



# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES - MAY 15



**"Family is the most important thing in the world."  
-- Princess Diana**

The ideal of "a family" is one of the most basic models of what a better world can be like. In a perfect family, the members are joined by bonds of love; they help each other meet all of their physical and emotional needs. Of course no family is perfect, but a family that strives together to become a "family for a better world" can help each member to feel more fulfilled and better about themselves and the world. They also provide a real-life example of how the human family can work together to create a more peaceful, just and sustainable world.

The first step to becoming a "Better World Family" is to decide to become one. It will be an ongoing learning experience with lots of mistakes. You might decide to set a regular time to discuss and work out family problems and issues. You'll want to make sure that you show your concern and encouragement for each other, regularly. You'll need to let things go and apologize and accept apologies and make amends when apologies aren't enough. You're a team and you want to work it out. You may decide to work together on projects for a better world as a way to strengthen your dedication.

In 1993, the United Nations decided that May 15 should be observed as the International Day of Families to help increase awareness of family issues and improve the capability of nations to tackle family-related problems.

In the United States, Family Day is also observed on September 26 by Presidential Proclamation.

## Be A Hero For A Better World!

- Find out more about building a strong family
- Invite your family to start a regular Family Time to discuss ways to improve your family life
- Invite your family to work together on a 'better world project'
- Support organizations that support families

## Family Links

- Families Australia ([familiesaustralia.org.au](http://familiesaustralia.org.au))
- Family Research Laboratory ([unh.edu/fri](http://unh.edu/fri))
- International Day of Families ([un.org/esa/socdev/family/IntObs/IDF/IDFframe.htm](http://un.org/esa/socdev/family/IntObs/IDF/IDFframe.htm))
- UN Program on the Family ([un.org/esa/socdev/family](http://un.org/esa/socdev/family))
- Building a Strong Family (Univ of Florida) ([edis.ifas.ufl.edu/HE326](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/HE326))

For more information: [www.BetterWorldCalendar.com/familiesday.htm](http://www.BetterWorldCalendar.com/familiesday.htm)

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# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES - MAY 15

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**“The family is the school of duties - founded on love”  
-- Felix Adler**

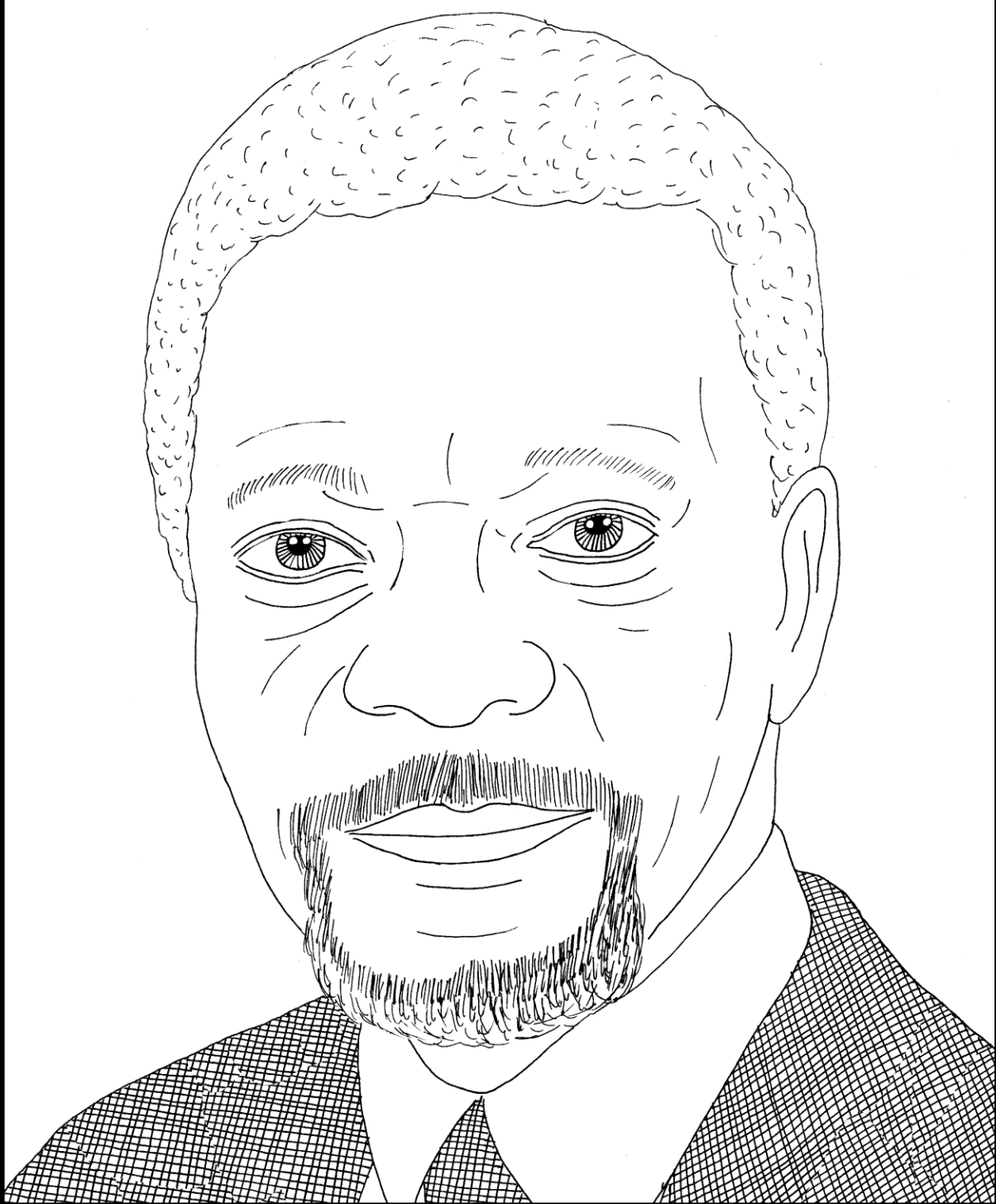
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# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES - MAY 15

MAKE A DIFFERENCE



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**"If tolerance, respect and equity permeate family life, they will translate into values that shape societies, nations and the world."**

**-- Kofi Annan**

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**"Most families need both parents to work. Moms need to be able to work and earn fair pay and have the flexibility in their jobs to also be primary caretakers."**

**-- Joan Blades**

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**"More than ever before, there is a global understanding that long-term social, economic, and environmental development would be impossible without healthy families, communities, and countries."**

**-- Gro Brundtland**

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**"The lack of emotional security of our American young people is due, I believe, to their isolation from the larger family unit."**

**-- Pearl S. Buck**

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"There is nothing more important than a good, safe, secure home."  
-- Rosalynn Carter

