

Installation weekend

Rabbi Efry Spectre settles in at Adat Shalom

By LORAIN McCLISH

Congregation Adat Shalom welcomes its new rabbi with a series of events running through the weekend of April 20-21. Some are scheduled only for the congregation; the reception set for Saturday evening is open to the community.

Rabbi Efry Spectre described installation weekend as "my official stamp of approval."

The celebration has been six months in the planning for the bachelor rabbi who came from a congregation of 80 families in Philadelphia to serve the close to 1,000-family membership in the Farmington Hills synagogue.

Becoming acquainted with shops and services in the area as any new resident, Rabbi Spectre says he is still learning his way around the massive Adat Shalom building and grounds on Middlebelt Road and Northwestern Highway.

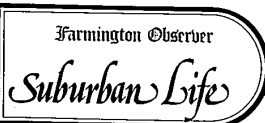
"For a while I felt like Bluebeard's wife and her keys," he said. "Every time I opened a door I never knew what I was going to find behind it."

Among the guests during installation weekend will be Rabbi David Goldstein, whom Spectre served with in Philadelphia, and Rabbi Jules Harlow, a close friend he met during his days at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

There will also be a large representation from the past congregation he served who encouraged him to accept



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the responsibility as spiritual leader for one of the largest congregations in Michigan.

RABBI SPECTRE knew early on that he would pursue a career in some facet of religious education stemming from vacations he spent as a boy in a Hebrew summer camp.

He ultimately returned to summer camp as a music and dramatics counselor and has spent a great deal of his career as a rabbi working with young people.

He has worked both on and off stage as violinist, singer, pianist, actor, writer and director, and encourages teachers for the congregation to dovetail the arts into the young's study of language, Hebrew rituals and customs, and Jewish history.

"When I see a group of young people at Tamarack (a Jewish camp in Michigan) struggle with all the problems of growing up, produce a large repertoire of Hebrew songs and dances,

get in some time for tobogganing, and then stage a Broadway play in Hebrew, I am impressed," he said.

He continued by saying that some of the young people he met years ago in another like camp in Wisconsin's north woods "are now some of our nation's foremost Jewish leaders."

TRAVELING TO Israel is a commonplace event for the rabbi who says he "seems to be there every time there is a war."

Student tours accounted for most of these visits. More recently the trips have been to visit his brother, a rabbi, and his family who chose to make Israel their home.

His most trepidatious adventure there concerned the American college students who had volunteered to work on farms and hospitals during the country's Six Day War. He was on the first plane that left the U.S. for Israel after war was declared and with proper

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Rabbi Efry Spectre will be officially welcomed into the community with a full weekend of events April 20-21 arranged for him by Congregation Adat Shalom.



One used blanket and some donated binding are converted into three crib blankets by Harriet Broders.



One more little outfit is ready for storing, held by Kelly Riddering (at right), as Kaye Baugh completes hand work on another.

Needlework for the needy

Year-round sewing keeps closet bulging

By LORAIN McCLISH

Stockpiling little girls' clothing to be turned over to Farmington Goodfellow's first week of December is the business at hand for 15 women who make up the small club called "Needlework for the Needy."

One closet in Farmington Community Center is already filled with a row of beautiful handmade garments, "which is just about usual for this time of the year," said Mrs. Clarence Stohl who brought the group together.

A few of the charter members began meeting in the center during the winter of 1970 to make curtains for the building when it opened as a community center.

They were given the use of a room in the new center, without charge, to con-

tinue sewing for charity, and have been at work every Thursday ever since.

"We've been told we can use this room for life," said Mrs. Harvey Chapman, who with Mrs. Jus Cohoe, will be co-chairwomen of Needlework for the Needy next season.

BEING CO-CHAIRWOMEN means keeper of the patterns and materials and doing some cutting and sewing machine work at home.

Some sewing machine work, all hand-work, pressing and storing is done during the meetings in Farmington Community Center on meeting days.

In addition to supplying children's and infant's garments to Farmington Goodfellow's, the women have answered requests from Salvation Army Children's Home, Volunteers of America,

American Friends Service Committee, Children's Aid Society, and a group from First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, whose mission work is helping Indians in the Upper Peninsula.

Hinkle's of Farmington, in Downtown Shopping Center, is a big supplier of fabric to the women. The Presbyterian women's group collects useable-sized pieces of material for them, and some fabric comes from friends.

The key word here is useable.

"We can't use scraps," Mrs. Chapman said, "but it is surprising what you can get out of a half yard of 45- or 60-inch material; a shirt or jumper or slacks in a size 2."

The trick, the women said, is having enough variety of useable-sized pieces on hand so there is a decent range to

choose from for a larger sized garment that can be put together with a mix and match system.

SOMETIMES scraps of felt, sturdy cotton print, lace, or the like will be used for trim or applique.

Old blankets have been used to make smaller ones. When reasonable amounts of yarn have been donated it's been used for pieces in a layette.

"But notions are hard to come by," Mrs. Stohl said.

"Soaps, elastic, zippers, thread, bias tape are always in short supply."

And all patterns on hand have been "very well used, over and over again," Mrs. Stohl said.

Persons who wish to join the group, or have something to donate to Needlework for the Needy are invited to call the center, at 474-8404, and leave a message for Mrs. Stohl.

Staff photos by Harry Mauthe



Ann Mercer (at left) and Mae Morcom are big contributors to the 3,200 garments that have been distributed since the inception of Needlework for the Needy.



Mrs. Clarence Stohl, who originated "Needlework for the Needy," served as its chairman for many years.



Every piece of trim that's donated is used to perk up the variety of dresses, blouses and jumpers shown by Elvera Socal.