

## He wants to give youth values

# Rabbi fights to instill tradition

By LYNN ORR

Security suddenly became the primary goal in life for many Jews after the trauma of the depression, World War II, and the Holocaust, maintains Rabbi Chaim Moshe Bergstein.

Consequently the children of the security-conscious generation found values of goodness and tradition superceded by materialism. Set adrift in a world without personal goals—other than making money—the ties between the Jewish youth and his or her heritage weakened.

"A lot of people, particularly the youth, don't identify as strongly as they did 20 years ago," explains Rabbi Bergstein. "We see this as a threat to the vitality of the Jewish community. We're concerned about the apathy of our young people."

He hopes to have a hand in altering that perspective by assisting troubled youth on their way back to traditional values at Chabad House in Farmington Hills.

"We feel our job is to strengthen their identity," says the 32-year-old rabbi who came to the community three months ago to establish a Chabad center.

"We believe people have certain goals to accomplish within their worlds and themselves. There's something more than smoking weed. There's another kind of high within every person. I'm here to answer their

questions and show them an alternative."

CHABAD IS a philosophy, Rabbi Bergstein explains. Inspired by Rabbi Schneur Zalman in the early 18th century, the Chabad-Lubavitch organization is based on Chassidism, a way of life within the Jewish religion. The Chassidic mode stresses strict adherence to Biblical and Rabbinic law and the importance of the individual.

The enthusiasm and faith the Chassidic follower brings to his religion is equal to scholarly learning.

"It wasn't how much you learned but the feeling and sincerity that went along with it," Rabbi Bergstein relates.

A century after Chassidism had spread through much of eastern and western Europe, Rabbi Zalman attracted followers to the Lubavitch movement within the Chassidic form.

"Rabbi Zalman taught that enthusiasm has to come after meditation," Rabbi Bergstein explains. "The individual has to work to inspire himself, but he or she always has a potential for goodness."

Lubavitch emphasizes the intelligent but not necessarily scholarly approach to faith, while the Chassidic movement in general emphasizes enthusiasm, he says.

Lubavitch opposes the concept that modern man has lost his soul. Education within the traditional values of goodness can awaken the "dormant

soul" and potential for good, Rabbi Bergstein explains.

A MAJOR emphasis within the Chabad-Lubavitch organization is the outreach program or Chabad House, where individuals are welcome to talk, consult, and visit with Rabbi Bergstein and get an understanding of the way of life he shares with his family.

At Chabad House, he hopes to help troubled youth realize their goals in life by offering a personal kind of communication available at any time.

Because many youth object to organized religion, he doesn't push the rituals of Jewish tradition unless a youth is ready to accept them. Rather, informal classes and counseling are his tools.

"We stress the concept of doing things intelligently," he says. "How can you be high on enthusiasm without taking something? Some of them have never been exposed to traditional values. I invite them to my home, they can observe the customs, ask questions and have their questions answered."

And Rabbi Bergstein attempts to look behind the superficial questions, to gain their confidence and become a friend. He wants to hear what they have to say about themselves, while showing them an alternative lifestyle and the importance of their Jewish ancestry.

HE CONDUCTS classes with about

10 persons currently and holds little doubt that the number will grow in the future. One scholar told him that there were two familiar things in most parts of the world—Coca-Cola and Lubavitch.

"It's our job in Lubavitch to reach out and bring our people back to their roots. For a Jew, being Jewish can be exciting, but it needs exposure. A person can't be a strong anything without participating. The trouble is that people are too withdrawn or isolated to think they can participate."

Any who would like information concerning services or any programs at Chabad House may call 626-6240.

A former teacher in Boston, Rabbi Bergstein trained at another type of rabbinical institute before he went to Israel in 1964. There he joined the Chabad-Lubavitch movement and studied from 1964-68. He was one of a group of 30 foreign students who remained in Israel during the war. He was ordained by the Central Rabbinical Institute in New York and chose to do ministry in the U.S. "because I felt I could relate more to people here," he says.

