

Cantor Blank will celebrate 90th birthday

By MARGARET MILLER

Henry J. Blank, who will be honored by his Livonia Jewish Congregation on the occasion of his 90th birthday Feb. 11, has been a cantor for 70 of those 90 years.

Actually, his career as a singer spans 84 years. He remembers he was only six years old when his father, cantor in the Russian town of Kishinov, took him along when he went to sing for High Holy Day services.

Through that long career he has served congregations in Detroit and Los Angeles, Livonia and Trenton, many places around the country.

And through the years of singing—82 of them, anyway—he has the same accompanist, his wife, Louise, whom he married in 1916. She will be by his side, as always, when the local congregation offers its birthday congratulations with a 7:30 p.m. reception in the LJC synagogue located at 31840 W. Seven Mile.

Ribbi Martin Gordon will give the invocation for that event, and Cantor Blank's longtime friend, Cantor Larry Vieder, president of the Cantors' Council of Detroit, will be the speaker. The honoree is particularly proud that 13 Detroit area cantors, all members of the council, will be present for the occasion.

Cantor BLANK left his home village near the Romanian border to head for this country when he was 20 years old.

Why? "Who did not want to come here then?" he asked. Others in his family emigrated from Russia, too. An uncle, Leon Blank, became one of the best-known actors in the Yiddish theater, and a brother, also Leon, was De-



Cantor Henry Blank is accompanied by his wife, Louise, in one of their frequent home music sessions. (Staff photo by Bob Woodring)

troit representative of the defunct newspaper, "Jewish Daily Day."

He also has two brothers in Jerusalem, one of whom is a dean of the Yeshiva there.

Arriving first in New York, he soon went on to the Detroit area, and it was

here that he married Louise, who grew up in Buenos Aires and graduated from the music conservatory there.

"We met because she was both my sister-in-law and my niece by marriage," he said, then explaining that his younger brother had married her mother.

A cantor's life is one of "a lot of traveling," the Blanks said. He served a number of congregations including Beth Moses in Detroit and a large synagogue in Los Angeles.

The couple had two sons, Sinai and Marvin, and when they married and headed for the western suburbs the elder Blanks took up residence in Livonia. The cantor's talents went to the new Livonia Jewish Congregation.

"I was almost retired then," he remembers, "but a cantor was needed." He put in two years with a

congregation in Trenton, but then came back to Livonia—"I had really never left the town."

RETIREMENT came only last year, when Henry Blank became cantor emeritus for the Livonia Jewish Congregation.

But retired isn't exactly the word to describe this couple. "I should have so much energy," is how one LJC member would put it.

There are regular visits to the Friends Manor in Southfield and occasional ones to its parent institution in Detroit, to lead services for the elderly Jews there and read to them.

They also visit the elderly residents of the Franklin Manor. They participate in special services and put on programs. Cantor Blank has remained an active member of the cantors' association.

Moral perspectives

Predictions may be off the mark

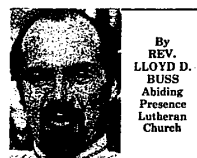
There was a time when churches would conclude their program announcements for the week with the phrase "Deo Volente," or "D.V."

Meaning "God Willing," the phrase was a constant reminder that whatever activities were planned for the week, they would in the final analysis be subject to what God had in mind. Most functions were always held as scheduled, but enough were either cancelled or re-arranged to mark well this usage.

It's not such a strange idea. Financial reports are not merely received and formally adopted by governing bodies. They are approved subject to audit, which means that final acceptance is contingent on a thorough examination verifying the conclusions.

I think that every weather forecast ought to include some sort of statement, or warning that the predictions can be either right or wrong depending on the way the weather develops. The ominous predictions of blizzards and other forms of extreme conditions during these past weeks created a type of response that raises the question of accountability. Impossible though it be to effect any degree of certainty in such an art as weather forecasting, a good number of assumptions have been allowed to accumulate that suggest it can be done, and is being done.

I believed all the predictions made about the snowfall for this area because I wanted to. And thus, I never challenged them in any way. Certainly there is nothing consequential about



By REV. LLOYD D. BUISS
Abiding Presence Lutheran Church

that, except as it illustrates a proclivity of human nature to accept what one is told, particularly if told often enough and as convincingly as the forecasters were last week.

If what the anthropologists assert is true, that absolute truth is what people believe absolutely, then we need to include in our transactions of life the reminders of our own mortality and mutability.

