

Tales From My Family
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Introduction

My Photo Essay is about the importance of family. I chose this topic because I went to my grandparents one weekend and realized how important family is to me. We have traditions and rituals that are a part of my life. Plus, I still have my great grandparents so I can enjoy my time with them and learn as much as I can from them.



These are traditional Russian foods. This picture shows caviar, angry mother in-law mustard, a yogurt drink called Rezhhenka, radishes, dill and Russian Dumplings. Traditional Russian foods are potatoes, bread, meat, eggs, cabbage, sour cream, mushrooms and tomatoes.

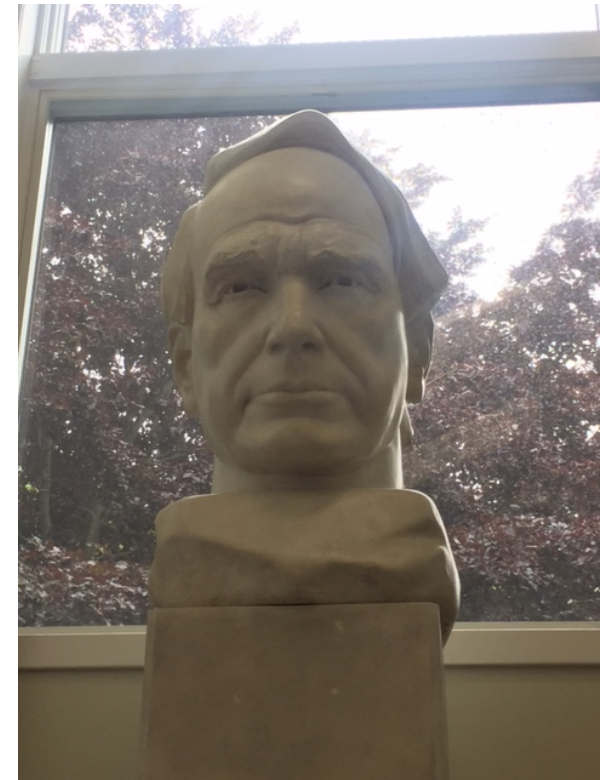


This is a Russian war medal. My great Grandmother served Russia during World War II. On this medal is Joseph Stalin, a communist leader of Russia. The main Leaders of Russian Communism were Vladimir Lenin and Joseph Stalin.



To complete a successful statue there are a variety of tools. One needs a knife to make ragged edges and details. There is also a brush that one uses to brush away loose water or liquid on the clay. The most important tool you need is a spoon like figure with a hollow end. This is what you use for carving the clay into the figure or whatever you are carving. It depends on the sculptor but one can use a pencil to mark points on their clay.

*Sculpture of
Henry
Moore:
Sculpted by
my great
grandfather*





These are my grandparents looking somber. They immigrated from Russia in 1987. They immigrated because there was no freedom in Russia and the government wanted to recruit my father for the army. My great grandparents came two years later in 1989. During those two years my great grandmother bribed government officials to get rid of my father files. A few months after my grandparents, aunt and father left, the government came to their house asking for my dad. My great grandma said "Sorry, they left already!" When my great grandma left she sewed all the jewelry into curtains of her friend's house. Shortly after, she left her friend, She came to America and gave her all the jewelry that she had left behind.



My grandparents live on Long Island. This is an important table because there is a sculpture of a dancer and there are photographs from when my family was in Russia. There is actually a lot of history at this house. There are figures that my dad played with and this birdhouse was my brother, Levi's first bird feeder. It is a great way to learn about my family's past.



There is lots of nature where my grandparents live. My grandma is an amazing gardener and she loves planting flowers and appreciates the beauty in nature. I took these pictures to represent my grandma and the time and care she takes into making her garden beautiful.



There is always fun! Between tetherball and seeing who can eat the watermelon faster. We also swim in the swimming pool. Never ending fun!



Russian food is very important in my family. We cook traditional Russian foods at family gatherings, birthday parties and holidays. The food is always the most important part of the celebration because it shows the quality of the family and how well they cook. Usually the women of the household start two or three days early and start preparing all the of the courses, desserts and extra snacks. Traditional Russian cuisine is usually heavy and very meaty, it can fill you up in a second, but it is very good. So many flavors!

Russian Communism started in 1917, Vladimir Lenin took over Russia after the Russian Revolution. Vladimir Lenin was born in 1870 and was already 47 years old. Back then people didn't live as long. He earned the majority of the Russians trust by using the motto "Peace, Bread and Land". Then he overthrew the government and seized control over Russia. Vladimir Lenin didn't believe in Capitalism (an economic and political system in which a country's trade and industry are controlled by private owners for profit, rather than by the state) as a result he forced Communism. This is what Vladimir Lenin enforced: no private property, the government controls all of the education, children cannot inherit their Parents wealth and government controls and owns all transportation and communication. After Lenin came Stalin, then Khrushchev, then Brezhnev. After Those leaders, Gorbachev became a leader and soon after Russia became a democratic republic.

There are many famous artists that include: Rodin (French), Michelangelo (Italian), Henry Moore (British), Donatello (Italian) and Isamu Noguchi (Japanese). There are many types of sculpting: modern, classical free form and others. My Great grandfather focuses on sculpting people such as Leonardo Da Vinci. I have a picture of sculpting tools that my great grandfather uses the most. Of course there are many different types of tools that can make tiny details that no one focuses on. It takes a lot of thinking when it comes to sculpting.

The most important thing is proportion. Things can't be too small or too big they have to be just right

Scaling is similar to proportions, Basically scaling is the size of particular things in pictures and sculptures. Sculpting is hard. My great grandfather let me sculpt one of his chunks of clay and I realized that sculpting takes so much concentration and focus that you really need to practice.

Edgar Degas was the sculptor of the little dancer of fourteen . Supposedly the ballerina was 14 and danced in the Paris Opera Ballet. She got kicked out. That was when she lost her fame. The reason I am sharing this is because these are important things in my family. This birdhouse my brother found on his birthday. It was old and rusty we had to clean it. It had probably been in the house before they moved in. There are many types of birds in Long Island: cardinals, bluebirds, blue jays, wood peckers and many more. There are also animals: foxes, bunny's, chipmunks and ants. Once I saw a fox trying to eat a cat and while we were looking at the fox, the cat ran away.

There is a variety of nature at their house including flowers and trees. Flowers include: tulips, lilies, daisies and many more. There are pine trees and oak trees that produce sap and other natural resources. There are many farms with fruits and vegetables. Long Island has many farms so they produce many dairy products and agriculture, since it is in a suburban neighborhood. There are also water sources such as the Long Island Sound.

There are many sports played in Long Island. There are schools that host sports so everyone can play what they love. There are sports from football to lacrosse to rugby. Most of the schools are very big so they can host a lot of sporting events and raise more money for the kids to play in their community. I think the reason that schools host all these events is because there is a lot of space in Long Island so they take advantage of that space to give kids a chance to play.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I realized that family is very important and they can teach you a lot about history, culture and many other things. That is why family is so important and you should appreciate your family.