He lives in Farmington Hills with his wife Chaya Devorah, and children Yitchock, Hadassah, and Doba. He works long hours, he says, and has one goal—"that 10 years from now, the Jewish community would be stronger and more viable than when I came."

## Dark horse Republican fights for recognition

By JACKIE KLEIN

Markus Simon, Republican challenger in the 15th district state senate race, says modifying the Single Business Tax and trimming government fat are top priorities.

The 69-year-old attorney who lives in Southfield, maintains the Single Business Tax should be revised before it creates an even more severe loss to small business.

"Many labor-intensive businesses in the state are borderline or even operating in the red," Simon said. "A tax related more directly to profits would be more equitable. Corporations may scream, but labor-intensive means jobs."

Simon said he favors greater citizen participation in government allocation budgets. Governments and the people should make hard choices to make vital programs possible without more

taxes, he maintains.

"I'm against state mandated programs that must be paid for by cities without a vote of the people who will bear the burden," he said. "I'm for the Headlee tax limitation proposal because it makes sense. I'm against Tish's plan because it would only create an increased income tax."

"HEADLEE's proposal is a compromise. But even with that, we must learn to budget, allocate and make choices. We must provide for education, the aging population, the indigent and for safety in the streets."

Simon claimed he isn't affiliated with any pressure groups and speaks his mind even if he treads on Republican toes.

The candidate maintains the PBB problem was mishandled by Gov. William Milliken. Because there was no

watchdog, he contended, the problem of tainted cattle kept growing. He said he believes farmers should be compensated for lost cattle which should be burned, not buried.

Simon favors establishment of a sentence review board which is in effect in 16 other states.

"Judges aren't emperors and they often impose inequitable sentences," he maintained. "Let the punishment fit the crime and the criminal. It shouldn't be necessary for alert newspapers to prevent rapists from getting probation or drug pushers and violent criminals from benefiting by pressures."

"Uneven sentences cause major problems to prison authorities. We don't need more expensive prisons, but

we could use halfway houses for offenders who aren't menaces to society. Pot should be decriminalized. You make an ass of a law you can't enforce."

"CRIMINALS who plead guilty to charge a .d sentence plea bargaining shouldn't have the right of appeal without good cause. State paid lawyers and related expenses cost taxpayers more than \$4 million a year."

On proposed state land use legislation to determine future public and private development, Simon claimed the proposal sounds good but could contain hidden problems. The plan, he said, may undercut local zoning and land use provisions.

Simon said he believes public employee strikes should continue to be

classified as illegal in Michigan.

"Public employees entered into government service knowing the tremendous benefits and job protection they would gain," he said. "These gains are in return for an absolute 'no

strike' clause. When public employees strike, the people suffer. Services are lost but taxes aren't reduced."

Simon said he can afford to be a full-time legislator always available to his constituents.

## Meeting agenda set for tonight

Following is the list of agenda items planned for discussion at tonight's Farmington Hills council session. The meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. in city council chambers at the corner of Eleven Mile and Orchard Lake Road.

- Public hearing on sanitary sewer improvement in Glen Oaks subdivision at Eastfield and Greening, from Bond to Ravine.
- Public hearing on sanitary sewer improvement in Franklin Oaks subdivision on Rockledge.
- Public hearing on sanitary sewer improvement in Supervisors Middlebelt and Ten Mile subdivision on

Stockton.

- Decision to demolish buildings at 2516 St. Francis, 2147 St. Francis, 2116 Ontago, 20918 Ontago, and 21824 Wheeler.

- Consideration of enactment of city code regarding swimming pool fences.
- A report by the Housing and Building commissions on senior citizen housing.

- Consideration of proposal from the government affairs consultant regarding search for a city manager.
- A request by the Farmington Area Jaycees to conduct their annual

(Continued on page B3)



MARKUS SIMON

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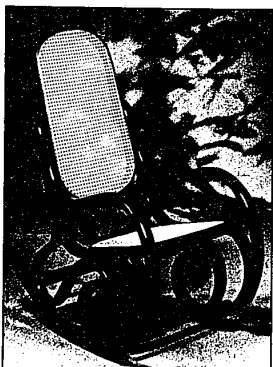
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