

PEOPLE GATHERING – HOW TO... AND WHEN

My father was my mentor. He taught by example. Never did he dictate. I never knew he was throwing tidbits on how to people gather until I was old and presented with the challenge. Then I realized the familiarity.

In the local newspaper editorial entitled “We Will Miss Louie Glaeys” were the names of many religious and civic organizations where his major leadership was valued and recognized. Cancer, 51 years old, August 7, 1953.

First there is a cause greater than your self-need. Second, you fall in love with the cause that is greater than your self-need. Third, you embrace the mission that is the heart beat of the cause. Fourth, you share your enthusiasm for the cause with folks from the highways and byways. This suspension bridge is the causeway to the multitudes.



For me, theater, music, science, and art raise the entrapment of enthusiasm. Diversity is already there for the picking. Choose everyone.

So, when Joe Garton, restorer of Ten Chimneys, appeared at our front door presenting a gigantic bouquet of spring flowers asking if I would help him, I said “Yes.” Dramatic, indeed: this diversion got my attention. My association was to be a chair of the Capital Campaign to preserve the main house and all the accessories, including the out

buildings and the land; build a program center; and establish a Master Class series for professional, regional actors with 20 years of experience.

This was 1996 and I am still there. Theater has never been more diverse and we theatergoers are the beneficiaries of varied backgrounds and beliefs. Theater board associations began for me in 1979 when I was asked to join the board of trustees of the Milwaukee Repertory Theater.



Donna Glaeys Meyer

Milwaukee gave me opportunities to test the challenge of diverse trustee membership and audience theater subscriptions: diversity in front, behind, and on stage. My father reached out to everyone. As a young boy he pulled the playmate – who would become the Catholic archbishop in Illinois – from a well. Reaching out to everyone is a gesture well worth repeating. . . as a life’s calling.

Kindness sometimes has an ulterior motive. When I was asked in 1979 to join the board of the Repertory theater it was because they were looking for someone to represent the far West side of the city. It was a bonus that I was a woman. Women were unrepresented on Arts boards in that era.

As president of the Repertory board in the late 1980s we made the decision to reach out to minorities as nominees for trusteeship. There were many renowned and translated Spanish-speaking

and famous Black playwrights that we intended to produce. And there were, also, potential theatergoers and representation that were essential to the community and to the theater. The result was new friends, all around, and friends beget friends.

At Ten Chimneys, the historically preserved home of Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne, early twentieth century's most renowned married theater actors, in Genesee Depot, WI. our annual Master Class is as diverse as the acting profession is today. Our board is a mirror. We only need to reach out. Every group is a blend. My husband's profession, medicine, is a universal blend.

Reaching out all around is not a practice of choosing to create diversity: that job has been done and acceptance to interact is what remains.

Following a slanted path toward a goal most often brings desired results. Instructing a child to stop sucking her thumb usually keeps the undesired habit squarely in place. Diverting attention to other pursuits quickens the desire goal or . . . something like that. Diversity is not always color but, also, ideas and behavior. The Christ of the Gospels wasn't bothered by diversity. He reached out to everyone.

By Donna Glaeys Meyer. Donna lives in Pewaukee, WI., with her husband, Tony. She is a life-long promoter of diversity in the Arts.

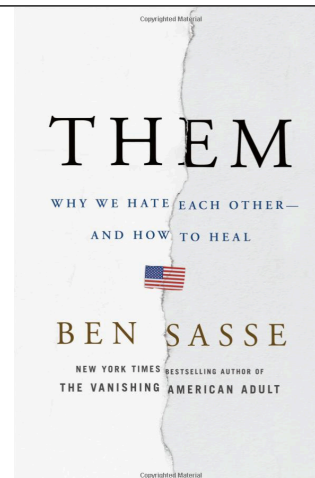
TRYING TO REACH ACROSS THE AISLE – AND THE COUNTRY

My wife Pat and I live in Waukesha County, one of the most Republican enclaves in the country. Recently – due to a geographical mix-up – we received a solicitation letter from the Party seeking our urgent financial help. As a sign of my new openness and willingness to “go the extra mile” I am printing here excerpts from the Republican appeal in Wisconsin. (Feel free to send a contribution if you wish). Jim Ewens

“Scott Walker is no longer our Governor, but if he were writing this letter, I know what he would say: ‘Stay involved. Wisconsin needs you. America needs you.’ Walker knows that the only way our state grows and thrives is if we have a strong Republican Party of Wisconsin to elect men and women who share our conservative views.

Nancy Pelosi is sure to target at least two Wisconsin Republican seats again in her desperate plan to maintain power.

And the Public Employee Union Bosses and other liberal special interests who bankrolled Tony Evers' campaign have already hatched a plan to seize control of our State Legislature. If they succeed,



every single common sense reform passed during Governor Walker's tenure will be repealed. Government spending will sky rocket, your taxes will go through the roof. And thousands of jobs will leave the state.”

(Heavens! Maybe, even, the President will be impeached. Now that would, truly, be desperate action).

A challenge: in this New Year, might you consider asking a rival Democrat (or Republican) to switch news sources with you for a week: you commit yourself to, only, reading/watching Fox News while they commit to, say, MSNBC. This is one of the ideas in Ben Sasse's book “*Them*.” Jim Ewens