

Book festival Tuning into reading; turning off the channels

By LORAIN McCLISH

Ten minutes of silent reading became part of the regular curriculum in Hillel Day School this past month as students and faculty geared up for the school's first book festival.

The four-day event, the first of its kind staged in a school setting, was spearheaded by Sherry Najman who is dedicated to getting youth tuned in to books and tuned off to TV.

"Our theme is 'Reading is Fun' and we put as much fun into all the preparations we could," said Mrs. Najman, who is the mother of three children in the school and wife of Chaim Najman, cantor for Congregation Sharry Zedeck.

"I believe if a child is exposed to books, provoked into touching them, then he is apt to pick them up and will probably read them."

"It's our job as adults to show them reading can be enjoyable and we must do the stimulating with a fun aspect."

BALLOONS AND posters created by the students filled the school halls. There were prizes of ice cream cakes for the classes that prepared the best advertisements for the festival.

The students wrote poems, made mobiles and put original words to familiar tunes in keeping with the "Reading is Fun" theme.

One class devised its own choreography and formed a dance line, then went from room to room touting the book festival.

The festival, which brought together a number of aspects involved in producing a book, is the second programmed by Mrs. Najman. The first was a requirement for a master's degree she earned at University of Nebraska. It was staged in a public library in Omaha.

The festival in Hillel was programmed to dovetail into the school of dual language and dual culture and led off with the initiation of the Am Ha Sefer award. The Hebrew words mean "the people of the book."

JOAN BLOS, author of "A Gathering of Days," and holder of the 1980 Newberry Award, was given the first Am Ha Sefer award. She took time off from teaching in Michigan State University to accept the honor and talk to the students during the festival.

Goldie Adler, wife of the late Rabbi Morris Adler, visited the festival to tell how she compiled notes her husband left to complete and publish "May I Have a Word With You."

Alice Nigogkacian, production manager of Wayne State University Press, showed galleries in a lecture-demonstration of how a book is put together.

Ralph Archibald, who has made a career of theatrical productions surrounding the life of Ben Franklin, notably at Greenfield Village, staged a performance zeroing in on the American patriot as a printer.

"We're already starting to talk about the book festival for next year," Mrs. Najman said speaking from the school library that had been transformed with a festive air for the occasion.

"ALL OF THE books here that are written in Hebrew are written specifically for the English speaking child who is learning Hebrew," Mrs. Najman said.

"I chose most of the simpler ones myself because part of our festival involves having the older students read (in Hebrew) to some of the younger ones." Mrs. Najman studied Hebrew for 16

years in Yeshiva University High School and College and is qualified to teach the language.

"But I've been a glorified volunteer ever since the children were born and busier now than I ever was when I was teaching," she said.

"I'm making a career now out of getting kids to read and as long as I can accomplish that I'll keep on doing it."

Staff photos by Randy Borst



Sherry Najman (second from left) and her co-chairman for Book Festival, Bev Leuchter, are flanked by Hillel students Sam Sky (left) and David Segal in the school library. Mrs. Najman, who staged the festival, said she is making a career out of stimulating youth to read.



Joan Blos, who says she thinks of herself as a teacher who sometimes writes, more than an author, was guest of honor at Book Festival. She took the Am Ha Sefer award; an award initiated as part of the festival that is expected to be an annual event. Ms. Blos is author of "A Gathering of Days," sub-titled 'A New England Girl's Journal.'

Puppets visit for library dedication party

Children's librarians have rolled up the dedication of the new children's room in Farmington Hills Community Library, the presentation of a new grand piano, a ribbon cutting ceremony and a visit from an internationally recognized puppeteer into a festive open house.

Open house runs from 1-5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15, in the library at 32737 12 Mile Road.

Darrel Hildebrand, who has filmed the Muppet show and has performed with the Muppets, leads the fun and games with puppet shows at 2 and 4 p.m.

Musical interludes throughout the afternoon come from members of Farmington Musicales who raised funds to purchase a grand piano for the community and will make the formal presentation of the piano, housed in the library, that afternoon.

The formal ribbon cutting ceremony, opening the way to the new children's room in the library's downstairs level, begins at 3 p.m.

