

## Moral perspectives

## The best is yet to be

A morbid fear of aging has given birth to a new vocabulary of euphemism.

At a time when four-letter words, formerly considered taboo, are now uttered without reticence, I find it curious and remarkable that a certain word, "old," is still considered a social taboo.

The word is "old." We do not speak of old age. We talk of "golden years." We do not build old age homes. We erect "senior citizens residences." We do not organize old age groups. We create "golden age clubs." The subject of old age is taboo in contemporary American culture.

AND YET, the arrival of a New Year is a signal that we are not exempt from the aging process. In the course of the next 12 months, each of us shall observe a birthday and mark another milestone of increasing age.

Old age is not a curse, a misfortune, or a disease. Many people have created great things in their advanced years. In his memoirs, Dr. Connie and Golda Meir led their country at age 70 when most people would be waiting for death to arrive. George Bernard Shaw was still writing in his 90s, while Verdi created his operas at the age of 80. Toscannini was conducting in his 80s and Grandma Moses became a painter when most artists had stopped.

As we pause to consider the onward flight of time, I submit to you a prayer by an unknown author that expresses with warmth and practical wisdom the goals we should seek as we enter mature years.

"Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a saint—some of them are so hard to live with—but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil.

"Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people. And give to O Lord, the grace to tell them so. Amen."

As we pause to consider the onward flight of time, I submit to you a prayer by an unknown author that expresses with warmth and practical wisdom the goals we should seek as we enter mature years.

"LORD, YOU know better than I know myself that I am growing older and someday will be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and enter every occasion.

"Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, let me seek a plan to use it all, but know, O Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.



By RABBI IRWIN GRONER

ing in his 90s, while Verdi created his operas at the age of 80. Toscannini was conducting in his 80s and Grandma

Moses became a painter when most artists had stopped.

"As we pause to consider the onward flight of time, I submit to you a prayer by an unknown author that expresses with warmth and practical wisdom the goals we should seek as we enter mature years.

"I cannot ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility, and a lessening cockiness when my memory serves me, along with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

"Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, let me seek a plan to use it all, but know, O Lord,

that I want a few friends at the end.



Institute planners

A recent meeting of Jewish Welfare Federation women's division members finalized plans for today's educational institute at the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield, featuring Rita Hauser, former representative to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and Wayne State University history professor Milton Covensky. Shown seated (from left) are Sybil Jones of Huntington Woods, chairwoman; Carolyn Greenberg of Southfield, division president, and Meba Winer of Detroit, co-chairwoman. Those working with them are (standing, from left) Bernice Greenberg of Huntington Woods, Diane Shekter, Julie Jackson, and Nancy Jacobson of Birmingham, and Jessie Stern of Franklin.

## Volunteers

This column describing volunteer needs in Oakland County is co-sponsored by the Junior League of Birmingham and the Oakland County Volunteer Bureau.

Inquiries regarding volunteer need listed here should be made to the Oakland County Volunteer Bureau at 642-7272. Requests for volunteer listings also should be made through the volunteer bureau.

HOTLINE, a crisis center in Lathrop Village, needs volunteers to serve as hotline listeners.

The position requires someone with an active concern for individuals who call. The listener helps the caller sort out his feelings and values in a non-judgmental manner. Sixteen hours of training are provided, and the time commitment is one three-hour period each week and one meeting per month.

MEADOWBROOK HALL in Roches-

ter has openings for docents and flower arrangers. Docents, or tour guides, will be trained to take groups of 15 to 20 visitors on tours of the mansion. Two three-hour periods per month from September to June are required, and individuals who especially enjoy being with people are sought.

Flower arrangers complete the basic training, then create arrangements for the dining room and other major rooms of the house.

SOUTHFIELD SCHOOLS is in immediate need of volunteers to assist with registration beginning Jan. 17. Office and telephone assistants are needed to help direct calls within the office, provide class information, assist in completion of registration materials and type forms. The office is open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday and from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday evenings. A commitment of four hours per week is required.

## A HOPEful vacation

Project HOPE has found a way by which donors to its world-wide medical programs can have a good time while benefiting the organization.

A winter benefit cruise offers patrons the chance to have a winter vacation in the Caribbean while contributing money for medical teaching and training programs in 10 countries on four continents.

Patrons days in southern waters on the ship Dauphin of the Carrera Line is the feature of the excursion, but short trips are being planned which will include sightseeing, golf, tennis, scuba diving and water skiing.

Project HOPE notes that rates for an outside cabin at \$1,820 per person are reasonable inasmuch as a 30 per cent take deduction is allowed. This means the actual cost is \$1,274.

The ship will sail Jan. 29 from New Orleans and return to that city Feb. 12.

Its first stop will be San Pedro, Guatemala, where it will be possible to tour Mayan ruins. Then on to the island of San Andres, which is steeped in pirate lore and features clear waters and a chain of reefs and keys. A beach barbecue is planned at one of the beaches.

Cartagena in the South American country of Colombia is the third stop. This historic walled city, built on a sandy peninsula, is the site of one of Project HOPE's major programs in the Caribbean and guests are invited to visit the site.

