



Pigeon Tracks

Sean Salinovici Takes Top Place in 2018 Youth Race



2018 AU National Youth Race Winner, Sean Salinovici.

Top spot winner, Sean, shares his thoughts, “I’m very happy to win the youth race this year, since I’ve been sending birds to the youth races for more than 10 years. I’ve come close to winning before earning top positions so to finally win it is a dream come true. What makes it extra special is that this year we celebrated 100 Years since hero pigeon Cher Ami saved the encircled battalion despite suffering serious injuries.

The winning bird is of Imbrechts origins, a family of birds that my father has been working on for 15 years, they go back to a big red cock that Bob McKenna (AU NE zone director) gave to my dad when he got back into birds after moving to the United States from Romania. Thank you Mr. Bob and thank you to Mr. Kotarba of Chicago for doing a fine job handling the youth race

birds.

I would also like to thank the AU, it’s officials and the hosting clubs for organizing the Youth Convention races and for inviting me as their guest to the 2019 Convention in Utah, looking forward to it, excited about learning new things about pigeons and making new friends.

Hope to see some of you in Utah.

Keep’em flying!”



2018 AU National Youth Race Handler, Andy Kotarba.

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2019 AU NATIONAL YOUTH RACE

ARE YOU READY?

The 2019 AU National Youth Race is going to be handled by Jaydee Lindsay and will take place in beautiful Utah. Though it will be held in October during the AU convention week, it will be here before we know it! Don't miss out on your chance to win a trip to the 2020 AU convention – as our guest.

That's right! Each race entrant will receive a certificate acknowledging participation in the race. Youth in the top ten places will receive a plaque. The winner will be invited to attend the 2020 AU convention, receive a plaque and a trophy.

So if you entered the AU National Youth Race before, you know the drill. Fill out and return the application found on the following page of this newsletter. You can mail it (ARPU, PO Box 18465, Oklahoma City, OK 73154) or email (augrow@aol.com). Applications should be signed by a parent or legal guardian and returned to the AU office by no later than March 1, 2019.

Once we receive your application, we will send you the shipping information and entry form to include with your bird when you ship.

We must receive your application before shipping your bird. This is the only way we will know who sends a bird to the race so that we may properly recognize you for your efforts and success. ***Juniors entering the race must be AU members.***

When training begins later in the year, we will send out monthly updates provided by the handler.

The race is open to all AU junior members. Each AU junior member participating may send one bird. There is no entry fee, but we guarantee you will like the prizes.

We hope you will participate and look forward to hearing from you soon!

Karen Clifton, Executive Director



22nd Annual AU National Youth Race

We hope you will join in the fun. The AU National Youth Race will be handled by Jaydee Lindsay. The race is open to all AU junior members. The race will be flown in October 2019, during the 2019 AU Convention. All participants will receive a certificate or plaque. The overall winner will be invited to attend the 2019 AU Convention as our guest.

Applications should be signed by a parent or legal guardian and returned to the office by no later than March 1, 2019. As soon as applications are received, we will send notification advising of shipping details. Applications must be received prior to shipment for entry into the race and juniors must be AU members.

APPLICATION FORM

The AU 2019 National Youth Race is open to all AU junior members. Please print the following:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

PHONE: _____ **CLUB:** _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

I hereby indicate that I wish to participate in the 2019 AU National Youth Race. I certify that the 2019 young bird I enter in this Youth Race has been raised and cared for by me.

- _____ Yes, I plan to attend.
- _____ I will be unable to attend, but am excited to enter a bird.
- _____ I would like to have my bird returned after the race. (Cost of shipping to be coordinated through handler.)

(Signature – Junior Member)

(Signature – Parent/Guardian)

Return this application form to the AU national office. It must be mailed to arrive by March 1, 2019
Mail to: **American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc. P.O. Box 18465, Oklahoma City, OK 73154**

Book Review

Our book reviewer gives this a “thumbs up” and recommends the book to others for reading enjoyment.

What happens when the pigeon goes missing? Will the Queen’s birthday go well, horribly, or get canceled?

One of the characters is a sword girl named Tommy. She sharpens knives and gets them ready for battle. One of her best friends is the pigeon, who delivers messages back and forth.



