

THE DAILY RECORD

WESTERN NEW YORK'S SOURCE FOR LAW, REAL ESTATE, FINANCE AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE SINCE 1908

Love is (not) all you need

By **ROBERT L. BRENNA JR.**
Daily Record Columnist

Without regard to the obvious nutritional and materialistic needs we all must deal with, love is essential, but it is not in and of itself enough.

Hope is what you need to survive in today's world and hopefully (all puns intended) it is accompanied by love.

Hope springs eternal in Geneva. Tim and Michelle Hill and their family have provided hope for young men who otherwise would be on the street trying to create ways to pass time where there are virtually no lawful and moral ways to do so in a void.

The Hill Family was featured on Sunday night's Extreme Home Makeover, and I was overwhelmed for several reasons when I watched the show. As you may know from my prior commentaries or editorials, I am personally nauseated to watch certain record producers and Hollywood movie or television producers amass their fortunes at the expense of the well-being of our society in general. More specifically, I'm bothered by their willingness to pander to young people's insecurities, immaturity, and undeveloped ability to have their super-ego determine how to best balance the competing and conflicting needs of the id and ego.

Of course, that's just a fancy way of saying that, before adulthood, the personality lacks the ability to filter out temptation and control one's basic instinctive and selfish needs with the needs of the common good of society. In short, those people pander to the ability of adolescents to spend enormous amounts of money along with their continuous search for a moral center. Until they find that center, they will make huge profits for people who don't have the moral integrity to withhold their own greed, and thereby pro-

mote businesses that harm the youngest and most vulnerable members of our society.

Hope overcomes all of that. Hope is what the Hill family has given, not only to their adopted son, Aleem, but to many children who have never known where else to look for it. They have given these children the happiness of thinking that, one day, they just possibly might be able to better their future.

Remarkably, the University of Rochester has established a \$400,000 scholarship to help these children in Geneva, completing the pathway of hope all the way to the point where many human beings who never had a prayer now have a likelihood of a success.

The beauty of the Extreme Home Makeover is that they actually have found a way to mobilize hundreds of human beings who wish to help their fellow man. Sure, Sears gets a plug when they donate all of the gym equipment, but what's wrong with that?

Mike Maloney is to be commended beyond what words can express for his accomplishments for this family as well. I believe that the producers of Extreme Home Makeover not only have realized the American dream (and I hope they make a fortune), but also have given others a way to contribute to society, and to show not only their love, but offer hope as well.

Robert L. Brenna Jr. is a partner in the Rochester law firm of Brenna, Brenna & Boyce PLLC, which his father founded. He is president of the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers and concentrates his practice in the areas of catastrophic personal injury and trusts and estates. Brenna also hosts a Sunday morning radio program entitled "The Brenna & Brenna Law Forum," on WHAM 1180 AM at 8 a.m., online at www.wham1180.com.