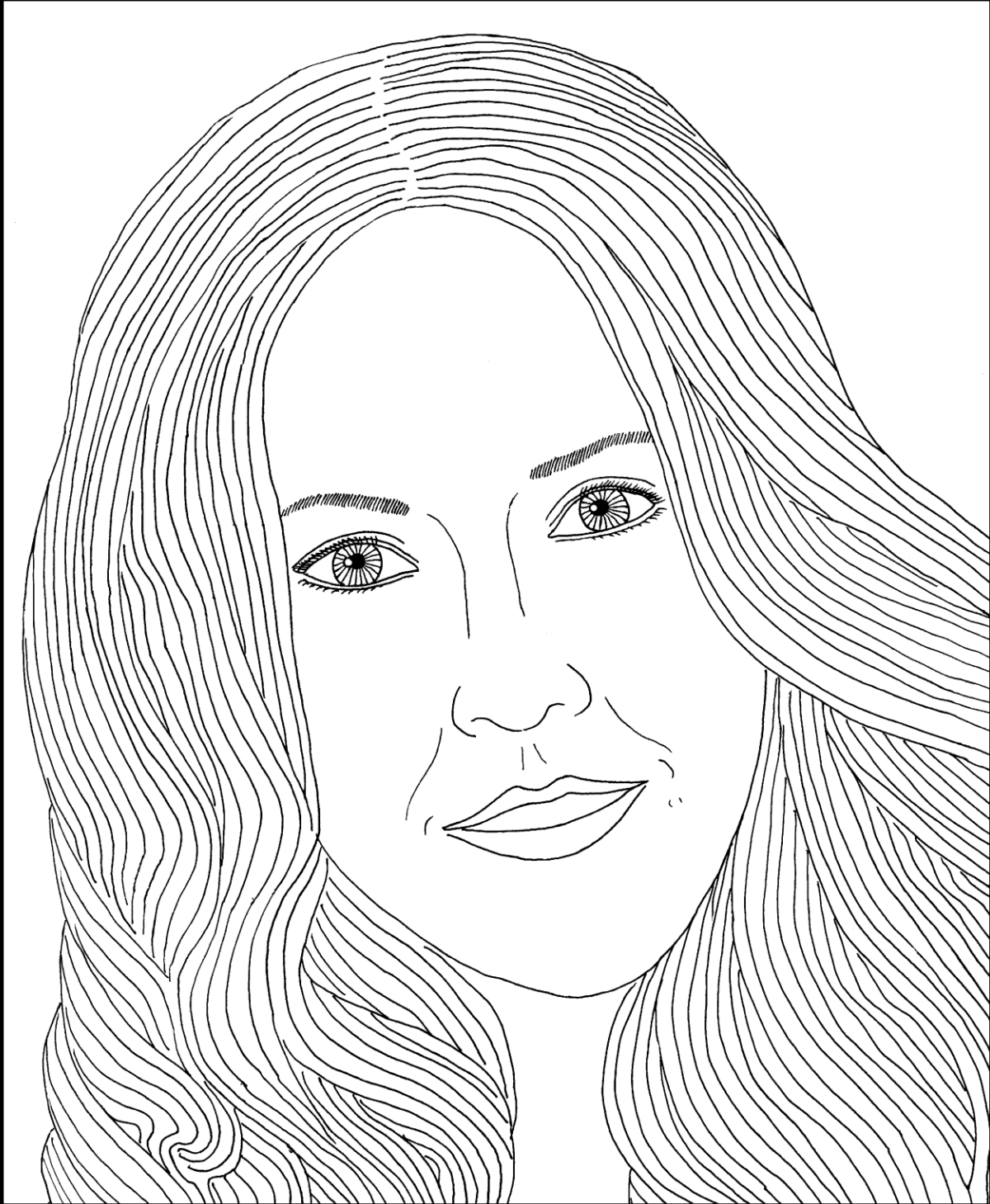
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**"I draw from my family and my friends and I feel like that small-town person. The achievements, the materialistic possessions have really become to mean less. They mean nothing."**

**-- Sheryl Crow**

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"What else do we all want, each one of us, except to love  
and be loved, in our families, in our work, in all our relationships?"  
-- Dorothy Day

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**"The greatest gift we can give to our children  
is to raise them in a culture of peace."**

**-- Louise Diamond**

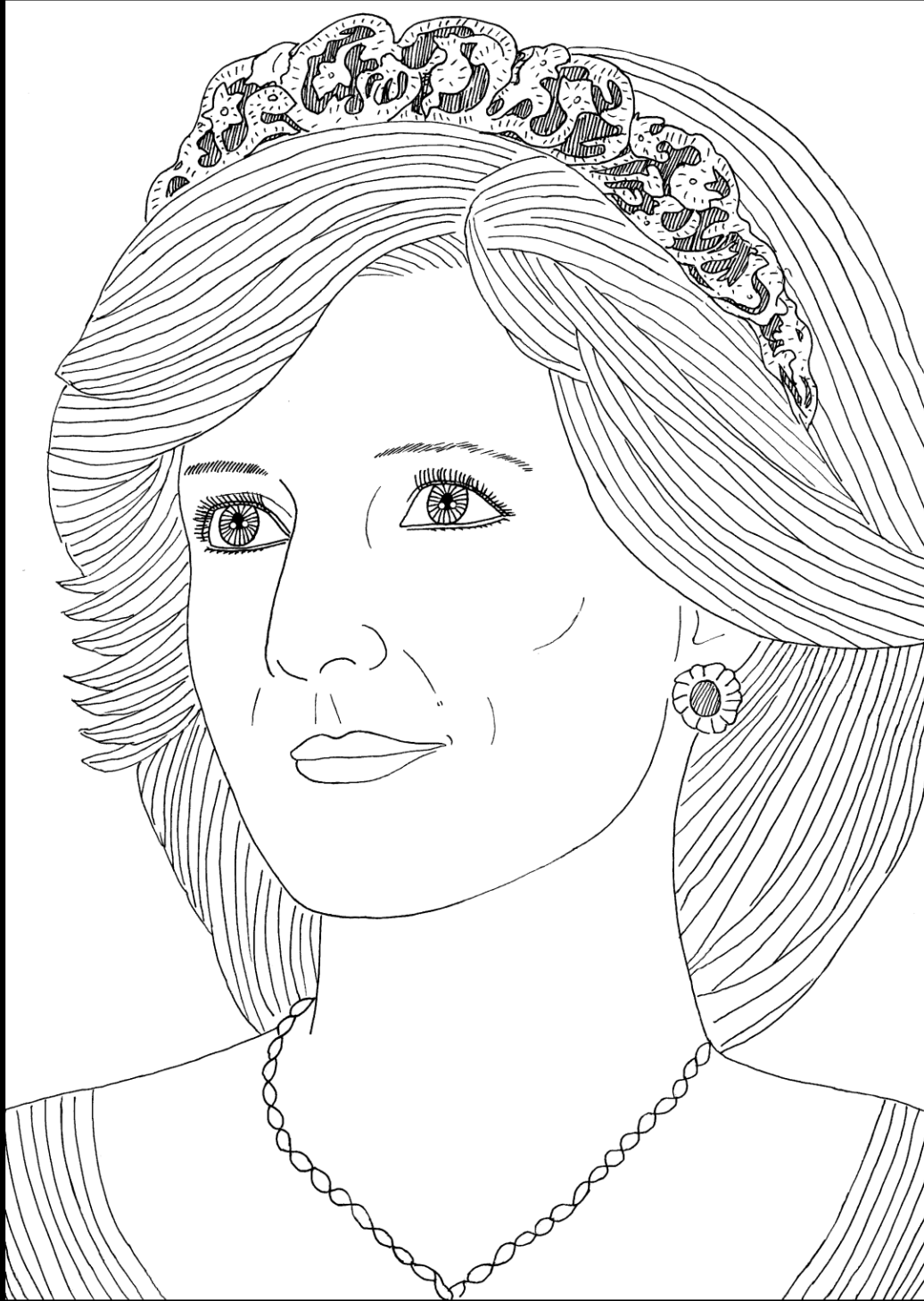
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**"Family is not an important thing, it's everything."  
-- Michael J. Fox**

