

NOTES

F R O M F E E

BUILDING THE NEW LIBERTY PIPELINE **4**

By **DIOGO COSTA**

THE RETURN OF THE FREEMAN **10**

By **DAN SANCHEZ** and **KATRINA GULLIVER**

SEEDBEDS OF LIBERTY **14**

By **DAN SANCHEZ**

FEE FELLOWSHIPS **22**

By **DAN SANCHEZ**

**LIBERATING LEARNERS BY CATALYZING
MARKET-BASED EDUCATION** **26**


By **KERRY McDONALD**

**THE SPIRITUAL LIFE &
LEGACY OF LEONARD E. READ** **30**

By **TYLER BRANDT**

NOTES

F R O M F E E



BUILDING THE NEW LIBERTY PIPELINE

For nearly 80 years, the Foundation for Economic Education (FEE) has been at the forefront of the liberty movement, igniting passion for free markets, personal responsibility, and limited government among generations of young people. Through a mix of in-person events, seminars, and publications, FEE has played a vital role in nurturing a deep, lasting understanding of the ideas of liberty.

However, the landscape has changed. In recent years, the liberty movement has shifted dramatically to an on-line-first approach. FEE led this trend with remarkable success, reaching

millions through youth- and main-stream-friendly digital content. In 2023 alone, we achieved more than 30 million online impressions. But here's the issue: broader reach doesn't always mean deeper engagement. Despite the numbers, many young people's interest in liberty remains surface-level. After the initial spark, the journey stalls, with few avenues guiding them toward a deeper commitment. The path that takes young people from curiosity to conviction is fragmented. The liberty pipeline is broken.

By **DIOGO COSTA**

After I joined FEE as president in March, we began laying the groundwork for FEE to achieve both greater scale *and* impact. We've realigned our strategy with our mission and freedom philosophy, creating a clear roadmap for our priorities and actions. This collaborative effort involved the entire organization, resulting in a new strategy map that guides our decision-making and ensures that our mission is achieved.

We recognize that political and ideological commitments form during a crucial window in a young person's life, typically between the ages of 14 and 24. The liberty movement cannot afford to lose these formative years to competing ideologies that promise utopia but deliver the opposite.

As our founder, Leonard Read, once asked, "What is it that the freedom philosophy most needs?" His answer was clear: "The freedom philosophy needs most of all several thousand creative thinkers, writers, talkers... from all walks of life who will serve as wellsprings of the philosophy." This insight remains true today. To achieve our mission, we must cultivate a pipeline of individuals deeply invested in the cause of liberty—people who move beyond the surface level of engagement and become lifelong champions of freedom.

The current landscape provides an abundance of top-of-funnel activities like social media content and viral videos, but activities to facilitate the deeper stages of learning, the ones that shape lifelong advocates, are underdeveloped. While we are striving to create more captivating, popular content that sparks initial interest, we're also committed to better developing a path that nurtures these young minds into dedicated proponents of the freedom philosophy. To achieve this, we are reimagining a FEE customer journey that can truly change lives.

The goal isn't merely to capture attention—it's to create a robust conversion journey that ensures the ideas of freedom don't just resonate in the moment but become a lifelong mission for those who encounter them. The liberty movement needs depth as much as breadth, and FEE is uniquely positioned to deliver both.

BUILDING A COMPLETE PIPELINE FOR FREEDOM

So, how do we plan to do this? It begins with reimagining our approach to engagement. The first part of our strategy is to improve our top-of-funnel offerings—such as our videos and social media posts—by transforming them into more effective tools for conversion and integrating them with meaningful, life-changing educational experiences. FEE's new liberty pipe-

line focuses on guiding young people from initial curiosity to full intellectual immersion and empowerment.

To accomplish this, we're relaunching our summer seminars as scalable and immersive boot camps. These will not just introduce the ideas of liberty but will equip students with practical skills—like public speaking, debate, and effective writing—that empower them to communicate these ideas to others. We're also reimagining our student competitions as hackathons, applying the creativity and innovation of technical challenges to real-world liberty solutions.

preneurs who are reshaping education through microschoools, hybrid home-schools, learning pods, and virtual schools, giving parents and students the freedom to choose personalized learning experiences. By offering mentorship, resources, and financial support, the Lab positions FEE at the forefront of this movement, fostering the next generation of liberty-driven educational pioneers.

Moreover, we're bringing back *The Freeman*, FEE's historic publication, now re-envisioned as a digital platform that will provide in-depth analysis and thought leadership on free-



In-person programming takes our audience beyond an online experience. It facilitates direct, personal connections and provides opportunities for deeper learning.

At the same time, a revolution in educational choice is sweeping the nation, as families seek alternatives to traditional K-12 models. In response, FEE launched the Educational Entrepreneurship Lab, an initiative supporting innovative, market-based education solutions. The Lab empowers entre-

dom-related issues. This will fill a gap in the liberty ecosystem by providing intellectual depth and consistency for students ready to move beyond introductory content.

