

YOUR FAITH



Rev. Paul Melrose

Faith must be a family affair

tions to provide experiences, for those who wish to sign up, to study one's own religious tradition.

Yet, with all of this study there is a continuing concern about immoral behavior of many kinds. Violence done to others continues to thrive. For those who value immediate gratification and pleasure over the gradual involvement in a belief system and way of life which seems to make sense and provide a structure to life the addictive pleasures of drugs, sex, alcoholism, and gambling seem to take over. The reasons for all of this can either be because there is no belief system and one grabs on to the most immediate thing to fill this gap in one's life, or one is so intent on satisfying one's own need, variously called pride, or self-centeredness, or hubris, that one's own pleasure to the exclusion of all else becomes the belief or value, of faith that one chooses to live by.

Behavior does not change simply by changing the message. For a family to have a faith tradition that makes a profound influence to keep them together appropriately and provide a structure there is a lot of work that must take place. Simply put, actions speak loud-

er than words. Parents must not only practice what they preach but behave in a way consistent with what they preach if they expect their children to take church, synagogue, mosque, or faith influences seriously. Educators, therapists, clergy and others in similar roles are often given the responsibility, either by the society at large or even sometimes by frustrated parents, to make kids believe and get them straightened out. I believe that it is true that it does take a community and a faith community and an academic community and a peer group community all working at their best to raise a person.

If a family wants a faith tradition to support them they must find one that they believe in. The Christian tradition, the Jewish tradition, and other faiths believe in the importance of the family structure. But to pass on that faith and make it real one must get involved. In the Christian tradition the model of driving the kids to Sunday School, of CCD, and picking them up, without being active in fellowship opportunities, attending worship on a regular basis, seeking educational opportunities to learn about your faith, and finding

those opportunities to reach out to others, which is a part of so many faiths, all will help make that faith a part of one's life.

But if these ideas are to be successful the parents must choose this avenue of life. The worst job I have, as a pastoral psychotherapist, is to have a family in my office either where the parents want the therapist to make the children behave by preaching at them, or quickly getting the child to accept the faith of their parents with no work to understand the child's faith perspective.

Families, in their infinite variety of forms, are still the building blocks of our lives. It is a psychological need, as well as a religious precept, that faith is a building block of life. Bringing your family into the faith you believe in will have benefits for all family members of many kinds. But it must be done consistently, religiously, over time, and it will take hard work. But what about faith and life does not take commitment and devotion in order to experience its blessing?

Dr. Paul Melrose is a staff therapist at the Samaritan Counseling Center of Southeastern Michigan. He can be reached at www.metanoia.org / ipaulmelrose@metanoia.org or 474-4701.

Soulful Jewish singer at JCC

He's a little bit rock, a little bit jazz, a little easy listening with a whole lot of Jewish soul. He's singer/songwriter Sam Glaser and he'll appear in a Jewish Community Center of Akiva Chasidim concert at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, March 18 at Yeshivat Akiva (Hebrew Day School) at 21100 W. 12 Mile in Southfield.

Appearing with Glaser is the a cappella Jewish singing group Beat'Achon, a six-man ensemble that harmonizes with a catchy beat in its original compositions and arrangements.

Los Angeles born and raised, Glaser has been composing, singing and playing piano since age 7. He attended leading music and business schools and has recorded eight albums of his own compositions, published four

collections of lyrics and poetry, two sheet music songbooks of his Jewish music and a new choral book Kol Hanehama (Voice of the Soul).

The public is invited. Tickets are \$35, \$20 and \$15, and are available at both Jewish Community Centers: the D. Dan and Betty Kahn building on the Applebaum campus, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield; and the Jimmy Frontis Morris building on the Taubman campus, 16110 W. 10 Mile, Oak Park.

Jewish Community Center members and Yeshivat Akiva students are eligible for a \$3 discount on \$15 tickets.

For more information, call the JCC at 248-997-4050. Co-sponsoring the concert are Yeshivat Akiva and Neighborhood Project.

Benefit set for Angels' Place

Angels' Place seventh annual benefit concert is scheduled at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 24, at St. Hugo of the Hills church, at 2215 Opdyke Road in Bloomfield Hills.

The concert will feature a variety of music sure to please all ages performed by Manfred Dreilech, renowned recording artist, along with Mark Tisdall and Barbara Ogar. The concert

is free. Refreshments will be provided.

Angels' Place is a non-profit organization providing Christian homes and services for adults with developmental disabilities since 1992.

There is an Angels' Place residence in Farmington Hills.

For more information, call Barbara Urbel at (248) 350-2203.

Local author in 'Chicken Soup' book series on gardening

Donna Gundie-Krieg, a local writer, recently sold a story called "Ruby's Roses" that will appear in *Chicken Soup for the*

Gardener's Soul, available at major bookstores and on line. It's the story of a gardening memory from Gundie's childhood

in Farmington Hills, inspired by her mother, Jeannine Gundie, an avid gardener.

"Many of my mother's dearest friends are from the Farmington Hill and Dale Garden Club, where she has belonged for over 20 years," said Gundie-Krieg. "My favorite part of gardening is that it creates memories that

live forever. A few years ago, Ruby was placed in a nursing home and the new homeowner planned to kill the rose bushes. I spent half my summer moving the roses to Highland, where 100 of them flourish today."

Gundie-Krieg is a Michigan State University certified master gardener who lives in Highland.

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