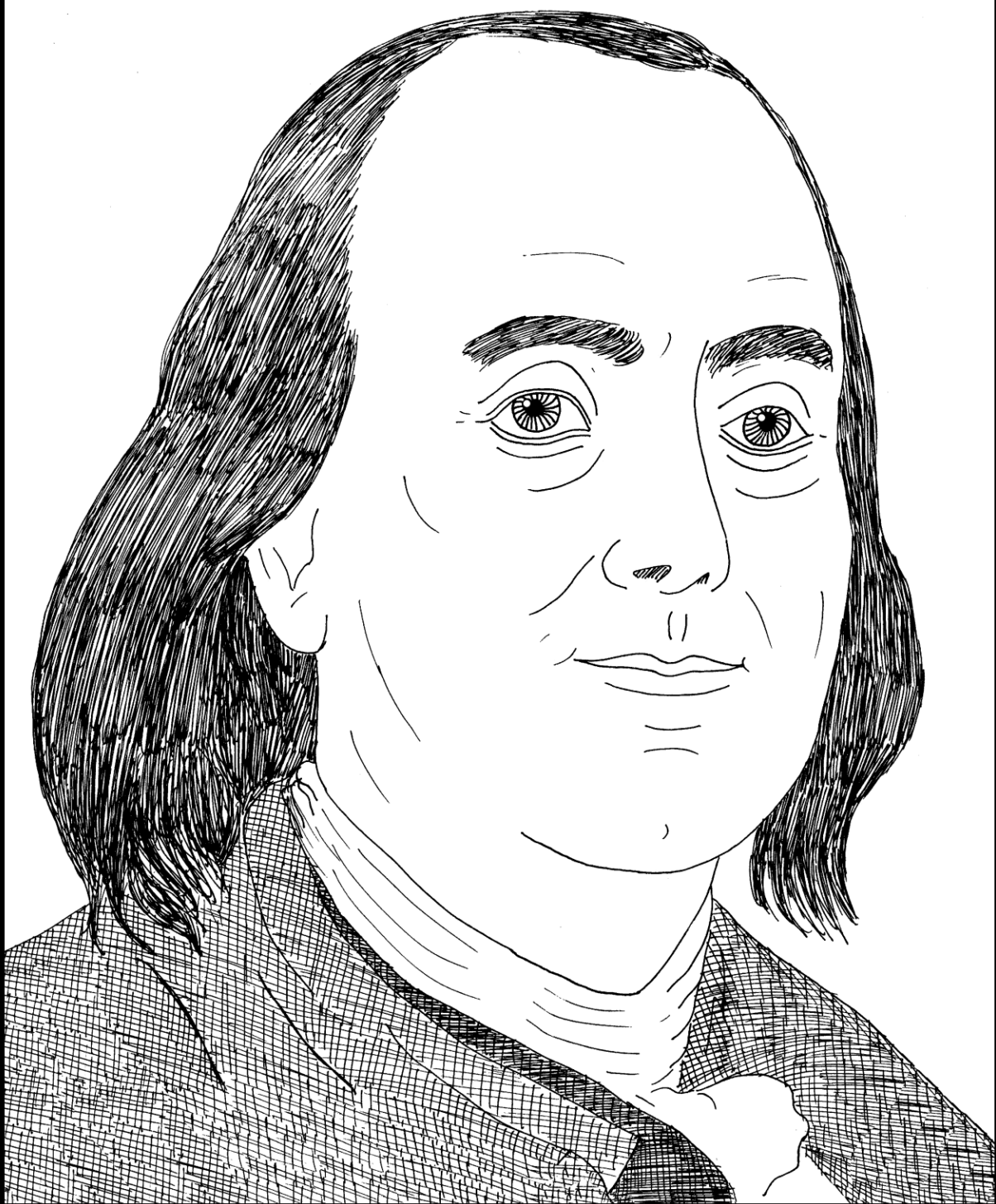
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"He that raises a large family does, indeed, while he lives to observe them, stand a broader mark for sorrow; but then he stands a broader mark for pleasure too."

-- Benjamin Franklin

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**"Women will only have true equality when men share with them the responsibility of bringing up the next generation."  
-- Ruth Bader Ginsburg**

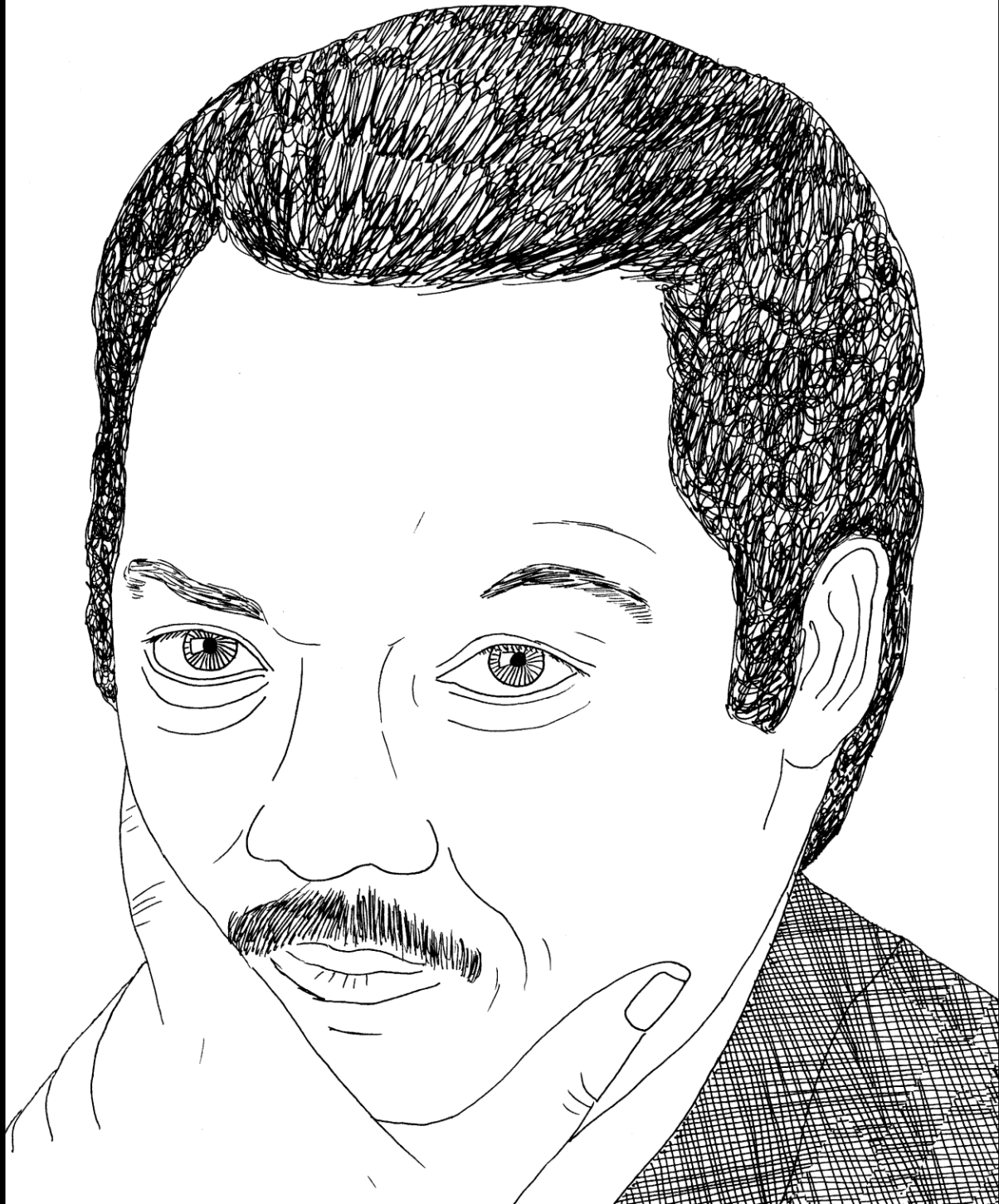
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**"Your children need your presence more than your presents."  
-- Jesse Jackson**

