of do. When I see these relics of my family, it sets off a little chain reaction, making me feel more confident, more capable, more connected. I really do like old things, especially things that belonged to people I knew, things that contain a story. I think Michael Scott from "The Office" said it best: "I'm not superstitious ... But I am a little stitious."

—Michael Packard

DRESSES FROM THE SKY

Parachutes Turned Into Wedding Gowns

Most wedding dresses come from boutiques or family closets. But in the 1940s, some came from the sky. During and after World War II, brides across the U.S. and parts of Europe walked down the aisle in gowns made from parachutes. Equal parts scarcity and sentiment contributed to the development of this tradition.

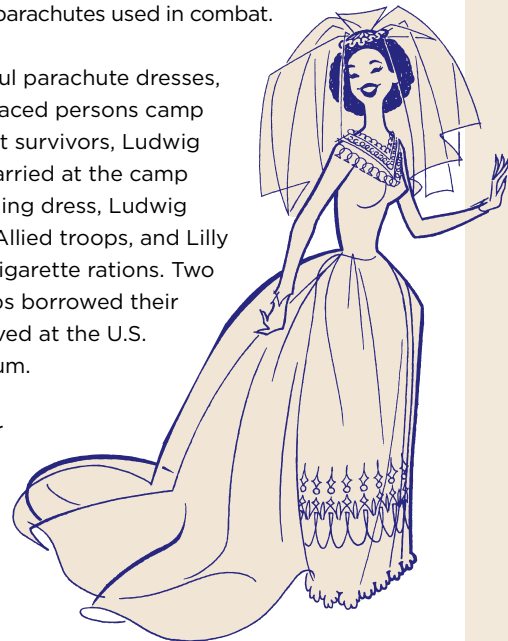
At the time, budgets were tight. Brides-to-be faced fabric rationing, and the military got most of the nylon. A parachute offered yards of strong, clean material, making it valuable. But for some couples, the biggest draw wasn't the fabric. It was the story tied to it.

One of the most famous examples is that of Major Claude Hensinger, who was forced to parachute out of a burning bomber. The chute delivered him safely to the ground and served as his bedding while he waited for rescue. He proposed to his girlfriend, Ruth, after returning home and suggested she use that same parachute for her gown. She hired a seamstress to construct the bodice and gathered the skirt herself using parachute cords. The finished dress, inspired by one from "Gone With the Wind," now sits in the Smithsonian.

Another bride, Carolyn Martin, made her own parachute dress after her fiancé, Chuck, survived a training flight crash. Carolyn transformed his parachute into a wedding dress using the sewing skills she had picked up in eighth grade. It is now part of the San Diego Air and Space Museum's collection. A far more elaborate dress is stored at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. It originally belonged to an Air Force family and was pieced together from nine parachutes used in combat.

One of the most meaningful parachute dresses, though, came from a displaced persons camp in Germany. Two Holocaust survivors, Ludwig Friedman and Lilly Lax, married at the camp in 1946. To make the wedding dress, Ludwig bought a parachute from Allied troops, and Lilly hired a seamstress using cigarette rations. Two more brides at other camps borrowed their dress before it was preserved at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Parachute nylon was never meant to be heirloom fabric. But during a time of shortages and uncertainty, that's what it became.



A Bad Review We're Proud Of

WHY ETHICS ARE NON-NEGOTIABLE AT OUR FIRM

Some lawyers will "do anything for their client," regardless of ethics. That's not us, that's not our firm.

In this modern age, a lot of lying goes on. While we will fight tirelessly for justice and support you every step of the way during your case, we have ethics that won't budge.

March is Ethics Awareness Month, and integrity matters in everything that we do. I'm reminded of a story, a bad online review I actually carry as a source of pride.

It was a negative review from a client we ultimately didn't represent. It was a disability case, and as it turns out, the client was not actually disabled. They were still able to work but wanted us to find a way to prove they couldn't. They wanted us to be dishonest. We did the best we could, but were not about to cross the ethical line.

