

'Sharing The Love' Fundraisers To Benefit Thomas Family

Three fundraisers have been planned to benefit the family of Holden Thomas.

Wednesday, both Casa Nostra Italian Cuisine and Pizza Inn restaurants will collect donations to help defer the family's expenses following the hospitalization and death of 5-year-old Holden Thomas as the result of a Jan. 25 crash.

A news release says both restaurants will collect donations for the Thomases from open to close. Casa

Nostra is located in the Greeneville Commons on Tusculum Boulevard. Pizza Inn is at 275 E. Andrew Johnson Highway.

In addition, Ultimate Shine Car Wash, at 3350 E. Andrew Johnson Highway, has partnered with Gifts For Kids to raise funds for the Thomas family now through March 31.

The news release says the fundraiser code 1118 may be used at any of the center's three pay stations. After patrons select a wash and any

additional cycles, the fundraiser code 1118 may be entered by pressing the orange "Fundraiser" button. Cash and credit card payments are accepted.

Thirty percent of sales using the fundraiser code will be donated to benefit the Thomas family.

In addition to the Greeneville location, the code is also valid at Ultimate Shine Car Wash's Morristown, Johnson City, Kingsport, Elizabethton and Piney Flats locations, the news release says.

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS



Members of Nolachuckey Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution show some of the family heirlooms discussed at the group's Jan. 20 meeting. In the front row from left are: Stevie Hughes, Andrea Daniels and Carolyn Gregg. In the back row are: Kathleen Cannon, Peggy West, Patsy Crum, Madge Walker, Pat Merzlak, Patty Neas and Brenda Olafsen.

Nolachuckey DAR Holds Heirloom Program

Nolachuckey Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution met Jan. 20 at the DAR house. Regent Brenda Olafsen called the meeting to order, and led members in the opening ritual. After the business session, an informative program was presented by several members of the group who shared family heirlooms belonging to an ancestor or that they had collected themselves.

Olafsen began the sharing experience with her copy of the book "The Antiquities of the Jews" by Flavius Josephus. This particular book was published in 1832, but the publication had been first translated into English in 1732. Josephus was a first century author and biographer born in Jerusalem in 37 A.D. He died in 100 A.D. Olafsen came into possession of the book after she bought the contents of her grandmother's attic at an auction. She had no idea where her grandmother had gotten the book or why she had it.

Carolyn Gregg also shared a book, which had been rescued along with several other books from a chicken house by Carolyn's mother. An uncle had torn down her grandmother's house, and her aunt put all the books in the chicken house. Gregg shared an 1867 copy of "Women of the Bible." The thing that made the book special to Carolyn was her great-grandmother's signature. Mary Jane Carrigan had written her name several times throughout the pages of the book. The Carrigans had immigrated to the United States from Ulster County, Ireland, the group was told. Madge Walker shared several pre-1930 postcards

featuring Greeneville and Greene County sites. Some of these postcards had at one time belonged to family members, and others were purchased at estate sales. Madge displayed postcards of downtown Greeneville dating in the 1920s. They included Greene County Library on Summer Street; the courthouse; First Presbyterian Church, Asbury United Methodist Church, Christ United Methodist Church; the old Greeneville High School on Main Street; Cedar Creek Mill; Greystone Lodge; Andrew Johnson Home and Tailor Shop; Monument Hill; Burley tobacco in baskets in the old Bernard warehouse; and the Lost State of Franklin Replica.

A picture of the house where she grew up and now lives in the Dulaney community was shared by Peggy West. She displayed a picture of the same house taken shortly after being built in the early 1900s by her grandfather and grandmother Davis. As was often done in those days, the picture also included the whole Davis family, as well as her uncle's horse and her daddy's dog.

Andrea Daniels shared a well-worn teddy bear that had been given to her by her late grandfather, John Bohannon. She also displayed a picture of her grandfather dressed as she remembered him being dressed most of the time. There was also a picture of herself at about 3 to 4 years of age, which would be about the time she received the teddy bear. Andy recalled many fond memories of time spent with the teddy bear and her grandparents.

Two very old and obviously much used family Bibles were shown by Patricia Neas. One belonged to her father's family,

while the other belonged to her mother's family. She shared that the Bibles were special, but what was most precious was the faith that her ancestors had passed down to her.

