

CHAT ROOM



KATHIE O'DONOHUE

Love is a million different things

Sometimes love is a homemade pie, with crimped edges that separate during baking, its contents oozing out in a gooey, wonderful mess.

Love is commonly offered in the form of crinkled paper doilies pasted atop asymmetrical construction paper hearts bearing the precious autographs of little ones.

Often love is words held back, criticism restrained. Frequently love shows up as tears.

One must be careful to recognize love when it masquerades as a colorfully-wrapped gift from someone who simply cannot bring herself to verbalize appropriate words for the occasion. Other times it comes in the form of a wordless hug.

Every now and again, love is the fleeting realization you would lay down your life for another, and at the same time having the assurance someone loves you enough to sacrifice his life for you.

Love is the blanket someone drapes over you as you drift off unexpectedly into a nap.

Quite often love is a note or special treat slipped secretly into a lunch box that suddenly transforms the merely mundane into the spectacularly special.

A bear hug

Love is a morning bear hug from the very child you "clashed with" for hours the previous day.

Sometimes love is a "Thank you" from a stranger, an uplifting note of encouragement from an acquaintance. At times it's nothing more than an opportunity to do an anonymous nice thing for another — even if it's maybe especially when — they don't seem to appreciate it.

Love is the connection made peering deeply into the eyes of someone close and catching a glimpse of his soul.

Love is a hand held, a tear wiped away, a small tilted head-inclined child mysteriously showing up right next to you on the couch and leaning her warm tiny lovable head against you just as you had begun to feel alone in the world.

On other occasions it's playing Scrabble and letting your young opponent win though you have a great seven-letter word that would fit perfectly on the "Triple Word Score."

Frequently love is the smell of a home-cooked meal — even when it's meatloaf, and you never liked meatloaf.

Love is knowing you have a place to call home no matter what. Commonly, it involves leaving one's comfort zone, forgiving, accepting in spite of, apologizing, and welcoming back prodigals. Love is enduring the various modes of teenage conversation, confrontation and sometimes even condemnation.

Many times love is inconspicuously yet wondrously packaged in wrinkles, gray hair, transparent skin, and gnarled fingers.

It's a baby, freshly born and new parents' tears of rejoicing at the miracle to which they were privileged witnesses.

Often love says "No." "You can't." "Listen up," or "Because I said so." And it follows through.

Frequently love involves learning to accept imperfection in oneself and others. It's risking silliness to make a child laugh.

Very often love is disguised as small, sweaty, mud-streaked hands offering a bouquet of dandelions — or the entirety of your prized perennials extracted complete with roots!

Best of all, love is the most precious gift each of us will ever possess, an honor of the heart beyond words.

Who needs to know you love them today?

Kathie O'Donohue is a resident of Farmington Hills.

Free screenings

The American Cancer Society is enrolling women over 40 in the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control program, which offers free screenings. In eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer. The risk increases with age.

Call 248-557-5353 or 1-800-925-2271.

PT Cruiser tops auction block

■ Mercy High School's annual auction Feb. 24 has everything from a 2001 PT Cruiser to a Harley Davidson motorcycle.

BY MARY RODRIQUE
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A patriot blue limited edition 2001 PT Cruiser is the piece de resistance in Mercy High School's 22nd annual school auction on Saturday, Feb. 24.

Billed as A Sea Odyssey, travel is a theme that carries over into other items up for bid, including a Red Wings zamboni ride, a plastic kiddie car loaded with Woodward Dream Cruise memorabilia, and a 2001 Harley Davidson XL custom motorcycle — complete with black suede bomber jacket and helmet.

"This is our biggest annual fund-raiser. All proceeds get put back into education. Tuition alone doesn't cover the expenses of operating this school."

"Last year, we raised \$126,000 in the auction," said Nadine Maynard, director of development and marketing for the Catholic girls' high school located on the northeast corner of 11 Mile and Middlebelt in Farmington Hills.

"This is our biggest annual fund-raiser. All proceeds get put back into education. Tuition alone doesn't cover the expenses of operating this school."

600 items to bid on

Maynard said there will be nearly 600 items in the auction. Live auction patrons will get a chance to bid on a pig roast party for 125 guests — complete with food, preparation, tables, chairs, two tents and paper goods. There's also a chance for two people to spend a morning on-air with the 93.1 WDRQ-FM crew of Jay, Rachel and Mr. Holmes.

College tuition at the University of Detroit-Mercy and Madonna University, an autographed Tiger Woods golf ball, 18 holes of golf at Oakland Hills, and a condo weekend stay at Garland Golf Resort are other offerings.



Auction goods: From left, Kelly O'Neill, sophomore; Mahila Bey, senior; Meghan McFarlane, sophomore and Lindsay O'Neill, a junior and the sister of Kelly, show some of the items for auction.

Want to bend the ear of a local politician? Farmington Hills Mayor Nancy Bates has offered a day with the mayor, including lunch, and City Manager Steve Brock will play a round of golf with one successful auction bidder.

Silent auction

The silent auction will offer custom-made baskets, including an animal prints package and a movie lover's delight with several videos and the

popcorn, too.

Mercy dad Steve Garagiola, a WDIV-TV channel 4 news anchor, will emcee the evening and Joseph DuMouchelle of the DuMouchelle Galleries will serve as auctioneer. Various student groups including the Mercy Pep Band, Mercycars and Mercy Mimes will entertain.

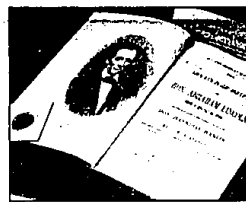
Hors d'oeuvres, a strolling buffet dinner, drinks, desserts and coffee bar are planned.

