

Jewish High Holy Days begin Wednesday

According to Jewish tradition, on Rosh Hashanah, the "Book of Life" is opened by God. In the book will be inscribed who will live, who will die, who be born, who will prosper and who will suffer in the coming year.

Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, and Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, are considered with the Sabbath as the most important days of the Jewish calendar.

This year Rosh Hashanah will begin at sundown, Wednesday with the sound-

ing of the ram's horn or Shofar, and be observed through sundown, Friday. It coincides with the first day of the Hebrew month, Tishri, and means "Head of the Year" in Hebrew.

Jews all over the world, with feeling of both solemnity and festivity, will mark the new year 5744, in the synagogues and temples and in their homes as well.

New Year's is an occasion of sharing between families and festive meals are usually planned during which it is customary to dip a piece of apple into hon-

ey to symbolize hopes for a sweet new year.

AT SUNDOWN Friday, Sept. 16, through sundown Saturday, Sept. 17, Yom Kippur will be observed. Jews traditionally undertake a 24 hour period of reflection and fasting from food or drink.

Fasting is the symbol of man's ability to conquer his physical appetite, a demonstration to God that the individual is able to deny himself food and drink and will also try to control selfish desires.

The Kol Nidre is chanted by the congregation's cantor to pray for absolution for the breaking of vows to God.

The period of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is called the Ten Days of Penitence or the Days of Awe. Jews will be absent from work and school on the first day of Rosh Hashanah (for some the second day as well) and on Yom Kippur.

Sukkot, the Festival of Tabernacles and Simchat Torah, the last two days of Sukkot, are dedicated to the glorification of the Torah. Sukkot is the Jewish festi-

val of Thanksgiving marked at the time of the last ingathering of the harvest.

A BOOTH or Sukkah is erected near synagogues and at many homes. This is an improvised structure of boards with a roof of leaves and branches. This is a reminder of the temporary dwellings used by the Israelites during their 40 years of wandering through the desert after their captivity in Egypt.

Symbols of the holiday include the citron (lemon like fruit) and the lulav (a palm branch tied with myrtle and wil-

lows. Both symbolize man's dependence on the soil and obligation to God who causes the earth to be bountiful. Shmini Atzeret, the Eighth Day of Assembly, is the concluding festival of the season and begins on the seventh day after Sukkot begins. On Simchat Torah, a joyous holiday, the everlasting continuity of Judaism is celebrated. The last chapters of the Book of Deuteronomy are read and immediately after, the first chapter of Genesis, a ritual declaring that the Torah is eternal with no real beginning or end.

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Volunteers bring museum gardens to their peak

By Loraine McElish
staff writer

The dedication is paying off in the work to restore the grounds surrounding Farmington Historical Museum to the way they once may have looked when the building was used as a residence for Michigan's governor in the early years of the century.

"The gardens are at their peak now," said Kay Blakeney who coordinates the work of area volunteer gardeners who work singly or in groups on the 2½ acres of landscaped ground.

Blakeney was the first appointee the Farmington Historical Commission named after it took on the responsibility of turning the former Warner mansion into a museum. That was in January, 1981, when she was charged with renovation of the grounds and given the chairmanship of the Farmington Historical Museum Warner Gardens.

In her efforts of rejuvenation she has gotten help from all five area garden clubs, Michigan Regional Lily Society, the Greater Detroit Chrysanthemum Society, Farmington Area Naturalists and City of Farmington Beautification Committee.

In addition help has come from at least 16 Boy Scouts who worked on the grounds while earning their Eagle Scout award. John Grissim, a nationally acclaimed landscape architect who drew up the development plan of the grounds as a gift, and a host of individuals.

The most recent gift for the grounds came early this spring from Fendt Builder's Supply Inc., a Farmington company, which put in a new interlocking Colonial stone driveway which circles about the front of the building.

"AT ALMOST ANY time of any day you can see someone working in the flower beds," Blakeney said. "Garden clubs have taken over a memorial flower bed or the plantings around the house or some special spot to plant and maintain."

