

Bar Mitzvah by proxy slated at Shaarey Zedek

A young Russian boy will become Bar Mitzvah by proxy thousands of miles from his Moscow home. The ritual will take place Oct. 4 at Congregation Shaarey Zedek.

Members of the Southfield congregation will observe the traditional event whereby a Jewish male, at age 13, becomes a full member of the congregation and may be counted in the Minyan (quorum).

Mikhail Kosharovskiy has attained the age of 13 but is unable to worship freely in the Soviet Union.

To dramatize his plight and to express concern for his well-being and hope for his future, Jeffrey Feldman, son of Beth and Sidney Feldman of Birmingham, will share his Bar Mitzvah day with Mikhail in absentia.

Mikhail's father, Yuli Kosharovskiy, is an electronics engineer. His mother, Inna, is a mathematician.

They applied for emigration to Israel in April 1971 and were refused permission many times. They still await a positive response.

Yuli Kosharovskiy has been harassed

by the Soviet government ever since declaring his intention to leave the country. He is one of Moscow's leading Hebrew teachers with almost 30 regular students who take instruction from him six days a week.

Mrs. Kosharovskiy studied mathematics at the Moscow State University but has been barred from working in her field since the family expressed the desire to live in Israel.

The Kosharovskys have demonstrated remarkable courage. In 1975, he organized a seminar for unemployed engineers, refuseniks whose applications for visas were repeatedly denied.

In 1977, he filed suit against Russian television because of the defamatory nature of a documentary film about Jews in which his name was mentioned. Although his "secrecy" period expired, Kosharovskiy is now being denied permission to emigrate because he has no close relatives in Israel.

Jeffrey Feldman will represent Mikhail Kosharovskiy when called to the Torah on Oct. 4.

Repertory theater sets Sept. auditions

Open auditions for the resident company of professional actors at the Southfield Repertory Theatre are scheduled for 1 p.m. Sunday.

The annual tryouts will take place, by appointment, at the Southfield Department of Parks and Recreation, 26000 Evergreen in the Civic Center.

Appointments can be arranged by phone by calling the Southfield Cultural Arts office at 354-4717, or in person on the day of the auditions at 1 p.m.

Emphasis of the auditions is to attract professional actors.

"We're looking for actors with professional experience or ambition," said Barbara Bean, SRT's artistic director.

"We rehearse our plays for only one week, so we need experienced actors who are ready to work a tough schedule."

No one is excluded from auditioning for the paid positions.

"We leave the decision about auditioning to the individual," Ms. Bean said. "Our policy has always been to keep the doors open to new and vital talent."

SRT is a Michigan non-profit corporation supported in part by the Southfield Arts Council, the city of Southfield and the Michigan Council for the Arts. For further information about the auditions, contact the theater at 356-9115 between noon and 3 p.m.

Jewish life in Arab lands

The Women's Auxiliary of the United Hebrew Schools will hold a luncheon meeting at 12:15 p.m. Oct. 3 at the United Hebrew School building.

Guest speaker Marcel Behar will discuss Jewish life in Arab lands.

The annual donor luncheon, scheduled for 12:15 p.m. Nov. 19, will also be discussed.

The Bell Canto Chorale Society will provide entertainment.

For more information on the meeting to be held at 21559 12 Mile, call 557-2612.

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Oakland girl has face of the '80s

Story: KATHY PARRISH
Photos: DAVID FRANK

As a high school track star, Harriet "Fireball" Strother relied on her legs to take her place.

It never occurred to the Oakland Township resident that her face would someday bring her fame.

"I thought about modeling, but never pursued it," said Michigan's winner in the international "Face of the '80s" contest. Merle Norman Studios and Ford Models sponsored the search for a face exemplifying the "contemporary concept of beauty."

"Now maybe I'll get out there and hustle."

An April Oakland University graduate who is in training to run a Radio Shack store, the 21-year-old entered the competition at her mother's urging. She was one of 50 young women who entered through LaVern's of Rochester.

"Her grandfather always said he'd like to see her on the cover of a magazine," explained Joyce Strother, who discouraged the idea initially so her daughter would finish college.

"I thought this would give her her chance."

Growing up in West Bloomfield and Oakland Township, Ms. Strother was more interested in athletic competition than beauty contests.

RUNNING SINCE fifth grade, she was a member of the boys' track team at Rochester Adams High school in ninth grade.

When the girls' track team was formed the next year, she set a regional record for 100-yard dash and was the only girl from her area to qualify for a state meet.

"I've always been competing with men," recalls the young woman, who admits she lasted only one day on Oakland University's track team, though.

"I was running two miles and everyone else was running 10."

Now that running is so popular, she's switched to weightlifting and roller skating — either around her parents' subdivision or through the local cemetery.

"I just have a good time," explained Ms. Strother, who says her 5-year-old boyfriend has trouble keeping up with her five-mile treks.

A manager trainee at Radio Shack, Livernois and Walton, the green-eyed brunette hopes to be running her own store next year.

She entered the "Face of the '80s" contest as a lark, but has been interested in modeling since she and her sister posed for a van brochure as teen-agers.

"It was great fun and a lot of money," she explained.

AS AN ENTRANT in "Face of the '80s," she received free fingernails, makeup and hairdo. Her only cost was for photographs of herself — a head shot and in a shocking pink swim suit.

"It was fun," said Ms. Strother. "I was walking on clouds for days. I had a feeling about the contest; I just knew it was right."



Harriet Strother holds statewide honors as Michigan's "Face of the '80s."

Although confident she had a good chance of winning, she was philosophical about the contest. "I felt if it worked out, it worked out. When I got the telegram, I hit the roof."

Although she wasn't one of the 12 U.S. finalists and not eligible to compete in the international contest Sept. 29 for a two-year Ford modeling contract, she's hopeful the local win will lead to some modeling.

But since modeling is a short career, she'd like to continue in management — possibly someday in an organization related to fashions or cosmetics.

"I want to deal with people who have pride in themselves," said the young woman, who calls herself the "neatest slob in the world."

"I think it's a very positive field."

A PERSON who yearns for "corporate pressure" and "something hanging over my head — deadlines, whatever," she'd like to live in New York City.

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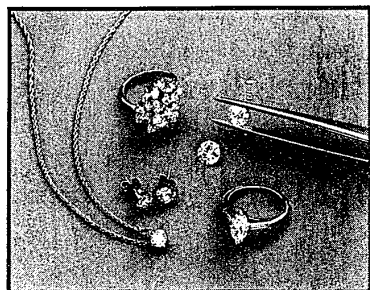
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