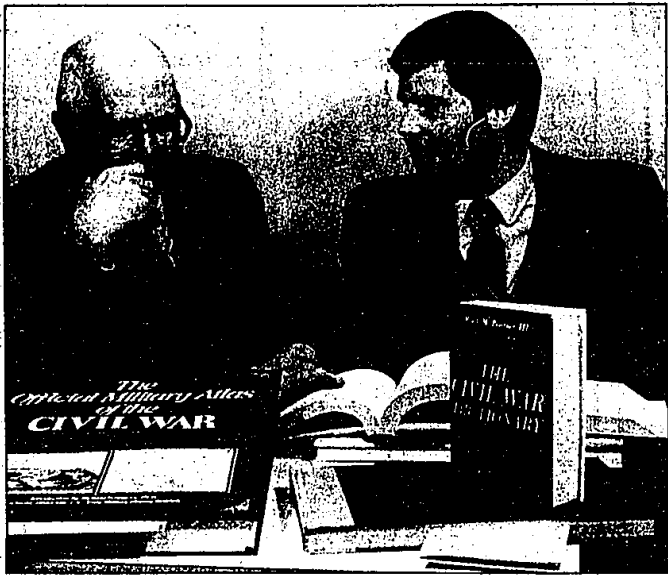


Civil words about the Civil War



Getting ready for the war of words that will take place at the Civil War Conference next weekend at historic Botsford Inn is Joe Comps (left) of Livonia and Deane Blythe of Farmington Hills.

Botsford Inn to host buffs

By Marie McGee
staff writer

CIVIL WAR buffs — 150 strong — will close ranks next weekend in Farmington Hills' historic Botsford Inn for the second Midwest Civil War Conference.

They'll be fighting the famous battles all over again, but this time it'll be a verbal affair, with none of the tragic human conflict that has made the War between the States one of the most studied events in American history.

Calling the shots so to speak at the one-day event will be Joe Comps of Livonia and Deane Blythe of Farmington Hills. Both are members of the host organization, Abraham Lincoln Civil War Round Table of Michigan, one of the oldest such study groups, dating back to the 1930s.

KEY ADDRESSES will be given by two nationally recognized Civil War authorities. One is Matt Switlik, director of the Monroe County Historical Museum, who is considered to be one of the leading authorities on Civil War artillery. Author of "The Complete Camouflier," his narration will be liberally sprinkled with insights on the tactics and effectiveness of Civil War artillery.

The other is Dr. Lloyd Ostendorf, a professional illustrator and authority on Lincoln art.

A break in the speaking format will

A bit of levity will come in the balloting by the conference members as to the best and worst generals of the war.

be provided by Steve Mrozek, curator of the Troy Historical Museum. The only one appearing in full uniform of a Union soldier, Mrozek uses a first-person narrative to describe what it was like to be a soldier in that war. The emphasis is on the last year of the war, and Mrozek's views will be that of a veteran sergeant in the 19th Michigan regiment, which fought in Shiloh, Corinth, Vicksburg and Atlanta.

Other speakers will be Nicky Hughes, "Kentucky: a Border State Goes to War"; and Dick Saldmore, "Lee Wallace and the Old Wound of Shiloh."

COMPS AND BLYTHE promise some fireworks in the one-hour panel discussion that will see four panelists square off in a no-holds-barred debate on the "decisive moment" at Gettysburg.

A bit of levity will come in balloting by the conference members as to the best and worst generals of the war.

The speakers' part of the event is open to the public.



Steve Mrozek of Troy will appear in uniform with his musket. His first-person presentation is based on his research of hundreds of diaries, memoirs, letters and other accounts of western armies.

Painting marks church's anniversary

By Tom Boaz
staff writer

Evanthia Samra, a well-known Farmington artist, has used her talent to help her church celebrate its 25th anniversary.

St. John American Lutheran Church marked 25 years in Farmington last Sunday morning when Samra's painting — a symbolic presentation in acrylics of the anniversary theme: God is Light — Love — Life — was unveiled at both services.

"The congregation broke into applause when it was unveiled," said Marie Walck, the church's director of music and the publicity chairman for the event. "I think everyone was very happy with the painting."

The painting will be hung in the entranceway of the church at 23225 Gill Road.

Selected passages from the Gospel according to St. John form a border for the still-life painting of the elements of the Lord's Supper, bread and wine. A window treatment shows the twisting road to the Crucifixion.

Samra, who lives on Hamlin Court, has won numerous awards for her paintings in recent years. She is a member of the Farmington Area Arts Commission, the Farmington Artists Club and the Farmington Art Foundation.