Finally, we're revamping our fellowship programs designed to cultivate

the next generation of liberty influencers. These fellowships will guide students from the classroom to real-world advocacy, providing mentorship and resources for those eager to become public voices for the cause of freedom. This holistic journey aims to put Gen Z on a path to champion a freer, more prosperous society.

A COHESIVE STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE

Building the new liberty pipeline isn't just about patching up old products. It's about innovation, scalability, and impact. FEE is leveraging new AI tools, developing fresh learning formats, and integrating insights from

In short, FEE's vision is to provide not just content but a journey—a conversion funnel that turns fleeting curiosity into lasting commitment. The liberty pipeline is broken, but with your support, we're on track to build the new pipeline and usher in the next generation of liberty thought leaders. **F**

thought leaders across the movement to ensure the pipeline functions smoothly. We will track and analyze conversions at every stage, ensuring we know exactly when and how we're making a difference. Our portfolio review has allowed us to focus on strategic initiatives supported by meaningful metrics to assess our progress.

THE RETURN OF THE FREEMAN

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- *The Freeman* is returning as a high-profile Substack publication plus a special print edition for donors and sponsored subscribers.
- The new publication will feature magazine-style think pieces and longer essays.
- The investments FEE has made in digital mass outreach have been enormously impactful. At the same time, political and ideological developments in recent years have made it clear that the world still desperately needs *The Freeman*, which historically served as a critical bridge between mass outreach and the cultivation of thought leaders and moral models for liberty.
- Without an informative journal dedicated to the fundamentals of liberty, the rising generation of liberty-minded leaders risks lacking intellectual depth, coherence, and consistency.

By **DAN SANCHEZ** and
KATRINA GULLIVER

The liberty movement needs it more than ever.

In “Liberated!,” a 1962 *Notes from FEE* article, our founder Leonard E. Read likened the discovery of freedom to a prison break followed by an epic quest for enlightenment. Such a journey typically begins when an inquiring mind gets ahold of what Read called a “key”: some insight that unlocks a big-picture understanding of why the freedom philosophy makes sense and alternative paradigms don’t. That key might be discovered in a book, an article, a speech, or even just a quotation.

THE WONDER KEY OF LIBERTY

As Read noted, a key that unlocks one mind may not work on another: “Experience reveals no master key. Each mind has a unique lock.” Yet, some keys have proven to be amazingly versatile. In the mid-20th century, one such “wonder key” that freed a great multitude of minds was FEE’s flagship magazine: *The Freeman: Ideas on Liberty*.

Leonard Read described *The Freeman* as “not a journal of opinion but, rather, a journal presenting what we call the free market, private ownership, limited government philosophy with its moral and spiritual antecedents.”



It presented these ideas with articles that viewed current affairs through the freedom perspective. There were book reviews and discussions of public policy. Each issue offered readers insights to the philosophy of freedom. It was a “study journal” for the curious to learn more, and for those in the movement to stay informed.

It only makes sense that *The Freeman* was such an effective “key” that unlocked an understanding of freedom for so many, because that is precisely what it was crafted to be.

THE WORLD WITHOUT THE FREEMAN

In 2016, FEE discontinued *The Freeman* to free up resources for digital outreach. This outreach has worked; millions of people around the world visit FEE.org for online resources.

In the 2020s, we also invested in fellowships: intensive training/publication programs that served as launchpads for young writers and

broadcasters with a knack for applying the ideas of liberty to contemporary issues in a way that resonates with their peers. FEE remains committed to fostering the new generation of liberty-minded leaders.

But *The Freeman*’s absence from the field over the last eight years has shown how much it is needed. No other publication offers such an entry point to liberty, and the chance to learn from such a range of authors. *The Freeman* will be a bridge between mass outreach and the cultivation of a core of intellectual leaders: a leadership that, as Leonard Read always stressed, is indispensable for the cause of liberty.

THE FREEMAN RETURNS

So it is with great excitement that we announce the coming return of *The Freeman*. For this rebirth of a classic, we want to hold on to the best of the old and make use of the opportunities of the new.

YOU WILL WANT COPIES...

to send to friends and associates immediately in order that they may better understand the dangers whenever an overbalance of power is vested in the

labor leader. This edition is a text-

This ad appeared in historic editions of *The Freeman*.

The Freeman will plant its flag at Substack, a company that has proven to support the spread of genuinely challenging ideas as well as readership growth for its content creators. With over 20 million users, Substack offers a huge potential audience for FEE’s ideas.

