

## **Daily Tidings, Letters to the Editor, Sept. 22, 2017**

### **Senior center is not multi-generational**

Seniors are a positive, functional and necessary entity in our society. The ideology of Parks & Recreation's multi-generational groups, social gatherings on levels of activity and thinking, are wishful woebegones. It becomes a "let's-make-America-great" and "let's-build-another-wall" solution. The Senior Center office is now a wall, often dark, the very knowledgeable and compassionate staff removed, with long-range impracticalities upon the elder sector begun, changes afoot.

Myth: Seniors cannot handle changes.

Truth: Every morning heralds more changes in a senior's lifestyle than one admits. Just getting through the day puts an edge on patience, not to mention surviving higher costs, national and world news and medical surprises. Still, we try.

Myth: "New" is onward, upward; "old" is backward, downward.

Truth: The previously well-run senior center was stability amidst chaos, a solid ground, support, friendship, comfort. The loyalty of the seniors volunteers was a remarkable and notable daily presence. "Old" meant "we're here for you."

Myth: Let's close the generation gaps.

Truth: This cannot be accomplished through money-making programs, new willfulness of power, superficial chit-chat and texting. It is very good to encourage the future capabilities of younger generations. It is very bad to extinguish the lights of the elders, for the sake of money and unrealistic goals.

Myth: Old traditions no longer apply.

Truth: Values, ethics, truths, trials and errors of past people are important as self-entities to long-lasting progress. A chef does

not stir a quick-fix of chocolate in with some comfort-filled mashed potatoes. Each has its own distinction, each its own place on the plate.

Let us not lose sight of what is worthy on our plate, what works correctly, what sustains the spirit. Otherwise, for all the multi-generational thinking and expectant future promises, the diagnosis looks bleak. And then, if and when the time comes, will the doctor be "in"?

Theresa Greer  
Ashland