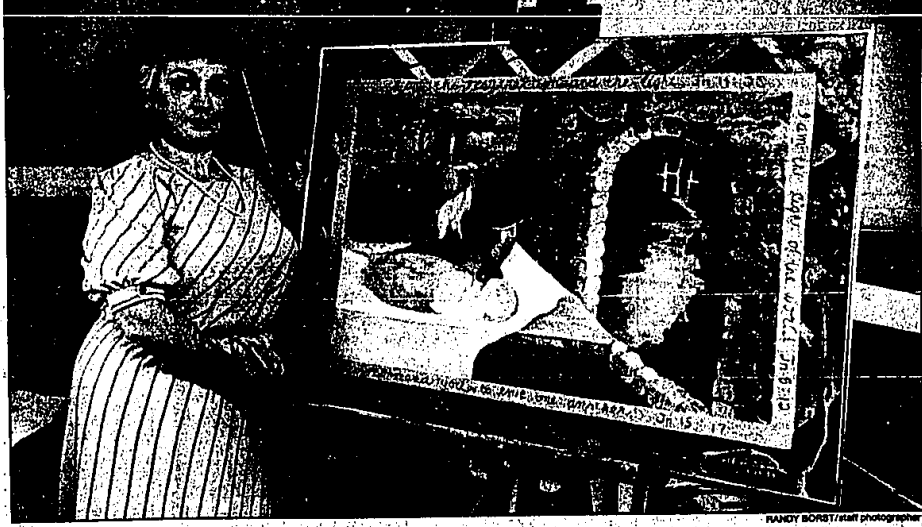
The painting is the second Samra has done for the church. The first was a representation of the cross of Calvary.

ST. JOHN'S anniversary celebration continues this Sunday with a special worship service at 10 a.m. in the recently expanded sanctuary. An anniversary banquet is scheduled for 1 p.m. Sunday at the Glen Oaks Country Club, 13 Mile and Orchard Lake roads, Farmington Hills.

St. John American Lutheran Church held its first worship service Nov. 17, 1957, in the gymnasium of the old Farmington Junior High School. From the original 35 worshippers, St. John's congregation has grown to its present membership of 550.

The official organization of the congregation came on April 28, 1958, and the dedication of the first building came about seven months later. The original building was expanded in 1964 and 1981-82.

The Rev. Charles Fox has been the pastor of the church for 23 years.



Artist Evanthia displays her painting, a contribution to the St. John American Lutheran Church's 25th-anniversary celebration.

Christian meets Jew to share quarters

By Kathy Parrish
staff writer

PUSHED ALONG BY brisk wind at their backs, members of the new Troy Jewish Congregation moved swiftly down Coolidge toward their new place of worship.

The Sunday stroll was not as easy for members of Lutheran Church of the Master, coming from the other direction to greet them.

"We Christians found as we walked against the wind to meet the Jews that it was much easier to walk with them," said Pastor Tom Barrett, hailing the 60 families who will share space with the 146-family Protestant congregation.

of Methodist Church.

"IT'S LIKE FOLLOWING MOSES," observed one Jewish participant as the families set out at 9 p.m. from the church parking lot carrying sacred Torah lent by Temple Beth El in Bloomfield Township.

Singing joyous songs, they walked quickly — stopping only long enough to share the honor of transporting the scroll containing the first five books of the Bible.

At mid-point, members of the two groups moved off the sidewalk as the "Torah and cross meet." Then they all followed Jewish Congregation president Phyllis Wenig and Rael Stranovsky, Lutheran Church of the Master, council member, into the

Protestant church.

Both religious symbols were placed alongside the simple wood altar, where an ark donated by Temple Kol-Ami of West Bloomfield will store the Torah.

After a welcome and Torah reading, the combined worshippers sang Psalm 121 "I was glad when they said unto me 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.'"

"Jews have wandered through the years and in many places," said Wenig, thanking the Lutherans for their hospitality.

"The Jews of Rochester, and Troy and Macomb County now have found a home and for that we are very grateful to you. For that we're a crossing church of 'Shalom.'"

FOLLOWING A PRAYER, the 150

worshippers moved to the parish hall for refreshments, including a white sheet cake decorated with "Shalom," a cross and six-pointed star in bright blue.

Barrett said he learned about the congregation's need for a meeting place from his Troy neighbor Gertrud Braun, who taught him how to run a Jewish seder for Maundy Thursday.

"Our congregation saw this as an opportunity to be intentional about what we say we do," explained the pastor, who in turn shares Braun's story.

"As Christians we pay a lot of lip service to caring and loving, but when it comes down to decisions like this we often back off. We just found out we had something to share."

Wenig, involved with the Troy Jewish

Congregation since it organized about six months ago, expressed pleasure to be part of a community with such ecological spirit. Beth Northminster Presbyterian Church and the Emerson Fellowship Unitarian Church helped get the congregation going.

Emerson provided space for the first service April 23, which was conducted by members of the religious community.

"We're overwhelmed by the number of churches willing to have us share facilities," said Wenig. "So many congregations have helped us out and we appreciate it."

"It makes us proud to be Jews and have our own congregation and proud to be residents of this area."