The king has a falcon by his night stand (falcons are predators to pigeons) and the pigeon saw the falcon. He hasn’t been asked to deliver messages for a couple of days (many days), so he thinks the king doesn’t need him, so he fly’s away. Then the next day, the king needs the pigeon and he can’t find him so, he tells sword girl and asks here if she has seen him, but she hasn’t, so she starts to worry. On the day of the horse race she is in the lead and she hears cooing. She has to decide to see if that’s the pigeon or stay in the lead. **What will she choose?**

My opinion of this book: after I read a page and time was up I would be disappointed cause I wanted to keep turning the page to see what happened next in the book. The author made me curious to see what would happen.

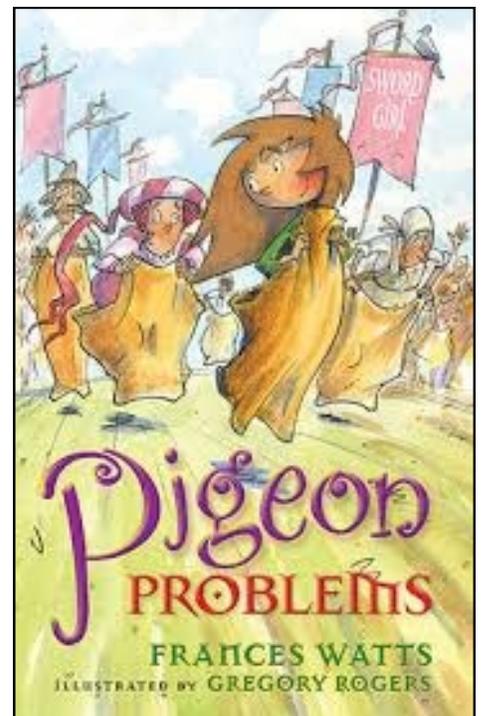
This book reminds me of a time when my pigeon got loose and I thought it would never come back. The pigeon got loose when we were putting all the pigeons back into their cage, we set one on a lift and instead of going in, it flew away.

My recommendation is ages 9 and up, grades 3 and up. This book is for a reader who likes mysteries and can’t stop reading till they find out what the problem is.

Review by: Maggie Mae Williams
Member of 4-H Thunderbirds
My rating:



You can find it at
[Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)



CHER AMI 100 YEARS

Have you been hearing much about Cher Ami lately? We hope so. This is the 100th year anniversary period since Cher Ami delivered a life-saving message during World War 1.

In an excerpt from a writing of Dr. Frank Blazich, curator of modern military history at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, he explains:

“On April 16, 1919, the troop transport *Ohioan* docked at Hoboken, New Jersey. Among the various disembarking members of the American Expeditionary Forces was a small detachment of 21 men of the U.S. Army Signal Corp's Pigeon Service Company No. 1. Pier-side newspaper reporters flocked around the officer in charge, Capt. John L. Carney, to ask about the exploits of the distinguished hero pigeons the Army chose to bring home. Foremost among the latter was an English-bred black check hen named Cher Ami. As Carney told the story, it was Cher Ami who on October 4, 1918 braved shot and shell to deliver a message from the besieged men of a composite force surrounded in the Charlevaux Ravine of the Argonne Forest, forever known as “The Lost Battalion.” Cher Ami arrived at her loft with the intact message from the force's commander, Maj. Charles W. Whittlesey, albeit minus a right leg and with a wound clear across the chest cutting through the breast bone. Cher Ami survived her injuries and Whittlesey's message provided the exact position of his force back to the regimental and divisional headquarters, information which contributed to the eventual relief of the men.



Dr. Frank Blazich, Bob McKenna, Greg Smith

Cher Ami's story remains legendary to this day, a testament to the bravery of animals in war.”

Dr. Blazich escorted AU Lobbyist, Greg Smith and AU N.E. Zone Director, Bob McKenna, through the special display on Cher Ami at the Smithsonian.

The bravery of these animals in war is the legacy to your birds and your sport. Join us in paying tribute during the next few months to honor their memory.