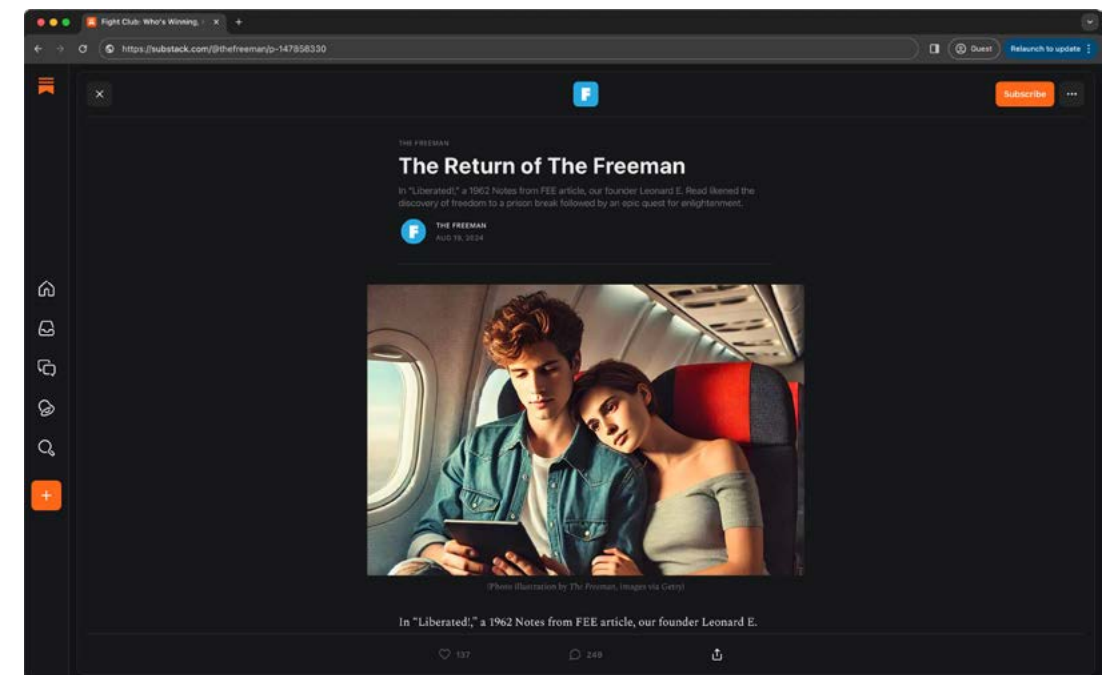
The Freeman articles will be authored by FEE’s in-house writers and Fellows, as well as prominent outside voices. It will include think pieces like one might find in such popular Substack publications as *The Free Press* by Bari Weiss and *The Weekly Dish* by Andrew Sullivan. The fast-moving format of Substack allows us to lead the conversation, and discuss unfolding current events.

We will also link back to the rich archives of *The Freeman*, to reintroduce classic articles and excerpts by the greatest thinkers in our tradition such as Bastiat, Hazlitt, Read, and Mises. And finally, we will collect our best Substack essays in a beautifully designed special print edition we will send to donors and to student subscribers sponsored by donors.

As F. A. Hayek wrote, if our quest for liberty is to succeed:

We must make the building of a free society once more an intellectual adventure, a deed of courage.

With your generous support, that is exactly what the Foundation for Economic Education will do as we relaunch *The Freeman*. **F**



SEEDBEDS OF LIBERTY

For many converts to the cause of liberty, it was *The Freeman* that freed their minds (see page 10). Some readers experienced an “aha” moment from a single article. An essay that communicates a key insight can unlock an immediate liberty epiphany.



However, others might need something more to be won over. For them, a good read might plant a seed. But getting that germ of an idea to sprout into a full-blown philosophy may require a more immersive learning experience. For decades, FEE provided exactly that through another life-changing offering: our seminars.

Fun fact: the word “seminar” comes from the Latin word *seminarium*, which means “seed plot.” This etymology is particularly apt for FEE’s seminars, as they have long functioned as seedbeds for the liberty movement, cultivating and growing new advocates and future leaders for freedom.



REVITALIZING THE FEE SEMINAR

THE FEE SEMINARS LEGACY

Like so many of FEE’s great offerings, our seminars started as a brainchild of our founder Leonard E. Read. As Bettina Bien Greaves wrote:

Read felt that one of the most effective ways to bring the freedom philosophy to people was through personal contact. The give-and-take of discussions, with the

By **DAN SANCHEZ**

opportunity to ask questions, sparks interest.

And as a FEE promotional video from the 1980s elaborated:

In the interest of more concentrated times of study, each year since 1952 hundreds of people have come to a wide-ranging program of FEE seminars at Irvington, New York as well as regionally throughout the country. In these focused times together, FEE staff and guest faculty give participants an in-depth look at the freedom philosophy....

Those FEE staff instructors included Read himself, Dean Russell, known for his superb translation of *The Law* by Frédéric Bastiat, and Rev. Edmund Opitz, a Congregationalist minister who explained the connection between the freedom philosophy and the Christian faith. The guest faculty featured renowned economists such as Ludwig von Mises, F. A. Hayek, and Hans Sennholz.

The seminar faculty members were like master gardeners: great minds cultivating inquiring minds, watering the idea seeds sown from other sources until they sprout into a newfound understanding and enthusiastic embrace of the freedom philosophy.

A CRUCIAL JUNCTURE IN THE LIBERTY PIPELINE

As the educational landscape evolved, so did our approach to spreading the message of liberty. In recent years, we have emphasized mass outreach, seeking to reach as many students as possible. That has meant getting into school classrooms with popular subjects like self-empowerment and personal finance. While not always explicitly libertarian, these topics foster mindsets that make students more receptive to the freedom perspective down the road. This pioneering strategy has *vastly* grown our audience and delivered valuable messages to innumerable students.