There are a good number of things that would be more disastrous for us than unfulfilled predictions about the weather. Losing a day to sit by the fire is hardly noteworthy.

But change the subject to something like this: "The Seafarer project will not be built in the Upper Peninsula," and the reality of the matter turns grim.

Alice in Wonderland said she could make words mean whatever she wanted them to mean, and believe six impossible things before breakfast. But that's a fairy tale, isn't it? Caveat emptor.

Stokes speaks in Farmington

Rick Stokes, San Francisco attorney and gay activist, will lead a public forum at 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, at the University Hills Christian Reform Church, 26711 Farmington Road, Farmington.

The session, to be sponsored by the Michigan Organization for Human Rights, also will include a prayer service under auspices of the Metropolitan Community Church. A wine and cheese reception also is planned.

The public is invited and admission is \$4, payable at the door.

Stokes recently was considered as a replacement for one of the two supervisory vacancies that resulted from the assassinations of San Francisco mayor George Moscone and supervisor Harvey Milk.

He recently appeared in a film titled "The Word Is Out."

Launces greet at Meadow Brook

Jimmy and Brigitte Launce will lead off mid-winter celebrity time at Meadow Brook Hall, greeting guests during tours at the 100-room Tudor mansion on the campus of Oakland University, on Sunday, Jan. 28.

In addition to conducting a daily show on WJR radio, Launce is currently starring in "The Owl and the Pussycat" at the

Somerset Theatre. Visitors to the hall will recognize Brigitte Launce from her appearance on fashion pages of newspapers and magazines.

Celebrities scheduled for subsequent Sundays are Charlie Gehringer of baseball fame and weatherman Sonny Eliot. Others will be announced later.

Tours start at 1 p.m. each Sunday with the last tour at 4 p.m. Food service is available for those who wish to have dinner in the Christopher Wren Dining Room or lighter refreshment in the Wilson Room.

Your Invitation to Worship

For Church Directory Information
Please Call Pat 644-1100 Ext. 217

NATIVITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
2125 W. 14 Mile Rd.
Between Laker and Orchard
SUNDAY WORSHIP
8:30 A.M. 9:30 A.M.
St. John and Church School at 12:30
Rector: John C. Frobenberg

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
A.L.C.
5631 North Adams Road
WINTER SCHEDULE
8:15 A.M. Morning Service
9:30 A.M. Sunday School
11:00 A.M. Morning Worship
Communion 1st Sunday
Fred W. Maclean, Pastor
Diane F. Schuler, Pastor
MI 65041 Phone 642-5124

St. John American Lutheran Church
22225 Gt. Road Farmington
Charles F. Foster, Pastor
8:30 A.M. Sunday School
9:40 A.M. Sunday School
Nursery at 11:00 Service
474-0584

St. Andrew Lutheran Church
6255 Telegraph Rd.
Birmingham is a village
WORSHIP SERVICE
8:15 A.M. 9:30 A.M.
9:30 A.M. Sunday School
11:00 A.M. Morning Worship
Communion 1st Sunday
Charles W. Foster, Pastor
MI 65041 Phone 642-5124

First United Methodist Church
1589 West Maple at Pleasant
Ministers: James W. Wright, G. Bryn Evans
Thomas H. Beven Harold E. Weemhoff
Church Services 9:30, 9:30, & 11:00 a.m.
Church School 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.
Nursery Care Provided
Nursery School: Monday through Friday
9:30-11:30 a.m.

First Baptist Church
Main and West, Farmington, Mich.
Pastor: Dr. W. W. Smith
"Home of a Loving Family"

Bloomfield Hills Christian Church
The Community House
380 South Dunes, Birmingham
Sunday 10:10 A.M.
Bible School
11:00 A.M. Worship
8:00 P.M. "Prayer Service"
Wednesday 7:15 P.M.
Bible Study
645-1202

WARD UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LIVONIA
Farmington Road & Six Mile Road 422-1150
Worship & Sunday School 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.
"Match Others' Moods"
Dr. Bartlett L. Hess
7:00 p.m.
"The Jeers, Tears and Cheers of Leadership"
Rev. L. Edward Davis
Ordination and Installation of Elders and Deacons
Wednesday School of Christian Education
Family Dinner 6:00 p.m. Classes & Choirs 7:00 p.m.
Activities for All Ages
9:30 Service, Broadcast over WMUZ-FM 103.5
Nursery Provided at All Services