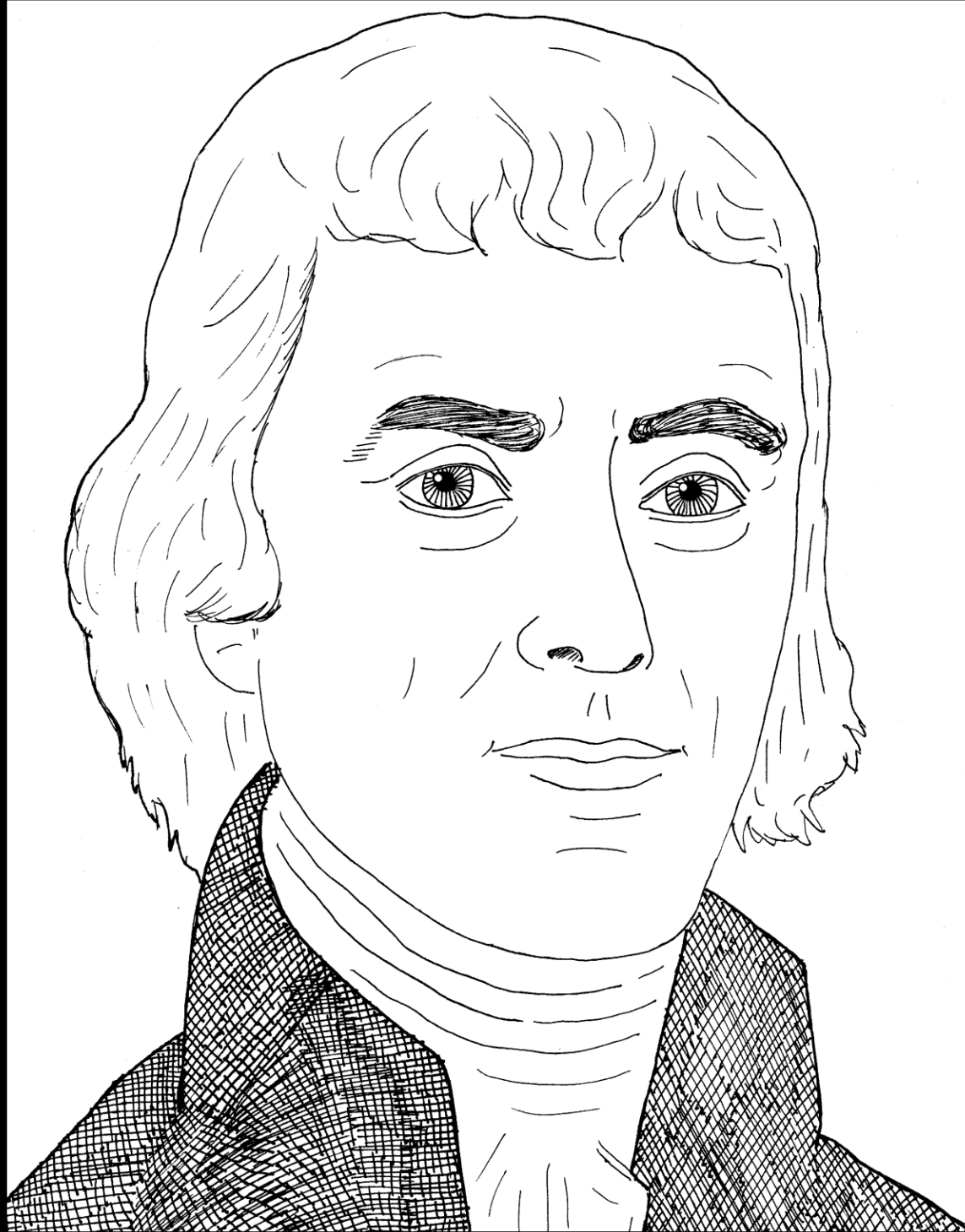
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**"The happiest moments of my life have been the few  
which I have passed at home in the bosom of my family."**

**-- Thomas Jefferson**

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**"We teach academic subjects and we assume life skills will somehow be acquired along the way. Not a safe assumption! The curriculum has to include things like communication, conflict resolution, parenting, family dynamics, critical thinking, values, ethics."**

**-- Azim Khamisa**

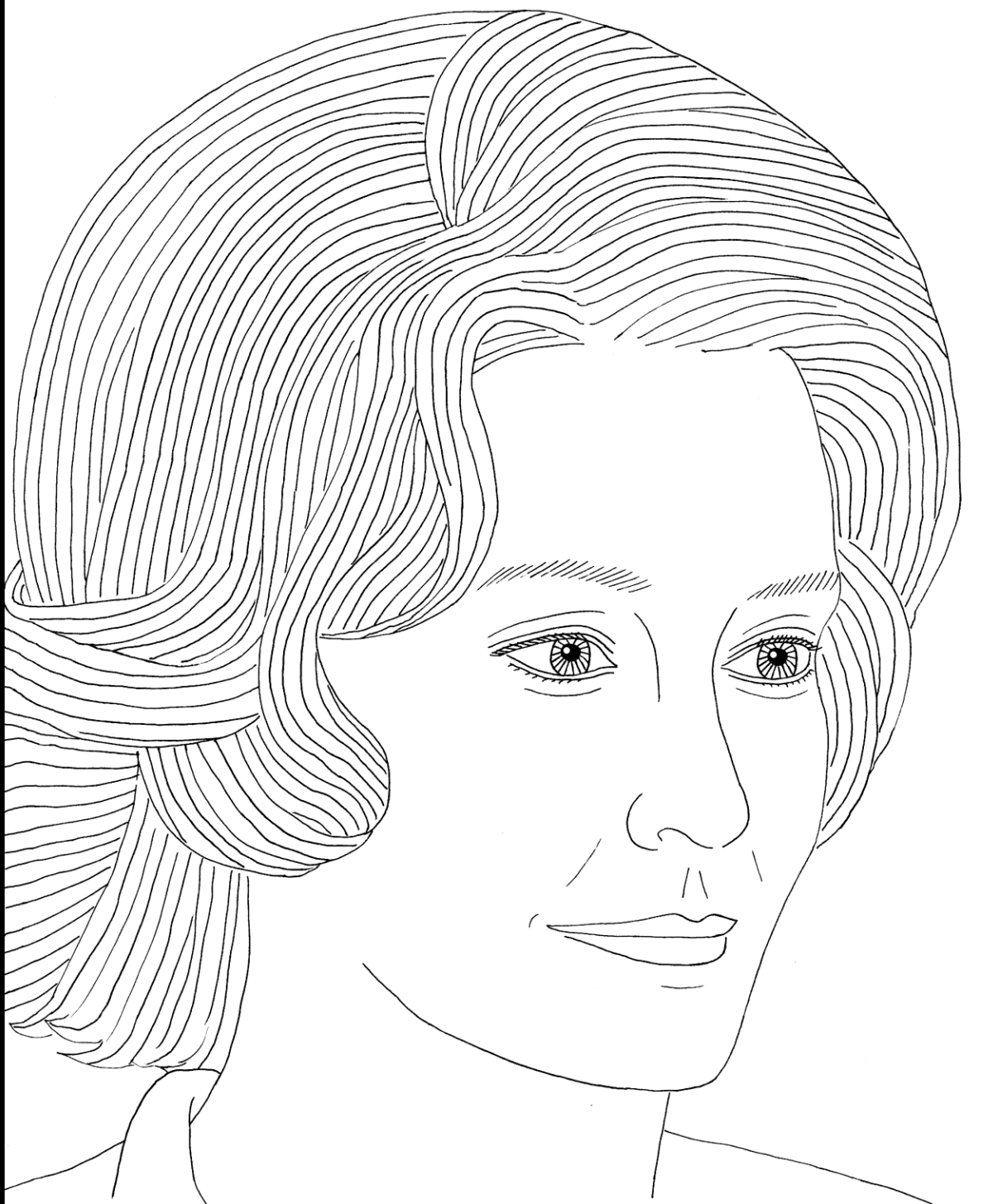
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**"Families survive, one way or another. You have a tie,  
a connection that exists long after death, through many lifetimes."  
-- Jessica Lange**

