

Gulf grows between generations

THE ADVANCE of medical science has increased our life expectancy. At the same time, the likelihood is increased that we will undergo impairment, rejection and unhappiness as we enter the years of advanced age.

The greatest and most universal fear in our society is the fear of getting old. It is the pervasive obsession.

If the past offers any insight at all, it is that in pre-modern societies, old age was not separated from the rest of the lifespan.

A GENERATION or two ago, grandparents lived with their families as honored members of the household. They were able to exert beneficial influence upon the lives not only of their own children, but also of their grandchildren, serving as a symbol of the continuity of time and tradition.

In our time, separation grows increasingly common.

There are homes for the aged, hotels for senior citizens, retirement villages for the elderly. All these meet that need that arises out of the conditions we associate with age.

The aged do not fit into the life style of the contemporary family, and everyone knows it.

BIBLICAL faith is clear, unequivocal and insistent on our responsibility for the aged. Created in the image of God, the aged deserve not only love and compassion, but also reverence.

The Biblical pronouncement to "honor the face of the aged" does not have an asterisk with the designation, "only if he has financial resources," or "children that are able and willing to pay the expense," or "if he still has mental faculties or a pleasant disposition."

Older Americans are not a homogeneous group. They come in all



moral perspectives

Rabbi Irwin Groner

shapes and sizes, with all kinds of needs and capabilities. The only common denominator is that virtually all of them are in one way or another disadvantaged.

There are the physically disadvantaged — the millions who are feeble and ill with not enough money for adequate housing, medical care, food, clothing and transportation.

There's another category: Millions of older Americans who are physically disadvantaged. They are healthy, reasonably well-off, but have been segregated from the rest of society by the accident of calendar age. They are eager, competent and willing to serve. They seek to exercise their abilities and talents, but they are denied such opportunities.

AUTHOR JAMES Michener put this issue into clear focus. He wrote:

"The problem of caring for the aged looms as the principle social problem of the balance of the century, greater than ecological apathy, greater than overpopulation, greater than the energy crisis."

It is never too late to begin. Contrary to popular opinion, age has little to do with the ability to learn new things or to adjust to new situations.

A neurologist once wrote: "At 60 the body has certainly passed beyond its greatest strength, and physical demands should be lessened and changed. But the brain quite often is ready for its best performance in certain fields."

A RECENT analysis of the achievements of 400 famous people revealed that more than one-third achieved their greatest accomplishments after the age of 60.

Of them, 23 percent scored their

greatest success in life after the age of 70.

Examples: George Bernard Shaw was still writing in his 90s, while Verdi created his "Otello" and "Falstaff" operas at the ages of 74 and 80. Toscanini was conducting in his 80s. Grandma Moses became a painter when most artists would retire. Pope John XXIII ascended the throne of the Vatican in his 78th year and transformed the Roman Catholic Church.

It is time for Americans to understand that old age is not a curse, not a misfortune, not a disease. It is time to revise our outlook on the meaning of the "golden years."

RICCARD FABRICS

Fine Fabrics from American and European Designers
Silks - French Laces - Cottons - Linens - Wools

319 S. Main Ann Arbor, MI 48104 995-1095

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2 • 3:00 P.M.
THE GUILD HALL, CHRIST CHURCH CRANBROOK

THE DETROIT CONTEMPORARY CHAMBER ENSEMBLE
with **THE LAFAYETTE STRING QUARTET**
Israel Kremen: String Quartet No. 2
Peter Sculthorpe: String Quartet No. 8
Paul Chihara: Quartet for Clarinet
David Maslanka: Heaven to clear

Tickets '7 adults, '4 students & seniors.
Available at the door

KNOW IT ALL.

Take a First Aid class with the American Red Cross. We'll teach you what you need to know to save someone you love...from choking, bleeding or dozens of other life threatening emergencies.

Call your chapter of the American Red Cross today. And know it all.

American Red Cross

Have a change of heart

Reduce if overweight.

WE'RE FIGHTING FOR YOUR LIFE

American Heart Association

What other charity would

sit up,

roll over,

and beg for your money?

The animals at the Michigan Humane Society will do anything for your support because, for many of them, it's the only chance they have.

Animals give so unselfishly, they're begging you to do the same.

Give to the Michigan Humane Society, 7401 Chrysler Dr., Detroit, MI 48211

Detroit
872-3400

Westland
721-7300

Auburn Hills
852-7420

SOUND ADVICE.

There are some very interesting ways you can find a doctor.

You can ask friends, relatives or co-workers for a recommendation. Since there are as many opinions as there are people, you may end up with a confusing collection of names and phone numbers. Without having the slightest idea of who the doctors are or where they're located.

You may also choose to open up your telephone book and, well - good luck.

Or you can call Providence Hospital's Physician Referral Service at 424-3999. It's quick, professional and personal.

When you call the Physician Referral Service, we'll help you find a doctor close to your home or where you work. We'll put you in touch with physicians specializing in all areas of medicine. And if you prefer a male or female doctor, we'll see to it your preference is met. Most importantly, when you call the Physician Referral Service, you'll be put in touch with physicians who have a strong affiliation with one of Michigan's leading hospitals - Providence.

Save yourself from the time-consuming frustration of finding a doctor. Call Providence Hospital's Physician Referral Service at 424-3999 and get the sound, professional advice you need in finding a qualified physician.

PROVIDENCE HOSPITAL
PHYSICIAN REFERRAL SERVICE
424-3999

1988 Providence Hospital