

Rabin mourned as a 'soldier for peace'

By PEAL AND MARIONA
STAFF WRITERS

Slain Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is being mourned and remembered throughout suburban Detroit as a soldier who became a peacemaker, a tough politician whose death sends a troubling message to people in all nations.

Remembering a meeting with Rabin almost 30 years ago, Rabbi Ely Spectre of Adat Shalom Synagogue, Farmington Hills, recalled his surprise at seeing the former military leader openly shedding tears after a particularly moving religious service.

"It was after the Six Day War and I think it shows you the kind of man he was," Spectre said. "I think it was that inner sensitivity that made him so effective in his role as a soldier who worked for peace."

Adat Shalom, on Middlebelt, will be the site of a memorial service for the assassinated Israeli leader at 7:30 p.m. tonight.

The service, open to people of all faiths, will be a time to "mourn as a community," said Chris Lewis, director of the West Bloomfield-based Jewish Community Center, where flags are flying at half-staff in Rabin's memory.

"Rabin put his life on the line for peace. And now we must come together as a community as we do in times of joy," she said.

Metro Detroit's large Jewish population is still coming to grips with Saturday's assassination. "It doesn't make sense — a man is dead. I feel remorse and it's unreal," said Commerce Township resident Paul Fink, at the JCC Sunday to work on the center's book fair.

That the assassin was an Israeli is doubly devastating, said Farmington Hills residents Herb and Sandy Feinstein.

"Here was a man dedicated to peace and to think that it was one of our own. . . ." Herb Feinstein said.

For Southfield community relations director Nimrod Rosenthal, an Israeli native with strong ties to his homeland, Rabin's assassination was "an unbelievable tragedy."

"Israel is so well known for its security against outsiders, yet this happens from an insider," said Rosenthal, whose sister called with the news from Israel even before it broke on U.S. television.

"People in Israel must come together. Politicians must tone down their rhetoric," Birmingham businessman Larry Sherman, a frequent visitor to Israel, recalled his trip there this spring as a quiet, serene time.

"Nothing that happens in Israel is a total surprise, emotions run high," he said. "Yet, we saw nothing that would indicate this kind of violence."

Sherman expressed no fears about returning to Israel.

"I always feel safe when I'm there," he said. Rabin was fatally wounded at a peace rally in Tel Aviv, the nation's capital. A government spokesman linked his assassin with a right wing faction opposed to Rabin's efforts to make peace with Palestinian Arabs.

Fears for the future of the Middle East peace process were commonly expressed in the hours following Rabin's death.

"We were just at the beginning of the peace process," said Rabbi Arnie Sleutberg of Congregation Shir Tikvah, Troy. "This is very, very painful."

The Rev. James Lyons of Lathrup Village, a Congregationalist minister and founder of the metro area's Jewish-Christian Ecumenical Institute, said the question isn't whether the peace process will continue, but whether the world is headed for a new round of political violence.

"The peace process will continue, but what is troubling is the kind of acts that are being committed, especially in the name of religion," Lyons said. "There's been a real breakdown in civil discourse."

Lyons, who has made 40 trips to Israel said he was always impressed with the intense, though non-violent, political discussions that took place among Israelis.

"Now, that all that has changed and there's a lesson here even for those of us in the U.S. where we are increasingly taking up the gun to solve civil disputes."

Southfield resident Sylvia Stern said she was praying for the President Clinton during his trip to Israel for today's state funeral.

"I'm very concerned about his own (Clinton's) safety," said Stern, who was to meet with the president today during a now-canceled get-together with grassroots Democratic party workers at Cobo Hall.

"You would hope this tragedy would get people to turn away from violence," she said.



Arraignment: Itsomi Koga, who is charged with first-degree murder in the death of her infant son, listens to Japanese interpreter Yoshiko Gingerich during arraignment proceedings before Judge Fred Harris in 47th District Court Friday.

Mother faces murder charge

Postpartum depression and isolation might be the reasons behind the death of an infant in Farmington Hills. The child's mother is charged with first-degree murder.

By BILL COULTANT
STAFF WRITER



In the early Thursday gloom, a desperate 9-1-1 call signaled the death of a newborn that brought attention from half a world away to the woman accused of his premeditated murder.

Less than 48 hours after the death of 28-day-old Tomayuki Koga, his 34-year-old mother Naomi stood, pale with eyes downcast, as she was charged with first-degree murder Friday afternoon before 47th District Court Judge Fred Harris.

Bond was denied and a preliminary examination was set for Nov. 17.

