



newsletter

TENLEY STUDY CENTER

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear Friends of Tenley,

TS. ELIOT ONCE SAID that “[t]he very existence of libraries affords the best evidence that we may yet have hope for the future of man.” Perhaps with that thought subconsciously in our minds, last summer we decided to embark in an ambitious project to revamp our library here at Tenley.

Yes, it's true, many educational institutions are going the opposite direction—getting rid of books, setting up more computers, giving every teenager an iPad so they can be connected, using the space that used to be the library for more classrooms, etc.

Yet, we are, after all, Tenley Study Center. So we embarked in an effort to make the library a more suitable place for quiet, sustained study. We wanted to make the library what our chapel is to prayer: a place of undisturbed silence and contemplation. Pascal, a 17th century French philosopher would have agreed with our goal of silent, uninterrupted work. He once pithily wrote, “that all human unhappiness comes from not knowing how to stay quietly in a room.”

The Library project was a two-pronged approach. The first was to update and expand our current collection. This painstaking work required careful attention and dedication—and, in many ways—is still very much in progress, and will always be.

The second prong was to replace the furniture and furnishings so as to make the library a more conducive space for quiet and sustained academic work. But finding the right furniture was not an easy endeavor. The tables and desks had to be durable—teenagers are not known for their concern towards furnishings—and practical—with the increase in seminar attendance we needed a place for 20-30 students. Yet, at the same time, we wanted to avoid a cold, institutional feel.

After a long search for the right furniture, we purchased custom-made study tables from an *old-school* craftsman in Colorado. The tables have wrought iron legs and one-inch thick, solid wood tabletops. The wooden chairs were also custom-made by a Canadian company. The chairs are all wood and stackable so are easily moved and stored when the need arises.

The final touches were brighter lights, wooden blinds, and a new paint job that replaced the previous “hospital white” with a warm forest green. Two large facsimiles of antique prints of Capitol Hill and the Brooklyn Bridge in New York City complete the makeover.

Your continued financial support has made this transformation possible. Its success is palpable in the silence that now reigns during our seminar study times... or, as one of the participants put it: “Now we actually have to study!”

Thanks again for your generosity,

Sincerely,

Joe Cardenas, Director
TENLEY STUDY CENTER



Joe Cardenas, Executive Director of the Tenley Study Center leads a discussion during a Freshman Seminar. A typical Seminar evening consists of a study hall, a hearty supper, and the Seminar topic.



TENLEY STUDY CENTER is dedicated to the academic and character development of men of all ages. Its activities encourage them to see their studies, work and family responsibilities from the perspective of character growth and service to others. The spiritual dimension of Tenley's activities is entrusted to Opus Dei, a personal prelature of the Catholic Church.



A Christmas Story

BY GEORGE MESSENGER, 9TH GRADER AT THE HEIGHTS SCHOOL

I T WAS THE NOT-SO-RARE OCCASION when the classic white Tenley van was speeding up and down the East Coast—packed with kids and smelling of McDonalds. To a nearby motorist on the highway we looked like a bad daycare on a fieldtrip to the zoo. But that driver would never have guessed that in the previous five days, that van full of youths had been in Washington DC, New York City, and the steep ski slopes of Vermont. Aside from the planned activities of the trip, we had many other memorable experiences; yet, what happens on a Tenley trip stays on the Tenley trip! No exceptions... well, except maybe for this Newsletter.

After an early departure on the day after Christmas, we arrived in New York. We parked under Murray Hill Place, at the corner of Lexington Avenue and 34th Street. At seventeen stories high, Murray Hill Place lies in midtown Manhattan, with the Chrysler building to the north and the Empire State Building to the west. We piled out of the vans, and walked uptown to Grand Central Station. We then walked over to Fifth Avenue, visited St. Patrick's Cathedral, and were given some free time to look around at the shops. I personally headed straight for the NBA store. For me, who had never been to New York before, it felt like I was walking through Gotham City after visiting Alex the Lion and Marty the Zebra in Grand Central. In other words, I felt like I was

in a movie. However, my ecstasy was not over too soon, but rather, it was augmented by yet another fun thing we were going to do. As I rode up in the elevator to the top floor of Murray Hill Place, I had no idea what to expect. When we reached the top and I stepped out onto the deck, I must confess, I had my mind blown. The famous skyline of the Big Apple was laid out in front of me, and it lit up the night sky like fireworks. We ate some classic New York Pizza, and listened to Mr. Cardenas try to tell stories. Just kidding, he is actually a great story teller. Following that, we went





