

Moral perspectives

Bridges mean brotherhood

This is Brotherhood Month. The brotherhood of man and its call to fellowship of diverse religious, national and racial groups, equal but different, are not pious platitudes but the very basis for hope for our future.

The lesson of brotherhood can be vividly taught by the images of walls and bridges.

Walls have their definite value and purpose in human life. They give us shelter, security and privacy. They enclose us in a manageable world, and define beyond doubt and dispute what belongs to us.

But there are other walls which people erect which serve no good purpose but, on the contrary, are harmful to human welfare. Selfishness is such a wall. Those who barricade themselves behind it become isolated and shut out in loneliness from the great and exciting world beyond.

PREJUDICE, intolerance, racial and religious hatreds are tragic walls which men and women build around themselves.

Our age has unfortunately witnessed the erection of many such tragic walls. The fomenters of group antagonisms are still active in the world today even though our century has already witnessed the horror, death and desolation which group hatred has caused.

Whenever there is unhappiness, discontent or unrest in society, religious and racial bigots swarm out of their dark holes, sweep over the land and sow the dragon-seeds of suspicion and hate.

Sometimes even good and respectable citizens build walls around themselves which are barriers to mutual understanding and good will. They build walls of social exclusiveness and superiority. They segregate themselves in some illusory eminence and cling to the delusion that they are somehow better than that common run of humanity.

RELIGION URGES us to be



by
RABBI IRWIN
GRONER

builders of bridges rather than of walls. Life abounds in numerous tragic chains which separate men. We must learn to build bridges across them and they are more difficult to erect than walls.

Charity, compassion, sympathy, and magnanimity are such bridges. So are friendship, tolerance, brotherhood. "Love thy neighbor as thyself" is the noblest and most enduring of all bridges ever devised.

Every earnest effort at understanding and cooperation is a bridge leading to the good society. Every act which demonstrates involvement with, and empathy for, the needs of others is a bridge of strength.

OUR NEIGHBOR? We should knock at his door and build a bridge of neighborliness to him, for a great city can be a great wilderness.

The poor, the weak, the stranger, the sinner? We must build a bridge and go to them. In a real sense, we are all poor, weak, strangers and sinners.

Those who belong to other faiths, races, creeds, nationalities? We should build bridges of understanding and reconciliation that will enable us to shape unity out of diversity.

Let it not be said of our age that we were the conquerors of space but that the distance between one human heart and another was too great for us to span.

Heart of Gold luncheon Feb. 14

Eight metropolitan area volunteers will be honored for outstanding community service at the 11th annual Heart of Gold award luncheon Feb. 14 in Cobo Hall.

Co-sponsored by the Heart of Gold Award Council and Women for the United Foundation, the 11:45 a.m. luncheon is open to the public.

Guest speaker for the event is Lenore Hershey, editor-in-chief of Ladies' Home Journal. Michigan's

First Lady, Mrs. William G. Milliken, will also attend the luncheon.

Tickets for the event are \$7.75 and will not be available at the door. For ticket information, call the Heart of Gold office at 965-7100, ext. 247.

Nominations for Heart of Gold awards were submitted last November by community agencies, groups and individuals throughout the Detroit area. Award council members, who represent 45 leading women's organi-

zations, narrowed the field to 29 semifinalists from Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

The eight finalists, who were selected by a panel of community leaders, will receive the traditional gold heart-shaped charm symbolizing extraordinary community service during the past year.

Serving as judges this year were Paul Borman, president, Borman's Inc.; Walter F. Brown, vice president, Uniroyal, Inc.; David J. Gillespie, chairman of the board, Kenyon & Eckhardt, Inc.; Levi Jackson, urban affairs manager, Ford Motor Co.; Robert D. Matuja, vice president, Groesbeck Lumber Co.; Mrs. Arthur R. Seider Jr. and Mrs. Gerard R. Slattery, both of Grosse Pointe Farms.

Chairman of the Heart of Gold Award Council is Mrs. Wilbur H. Boulet of Bloomfield Hills. Vice Chairman is Mrs. Eugene A. Caffero, also of Bloomfield Hills. Both women are members of the board of Women for the United Foundation.



LENORE HERSEY

Arthritis film planned

"Arthritis and You," a slide presentation, will be shown at the monthly Mutual Support session at St. David Episcopal Church, Twelve Mile Road between Greenfield and Southfield in Southfield, at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 13.

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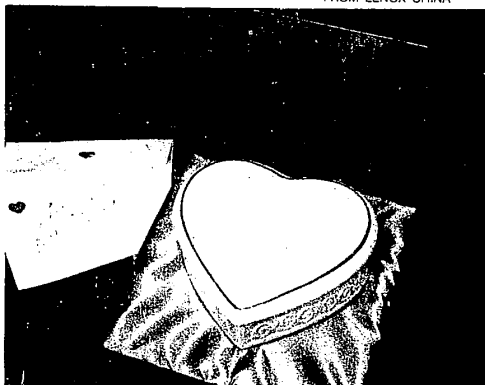
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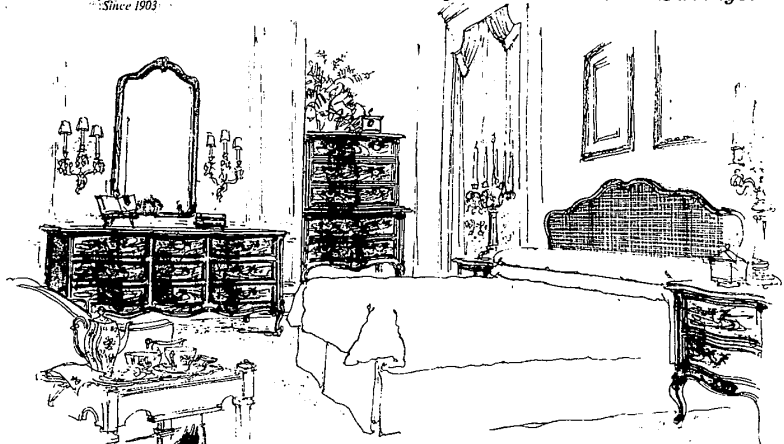
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