

# Living workshops at OU Continuum

The Continuum Center of Oakland University, will offer "More for Singles" beginning at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 16, in Birmingham Unitarian Church, Woodward at Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills.

Barbara Halpern will lead the program, which continues on Tuesdays Feb. 23, March 1 and 8. Topics include how to create satisfying intimate relationships; how to get what you want and need; how to end a relationship with a minimal amount of hurt, the value of brief encounters; and when to say yes to sex.

Fee for the four sessions is \$60. Call the OU Continuum Center to register at 370-3033.

A THREE-SESSION workshop on how to build your self-esteem will be presented by the OU Continuum Center at 7 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 17 and 24, and March 2 at the Oakland Center the University campus in Rochester.

Pat Gries, a counselor and trainer on the Continuum Center staff, will lead the program. "In these sessions, we hope to help people discover the benefits of high self-esteem and to show them how good self-esteem develops and how they can increase it and keep it intact during times of change," she said.

Register by calling OU at 370-3033 to register.



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# A marriage can endure with love

SIXTY years ago this week, my parents were married. My father's parents, brothers and sisters, a few friends, a best man and a maid of honor were with them as they committed their lives to each other in love and faithfulness.

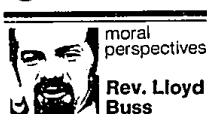
My mother's parents did not live to see their youngest daughter married. They had died years before. My parents have described their wedding as a simple ceremony that has lasted a lifetime.

Sixty years ago puts my parents on the eve of the Great Depression. Herbert C. Hoover was nominated by the Republican Party for President in the summer of 1928, and in his acceptance speech he observed that the "wise policies of his Republican predecessors had brought the nation to its present happy state."

He asked the people of America to an even greater task... the abolition of poverty. "We are nearer to the final triumph over poverty than ever before in the history of any land."

MY FATHER was a clerk in a Chevrolet dealership when he was married.

He could add long columns of



Rev. Lloyd Buss

numbers and not make an error in addition. The experience as office manager, parts manager, bookkeeper et al. would give him the necessary experience to move upward in the world of selling cars.

He dreamed of owning a dealership. FARMERS COULDN'T, and wouldn't, buy cars after 1929, and the dealership closed abruptly. There was no unemployment compensation, and the imminent birth of my sister prompted my parents to return to the life from which they had come. They rented land, and with two horses, a borrowed plow and disk, they began their second start.

In 1934, my parents bought a quarter section of prime farm land. In 1935 and 1936 they harvested two wagon loads of corn. The rains never came. A bookkeeper's error, how-

er, sent my parents a "paid in full" receipt for the balance due the Federal Land Bank on their farm loan.

The very next day, my father drove more than 200 miles to return it and to correct their mistake. A grateful loan officer decided not to foreclose on my parents that year.

IN 1937 the rains returned to nourish the land, and my parents began to replace the farm buildings. The farm had been for sale because it had been so neglected. First built were barns for the hogs and chickens.

The last building replaced was the house. My older sister was able to live in the new home one year before she left for college. There were five children born in this union of marriage. One died in childbirth. Today there are 13 grandchildren. All have received from their grandmother an afghan, embroidered pillow cases and a counted cross-stitch wall hanging. The hands that milked cows, hoed gardens,

canned fruit and washed clothes for all those years, simply could not be idle in later days.

TEN YEARS ago, there was a family celebration for the 50 years of married life my parents had shared. Uncles, aunts, cousins, friends and neighbors joined in the event.

Today there are fewer uncles and aunts, and the rest of us know the providence of God by which we are allowed to live on.

My parents have been married for 60 years. Nothing else need be said for these words can express it all.

PARENTS ARE what we need to be here. Married is what we are when we commit ourselves to another until death do us part.

And 60 years are simply a time toward fullness.

The Rev. Lloyd Buss is pastor of Abiding Presence Lutheran Church in Rochester Hills.

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