

# Study of Hebrew fascinates many at Community Center

In steady dependable manner they come. Two hours, twice each week. For some, a few months satisfies the need, but for most, it takes several years.

They spend large amounts of time at the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield studying the Hebrew language. The center holds many classes each week in both West Bloomfield and Oak Park to accommodate the demand to master this, the oldest of our spoken tongues.

Some do their study of the Hebrew language by the Habet Ushma method, an audio visual system which uses a tape recorder, filmstrip and Israeli teacher to introduce a fictional cartoon family, or Simon Tov, a more advanced system that introduces students to the varied accents of real Israelis whose voices have been recorded.

The participants are as diversified as any community of people would create: High school and college students, homemakers, retired folks, and

physicians. There's a photographer, a psychologist, a community affairs volunteer, a car salesman, an attorney—all bound by the insistent desire to learn spoken Hebrew.

This is not the kind of desire that is satisfied by a few simple phrases that could take one through a touring situation.

"When I go to Israeli parties, I want to know what they are saying," reports one student.

"We visit Israel often and it makes it nice to be able to talk to my friends," says Judy Frankel of West Bloomfield. "I don't want to be the outsider," says Judy Fox of Farmington Hills.

"Most of the students who come have a certain reason," said Dafna Feldman, a Hebrew teacher since 1970. Some want to prepare for an ally, others may be moving to Israel or have a son or daughter living there or they have a child in a Hebrew day school.

Or they wish to understand the Sab-

bath service better.

"But, I don't think that's all there is to it, for there are students who are fluent in the language and they still come."

FROM THE VERY first day in class the student speaks and is spoken to in Hebrew.

"We are put right into the language; it's an easy way to learn," reports Ms. Fox.

Since these Habet Ushma method classes are not in a competitive environment, the student doesn't feel uncomfortable or pressure at the inevitable mistakes, lapses of memory, or even lack of preparation. Paula Jorne, of Birmingham says, "I come to something that's very different from anything else that I do. It's relaxing."

The class environment is part of the explanation for why these people persist in their study. A degree of intimacy in the classroom begins to supplement the original goal.

"The Hebrew classes are more than just learning the language," begins Reuven Lefovitz, the slushy, or Israeli, in charge of this aspect of the Jewish experience in this community. "They become a social group, they come once or twice a week, talking in Hebrew, practicing the language, and they meet one another."

Mrs. Jorne, a practicing psychologist with the Parent Youth Development Service of Farmington Hills, said she has found "a need for a sense of belonging, a sense of rootedness, and a sense of identity. People are trying to say that is mine, I came from that and that has some meaning for me."

BEN ZION LUBIN of Birmingham agrees.

"It is my people's language," he says simply, and Esther Dines of Southfield reiterates. "This is the tongue of my people. There is no other language that I can think of that would mean more to me than Hebrew."

The students are aware that the Hebrew language connects one Jew with the next, enabling a Jew to enter

any Jewish house of worship in the world and participate fully with his fellow Jews.

"Basically it is a very strong tie with your religion," states Donna Phillips, of Southfield, "Hebrew gives a bigger dimension to my study of Judaism."

"Hebrew is the common thing among the Jews," is the way Ms. Feldman puts it.

The class atmosphere makes the teacher the connector between those who can speak and those who wish to, and that situation has led to a problem and a new approach to teaching.

Called Simon Tov, it lessens the impact of the individual teacher, as well as lifting the constraints of the Habet Ushma method.

Habet Ushma is an excellent method of introducing the language to non-speaking Hebrew students, explained Reuven, but once a student has established some proficiency in the language, he needs a broader alternative.

In Simon Tov, genuine Israelis are used with all their various accents from Yemenite, German, Hungarian, to American. The method gives the advanced student practice in hearing the fluent language.

In addition, this method provides the student with other experiences and encounters with the language. A series of video-taped broadcasts follow the main character, Simon Tov, which means a good sign, through various situations in a city, a hotel, an airport, a farming community, looking for a job, meeting a girlfriend. Through the use of a video-tape, the encounters are as life-like as possible.

Students are introduced to new vocabulary and given 30-minute video-situations to view. These situations are then used by teacher and student to develop both language and understanding.

In Israel, this method is used to teach the new immigrants. Reuven feels that "after a student has gone through Habet Ushma and Simon Tov, he should be able to speak with anyone in Hebrew."

Shalom!



Reuven Liebovitz, director of Hebrew department at the Jewish Community Center, discusses plans for Simon Tov with Dafna Feldman, teacher.

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1. Change in bowel or bladder habits.
2. A sore that does not heal.
3. Unusual bleeding or discharge.
4. Thickening or lump in breast or elsewhere.
5. Indigestion or difficulty in swallowing.
6. Obvious change in wart or mole.
7. Nagging cough or hoarseness.

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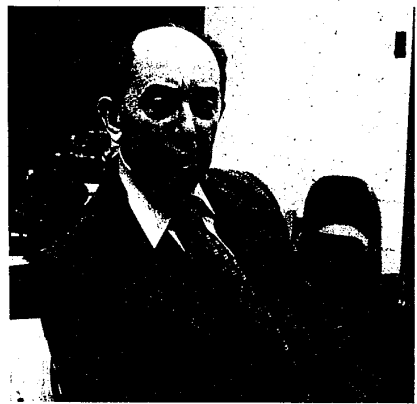
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David Goldberg of Southfield finds learning the language of his forefathers well worth the struggle.