However, the ride home was where the real experience came in. Driving home, it began to snow. And when I say snow, I don't mean the type where Montgomery County Public Schools close because a cloud passes across the sky. I mean like the Noah's Ark deluge at eleven degrees Fahrenheit. As expected, when we were almost to the cabin, the vans got stuck, so we all jumped out and tried to push them. However, once they started moving again, it was every man for himself. Of course, I had decided to wear Sperry's and a t-shirt home, and when my flat bottomed shoes slipped, I and a few others were stranded. Some lucky souls were able to jump into the van when it was on the move, while others got a ride home with some random guy in a truck. I made it home, through the grace of God, and with the help of some lady in a car (who was quite possibly my guardian angel). Even though she dropped us off a mile away from the house (which she had no idea where it was), she still warmed us up a bit in her heated car. Once back home, we heard about Fr. Diego's trip down the class five snow road and Mr. Cardenas' trip with some grumpy guy in a truck. All and all, it was a crazy yet memorable experience. Happily, we were able to attend Mass all three days in Vermont. The next day, we took the long car ride back to home sweet D.C. It was quite a trip.

The trip was led by Tenley's own Joe Cardenas, Ricky Ybarra, John Paul Lechner, and Fr. Diego.

to Times Square, which was also lit up and bustling with activity. We spent the night at an Opus Dei center outside the city, but the next morning we entered the city again. We took the Staten Island Ferry and visited Wall Street, which was definitely a highlight of my trip.

Soon enough, we reloaded the van, and headed even further north, up to Vermont. On the first day in Vermont, we woke up and Joachim Brooks fixed what became known as "Joachim's Eggs" – the legendary breakfast for the rest of the trip. That day we went hiking, but it was the least packed day of the trip and it gave everybody a chance to kick back and relax. The next day however, was quite different. To start off, we woke up at zero dark thirty, and yes, we had Joachim's Eggs. Then we travelled to Killington Vermont, which was about an hour away, and skied the best slopes on the east coast. This day was unbelievably fun for all, from the best skiers to the beginners. Unlike those awful shredded glass shards at Liberty Mountain, Maryland, we skied on powder, from dawn till dusk.



FROM THE DESK OF PHIL WEHLE

My dear Friends,

TENLEY is indeed blessed by the faithful support of 130 families who are members of the Tenley Association. Your prayers and financial sacrifices are critical to the continued success of the many programs offered by the Center. All of us at Tenley are most grateful for your assistance and invite those who have not yet done so to join the Tenley Association and help us foster and sustain Tenley's mission of offering academic excellence and character formation to young men. Among the most critical contributions that Tenley's experienced and dedicated staff offers to each boy are one-on-one mentoring as well as the example and moral support he needs to grow in character and reach his full potential. As members of the Tenley Association, you will insure the success of this endeavor and your contributions will also pay handsome dividends for years to come in the lives of those who pass through the Center.

For details on Tenley Center activities or to donate, please visit our website at www.tenley.org. Our address is 4300 Garrison Street, NW, Washington, DC 20016.

Your contributions to the Tenley Study Center, a 501 (c) (3) corporation, are tax deductible. If you wish to donate through the Combined Federal Campaign, the number is 37306. Our United Way number is 8870. The Center's federal tax identification number is 52-1545933. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, comments or suggestions.

With best wishes to you and your families,

Phil Wehle, Director
TENLEY ASSOCIATION, PWEHLE@TENLEY.ORG



FROM THE TENLEY STUDY CENTER ARCHIVES

NO TENLEY CENTER ACTIVITY is complete without a talk on some aspect of academic or character formation. These talks usually focus on one topic related to the intellectual or human virtues appropriate to the age of the participants. They are practical in nature, with a clear "take away" that can be readily applied to school or family life. The venue for these talks is as varied as our activities and can take place on a mountain top, beach, around a camp fire, on in the case of the photo above, behind the newly opened "Heights" center in the late 1960's. Here, Jack Luther talks to boys in Program Advance, a Sunday afternoon program that included sports and a class in art, electronics, computer programming, and model rocketry.