However, at the same time, we have also done fewer in-person, in-depth freedom philosophy seminars. We are happy to announce that that will be changing soon. The FEE seminar is making a comeback in the form of our new “bootcamp” programs currently in development.

These programs will serve as another crucial juncture in what FEE President Diogo Costa calls the “liberty pipeline” (see page 4), a continuous flow of bright young minds moving from initial exposure to deeper understanding and eventual advocacy of the freedom philosophy.

While preliminary stages of that pipeline are important for sparking

interest and curiosity, the liberty-curious must soon thereafter be routed through a thorough, candid, and comprehensive *introduction* to the freedom philosophy to give them a solid foundation.

We can never go back to the old days of Read and Mises holding forth in the long-gone FEE mansion in Ir-

Our vision is to build upon the best practices of the past with the latest and greatest of educational innovations. These include harnessing cutting-edge, often AI-powered, technologies that facilitate the creative process and scholarly collaboration. We will also update time-tested classical education techniques that reliably cultivated young minds for millen-



vington, New York. But the spirit and goal today remains the same: helping students gain a depth of knowledge only possible through focused, intensive study with knowledgeable experts and skilled educators.

We aim to revive the spirit of summers past, when seminars flourished and young minds eagerly gathered to explore the ideas of liberty with intellectual mentors. Yet, we’re not simply repeating history — we’re reimagining these experiences for the 21st century.

nia before being arbitrarily discarded with the advent of 20th-century “progressive” education.

ACTIVE MINDS: A REVIVAL OF THE FEE SEMINAR TRADITION

We have been refining these methods for years in our online fellowship programs. Recently, we deployed them “in the field” at an in-person event. In June of this year, with the support of the Prometheus Foundation, we held Active Minds—a multi-day introduction to the freedom philosophy—at the Starling Hotel in Atlanta for 70 at-

tendees, including 28 college students and 20 high schoolers. This conference marked a revival of FEE’s seminar tradition and also served as a pilot for our future bootcamps.

Active Minds was overseen by my colleague and champion of liberty Javier Perez. Javier tasked me with developing the conference’s curriculum and speaker line-up, which I was honored and happy to do.

Here is a peek into how that wonderful event went down.

Hannah Frankman, our master of ceremonies and a graduate of FEE’s Hazlitt Fellowship—now a prominent education influencer—kicked off the conference with an inspiring message. She encouraged students to “let curiosity be their compass” in both their educational pursuits and future careers.



As their many follow-up questions demonstrated, the students found Hannah’s talk inspiring and stimulating. It primed them to get the most out of the conference’s core learning opportunities: a morning lesson on individual rights and an afternoon lesson on **limited government**. Together, these lessons amounted to a foundation-laying primer on the “civics” of liberty.

These concepts were rigorously yet accessibly defined and explained for the students through my introductory lectures and through readings by Ayn Rand and others. Also cited were insights from thinkers like Leonard E. Read, Frédéric Bastiat, and John Locke, as well as the Declaration of Independence.

And the key concepts were applied to topics that fascinate young people—like dystopian fiction and space travel—through talks and discussion sessions led by the brilliant husband-and-wife duo of Thomas and Angel Walker-Werth. The Walker-Werths are editors for *The Objective Standard* as well as FEE Fellowship graduates. Equally inspiring was Jon Hersey, another FEE Fellowship alumnus, who told the students stirring stories that showed how great music and liberty are inseparable. Students were challenged, not only to listen and read, but to **speak** and **write**, expressing and applying the con-

cepts of individual rights and limited government in their own words so as to actively engage, and thus more fully learn, these freedom philosophy fundamentals.

And they were shown **exactly** how to do that through classical education-inspired exercises presented by

how they can use FEE resources to learn even more about the freedom philosophy. And President Emeritus Lawrence W. Reed explained how freedom is not just about politics, but is a life philosophy.

Thanks to the active-learner approach of Active Minds, the students



Lola Allgyer, a professional copywriter and writing coach. Her speaking and writing workshops were a hit among the students, with one participant noting that the experience gave her a newfound sense of empowerment over her words and ideas.

Finally, the conference culminated with inspiring closing talks. Hannah shared how “learning out loud” can become a lifelong source of growth, fulfillment, and joy. FEE President Diogo Costa told students

demonstrated and expressed, not just enthusiasm for, but genuine **comprehension** of the ideas of liberty. We witnessed the seeds of liberty sprouting in real-time.

The students listened attentively, asked probing questions, and gathered around speakers in between sessions to ask further questions. They also offered thoughtful insights of their own, and engaged in respectful dialogue with each other. They were clearly grasping the concepts we were

introducing and applying them carefully. They weren't just sitting through a pep rally for liberty; they were being initiated into a fascination with studying liberty—one that, for many of them, will likely last a lifetime.