But the case has again spotlighted the dangers of postpartum depression, both to an infant and his mother.

The woman, who lived with her sister Midori Tagasaki, 41, and her husband Akhiro, 33, at the Clifton Club Apartments in Northwestern Farmington Hills, had been battling depression under a doctor's care and had been taking medicine for it.

See MOTHER, 2A

Right-to-die activist diagnosed with cancer

By JILL HOCKMAN
STAFF WRITER

A Farmington Hills woman who is one of Michigan's most visible activists in favor of legalizing physician-assisted suicide has been diagnosed with a deadly form of cancer.

Janet Good, 72, who founded Hemlock of Michigan in 1989, has pancreatic cancer. Good said her doctors have predicted that she has less than one year to live.

"I've recovered from the surgery very well, and I'm doing better than most people would expect," said Good. "Pancreatic cancer is as serious as it can get."

Good said she's not concerned about dying.

"I've always known that birth and death are part of living," she said. "But a prolonged extension of the dying is something that I think is hideous."

"My plans are right now quite selfish," Good said. "My quest right now is to find someone or something that will allow me to end my life in a soft way."

Although she is a 25-year supporter of the right-to-die movement, Good said she does not have a stockpile of deadly drugs, nor a doctor who is willing to help her commit suicide.

"What I'm really angry about is the fact that society is telling me 'you can't do that even though you are a rational adult,'" she said.

As founder and longtime president of the state chapter of The Hemlock Society U.S.A., Good has been an advocate for laws that would allow physicians to help terminally ill adults die. She was one of the leaders of last year's unsuccessful effort to put a statewide right to die referendum on election ballots.

Good is also a close friend and supporter of Dr. Jack Kevorkian, a retired West Bloomfield pathologist who is internationally known for his role in consulting with terminally ill patients about suicide.

Good said she will not ask Kevorkian to help her commit suicide.

See ACTIVIST, 7A



Janet Good

Hills voters to make many decisions, Farmington's few

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Candidates, proponents and opponents have spoken. Now it's up to the voters.

Those in Farmington Hills have many decisions to make Tuesday. Those include:

- Who will be the Hills' first directly elected mayor;
- Which of five candidates fills three

- council seats;
- Whether they want to pay 1 mill more in taxes for 10 years to upgrade fire and police services; and
- Whether council vacancies should be filled at the August primary or November general election rather than

waiting until the next odd year general election.

Paul Sowerby and Aldo Vagnozzi squares off in the race for Hills mayor. The mayor will serve a two-year term.

Vicki Barnett, Nancy Bates, Dennis Fitzgerald, Ben Marks and

Terry Sever are vying for three four-year terms on Hills city council. Bates and Sever are incumbents.

In Farmington, things are less complicated.

Bill Hartsock, Jo Anne McShane and James Mitchell are running uncontested for three seats on city council.

See VOTE, 3A

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Futurist speaker

D avid Pearce Boyder, lifestyle editor of Futurist magazine, will be guest speaker at the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce dinner at 5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 9, at the new Ralish Grill, 12 Mills Road, Farmington Hills. Boyder predicts Americans will have to quickly improve their communication, computation and reasoning skills, if the country is going to increase productivity. Tickets for dinner and speaker are \$50 each. Reservations can be made by calling the chamber office at 474-3550.

Poster note

Farmington Area Counseling Centers announced the winners of its poster contest. They were recognized Saturday at FACC's

FARMINGTON FOCUS

open house. The theme this year highlights a drug-free message to the community as well as FACC's name.

Winners and prizes included: Stephanie Colon, East Middle School, first place, \$75; Melissa Smart, East Middle School, second place, gift certificate at the Magic Planet; Pat Adams, East Middle School, third place, \$25 from LOC Credit Union; and Lindsey Drain, O.B. Doncker Middle School, fourth place, \$25 gift certificate from Harmony House.

Turkey trot

Power Middle School is hosting its traditional "Turkey Trot" at 2:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17. This year's event will benefit seventh grade student Joel DuBuc, who has leukemia and is recovering from bone marrow transplant surgery.

Marathon runner Cheryl Bender has agreed to run in DuBuc's name in the Honolulu Marathon Dec. 10. Bender needs to raise \$3,000 to enter the marathon, which features 3,000 runners competing for the National Leukemia Society of America. Donations can be mailed to Power Middle School, 24740 Rhinewood, Farmington 48335. Checks should be made out to the National Leukemia Society of America. For information, call the school at 452-5822.