Stevie Hughes shared four very old china plates which had been traced back to her ancestors. She knew that some of her ancestors had the last name of Bickell and had lived in the Staunton, Virginia, area. One day she was driving in that area to see the old Bickell house. She mentioned the name to a couple of people in town and no one was familiar with it, so she then decided to stop at the local funeral home to see if they might know of the family. There was a gentleman there who did know of the family. He told her that there was one member of the Bickell family still in the area, but that she was out of town at the time. Then the gentleman showed her where the Bickell house had once stood, which is now part of the Mary Baldwin College campus. Hughes was eventually able to contact the lady, who later sent her the four pieces of Bickell family china, a picture of the pre-Civil War Bickell house called "Green Hill" and also a picture of the interior of the home. The Bickell family had migrated from Germany and were in Pennsylvania at the time of the Revolutionary War.

Candy Cox made the last presentation. Since 2018 is the 100th anniversary of the armistice that marked the end of World War I, she shared information about two of her mother's brothers who served in WWI. She told of her Uncle Newell first and shared a picture she had enlarged from a very small picture of just his head. For some reason, her aunt

Kathie had cut it out of a larger picture. In addition, she brought Newell's dog tags, his WWI Victory Medal, and a letter he wrote from France in 1919 to his grandfather (her great grandfather, who was a Civil War veteran). She next told of her Uncle Wayne and showed a picture of him in uniform that had also been a victim of her aunt's scissors. Fortunately, she had another picture of him in uniform which had been converted to a post card and sent in 1919 on the occasion of his parents' 27th wedding anniversary. According to Wayne's WWI draft registration, he served in the National Guard infantry for three years. Cox said she was surprised to learn his grave marker identified him as a musician, although it is known he was wounded. She also brought the certificate the family received upon Wayne's death that honored his service and was signed by President Richard Nixon.

The chapter's next meeting will be Saturday, Feb. 17. A luncheon at the General Morgan Inn will begin at 11 a.m. George Blanks will be the program presenter using the subject of "Mad Anthony." Members were reminded that this will be an open meeting and spouses and other guests are welcome to attend.

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COMMENTARY

Why?

I remember driving past the accident scene early that January morning and saying a prayer. The car looked bad, and I could not help but think some terrible fate awaited whoever was in the accident.



LIFE IS MYSTERIOUS
ELLA PRICE

Later that day, news had spread that a young child was in the car, and it left me with a chilling feeling of sadness. Feeling helpless, prayer was the only thing I had to offer. Not a day went by that the young child was not in my thoughts and prayers. As it turns out, the whole town was praying.

It did not matter what church you went to or if you went to church at all. Everyone acted with their hearts to send prayers and good thoughts to the young child and family.

Not an hour went by that someone didn't mention the boy and ask how he was doing. All the while, the whole community came together in unity with one objective — to pray for this family and for this young boy.

In the days following the accident, through Facebook, the family reached out to the community asking for, and thanking them for, their prayers. Social media became a lifeline to all of us praying as we all hoped that one day we would get word of a miracle.

Instead, we received news that the young boy had passed away.

Days later, the whole community came together again as they lined the streets of our town to pay their respects as the young child made his way to his final resting place.

There is nothing more devastating or sad than seeing a 5-year-old carried off in his funeral procession, except maybe seeing the family left in the wake of this tragedy.

For someone like me who writes about the mysteries of life, I cannot help but to wonder why. Why do bad things happen?

As I read my Bible for answers, I see that God never promises that we won't hurt. In fact, he says we will have suffering. John 16:22 says, "Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy."

John 16:33: "I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. But be courageous! I have conquered the world."

Romans 8:18: "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."

It is believed that suffering will draw you closer to God. I know this to be true in my own life, and I saw it work in our community as we all prayed and grieved together for this little boy.

Earlier I asked why do bad things happen, but what I really want to know is, why does it take bad things happening before we draw closer to each other and to God? Life is mysterious.

The "Life Is Mysterious" column by Ella Price, caterer, blogger and now columnist, is published in Lifestyles every other Tuesday.

Published Photos Available For Pickup

Photographs published in The Greeneville Sun's Lifestyles pages prior to 2018 are available for pickup at the newspaper's offices downtown at 121 W. Summer St.

Some photos dating to 2015 and earlier also remain on file at the newspaper's offices. Due to the increasing volume of submitted photographs being stored, older photographs not collected by March 1 cannot be kept.

Anyone who has submitted physical copies of photographs for club and organization news, birthday, engagement, wedding or anniversary announcements, pageants and other Lifestyles articles is encouraged to visit the newspaper's offices to locate their photographs.

Photos published in Lifestyles in 2017 remain filed. Owners are encouraged to visit the Sun's offices to pick them up.

None of the photos are from the "Best Shots" feature page, advertisements or special advertising pages and promotions.

A box containing photos available for pickup will be placed at the entrance to the Sun's newsroom, and the public is welcomed to visit and sift through photos during business hours. Some have owners' names and are sorted alphabetically. However, no information is available for numerous others.

The Sun's office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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