

# Students learn the tradition of Passover

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Each spring, the Jewish community looks back at 4,000 years of tradition and relives its liberation from Pharaoh's Egypt.

Passover, which begins after sundown on April 11, commemorates the flight from the Pharaoh and instills a solemn reminder of contemporary oppression through its ceremonial dinner, the seder.

Students at Hillel Day School in Farmington Hills learn about the history and meaning of the celebration from their first attempts at reading.

Each year in the school's 20 year history, the students conduct their own seder in the school's gym in preparation to celebrating the meal with their families.

Friends, parents, brothers, sisters and grandparents crowd into the gym to watch each class sing the songs, recite the questions and answers, and eat the meal which is part of their tradition.

Each portion of the ceremony is designed so the participants can relive the escape from slavery, explained Rabbi Richard Abramson, headmaster of the school.

"It's the retelling of the exodus. It's to get people to physically identify with slavery through a visceral experience." BITTER HERBS, such as horseradish, are reminders of the bitterness of slavery. The unleavened bread of slavery, matzah, is eaten as a reminder of the haste in which the Jews left Egypt.

The haroset, a sweet combination of apples, wine, cinnamon and nuts, has a brown tint to it and symbolizes the mortar used by the Jews in their labors for the Pharaoh.

Green vegetables and eggs represent springtime.

Four cups of wine are drank during the seder. A special cup is placed in the center of the table and is reserved for the prophet Elijah, the messenger appointed to herald the Messiah.

On each plate is a shank bone from a lamb, as a reminder of the lamb which was slaughtered by the Jews so the blood could be used as a sign to the avenging angel to pass over that home.

In the 10th plague to befall the country, the angel slaughtered the eldest son of every Egyptian household to convince the Pharaoh to allow the Jews to leave the country.

The story of the escape is told without special emphasis on one person. Moses led the Jews from Egypt. But in the seder, Moses is overshadowed by the event and by God's actions.

It is written that God will lead 10 pla-



Rehearsing for Passover are (from left) Cindy Friedman, Cheryl Cook and Michele Eichner at Hillel Day School. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

gues on Egypt to convince the Pharaoh to allow the Jews to leave.

"The prophets didn't want hero worship to arise. So God is put in front of the seder," Abramson said.

THE CEREMONY of the seder is made up of passages from the Book of

Exodus and rabbinical commentaries on the text. The narrative, or Haggadah, contains a reading for each member of the household.

The youngest child present asks four formalized questions which call for answers relating to the story of Passover.

After the story is told, the meal is eaten.

After dinner, the songs of celebration are sung. Some of them are counting songs which were sung during medieval times. The songs end on the pious observation that God orders events in the world.

## Kids show stuff at the plate

Boys and girls between the ages of nine and 12 can participate in a pitch, hit and run competition sponsored by the Farmington Hills Park and Recreation Department, major league baseball and the Burger King Corp.

Starting at 10 a.m., May 12, the competition will involve three categories: pitching at a target, hitting for distance and running the bases for speed.

The contest will take place at the city park baseball diamond on Shivessee between Power and Farmington roads.

In pitching, each competitor is allowed three throws into a target 46 feet away. Each successful pitch is worth 50 points.

In hitting, each entrant is permitted three swings, fair or foul, with the longest fair fly counted towards the total point score at one point per foot.

In the running event, a youngster runs the major league distance of 90 feet from homeplate to first base with his or her score determined on a point chart based upon elapsed time.

Registration may be obtained at the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation office, 31555 Eleven Mile or the Burger King outlets at 39206 Orchard Lake Road and 32704 Grand River.

REGISTRATION forms can be obtained until April 30. The activity is nationally sponsored by the National Recreation and Park Association and developed in cooperation with the President's Council of Physical Fitness. For more information call the Parks and Rec office at 474-6115.



Michael Weizman appears exuberant over his seder meal. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

## THE INSIDE \* ANGLE

**DR. SAM PRISK** has a lot of fans in Clarencville. When Inside Angles recently asked who's the mayor of Clarencville it was sure there wasn't any answer. Clarencville is a school district, not a town. But Angles has received a few anonymous communications suggesting the Sam Prisk, a school board member in the Clarencville district for more than 25 years is the mayor of the district. One writer who sent an unsigned missive suggested that Prisk is the "Orville Hubbard of Clarencville." If the name Prisk sounds familiar, Angles reminds readers that Sam is the brother of Farmington School District financial director Bill Prisk.