"A few individuals have come to lend a hand or some expertise. The Boy Scouts come and go as their hours permit, and every spring for the past three years we've had 30-40 members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints come for our spring cleanup weekends."

While most of these volunteers come and go when it is convenient, Blakeney's Garden Guild, a cadre of about 12 members, have chosen Wednesdays as their day to come in number.

"They come to do whatever has to be done: weeding, planting, edging and just general maintenance," she said.

All of the plantings have been done following Grissim's development plan, which has taken into consideration the gifts of memorial trees that have been given and may be given in the future.

One of the gifts guests will be seeing before the fall is out are four Charleston Battery Benches for the lawn given by the Warner family, representing four generations.

ALL OF THE gardens are marked for those they are dedicated to, or for those who are perpetuating them; and so are the 51 trees and bushes that have been given in memoriam.

Botsford Garden Club cares for the shrubs and the bulbs that skirt the grounds' circle drive.

Farmington Garden Club members are in charge of the Edessa Warner Slocum Herb Garden, named for a charter member of that club.

The tulips that come out in the spring and the geraniums and alyssum that bloom in the summer in the front and around the sides of the house are all the work of Farmington Hills Garden Club members.

The hanging baskets on the porch and the flowers in the garden urns are chosen, planted and maintained by members of Hill and Dale Garden Club.

North Farmington Garden Club cares for the garden of impatiens near the carriage house.

The Marie Walling Parker Rose Garden is cared for exclusively by Betty Beausoleil, a member of the garden guild. The lawn's rock garden is the work of guild member Rosanne Linden, and the fountain garden the work of guild member Hazel Scheideman.

All of the guild members have worked together to build the south lawn rose garden and the porch gardens. Hester and Ray Bodinus created the perennial garden.

"VISITORS ARE always welcome and so is help," Blakeney said. "There is always more work to be done, more flowers to be tagged, more geraniums to be clipped back than our guild has time to do on Wednesdays."

"Some come for two or three hours in the morning. Some bring their lunch and stay for the day. We can use all the gardeners that are willing to join us to lend a hand."

Blakeney will take calls at home, 553-2031.

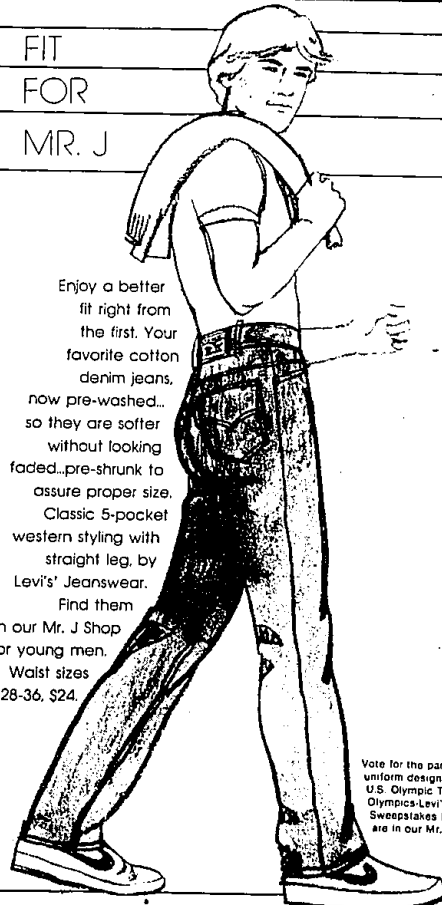


RANDY BORST/staff photographer

The museum's herb garden (above) named in memory of Edessa Warner Slocum, who was a charter member of Farmington Garden Club, is one of the most prominent on the grounds. Gardeners at work are Rosanne Linden (at far left) and to her right in back, Hester Bodinus, Ellen Abbott and Gay Houghton. In front kneeling is Hazel Scheideman whose main work on the grounds was the development of the fountain garden. The garden urn shown below sits under a beauty bush near the museum's back porch. It is cared for by Sandy Donlon (at left) who is a member of Hill and Dale Garden Club. To her right are Kay Blakeney, chairperson of the museum's garden guild, and Gwen Senatore, a member of Farmington Hills Garden Club.

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