In addition to student programming, Active Minds featured sessions tailored exclusively for our 30 teacher attendees. These included an Educator's Breakfast with FEE's Curriculum Team and a tour of the National Center for Civil & Human Rights in Atlanta. During these sessions, teachers explored innovative

teaching strategies, engaged in discussions about individual rights, and received resources to enhance their classroom instruction.

We are thrilled to use Active Minds as a blueprint for future freedom philosophy bootcamps. Like the renowned seminars of the past, these programs will serve as fertile ground for young, inquiring, and active minds. These seedbeds of liberty will provide future leaders with a thorough grounding in the freedom philosophy in all its glory. **F**



FEE FELLOWSHIPS

The New York Times recently highlighted several FEE Fellowship graduates as key influencers shaping the views of today's youth.

FEE's influence on young Americans has become so great that even *The New York Times* can't help but notice.

On July 19, 2024, the *Times* published an article titled "*The Voices Young Conservatives Are Listening to Online.*" Several current and past FEE contributors, influencers, and fellowship graduates were featured.

As author Rachel Janfaza explained:

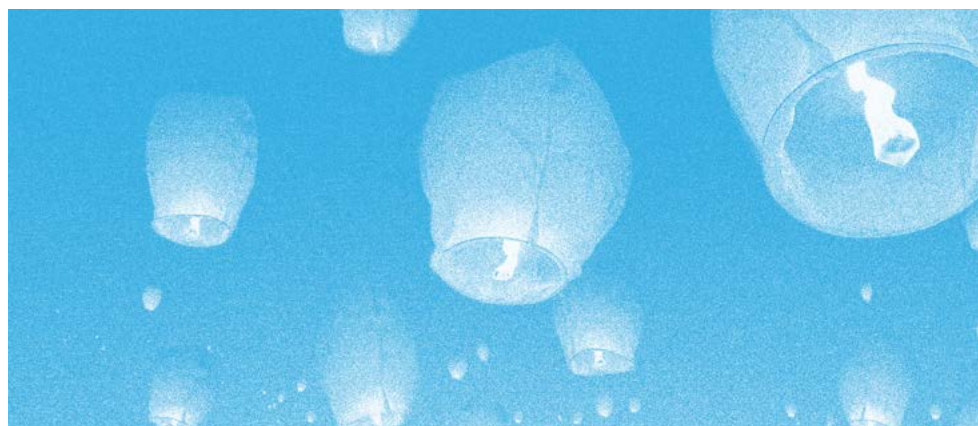
To better understand what is resonating with young conservatives online, The New York Times asked 30 people between the ages of 18 and 30, all of whom identify as right-leaning, about the content they consume and the accounts they follow on social media.

COMMUNICATORS OF LIBERTY

Their responses highlighted several influential voices, some of whom were featured in the article's lead photo spread. *Three of the nine influencers pictured were trained by FEE.* These included:

BRETT COOPER

Brett is a graduate of FEE's first Hazlitt Fellowship cohort. At age 22, she has



LAUNCHING THE LEADING LIGHTS OF THE RISING GENERATION

By **DAN SANCHEZ**

already gained a following of millions. Her *Daily Wire* YouTube show *The Comments Section* now has over 4 million subscribers, and her TikTok and Instagram accounts each have over a million followers.

During Brett's six-month FEE fellowship, she wrote FEE.org articles on such topics as gun rights, higher education, and supply chains. In those articles, she incorporated insights from such thinkers as Ludwig von Mises, Frédéric Bastiat, and James Madison. The ideas she explored while researching and writing these articles surely continue to inform her commentary today, which now influences millions of young minds.

HANNAH COX

Hannah is a graduate of FEE's Thorpe Fellowship. After completing her fellowship, she worked as FEE's Content Manager and Brand Ambassador. Hannah has also become a significant influencer who is trusted by many young followers to deliver principled and well-informed perspectives on criminal justice reform and economic freedom.

While at FEE, Hannah testified before the Senate's Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, representing the free-market perspective on entrepreneurship and over-regulation. Hannah's FEE archive includes articles on inflation, social me-

dia censorship, and health care. Her articles are also rich with references to great works by such thinkers as Mises, Bastiat, and Henry Hazlitt.

MAGGIE ANDERS

Maggie is a FEE content creator who has been extensively involved in our fellowship programs. She is the host of FEE's *Undoctrination* sub-brand. Maggie's popular video shorts connect trending topics to FEE's core values—individual liberty, free-market economics, entrepreneurship, private property, limited government, and high moral character—with a unique voice that appeals to Gen Z.

Within the article, a respondent also cited Brad Polumbo as a trusted voice. Brad was FEE's first writing fellow before becoming our policy correspondent. While at FEE, Brad also testified before the Senate. He addressed the unintended consequences of pandemic lockdowns, citing Henry Hazlitt's *Economics in One Lesson*. Brad's massive FEE.org article archive contains hundreds of explanations of liberty concepts and references to classic liberty texts. Brad continues to be a prolific creator of written and video content promoting freedom.