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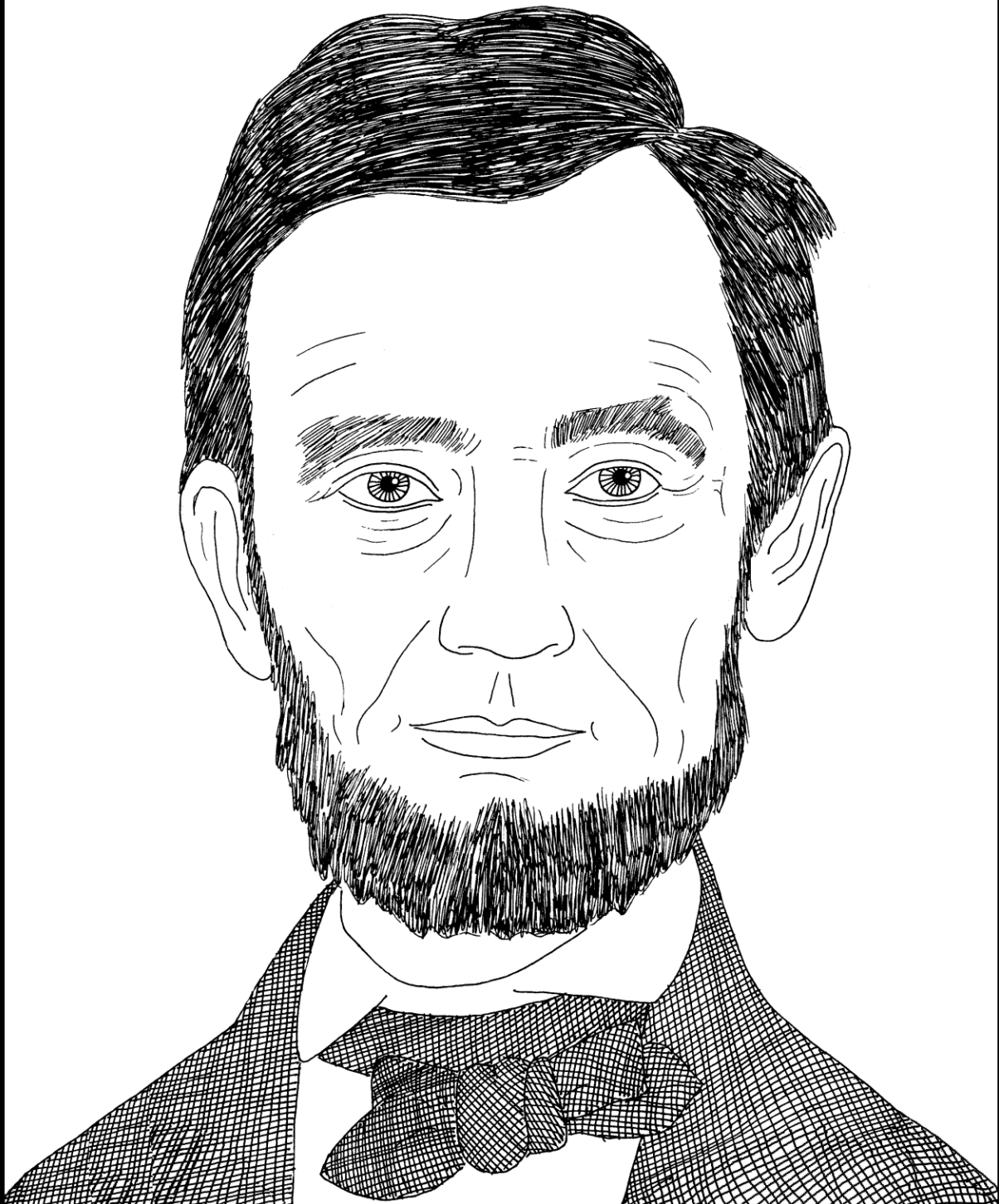
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"Love is the chain whereby to bind a child to its parents."  
-- Abraham Lincoln

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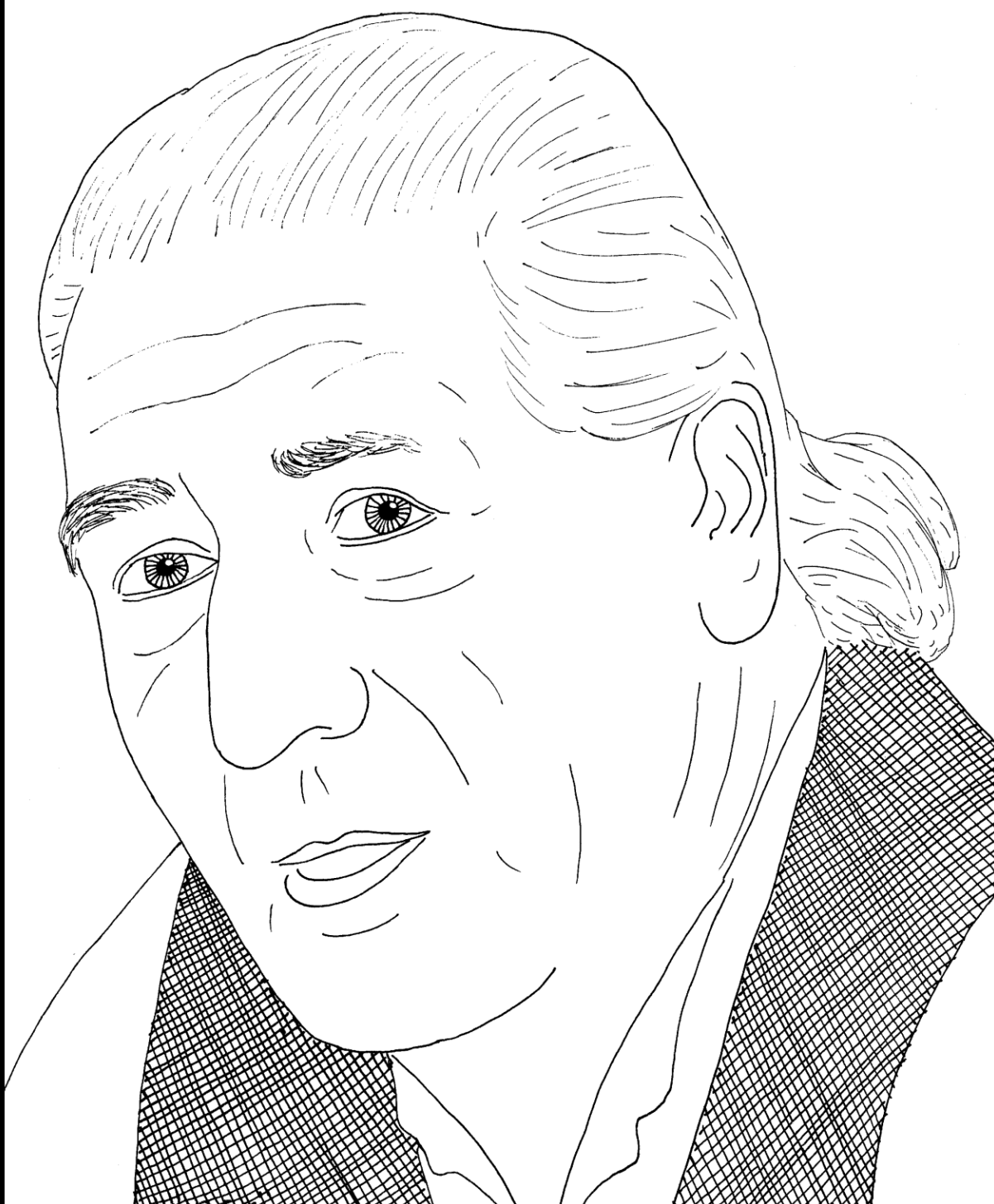
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**"We can still alter our course. It is NOT too late. We still have options. We need the courage to change our values to the regeneration of our families, the life that surrounds us."**

