

Confused man often wanders

ON AGING
RENEE MAHLER

Q. I am very concerned about my father. I think he has the beginnings of Alzheimer's Disease. My mother tells me that he has left the house at night when she is sleeping and the neighbors have brought him back. I don't know how long this has been going on but I am afraid one day he will walk away and we won't be able to find him.

A. There are two things to be done as quickly as possible. Special locks should be installed on all outside doors and your father should see a physician and have a complete neurological workup. This examination will help to establish your father's illness and the locks will ensure his safety.

There are approximately four million people in the United States with Alzheimer's disease. A recent survey, conducted with caregivers, showed that 70 percent of these caregivers named wandering as a problem. Alzheimer's victims can quickly become disoriented, confused, and experience memory loss. Some may not be able to speak and can't ask for help. Wandering can be a life-threatening situation.

A new national program entitled Safe Return is designed to identify Alzheimer's patients and help them be safely returned to their families. For a \$25 fee Safe Return gives the patient an identification bracelet or necklace, a wallet card and clothing labels. The items are marked with first names only and an identification number. The person is then enrolled in a national database. If the patient should wander away, the family can call a toll-free number. A missing person alert is then sent to a computer network of 17,000 law enforcement organizations throughout the country. The bracelet or necklace also has a toll-free number so that if the person is found the finder can call to inform the proper people. The police department and hospitals also will be given information on the program, to help them identify the symptoms of Alzheimer's.

Many chapters of the Alzheimer's Association have been set up in their areas. The Alzheimer's Association of Metro Detroit is presently investigating the possibility of having this program also. For more information you may call the Southfield-based office at 313-557-8277 or call, toll-free, 1-800-272-3900.

Q. I need to have some information about footcare and older adults. I cannot get my father to see a podiatrist and I

think some of his aches and pains are due to his feet. He refuses to see a doctor and won't listen to me, but maybe he would pay attention to some printed material.

A. There is an old saying that if your feet hurt, everything hurts. I am inclined to agree with that, especially after wearing high heels all day. It is, however, very important that older adults have good foot care and also know about preventative care. The American Pediatric Medical Association has a free brochure on foot care. Subjects covered include foot health, surgery, arthritis, nail care, Medicare coverage, foot surgery and the effects of aging, high blood pressure, and diabetes. For a free brochure call, toll free, 1-800-FOOTCARE. You can call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Cancer detection
Pap smears and pelvic exams for cervical cancer detection are now available through many local county health departments. All women 40 years of age and over should get mammograms yearly. This new health department program offers free or low-cost breast and cervical cancer screening. Ability to pay is on a sliding-scale fee, and Medicare will pay for those qualified to receive Medicare.

Breast cancer strikes more than 5,000 women a year in Michigan. Studies have shown that one out of every eight women will develop breast cancer in her lifetime. This new program will attempt to protect women's lives by providing early detection services. Women 40 to 49 should have a mammogram every one to two years and a physical breast exam every year. After age 50 both exams should be taken each year.

The City of Detroit Health Department now offers this program. Oakland County will begin its service in April. To call the City of Detroit Health Department dial 876-4000 Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Oakland County Health Department may be reached Monday noon to 8 p.m. and Tuesday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is also a 24-hour answering machine, and your calls will be returned. For additional information call, toll free, 1-800-922-MAMM.

Renee Mahler is a gerontologist and the director of communications and admission at a Rochester Hills nursing facility. She is a former member of the Michigan State Commission on Services to the Aging.

To leave a message for Mahler, from a touch-tone phone, call 953-2047, Ext. 1869. Send your questions to her at the Observer & Eclectic, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

Writing suggests movements from past

GRAPHOLOGY PROFILES
LORENE GREEN

I moved into this area almost a year ago and spotted your column in the local paper. I have enjoyed it ever since.

When I have limited time, which is often, a column is not a matter. Then I notice my writing may resemble my father's, grandmother's or aunt's. It also seems like it constantly changes, although some things are basically the same. Thank you.

J.R. Westland

It is important to realize that so much of what we do and are in life is conditioned by our past experiences. The marginal spacing on the pages of this legible handwriting suggest she has moved away from some of her past experiences. At the same time, however, she seems hesitant about moving forward into the future. So we can assume she has not been completely successful in freeing up the past.

