

# Good management satellite series set

A satellite seminar series on quality management is being offered by the U. S. Chamber of Commerce beginning Thursday, Feb. 4.

The 13-session program is sponsored locally by the Livonia Chamber of Commerce, the Oakland County Chamber of Commerce, the Dearborn Chamber of Commerce and Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce. The Project Technologies Group, a Southfield-based consulting firm specializing in Total Quality Management, will host the series.

- Sessions are scheduled 12:45-3:30 p.m. in the Detroit Chamber of Commerce headquarters, 600 W. Lafayette, Detroit. Free parking is available.
- Lunch is available at noon followed by the satellite portion of the program from 12:45-3 p.m. A half-hour for review, discussion, questions and answers is set from 3-3:30 p.m.
- Topics for the seminar are:
  - Feb. 4 — "Getting Started in Quality Management: Fundamentals of Implementation."
  - Feb. 17 — "Benchmarking."
  - Feb. 26 — "Latest Trends in Quality Management."
  - March 4 — "Recognition, Rewards and Incentive Programs."
  - April 8 — "Business Process Redesign."
  - April 16 — "Quality Strategic Planning."
  - May 6 — "Training and

# Gifted child group meets

"The Parents' Guide to Testing Your Child" will be the topic of the Tuesday, Feb. 2 meeting of Metro Area Gifted Information Consortium.

The meeting will start at 7 p.m. at Hill Elementary, 4600 Forsythe, between John R and Dequindre, north of Wadsworth in Troy.

The speaker will be Pat LaPat, who does IQ testing, diagnostic work and therapy with children and adults.

MAGIC is a non-profit group for parents and teachers of gifted children. The group holds monthly meetings throughout the metro area. For reservations and more information, call 465-7270.

# OCC students show photos

Photography students from Oakland Community College's Royal Oak campus are presenting an exhibit of their work through Saturday.

There is no admission fee. Exhibited works will be for sale. Call 544-5582.

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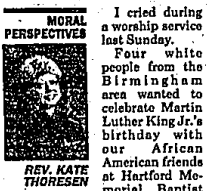
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# Building bridges of understanding



**MORAL PERSPECTIVE**

**REV. KATE THORESEN**

I cried during a worship service last Sunday.

Four white people from the Birmingham area wanted to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday with our African American friends at Hartford Memorial Baptist Church. We had just heard a stirring sermon by Dr. Charles Adams that eloquently captured and re-kindled the dream of Martin Luther King.

As we sang "We Shall Overcome," several waves of emotion swept through me. At first I was moved by the words themselves — that noble striving to work one's life to build a better world in which each and every one of God's beloved children can truly be "free at last."

I was inspired by the vision of universal peace and harmony that embraces all of us. I remembered past voices that lifted their souls to this song and vision and imagined that they, too, were somehow

still a part of this song. Tears came for those who had suffered and died for this dream.

Then a new thought occurred. Suddenly, I realized with a jolt of surprise that there is no way we are going to overcome all the barriers that separate us as people. Stark reality smashed my comfortable, idealistic world view.

I looked around me and wondered what happened to the civil rights movement? Why are our churches as segregated today as they were 30 years ago? Will we ever really overcome the fears and tears and rages of racism? What's really happening to all of us who sing these songs with our hearts and souls and then go back to our own segregated communities?

A few more tears welled up as we sang and I silently questioned "We Shall Overcome."

Then I looked up and saw the choir of some 40 to 50 young people singing away. And I had to wipe a few more tears away. "Maybe it won't happen for our generation, but, by God, it CAN happen for theirs."

Words from an African American proverb quoted in the service came back: "It takes a whole vil-

lage to raise a child." Something inside me said, "Yeah, and it will take the entire village of Detroit — the entire metropolitan area of Detroit — to come forward to help raise the next generation." Can we do that?

How do people in the suburbs learn about African American history and begin to understand what's happening in the lives of others, who live outside our familiar comfort zone?

How do we tune into the African American experience and hear with our hearts and minds what writers like Maya Angelou and Edward Thurman say to the nation?

How many of us watch movies like "Mississippi Burning" and "Boyz in the Hood" or "Malcolm X"? Do we check out video tapes of Martin Luther King's speeches and documentaries on the civil rights movements from local libraries?

Will we read the articles that foster new understanding and appreciation of black contributions to our country as more become featured during February's African American Awareness month? What about the various articles

on the plight of the children? How can we in our busy world reach out and worship together in churches within the Eight Mile circle? Where can we engage in programs in which we can know our African American brothers and sisters as respected colleagues in pursuit of King's dream?

How will we, during this coming year, build bridges of friendship and understanding? During the singing, I glanced over at the woman next to me and wondered if she noticed that I wiped one eye and then the other. Then I realized that the tears themselves could be a kind of baptism of shared hopes and a new awareness of our common humanity.

And together the congregation of young and old, African Americans and whites, men and women, still kept the music going.

And who knows? Maybe we shall begin to overcome those barriers of racism and sexism and ageism and classism after all. And tears of sorrow and frustration will transform, by the grace of God, into tears of gladness and joy and peace.

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