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Raven Hill Discovery Center is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation.

Mission: Raven Hill provides a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong learning for all ages by connecting science, history & the arts.

To: friends and family everywhere
From: Cheri and Raven Hill
Date: June 26, 2020
Re: Update

Greetings, everyone,

Nine years ago, when Raven Hill celebrated twenty years of connecting science, history and the arts with a “birthday bash”, an invitation went out to artists to “think outside the box” and to create a special box as an auction item for Raven Hill’s Summer Magic Festival. As always, I was one of the Center’s best supporters. Four boxes never left the premises. The metal “Bug in a Box” by Bill Allen is on display at the Center, as is a Celtic patterned ceramic box by Allen Talcott. Two boxes are at home—a traditional Shaker box made by Dick Fish, Raven Hill’s first Board president, and a unique box created by Kirby Snively. Kirby delivered his box and waited for me to admire his handiwork. He especially wanted to see my reaction to what was tucked inside the box. Kirby had taken great care to make a play on words. To me, “thinking outside the box”, was inviting artists to make the box itself the art, which is what everyone did, including Kirby. Inside Kirby’s box, however, was a small, thin figure. It was King Henry, the 8th and although King Henry in real life was obese, Kirby’s King Henry was a stick figure with King Henry’s face easily recognizable. Kirby took his little figure out of the box and leaned it against one corner of the box and said—just what you asked for—“**a thin king outside the box**”. Ya gotta love it, especially during these days of having to be creative with cooking and cleaning and all of those things that need to be done, **without** running to the store for every little thing. It’s figuring out what needs to be done and then doing it with what you have. As I continue to offer ‘Home Learning Opportunities’ on Facebook and our website, I am determined to use the supplies I have here at home, as my viewers would do, and not run down to the Center for a microscope or other expensive piece of equipment. “Thinking outside the box” is a challenge that everyone can take on, each in their own way—thinking about things differently, unconventionally or from a new perspective. It is creative thinking at its best. It’s just what we need during these very different and uncertain times.



Teaching children to think creatively or “outside the box” is certainly important in shaping our future citizens and workers. You can help: give kids the gift of time to just play; allow for creative play and discovery learning; ask questions without giving or expecting certain answers; encourage problem-solving; let them entertain themselves (safely, of course) and offer praise for using creative and critical thinking skills. In other words, let them be kids!

Hug those kids and each other. Hang in there—wear your mask, socially distance yourself and continue to stay safely isolated, whenever possible. Keep in touch with friends & loved ones **and** with us here at Raven Hill. And enjoy practicing your own versions of “thinking outside the box”!

Cheri