Dr. Blazich's article is published at <https://warontherocks.com/2019/01/in-the-era-of-electronic-warfare-bring-back-pigeons/>

Caleb Adams Shares His Experience Starting In Racing Pigeons

I wanted a pet so my Dad suggested getting a pigeon. My cousin, Karl, caught a young pigeon for me and I named her Zacchaeus. She started to lay unfertile eggs all the time, so I wanted to get a male for her to breed with. One year, my Grandpa McFadden asked my mom what I wanted for Christmas, and she said a male pigeon. So my grandpa found Mr. Leckey in Sidney and asked him if he would come over to his loft and collect a male pigeon for me. Mr. Leckey gave me a pigeon and I named him Zachariah. But one

day he flew away. So Mr. Leckey gave me four more young birds. That is how I got interested in pigeons.

Raising and caring for pigeons is not easy. Mr. Leckey gave me some tips on how to feed and care for the pigeons. One day I released the four younger pigeons for the first time. Unfortunately, one of them flew away. I named the last three Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Meshach and Shadrach mated and the flock grew rapidly. So we built



Caleb Adams is shown here in the middle at the Miami Valley Sportsman Young Bird Auction Race. Club Vice President, Mike Haffner, is on the left. AU Lakes Zone Director, Terry Finnerty, is on the right. Terry had presented a update to membership during a zone meeting at the event. When he won a bag of feed as a prize, Terry donated it to Caleb to fortify his team.

Caleb, continued from page 6.

a pigeon loft. Sadly, our dogs killed a few pigeons, including Shadrach. Raising and feeding pigeons is a real challenge.

Mr. Leckey introduced my Dad and me to the Miami Valley Sportsmen's Club. My first race was on the 2nd of August 2018. I was flying young birds. We had bought a bird that I named Esau. He raced three times but he

didn't return from the 250 mile race. Before the races, I learned how to organize the birds in the flying crates. A female bird we bought from Ernie Jones won the 2018 Young Bird Auction Race. Racing pigeons can depend entirely on what you're feeding the bird or how you're training it. Racing pigeons is an exciting experience.

Send us your pictures

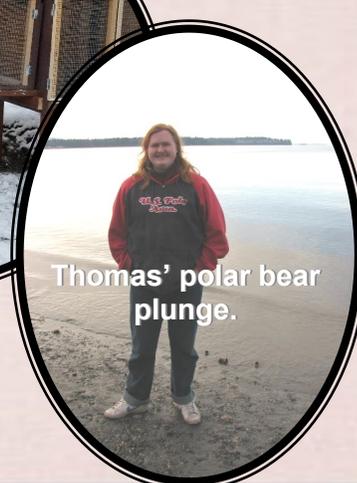
We'll put them in the Pigeon Tracks!

We'd love to see pictures of your pigeons and/or your club. Maybe you have pictures of training them or of the birds flying around their loft.

Send us your photos and we'll show you off in the newsletter.



4-H Thunderbirds shared their pics . . .



Pigeon Painting Project

By Thomas Strand

What has 28 arms, 140 fingers, and far too many opportunities to color the room with paint? The answer is..... a painting project with 14 4H'ers participating. Gwen, of the Thunderbird 4-H Pigeon Club, is a proficient artist, and offered to teach a painting class. Little did she know that 14 of her fellow 4H'ers would sign-on to paint pigeons on canvases. The first step was to pencil a sample drawing on paper plates. After that came the conflict of

whose drawing was better, but drawing and painting is a project of creativity, and all the kids had to learn that each of their drawings was their own form of perfect. Once all of the sample plates were created, then it was time to begin officially painting. Everyone was given a prepared canvas that had been covered in a light blue background a few days earlier. Each of the kids worked to copy their previous drawing, in paint, onto the canvas, and giving the canvas a secondary background. Many of the kids had trouble doing this, but Gwen did her best to give extra one-on-one help to the kids in need. In the end all the kids were able to finish their paintings, and the paintings were ready to take home in a couple days. Everyone really enjoyed painting and it is planned that there will be another painting class taught by Gwen, later in the year.



What is Max's Secret????

by Vicki Strand

How does Max do it? You might have heard of Max Gardner already but what you don't know is he has a secret. Max won the 2016 AU Youth Race. Now he has won for a second time at the Thunderbird's one loft race against 9 of his fellow Thunderbird flyers. That is not all! Every spring the Thunderbirds have a fly-in where each young flyer picks birds that they will fly in their July races. In 2018, each child picked 4 birds to go to the races with. Max, with his secret, picked his birds. Usually kids will lose some birds. But not Max. Not only did he have all of his birds when he started racing but he had all of them when he finished racing. YES, the birds did fly and they won, too. So, what is Max's Secret? We will just have to wait and watch to see if we can figure it out.