Story and photos by Patricia Bordinan

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<p><b>NATIVITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH</b> THE JORDAN CHURCH 2127 N. 16 Mile Rd. Between Fairview and Orchard 648-5777 SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:30 A.M. &amp; 10:30 A.M. Sitter and Church School at 10:30 Pastor John C. Froeseburg</p>	<p><b>BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> A.L.C. 5631 North Adams Road WINTER SCHEDULE 8:15 AM Morning Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Worship Communion 1st Sunday Fred W. Maclean, Pastor Doreen E. Schuler, Pastor MI 6-5241 MI 6-5242</p>	<p><b>Church is for Everyone!</b> <b>SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS</b> LUTHERAN CHURCH 10000 E. 11 Mile KROGER HILLS SUNDAY WORSHIP 11 AM Pastor Jeff Barry 478-2338 Lance R. Jennings, Pastor 822-8232 373-8864 Sunday School and Bible Education 8:00 AM Worship at 10:00 AM Come Join Us Everyone Welcome</p>	<p><b>Bethlehem Lutheran Church</b> 35300 Eight Mile Road Farmington Hills EINO M. TUORI, PASTOR 474-2327 Worship &amp; Sunday School 10:30 A.M.</p>
<p><b>St. John American Lutheran Church</b> 23715 Gill Road Farmington Church 8:30 &amp; 11:00 AM Worship 9:40 Sunday School Nursery at 11:00 Service 474-0584</p>	<p><b>NORTHBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> 14 Mile and Lehigh Roads Morning Worship and Church School 9:30 &amp; 11:00 Pastors: R. E. Kent E. W. Dunn Phone: 642-0700</p>	<p><b>FRANKLIN COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> United Methodist 20000 E. 11 Mile at Fairview 9:15 &amp; 11:15 Services of Worship Nursery Care 10:25 Adult Study Class 11:15 Sunday School Nursery thru 6th grade Senior Minister Pastor B. B. Brown Associate Minister J. Chester Shuster</p>	<p><b>Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church</b> 25225 Middlebelt Rd. Farmington Hills 477-1677 Rev. S. J. Anthony, Th.B., Priest 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Divine Liturgy English Sermon "Visitors Always Welcome"</p>
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<p><b>First Baptist Church</b> Bates and Waco, Birmingham, Mich Robert G. McDowell, Minister Dore W. Sims Homer J. Armstrong, Executive Church School 9:45 AM Worship 11:00 AM</p>	<p><b>Bloomfield Hills Christian Church</b> The Community House 380 South Bates, Birmingham Sunday 10:10 A.M. Bible School 11:00 A.M. Worship 6:00 P.M. "Prayer Service" Wednesday 7:15 P.M. Bible Study 645-1201</p>	<p><b>NORTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH</b> 26275 Northwestern Highway near Lahser Southfield Mich. Phone EL-6160 Come and Join Us for a Challenging Faith Education Experience Every Sunday Morning Rev. Paul H. Young, Jr., Pastor Dr. Harry M. Langford, Music Dir. Rev. David Howell, D.C.E. Bible Study 9:00 AM Morning Worship 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Ample Parking Nursery Care No Stairs* Provided</p>	<p><b>CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER</b> 18140 Cornell Rd. Southfield 268-4418 Sunday Services 9 &amp; 10:30 AM 10:30 Prayer Book Services Only</p>
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<p><b>"Rejoicing in Hope"</b> Dr. Bartlett L. Hess 7:00 p.m. Moishe Rosen Jews for Jesus Ministry Wednesday School of Christian Education Family Dinner 6:00 p.m. Classes &amp; Choirs 7:00 p.m. Activities for All Ages 9:30 Sunday Service Broadcast over WUZZ-FM 103.5 Nursery Provided at All Services</p>	<p><b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FARMINGTON</b> Richard Duncan, Pastor - Phone 474-0350</p>	<p><b>EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 10925 W. 16 Mile, Birmingham SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:15 AM Family Learning Hour 9 AM Morning Worship 10:15 AM Mid Week School Wednesday 6:30 PM Pastor W. E. Wink 645-0900</p>	<p><b>Christian Science Churches</b> FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST BIRMINGHAM 191 Chester at Willets SUNDAY SERVICES 10:30 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY TESTIMONY MEETING 8:00 P.M. CHILD CARE ROOM Sunday 10:15 A.M. Wed. 7:45 P.M. READING ROOM * 355 East Maple * 642-7935 Open Mon &amp; Tues. 9:30-5:30 &amp; 7-9 Wed &amp; Sat 9:30-5:30 Thurs &amp; Fri 9:30-9:00 except Sunday and holidays FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST FRANKLIN-MEADOWLAKE Maple at Inkster SUNDAY SERVICES 10:30 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY TESTIMONY MEETING 8:15 P.M. CHILD CARE ROOM Sunday 10:15 A.M. Wed. 7:45 P.M. READING ROOM in Pine Lake Mall * 851-7740 Orchard Lake Rd. at Lone Pine Rd Open Mon, Tues. Wed. Sat 10:00-5:30 Thurs &amp; Fri 10:00-9:00 All are welcome at our Church Services and the Reading Rooms</p>