THE OUTSIZED IMPACT OF FEE'S FELLOWSHIPS

Our fellowship programs have been so effective because participants learn, not only as students of liberty, but as

apprentice educators of liberty. One of the best ways to learn is to teach, and that is what we challenge our fellows to do. They explore the ideas of liberty through coursework (lectures, workshops, readings from classic texts, writing exercises, etc.) and then master those ideas by articulating them in their own words through educational articles, videos, social media posts, and other forms of online content.

With every new cohort, our fellowship curriculum has become more educationally rigorous as we develop and incorporate new teaching techniques. With our upcoming cohorts, we will be using "classical education" methods to show our fellows how to build a repertoire of writing, speaking, and studying skills. With these skills, our fellows will gain an even better understanding of classic liberty source texts and will be able to create even more substantive and educational original content.

FEE has always stood apart from more politically charged organizations in that we avoid polarizing rhetoric. This standard was set by Leonard Read, who believed that educating and inspiring people, rather than berating and antagonizing them, was the way to win them over to the cause of liberty. With every fellowship cohort, we are getting better at boosting voices that align with FEE's tone and young communicators who don't

pander to their audience with click-bait, rage-bait, and shallow snark. As Henry Hazlitt wrote, "A friend of free enterprise is hardly worth having if he can only fume and sputter."

FEE's fellowships stand at an advanced juncture of the "liberty pipeline" (see page 4). In these programs, promising young minds who have advanced from initial exposure to a solid understanding of the freedom philosophy are given the training they need to become leaders among their peers who can effectively communicate those ideas.

And we are accomplishing that with incredible efficiency. The only organization featured as prominently as FEE in the article was The Daily Wire, which operates with a vastly larger budget and produces more polemical, less educational content (which is an easier way to gain views and clicks). *FEE is clearly punching above its weight in shaping the views of young people.* By identifying and cultivating the liberty movement's future leading lights, our fellowship programs deliver more impact per donor dollar than any other similar organization.

As we refine and expand our fellowships—and restore earlier junctures of the liberty pipeline—the good influence of FEE-trained communicators on the rising generation will only grow stronger. **F**

LIBERATING LEARNERS BY CATALYZING MARKET-BASED EDUCATION



FEE'S NEW EDUCATION
ENTREPRENEURSHIP LAB

By **KERRY M^CDONALD**

American K-12 education has experienced a dramatic shift over the past four years. While the government's response to Covid-19 shut down many schools and businesses, it opened new pathways for school choice and education entrepreneurship that continue to emerge and deepen.

These pathways had been forming before the pandemic, but they have accelerated since. In 2020, no US state had a school choice policy enabling every K-12 student to be eligible to use a portion of state-allocated education funding to exit an assigned district school for a private option. Today, 12 states have these universal school choice policies, while others have expanded their choice programs to include more students and families.

Similarly, education entrepreneurship and the creation of innovative learning models such as micro-schools, hybrid homeschools and collaboratives, and online learning platforms had been gaining momentum since the turn of the millennium, as I documented in my 2019 book, *Unschooling: Raising Curious, Well-Educated Children Outside the Conventional Classroom*. However, there is no doubt that school closures and new school choice policies supercharged this trend.

Thousands of parent-organized “pandemic pods” evolved into micro-schools and similar spaces, while entrepreneurial teachers left their jobs in conventional classrooms to launch new schools in their communities. The vast majority of these school founders are former public school teachers who had been growing increasingly disillusioned with one-size-fits-all schooling that crushed their creativity as much as it did their students. The pandemic disruption gave these teachers the nudge they needed to make a change, while prompting parents to do the same for their children.

Since joining FEE in 2019 as a Senior Education Fellow, I have been capturing these trends in my LiberatED e-newsletter that reaches over 5,000 readers each week, as well as in my regular articles at FEE.org and Forbes.com. In early 2022, I expanded LiberatED to include a podcast, sharing the stories of the entrepreneurial parents and teachers who are launching new schools and spaces. Within six months, I had such a backlog of founder interviews that I boosted the podcast to twice a week. Now, 250 episodes later and a show that ranks in the top 2.5% of all global podcasts, I still have a backlog.

Momentum is not slowing down. Indeed, as I travel across the country to visit founders and spotlight their sto-

ries, I am astonished at how quickly they are growing. Most of these schools and spaces have emerged since 2020 and many have waitlists, as families clamor for more education options. These creative schooling options exist everywhere—in red, blue, and purple states, in big cities and tiny towns, and in areas with and without robust school choice policies. But as tens of thousands of families gain access to more of these choice policies and demand something different for their children’s education, everyday entrepreneurs are meeting that demand by opening new schools and related learning models.

Through its LiberatED brand, FEE has become a go-to source of information and inspiration for today’s current and aspiring education entrepreneurs, as well as a beacon for parents wondering about new possibilities for their children’s learning. We wanted to do more to support these founders and families and encourage the expansion of market-based, entrepreneur-driven, choice-enabled education options. As an organization that has pioneered the principles of individual liberty, free markets, private property, limited government, and entrepreneurship for nearly 80 years, and that has been at the forefront of the current educational transformation, FEE is uniquely positioned to support and champion this profound shift toward more decentralized,

individualized education options.