**-- Chief Oren Lyons**

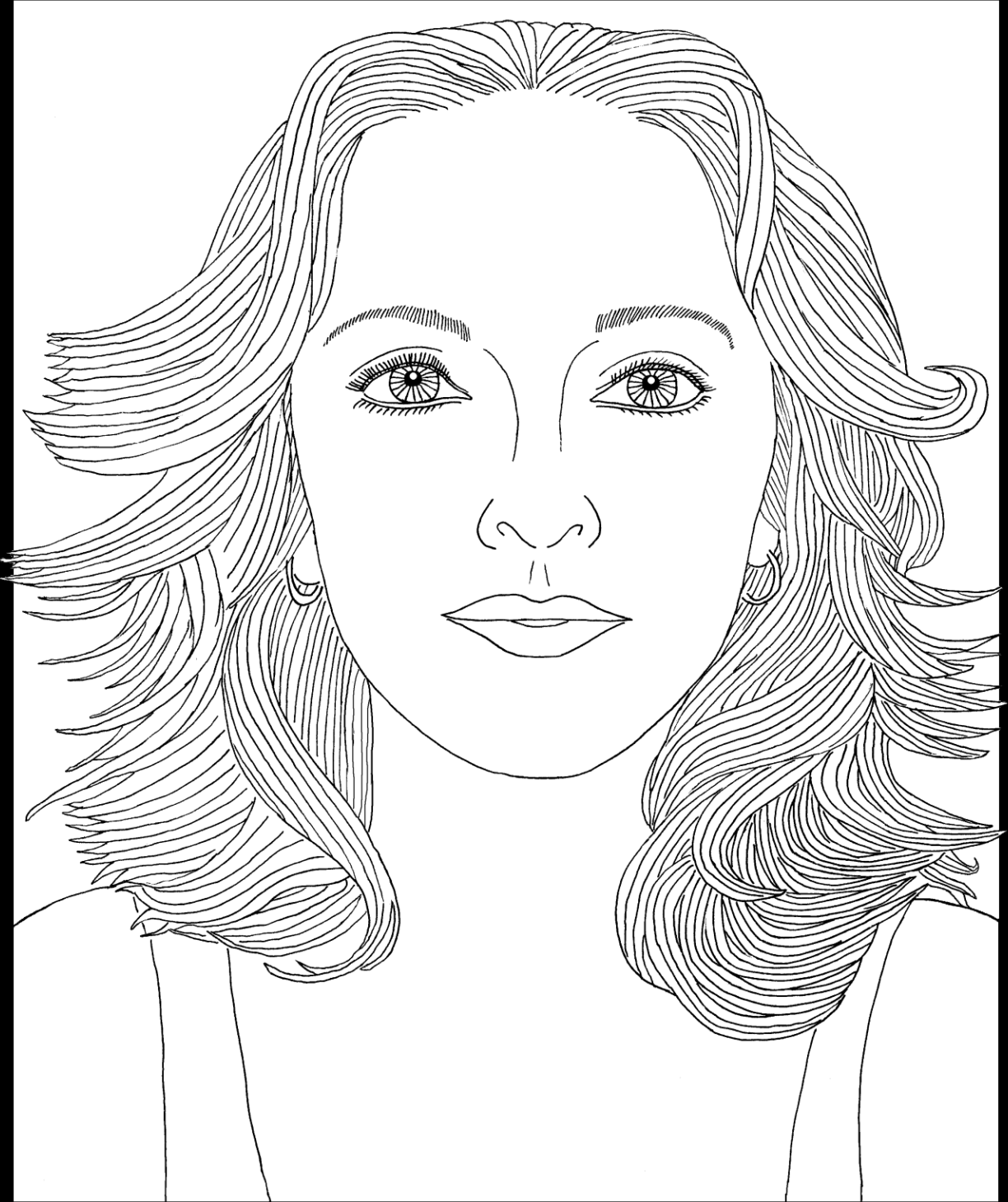
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**"Family is everything. Family comes first.  
It's not what I expected it to be, but nothing ever is."  
-- Madonna**

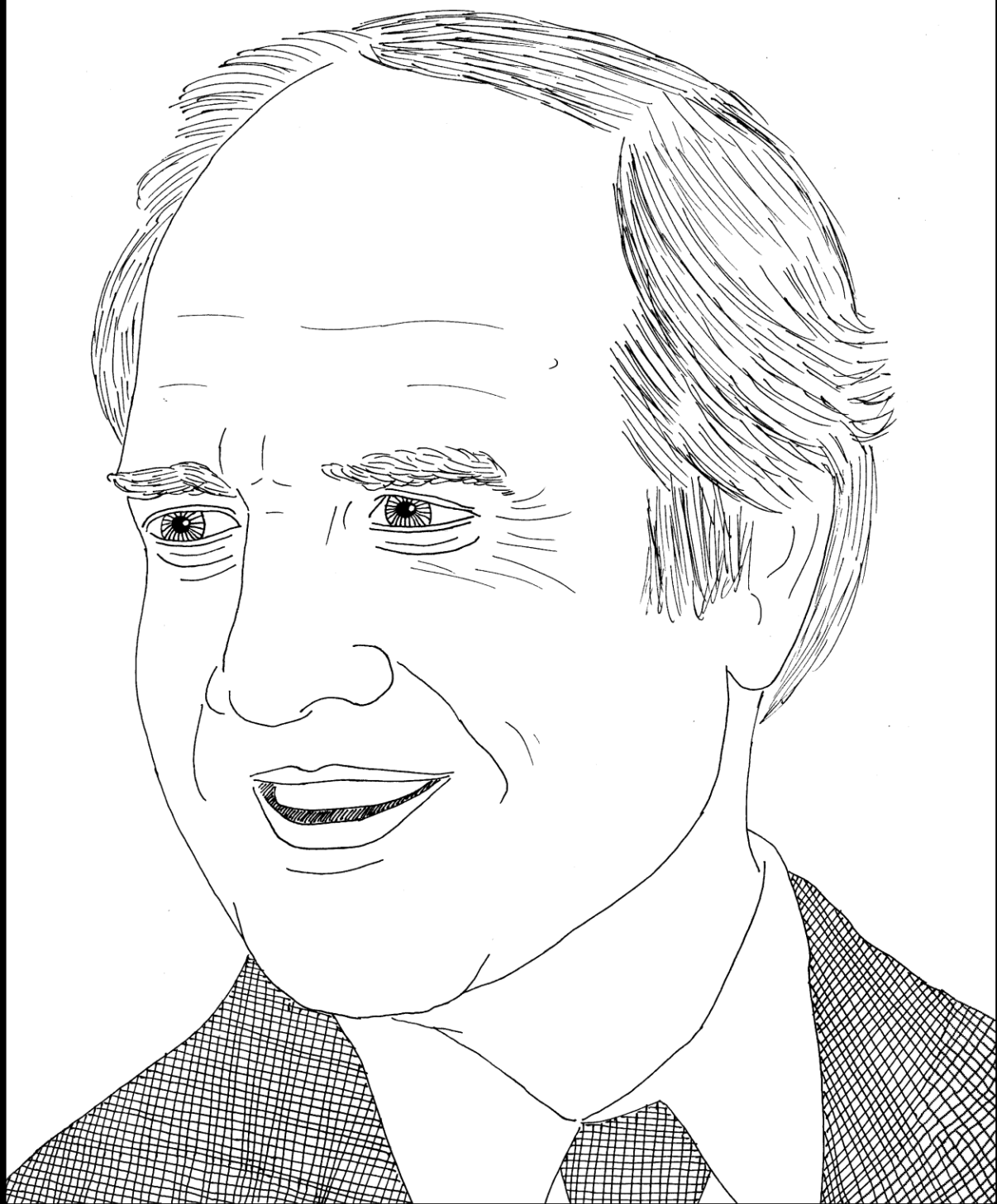
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"...just plain, old, simple kindness: to other people, to your family. Love for other people. I think that's another very important part of morality, being genuinely compassionate and concerned about the feelings and well being of other people, especially those that depend on you directly."