HILDEBRANDT is the childrens and young adult coordinator for Veterans Memorial Public Library in Bismarck, N.D., who developed a unique form of puppetry through self-instruction.

In his native state as an honorary member of several Indian tribes, he is known for performing with life-size puppets adorned in authentic Indian ceremonial costume.

For this achievement he was chosen as one of two U.S. puppeteers to perform in International Puppeteer's Guild, in 1980, in Kennedy Center.

These performances are given under

a grant from Arizona depicting Indian culture.

During his career he became good friends with Jim Henson of the Muppet Show, and later filmed the shows from London, England. Subsequent associations with the show found him performing with Miss Piggy and the Swedish Chef, both favorite characters.

In Michigan, he performed for the state's library association in Ann Arbor last summer.

Stars of the show in Farmington Hills are Charlie, a four-foot tall rabbit puppet, The Seven Dwarfs and several life-like prairie mammal puppets.



Darrel Hildebrandt, who has won international prominence for his puppets and puppet shows depicting culture of the American Indian, brings some of his fantasy puppets for two shows in Farmington Hills Community Library.

'New You' seminars start

The next "New You" seminar staged by Mira Linder of Esthetics of Mira Linder begins Tuesday, Feb. 17. The series runs from 7-9 p.m. for five consecutive Tuesdays in the Southfield salon and spa at 29935 Northwestern Highway in Applegate Square.

"We offer the best of everything that a woman should know in order to improve herself. Our speakers are all authorities and specialists on eight different topics which are combined to make you a 'new you,'" Ms. Linder said.

The sessions begin with learning how to adopt a positive self-image and how to prepare for life after 40.

Authorities will talk on plastic surgery, how to improve and properly care for facial and body skin, and give a segment on how to banish cellulite or prevent it.

Participants will get a session on nutrition and exercise and another on makeup. Those attending will learn how to apply make-up using but five minutes a day to get a natural look for day time and a glamorous look for evening wear.

The seminar winds up with a lesson in fashion basics and proper accessorizing.

Needlepoint evening bag made in class

Needlepointers will create an evening bag in a new class this month in Farmington Community Center. The four-session class meets from 10 a.m. to noon beginning Monday, Feb. 16 with instructors Kathy Brodie and Pat Donaldson.

Both teachers studied under Shay Pendray and are associated with the Embroiderers Guild of America and the National Standards Council.

Students will learn pulled work, darning patterns, crewel on canvas techniques and the use of special fibers. The evening bag is available in four color combinations.

According to the instructors, students will be using "elegant beige-toned linen canvas as the background for beautiful cotton, merino and pater-payan wools, marlit and metallic fibers."

Fee is \$20 plus materials. Students must register in advance at 24705 Farmington Road, north of 10 Mile.

Individual attention will be given to figure flattering fashions and how to coordinate an existing wardrobe for a high-styled seasonal look.

MIRA LINDER describes an esthetician as one whose mission is creating beauty both as a specialist and a teacher.

"The body beautiful means more than having a golden tan or an up-to-date look in makeup," she says.

"It also means slimming down, toning up, eating wisely, drinking sparingly and exercising regularly. It also means taking care of your skin that is so affected by the environment and your general health."

Climate, age, pollution, sun and diet are obvious influences on the skin, but emotions and stress take their toll as well.

"I address myself to all of these factors in all esthetic consultations," she said.

"Beauty begins with knowing the basics, and that total look that makes beauty has its basis in skin care," she said.

Reservations for New You seminars are being taken now by calling the spa at 356-5810. Fee is \$75 for the complete series.

Women in the Jigsaw is name of Y seminar

A special three-session seminar for women will be offered in the Northwest Branch of YWCA, 25940 Grand River from 7-9 p.m. on Tuesdays, Feb. 17, 24 and March 1.

Under the heading "Women in the Jigsaw" the seminar will be addressing itself to where women fit into the Jigsaw of human relations, domestic roles, coping with the new conservatism and their shaping of tomorrow.

The program will be under the direction of Panel of American Women which is a national inter-racial, inter-religious organization of women which includes both homemakers and professional women.

Fee for the seminar is \$4 for three sessions or \$3 for YWCA members and early registration is suggested by calling the Y at 537-6500.

The YWCA is a Torch Drive Agency.

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