**BRODHEAD FARMINGTON HILLS** VFW Post 2289 Auxiliary crowded two queens for the 1978-1980 year, recently. Marilyn Cadeau, 1978-79's Miss Americanism crowned her sister Dorothy to hold the title this year. Dayle Churchill was selected Miss Liberty Bell. Both of the women will be guests at the Memorial Day banquet in May and will be featured in the Memorial Day parade.

**THE MICHIGAN CANCER FOUNDATION'S** new Oakland Service Center in Royal Oak is offering free health care examinations this month. Specially trained Oakland County Health Department nurses will conduct a breast care clinic on April 24.

A nurse will meet with each woman, conduct a thorough private examination and teach her what to look for during a self-examination. Foundation pap tests will be conducted April 18. On April 30, dental hygienists who donate their time are providing exams to check for cancer of the mouth. The center is at 4224 Woodward between 13 and 14 Mile in Royal Oak. To schedule an appointment, call 548-4600 on weekdays.

**THE MICHIGAN STINGRAY** Swim Association is sponsoring a five-week "Get in Shape for Summer Swims" program under the direction of the club's assistant coach, Todd Knock. It will be conducted from 4-5 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons beginning April 24 in Harrison High School. Enrollment is \$25 per swimmer. It is open to all summer swim club members or anyone interested in shaping up with summer swimming. For more information call Frieda Rudel, 478-8898, or Joy Stinson at 661-1589.

**AS A RESULT** of a recent policy adopted in Oakland County to acquire or use appropriate works of art in county facilities, artists have loaned more than 100 works of art to be displayed in the Oakland County Service Center. Paintings are now on display in the Oakland County Service Center, including the Prosecuting Attorney's office, the Sheriff's Department and courtrooms. Angles-

figures those are the places where persons need all the distraction they can get.

**IA IS AS** much of a pet lover as the next fancier, but Angles had to look twice at a notice sent out by a humanitarian organization. Members of the organization can carry little cards with them to be read in case of an accident. Modeled after the cards that reveal the carrier wants his eyes donated to science, these cards read, "My pets are alone and in need help." The name and address of a person trustworthy enough to care for the pets is written onto the card. Caretakers of the orphaned pets ought to be able to gain access to the home and should know how to feed and care for the animals. They should know which veterinarian to call. (Angles wonders at such foresight. Some people don't even do this for their children.)

**OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE** Royal Oak campus will hold its fifth annual career day from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on April 6 in buildings A and B. The seminar is designed to introduce future college students to career information and job opportunities. The Royal Oak campus is at 703 South Center. For further information, call Kathleen Lorenzen at 548-1252, extension 73, between 9 a.m. and 10 p.m.

**FOCUS ON LIVING** with cancer will meet at 7:30 p.m., April 12 in the Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road in Farmington. The self-help group brings together patients and family members who have questions or are experiencing problems as a result of living with cancer. For further information call the American Cancer Society, which sponsors the group, at 557-5353.

### DEADLINE

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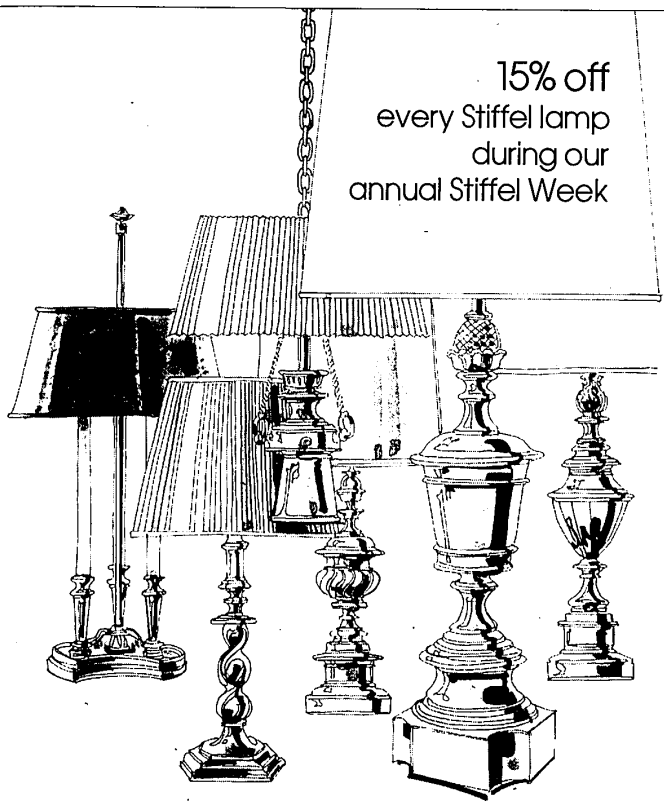
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