Other attractions of the city are 17th century beaches and fortifications, beaches and seafood restaurants.

A quaint Dutch settlement of pastel-colored houses and gabled roofs is the next stop on the cruise. Willemstad on the island of Curacao, has many duty-free shops offering imported china, perfume, and fabrics.

International cuisine and gambling are offered in the island's major hotels.

Turning north, the ship will put in at Port Antonio, located on the northeastern coast of Jamaica. Raft trips down the Rio Grande River can be arranged on a special tour basis.

Nearly \$9 million is needed annually to support the operation of Project HOPE's ongoing programs in the U.S. and abroad, which have benefited more than three million people since the organization was founded in 1950.

## When you're engaged



love makes the world go 'round

Your Welcome Wagon hostess would like to bring useful suggestions and gifts to your happy world.

Why not call her.

IN OAKLAND COUNTY CALL

961-7750

Welcome Wagon

## Your Invitation to Worship

Salem United Church of Christ

2225 Grand River Avenue

Sunday Service at 9:00 a.m.

Worship and Church School

9:45 a.m.

Carrie M. Schulte, Minister

11:15 a.m.

12:15 p.m.

1:15 p.m.

2:15 p.m.

3:15 p.m.

4:15 p.m.

5:15 p.m.

6:15 p.m.

7:15 p.m.

8:15 p.m.

9:15 p.m.

10:15 p.m.

11:15 p.m.

12:15 p.m.

1:15 p.m.

2:15 p.m.

3:15 p.m.

4:15 p.m.

5:15 p.m.

6:15 p.m.

7:15 p.m.

8:15 p.m.

9:15 p.m.

10:15 p.m.

11:15 p.m.

12:15 p.m.

1:15 p.m.

2:15 p.m.

3:15 p.m.

4:15 p.m.

5:15 p.m.

6:15 p.m.

7:15 p.m.

8:15 p.m.

9:15 p.m.

10:15 p.m.

11:15 p.m.

12:15 p.m.

1:15 p.m.

2:15 p.m.

3:15 p.m.

4:15 p.m.

5:15 p.m.

6:15 p.m.

7:15 p.m.

8:15 p.m.

9:15 p.m.

10:15 p.m.

11:15 p.m.

12:15 p.m.

1:15 p.m.

2:15 p.m.

3:15 p.m.

4:15 p.m.

5:15 p.m.

6:15 p.m.

7:15 p.m.

8:15 p.m.

9:15 p.m.

10:15 p.m.

11:15 p.m.

12:15 p.m.

1:15 p.m.

2:15 p.m.

3:15 p.m.

4:15 p.m.

5:15 p.m.

6:15 p.m.

7:15 p.m.

8:15 p.m.

9:15 p.m.

10:15 p.m.

11:15 p.m.

12:15 p.m.

1:15 p.m.

2:15 p.m.

3:15 p.m.

4:15 p.m.

5:15 p.m.

6:15 p.m.

7:15 p.m.

8:15 p.m.

9:15 p.m.

10:15 p.m.

11:15 p.m.

12:15 p.m.

1:15 p.m.

2:15 p.m.

3:15 p.m.

4:15 p.m.

5:15 p.m.

6:15 p.m.

7:15 p.m.

8:15 p.m.

9:15 p.m.

10:15 p.m.

11:15 p.m.

12:15 p.m.

1:15 p.m.

2:15 p.m.

3:15 p.m.

4:15 p.m.

5:15 p.m.

6:15 p.m.

7:15 p.m.

8:15 p.m.

9:15 p.m.

10:15 p.m.

11:15 p.m.

12:15 p.m.

1:15 p.m.

2:15 p.m.

3:15 p.m.

4:15 p.m.

5:15 p.m.

6:15 p.m.

7:15 p.m.

8:15 p.m.

9:15 p.m.

10:15 p.m.

11:15 p.m.

12:15 p.m.

1:15 p.m.

2:15 p.m.

3:15 p.m.

4:15 p.m.

5:15 p.m.

6:15 p.m.

7:15 p.m.

8:15 p.m.

9:15 p.m.

10:15 p.m.

11:15 p.m.

12:15 p.m.

1:15 p.m.

2:15 p.m.

3:15 p.m.

4:15 p.m.

5:15 p.m.

6:15 p.m.

7:15 p.m.

8:15 p.m.

9:15 p.m.

10:15 p.m.

11:15 p.m.

12:15 p.m.

1:15 p.m.

2:15 p.m.

3:15 p.m.

4:15 p.m.

5:15 p.m.

6:15 p.m.

7:15 p.m.

8:15 p.m.

9:15 p.m.

10:15 p.m.

11:15 p.m.

12:15 p.m.

1:15 p.m.

2:15 p.m.

3:15 p.m.

4:15 p.m.

5:15 p.m.

6:15 p.m.

7:15 p.m.

8:15 p.m.

9:15 p.m.

10:15 p.m.

11:15 p.m.

12:15 p.m.

1:15 p.m.

2:15 p.m.

3:15 p.m.

4:15 p.m.

5:15 p.m.

6:15 p.m.

7:15 p.m.

8:15 p.m.

9:15 p.m.

10:15 p.m.