-- George McGovern

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**"Nobody has ever before asked the nuclear family to live all by itself in a box the way we do. With no relatives, no support, we've put it in an impossible situation."**

**-- Margaret Mead**

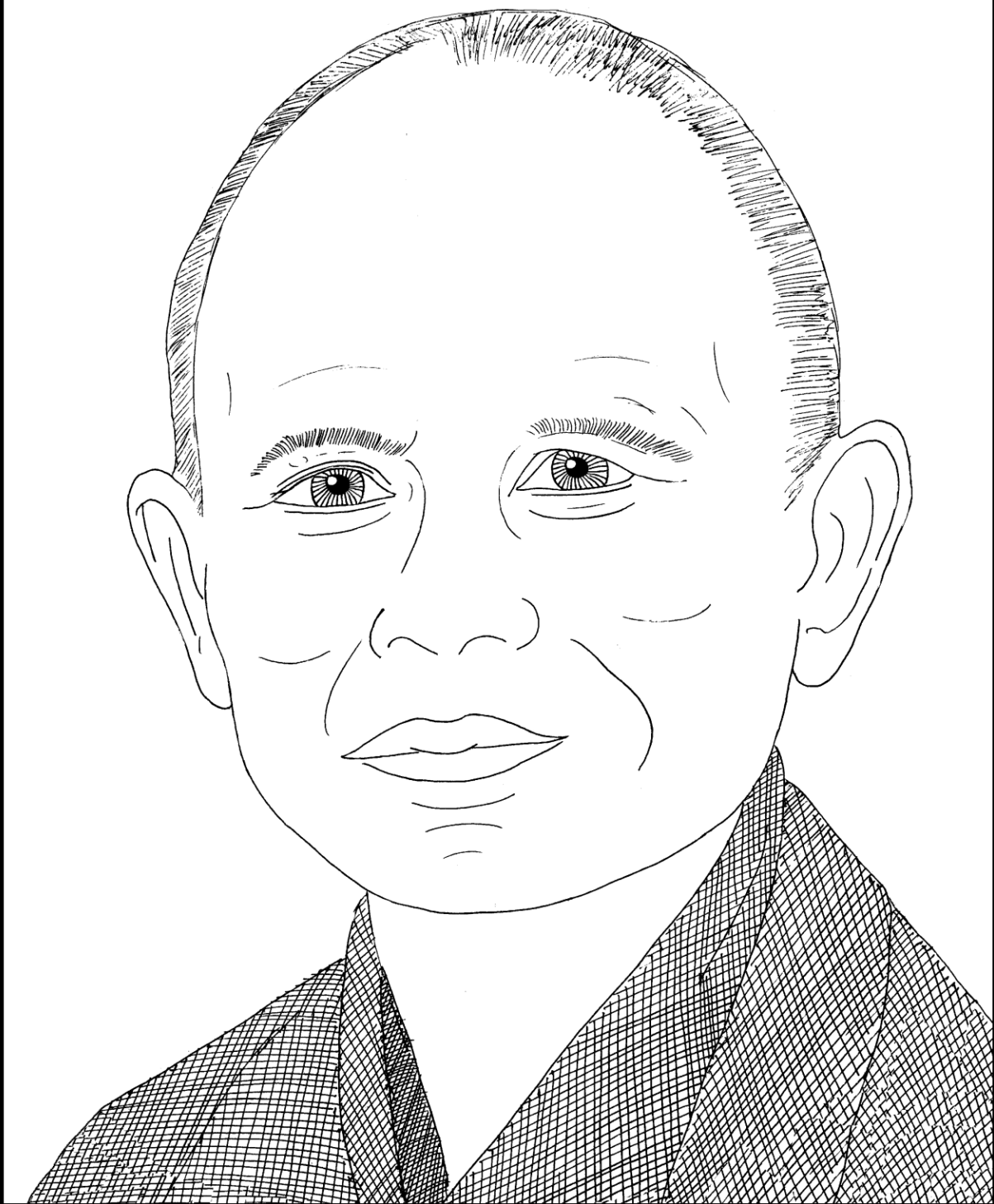
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"If we are peaceful, if we are happy, we can smile and blossom like a flower, and everyone in our family, our entire society, will benefit from our peace."

-- Thich Nhat Hanh

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**"Of all the rocks upon which we build our lives,  
we are reminded today that family is the most important."  
-- Barack Obama**