I wish I could get a lawyer who would have made this happen, but this firm just wasn't willing to do it, they wrote.

Usually, a bad review stings, but I'm still proud of this one. The outcome of this situation wasn't due to our inability to win a case or represent someone successfully. We just weren't willing to stoop below our ethics. Some lawyers out there are willing to hide evidence or misrepresent information to the judge, but you won't find them at our firm.

As my brother, Dan, says, "If you have a lawyer who will lie for their client, that lawyer will lie to their client."

If you are not disabled and you want us to pretend you are to take advantage of the system, we're not your lawyer. People actually rely on that system and truly need support.

If you are unable to work due to a disability, you deserve honest guidance and a law firm that will stand by your side with your integrity. At Packard Law Firm, we don't promise shortcuts or false hope. But we promise to listen, be honest with you, and tirelessly fight for the benefits you are rightfully entitled to. We're here to help. Reach out to us any time.

—Michael Packard

A New Year Forged in Fire

LOTR, Lembas, and the Fall of Sauron

In Gondor, the new year comes not with winter's end, but with the end of the shadow, the fall of Barad-dûr, the day the One Ring was finally unmade in the Cracks of Doom.

On March 25, all of Middle-earth was changed forever, marking a new year as Sauron was defeated and light and hope finally returned to the world.

Deep in the pages of "The Lord of the Rings," the Gondorian New Year symbolizes a true victory of good versus evil. For any Tolkien fans out there, you probably know the moment well. Our brave hobbits, Frodo and Sam, complete a monumental quest, destroying the One Ring in Mount Doom, ending Sauron's reign.

It's a day meant to be celebrated with festivals, solemn reflections on the past, a little lembas bread, and maybe a second breakfast or two. And in our house, it means my kids and I will be marathoning the extended cuts of all the movies. We start our celebration by honoring the day Aragorn was crowned King of Gondor, which is right around March 25. Usually, it takes a week or two to get through the whole trilogy of films, but it's time well spent.

Fans of the series often go all out on March 25, which is also celebrated as Tolkien Reading Day. It's a great time to revisit the books, hunker down for the movies, and think about the themes of this beloved fantasy that say something about the human experience.

Unlike our Jan. 1 new year here on regular Earth, you don't have to make any resolutions or go to the gym today. Some fans have whole-themed parties, preparing meals of salted pork and the sweet lembas bread featured in the stories. (You can make it yourself pretty easily with simple recipes for this shortbread in abundance online.)

No matter if you're a longtime fan of the books, love the movies, or just like a good story of valor, gather with your fellowship and remember: "Even the smallest person can change the course of the future."

—Michael Packard

TAKE A BREAK



- | | | |
|------------|------------|----------|
| Basketball | Guinness | Rainy |
| Books | Iris | Shamrock |
| Daffodil | Leprechaun | Suffrage |
| Daylight | Popcorn | Windy |



Spinach Artichoke Pizza

Ingredients

- 1 loaf frozen bread dough
- 2 tbsp garlic herb spreadable cheese
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1/2 cup shredded Gruyere cheese
- 7 oz artichoke hearts, chopped
- Several handfuls of fresh spinach
- Pepper, to taste

Directions

1. Thaw dough according to package directions and let it rise for 2 hours.
2. Preheat oven to 450 F.
3. Coat a 10-inch cast-iron skillet with non-stick spray, then gently stretch dough to fit.
4. Spread garlic herb cheese evenly across the entire dough layer.
5. Sprinkle mozzarella and Gruyere cheeses evenly over dough, reserving a small amount of each.
6. As the topping, scatter chopped artichoke hearts, followed by a layer of torn spinach leaves, and then the reserved cheeses. Add black pepper to taste.
7. Bake for 15-18 minutes, until the edges are golden brown and crisp.

Inspired by BlueBowlRecipes.com