The auction is a parent sponsored fund-raiser led this year by Michele and Ray DelCorvo, Maureen and Larry Lentz, Claudia and Larry Mardegian, and Diane and Mike Saunders.

"By summer, we'll know who the co-chairs are for next year," said Maynard. "In September, work begins with parent and student volunteers."

For auction reservations, donations or other information, call Julie Earle at 476-8020, Ext. 253.

Tyndale College celebrates Black History month



Display: A tribute to Black History in a Tyndale showcase.

BY MARY RODRIQUE
STAFF WRITER

In prayer, song and story William Tyndale College offered a three-day celebration of Black History Month and the Underground Railroad.

Dr. Douglas M. Strong, a professor of the history of Christianity and theology

at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., gave a series of lectures centered on "The Underground Railroad: Faith, Human Rights and Political Action."

Strong, who earned his doctorate degree at Princeton University in New Jersey, gave three mid-day lectures and two evening talks dealing with faith, justice and social action.

The series was capped by a concert Tuesday evening featuring the Hartford Memorial Baptist Church Choir, the Tyndale Artists Ensemble and the Walled Lake Central High School choir in a program of rousing African American Spirituals.

First extensive program

"We've done programs for Martin Luther King Day this year and last, but this was our first extensive program for Black History Month," said Dr. Judith Rood, a Tyndale professor who organized the event.

The concert was held at Walled Lake Central High School. Patrons were charged \$5, with funds going to the Foster Farmhouse Fund, set up to pre-



serve a Walled Lake historic home that was once a local link on the Underground Railroad.

The lectures were held in the Kresge Chapel on the Tyndale College campus in Farmington Hills. They were free and well attended by students, faculty and staff of the small Christian liberal arts college. A window display in the main campus building is a tribute to Black History Month.

On Thursday morning, Strong, author of three books on faith, talked about "God confronting us" through the Bible story of Jacob. Scripture readings and a few choruses of "Climbing Jacob's Ladder" were sprinkled through the hour-long lecture.

"A hunger for God is awakened by crisis," said Strong. "Impending conflict forces you to grow."

He talked about how God changed Jacob's name to Israel and talked of an anti-slavery book with moral allegory.

"The slave owner's name was Professing Christian. The abolitionist's name was Due Justice. Enslavement of other people is the enslavement of the soul to sin," said Strong. "At the end of the story, Professing Christian does free his slaves and his name changes to Real Christian."

For more information about programs at Tyndale, call 553-7200.



Dr. Douglas M. Strong

Farmington sprung from trail intersection

BY RUTH MOEHLMAN
SPECIAL WRITER

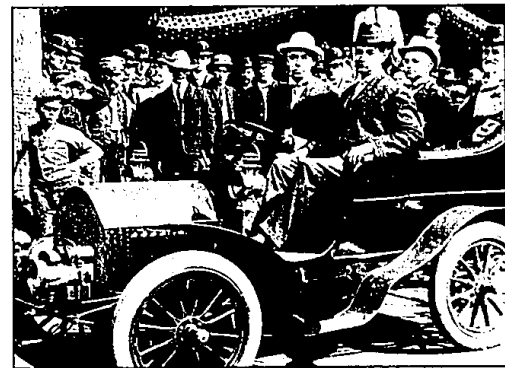
This is the first in a two-part series about the early roads of Farmington.

Between 1824, when the first settlement came to Farmington and 2001, roads have been an important part of our history. Farmington in 1824 had a unique position as three main Indian trails transversed the area that was to become Farmington.

Before 1824, Farmington was an Indian hunting ground. The trails were defined by bent trees marking the way and leading to a large crown tree in the distance.

After the War of 1812, it was decided that this part of the Northwest Territory should be settled. It had been a war where the city of Detroit was captured. The new governor, Lewis Cass, made sure the back acres were settled. The 1785 Land Ordinance defined how the new settlement would take place. A survey of the area would divide it into square properties.

Each township was six miles square with 36 sections of 640 acres each. These would be further divided. Each section had a number. Along the lines dividing each section, the settlers formed roads called section line roads. Our roads today running north and south, east and west are section line roads. They got names like Drake and



Early car: Farmington's Gov. Fred Warner in the driver's seat (1906). Photo from Lee S. Peil's 'Farmington: A Pictorial History.'

Halsted. When the electric lines came in after 1911, the farmers paying for the lines got to name the roads. Other roads got numbers like Nine Mile and

Ten Mile and so forth.

A village was built at the intersection of the trails by the early settlers. There were rivers running through so

water power made the operation of mills possible. The village was surrounded by farms.

Road followed trail

Farmington Road was a section line road. It divided sections 27 and 28. It was called Division Street in the village. Leaving the village, it was no longer a section line road because of the river and steep terrain. The road followed the Orchard Lake trail.

In the early days, as Farmington Road followed Orchard Lake trail, it left the village and went down a very steep hill, known as Botsford Hill. It was so steep travelers had to block their wagon wheels to go up and down the hill. Along the way, between 13 Mile and 14 Mile roads, the village of North Farmington sprang up.

At the intersection of Farmington Road and 13 Mile, a tree grew right in the middle of the intersection. The youngsters from the nearby Nichols School that was once in the village of North Farmington liked to climb that tree. The tree stayed in the intersection until a bad accident caused it to be removed in the early 1950s.

The current Orchard Lake Road, a section line road, did not exist because some of the land was so swampy it could not be used. A street car compa-

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