CLARENCEVILLE UNITED METHODIST
20300 Middlebelt, Livonia 474-3444
Pastor Gerald Fisher
9 a.m. First Worship Service 10:15 a.m. Second Service of Worship
7 p.m. Sunday Evening Service
7:30 p.m. Wed. The Midweek Service
Nursery Provided at All Services

NORTHBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
14 Mile and Laker Roads
Morning Worship and Church School
9:30 & 11:00
Pastors: B. K. Kent E. W. Dunn
Phone 642-0900

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION L.C.A.
Farmington Hills
Sunday School 9:45 AM
Wed. 4:45 PM
Sunday Worship 11 AM
Pastor: Jeff Harty
478-3335

ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
151 E. Square Lake Road
Bloomfield Hills
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
336-5233
Minister: Dr. Roger (Ira)son
Church School 9:45 AM
Worship Service 11:00 AM
Pastor's Care
10 AM - Christian School

Solemn United Church of Christ
151 E. Square Lake Road
Bloomfield Hills
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
336-5233
Minister: Dr. Roger (Ira)son
Church School 9:45 AM
Worship Service 11:00 AM
Pastor's Care
10 AM - Christian School

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
Lutheran Church
23225 Laker Road
Livonia at 9 miles
9:30 AM - 10:45 AM
10:45 AM - 11:00 AM
The Service
The Rev. L. Alden Erickson

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
33225 Laker Road
Livonia at 9 miles
9:30 AM - 10:45 AM
10:45 AM - 11:00 AM
The Service
The Rev. L. Alden Erickson

First Church of God
Farmington Hills
25717 Power Road
Walter M. Kirby, Pastor
Personnel 478-6416
Church School
Morning Worship
Evening Service
Wednesday Prayer
9:45 AM - 11:00 AM
11:00 AM - 11:30 AM
7:00 PM - 7:30 PM
7:30 PM - 8:00 PM

CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
Episcopal
18140 Cornell Rd.
Southfield
362-4418
Sunday Services 8 & 10 A.M.
10:30 Prayer Book
Services Only

Worship at the Church of Your Choice
FARMINGTON HILLS CHRISTIAN CENTER
"Droke Rd. at Freedom"
Rev. Edmund Luther Pastor
9:45 AM - Sunday School
10:45 AM - Worship
7:30 PM - Revival Rally
Thursday 7:30 PM
Affiliated with the Assemblies of God

First Baptist Church of Farmington
Richard Duncan, Pastor - Phone 474-0350
33400 SHAWANESSEE
GRAND RIVER FARMINGTON ROAD
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 a.m.
MORNING WORSHIP 11:00 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE 7:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00 p.m.

COVENANT BAPTIST
Covenant is a church where Christian Education is important. There is a place for you and your family to study and grow.
Church School 9:45
Worship 11 AM & 6:30 PM
565-7771
3600 W. Maple Rd.
W. Bloomfield, Mich. 48033
"Home of a Loving Family"
855-9191

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
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"

FARMINGTON HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH
28301 Middlebelt Road, 1/4 Mile N. at 12 Mile
A FULL SERVICE CHURCH
SUNDAY
GRADED BIBLE SCHOOL 9:45 AM
WORSHIP SERVICES 11 AM and 6 PM
CHILDREN'S CHURCH 11 AM
WEDNESDAY FAMILY NIGHT 7:30 PM
Douglas B. Brown, Pastor
Nursery Provided at All Services
851-0310
Ample Parking C.B.A. Affiliated No Steps

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod
12 Mile & Farmington Roads
Behind Crowley Y
The Rev. R.A. St. Pierre, pastor
Sunday Worship 8:30 and 10:45 A.M.
Sunday School and Bible Class 9:30 A.M.
Church Phone: 553-3380

Christian Science Churches
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 8:15 P.M.
CHILD CARE ROOM Sunday 10:15 A.M. Wed. 8:00 P.M.
READING ROOM at 355 East Maple • 644-7935
Open Mon & Tues 9:30-10:30 A.M.
Wed & Sat 9:30-10:30 Thurs & Fri 9:30-9:00
except Sunday and holidays
FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST
FRANKLIN-MEADOWLAKE
Maple at Inlander
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. 8:00 P.M.
READING ROOM in Pine Lake Mall • 651-7740
Orchard Lake Rd. at Lone Pine Rd.
Open Mon., Tues., Wed., Sat. 10:00-5:30 Thurs. & Fri. 10:00-9:00
All are welcome at our Church Services and the Reading Rooms