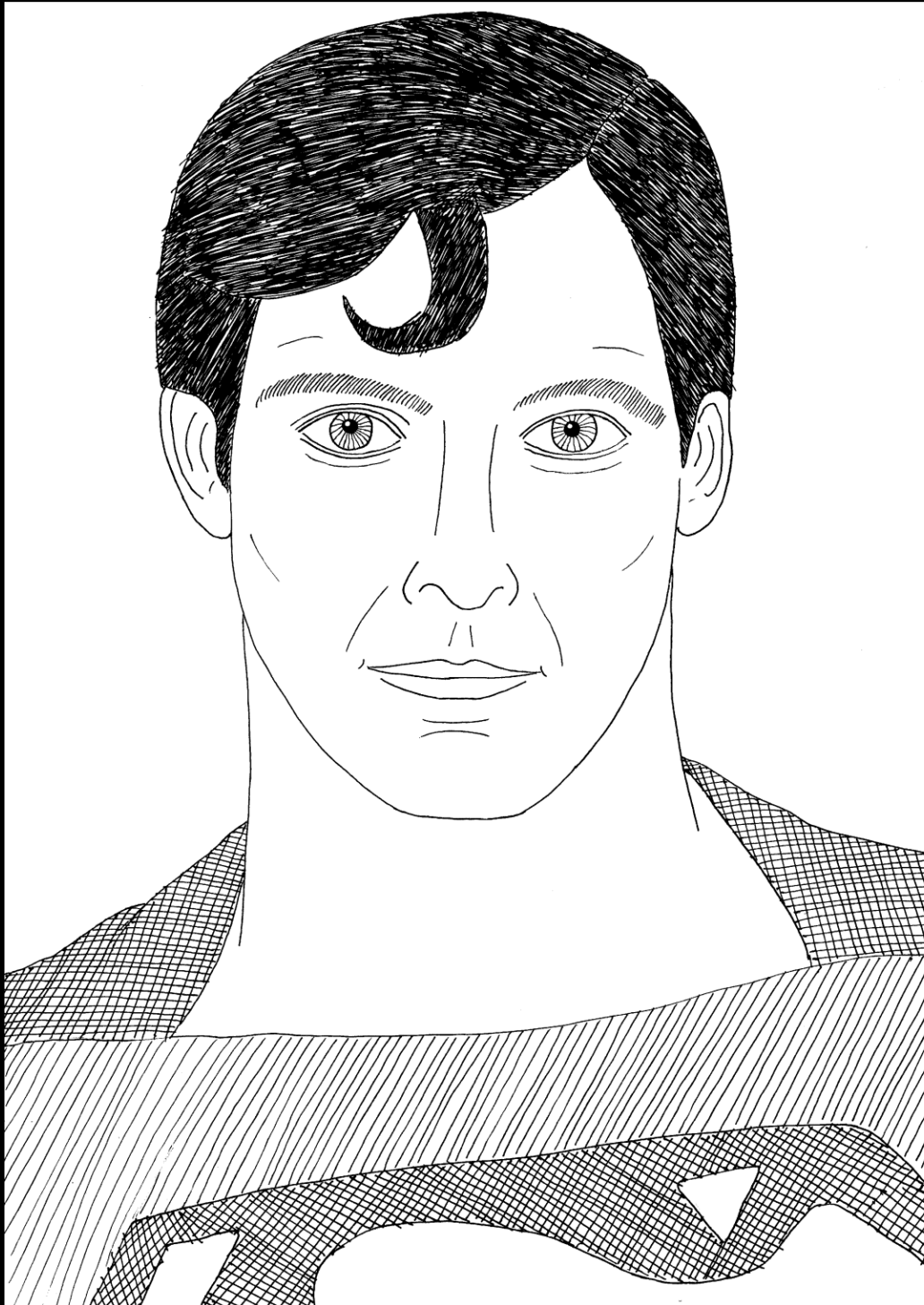
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"I think a hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles. They are the real heroes, and so are the families and friends who have stood by them."

-- Christopher Reeve

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**"Good parents give their children Roots and Wings. Roots to know where home is, wings to fly away and exercise what's been taught them."  
-- Dr. Jonas Salk**

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"I want my child to walk in a world guided by love. This means that everybody will have a job, or the resources to take care of basic needs. A world where families are not oppressed and are connected to their neighbors and their communities, where the best in humanity is honored. That's when we will truly be at peace."

-- Malika Sanders

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**"I feel my family's needs are a priority. I'm not comfortable with the idea of serving the many and ignoring my family."**

**-- Susan Sarandon**

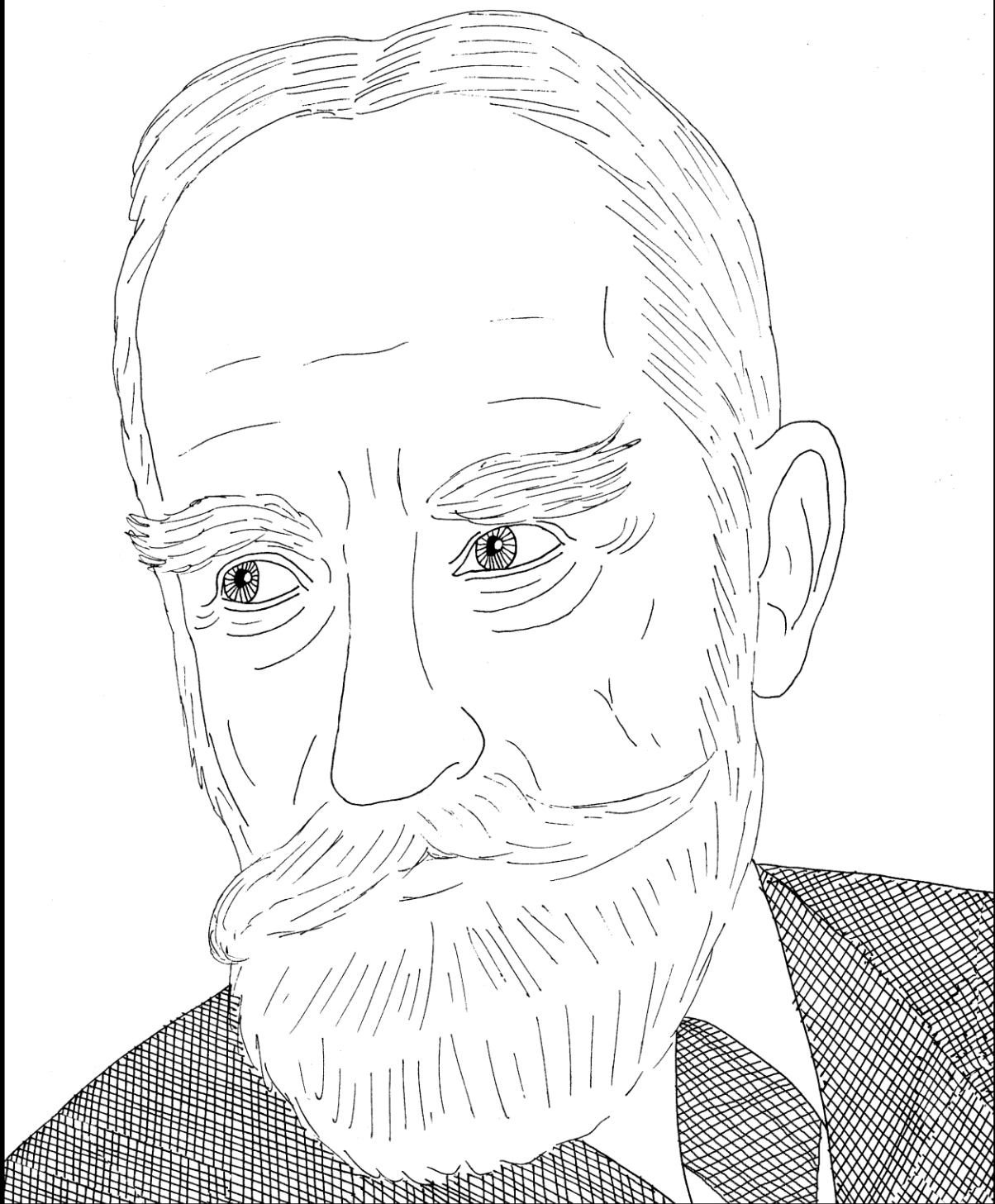
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**"Perhaps the greatest social service that can be rendered  
by anybody to this country and to mankind is to bring up a family."  
-- George Bernard Shaw**

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**"Smile at each other, smile at your wife, smile at your husband, smile at your children, smile at each other - it doesn't matter who it is and that will help you to grow up in greater love for each other."  
-- Mother Teresa**

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**"Every child deserves a chance at a life  
filled with love, laughter, friends and family."  
-- Marlo Thomas**

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# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES - MAY 15

MAKE A DIFFERENCE



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**"You don't choose your family. They are  
God's gift to you, as you are to them."  
-- Desmond Tutu**

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