Calling all junior members!

Would you like to serve as an AU Youth Ambassador? Your work would be featured in AU publications. It's a great way to get acquainted with other juniors and clubs across the country.

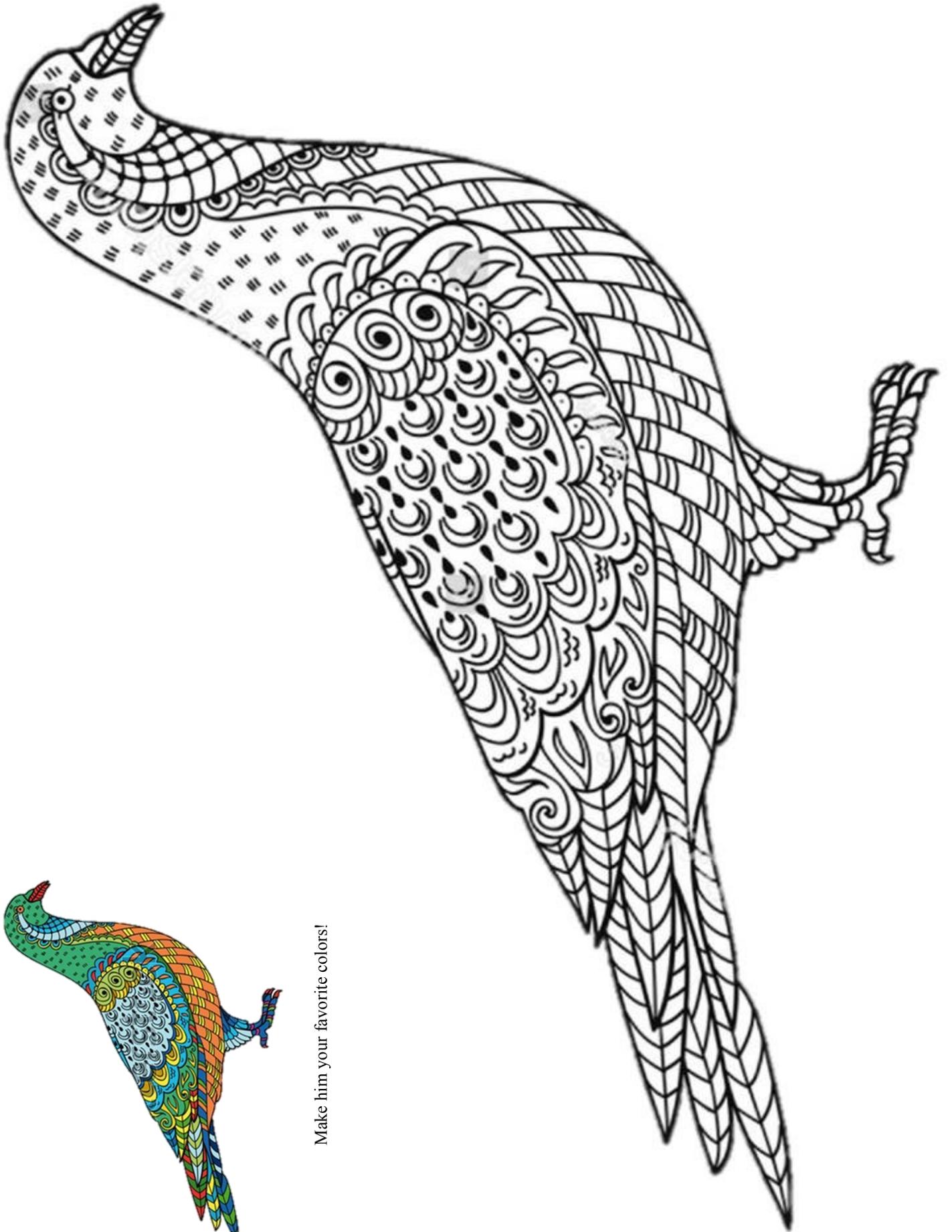
If you like to visit and you like to write, this is a perfect "gig" for you!

Contact information:
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PO Box 18465
Oklahoma City, OK 73154
1-800-755-2778, toll free
1-405-848-5801, telephone
1-405-848-5888, fax
www.pigeon.org

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