To this end, last month we launched our new FEE Education Entrepreneurship Lab, which features several initiatives, including:

1. Expanding LiberatED and welcoming our new LiberatED Education Associate, Nasiyah Isra-UI, a homeschool graduate and young entrepreneur who has joined FEE as part of the Koch Associate Program.



2. Introducing our new Enterprising Founder Award that aims to identify and reward promising education entrepreneurs aligned with our freedom philosophy.

3. Creating our new Entrepreneur In-Residence program and inviting educator, entrepreneur, and author, Tobin Slaven, co-founder of Acton Academy Fort Lauderdale, as our first school-starter to fill this role.

In the Lab’s first weeks, we have been producing a steady flow of articles and multimedia content, hosting and planning webinars for founders and families, and preparing free, downloadable toolkits for those eager to seek or build new educational options in their communities. The following weeks promise to be even more fruitful.

The future of American K-12 education is being built by parents and teachers sick of the schooling status

quo who are finding—or founding—new educational options that are more accessible than ever before. It’s an exciting time! I am personally grateful that free-market principles are becoming better understood and embraced by both education producers and consumers thanks to FEE’s talented team, generous donors, and enduring legacy. **F**

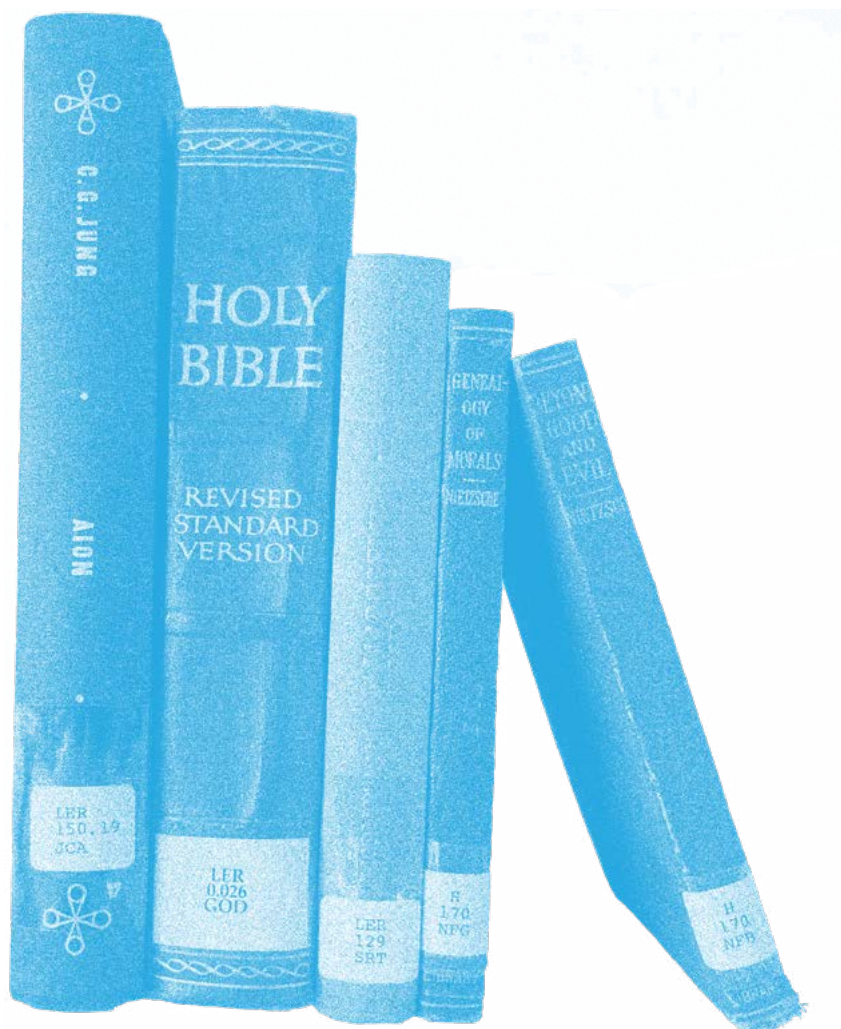
THE SPIRITUAL LIFE & LEGACY OF LEONARD E. READ

Leonard E. Read was a lucid, unrivaled expositor of the freedom philosophy. Upon close examination, Read’s resolute faith in free men was made possible by wonder and reverence for his Creator. What follows is a brief overview of the spiritual beliefs that informed his unique life and work.

DID LEONARD READ BELIEVE IN GOD?

Although Read was not shy to use the word “God,” his belief is most accurately captured by his preferred term, “Infinite Consciousness”:

Starting with the premise of an Infinite Consciousness and recognizing that consciousness is the Reality, one must conclude that man’s purpose is, during his earthly moments, to see how near he can expand his own consciousness into a harmony with Infinite Consciousness. Now, when we admit Infinity into our calculations, we see that this earthly existence is but the beginning, the training territory, so to speak. The individual continues after “death” to exist as a conscious entity, that is, such consciousness as he continues to exist. Further, he continues to develop consciousness after earthly passing. The process is infinite or else the concept of Infinite Consciousness would have to be abandoned.”
 (Read’s Journal, 11/21/63)



By TYLER BRANDT

Read clarified his terminology in a 1975 interview with *Reason* magazine:

A lot of people use different terms for something over and beyond the mind. They use the term “God.” I use the terms “infinite consciousness” or “infinite intelligence.”