Many signs in her handwriting suggest the formative years were not exactly a bowl of cherries for this unique young woman. Difficulty with family values and/or problems in parental relationships did not make the early years run smoothly. Perhaps she felt no one was listening to her or her needs.

Her experiences impact deeply. Seemingly, she continues to feel some emotional deprivation. It is not easy for her to just forgive and forget past hurts. At times she may feel like a martyr. Currently, she appears to be seeking the love and recognition she missed earlier. Positive feedback from those who are most meaningful to her could be rewarding.

Money and what it represents is very important. She may be experiencing money challenges. There are ever so many things she desires. Possibly, her material imagination can provide the needed resourcefulness. Mood swings often cause her to become depressed. Hostile feelings toward the opposite sex will

momentous as that great conflict in which they gave up their lives. We must build for our hallowed dead, monuments more lasting than brass and stone — monuments within our hearts.

They died for one of the supreme ideals mankind has envisioned — democracy. Democracy consists of a sacred texture of ideals — freedom and brotherhood and justice and responsibility.

They saw the war in which they engaged and in which they invested youth and life itself, not as a conflict of conquest for territorial expansion. And they saw it as a crusade on behalf of mankind and for freedom.

Only by keeping faith with our heroes can we perpetuate their deeds. Only by fulfilling the purposes for which they made a supreme sacrifice can we redeem that sacrifice from utility. Thus, the example of their devotion to their country, move us to equal loyalty, to an exalted patriotism. May it impel us to make our country great, its laws just and wise, its culture deep and true, its economy productive and equitable and free.

Abraham Lincoln spoke for all the generations in his immortal words: "It is for us, the living, highly to resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain."

Rabbi Irwin Groner is with Congregation Sharey Zedek in Southfield. If you have a question or comment for him, call him at 953-2047, mailbox number 1869, on a Touch-Tone phone.

I moved into this area almost a year ago, and spotted your column in the local paper

others. Our writer's signature is very large and is illegible. Both characteristics are dissimilar to the body of her handwriting. Two main clues can be found in the disparity — concealment and attempting to compensate for insecure feelings she harbors.

If you would like to have your handwriting analyzed in this newspaper, write to Lorene Green, a certified graphologist, at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Please use a full sheet of white, unlined paper, writing in the person singular. Age, handedness and signature are helpful and objective feedback is always welcomed.

Lest we break faith with our heroic dead

MORAL PERSPECTIVES
RABBI IRWIN GRONER

On this Memorial Day throughout the nation, we honor the memory of our heroic dead. By the heroism and sacrifice of the men and women who fought for their country, America has become free and great and strong. In recalling their valor, we do more than confer honor upon them. We bear witness to our continuing dedication to the ideas for which they laid down their lives.

Every thoughtful American should be aware on this Memorial Day of a debt and the responsibility to these honored dead. That they have our reverence and gratitude is without question. No eulogy is needed, nor could any be adequate to describe our solemn

pride in the heroes who rest in all the battlefields and seas where our freedom was earned and tested. Tributes alone cannot exhaust the measure of our obligations to these dead. Elaborate rhetoric is an insufficient payment of the nation's debt to its heroes.

"If ye break faith with us who die We shall not sleep — though poppies grow in Flanders Field." That was how John MacRae conceived the duty of the living to the dead — not to break faith with them, to make real the ideals for which they died.

They speak to us and say "We have died so that the ideals of freedom and brotherhood may live. Can you so live that these ideals shall not die?"

Their memory, therefore, is a vigorous challenge to us, for we are engaged in a battle, as

Piety Hill installs officers

Piety Hill Chapter, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, held the installation of officers at its annual picnic recently at the First United Methodist Church in Birmingham.


Lou Ann Seely conducted the installation of the following officers: Brenda Hille, regent; Natalie Linder, 1st vice-regent; Jane Hiles, 2nd vice-regent; Carolyn Butters, chaplain; Mary Ann

Rosenberger, recording secretary; Martha Maxwell, corresponding secretary; Jean Henderson, treasurer; Elizabeth Van Vurst, registrar; Zelma Randall, historian; Karen Rock, librarian; and Lonette Morley and Joyce Bockemuhl, directors.

Also at the meeting, reports of Continental Congress were given, followed by reports of officers and chairmen.

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