While not explicitly Christian, Read’s stated moral foundations were the Golden Rule and Ten Commandments. He also routinely referenced the Bible and fondly quoted C. S. Lewis.

In fact, Read and Lewis both shared an affinity for the “hatching” metaphor of personal development.

In *How to Advance Liberty*, Read remarked:

In a word, my major premise is individual growth, emergence, evolution in consciousness, perception, awareness. Hatching might be even a better word than growth. The Greek philosopher, Heraclitus, put it amusingly when he said we are on earth as in an egg, that one can’t be a good egg forever, that one must either hatch or not.

In *Mere Christianity*, C. S. Lewis observed, “We are like eggs at present. And you cannot go on indefinitely being just an ordinary, decent egg. We must be hatched or go bad.”

Another favored metaphor of Read’s was the seedling. He adored and oft-referenced this poem:

*Fueled by a million
man-made wings of fire,*

The rocket tore through the sky. . . .

And everyone cheered.

Fueled only by a thought from God,

*The seedling urged its way
through the thickness of black.*

*And as it pierced the heavy
ceiling of the soil*

*And launched itself up
into outer space. . .*

No one even clapped.

On the poem’s significance, Read mused, “That seedling is but one of octillions times octillions—indeed, an infinity—of wonders in the Universe. Why, that seedling itself has wonders not remotely comprehended by man. The lack of wonder about Creation—Nature’s mysteries—is appalling.” (*Comes the Dawn*)

Not limited in his breadth of thought, Read also pulled from the Bhagavad Gita, Jung and Freud, Goethe and Nietzsche, Rudolph Steiner, his own “Patron Saint,” and his own conscience.

CONCLUSIONS FOR FEE AND THE LIBERTY MOVEMENT

Ultimately, Leonard Read was not spiritual for namesake. Through reasoning and careful observation, he recognized the terrestrial world to be governed by a cosmic, unseen order. Therefore, his true mission was to increase faith in this order.

He put this most eloquently in “I, Pencil” (an essay he wrote following a meditative experiment developed by Rudolph Steiner):

The lesson I have to teach is this: Leave all creative energies uninhibited. Merely organize society to act in harmony with this lesson. Let society’s legal apparatus remove all obstacles the best it can. Permit these creative know-hows freely to flow. Have faith that free men and women will respond to the Invisible Hand. This faith will be confirmed. I, Pencil, seemingly simple though I am, offer the miracle of my creation as testimony that this is a practical faith, as practical as the sun, the rain, a cedar tree, the good earth.

As a consequence of his own hatching, Leonard Read created FEE and so graciously planted insights about life, spiritual development, and the promise of liberty into the modern American landscape. It is up to the current members of FEE and the individuals who support it to sow this faith for generations to come. **F**



such, for instance, as the delivery of the mails, most individuals will believe that the mails could not be efficiently delivered by men acting freely. And here is the reason: Each one acknowledges that he himself doesn't know how to do all the things incident to mail delivery. He also recognizes that no other individual could do it. These assumptions are correct. No individual possesses enough know-how to perform a nation's mail delivery any more than any individual possesses enough know-how to make a pencil. Now, in the absence of a faith in free men — in the unawareness that millions of tiny know-hows would naturally and miraculously form and cooperate to satisfy this necessity — the individual cannot help but reach the erroneous conclusion that mail can be delivered only by governmental "master-minding."

Testimony Galore

If I, Pencil, were the only item that could offer testimony on what men can accomplish when free to try, then those with little faith would have a fair case. However, there is testimony galore; it's all about us and on every hand. Mail delivery is exceedingly simple when compared, for instance, to the making of an automobile or a calculating machine or a grain combine or a milling machine or

to tens of thousands of other things. Delivery? Why, in this area where men have been left free to try, they deliver the human voice around the world in less than one second; they deliver an event visually and in motion to any person's home when it is happening; they deliver 150 passengers from Seattle to Baltimore in less than four hours; they deliver gas from Texas to one's range or furnace in New York at unbelievably low rates and without subsidy; they deliver each four pounds of oil from the Persian Gulf to our Eastern Seaboard — halfway around the world — for less money than the government charges for delivering a one-ounce letter across the street!

Leave Men Free

The lesson I have to teach is this: *Leave all creative energies uninhibited.* Merely organize society to act in harmony with this lesson. Let society's legal apparatus remove all obstacles the best it can. Permit these creative know-hows freely to flow. Have faith that free men will respond to the Invisible Hand. This faith will be confirmed. I, Pencil, seemingly simple though I am, offer the miracle of my creation as testimony that this is a practical faith, as practical as the sun, the rain, a cedar tree, the good earth. • • •





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