# Center for New Thinking

# A public forum for the discussion of new ideas and literature

HE HISTORY OF THE uni-

HE HISTORY OF THE universe isn't something most people could comprehend in a two-hour session, but a group of local residents lid their best to do just that.

They were reviewing the book "A Brief History of Time" by Stephen Hawking. The program was sponsored by The Center for New Thinking, a Birmingham organization into its 12th year as a public forum for new and innovative ideas.

"I don't think I understand all the specifics, but it gave me a good understanding of the progression of thought (on the formation of the universe)," said Joanne Hulce, a frequent attendee of the Center's lectures and a Plymouth resident. "I enjoy coming to his (Sherwin Wine) lectures because he gives you so understand. I think he should be doing something at a university so students could hear him and learn from him. He has so much enthusiasm."

asm."

Shewin Wine, whose full-time job is as rabbl at the Birmingham Temple, started the Center back in December of 1976 because he thought there was a need in the area for a group to discuss new ideas and now

"I'VE ALWAYS done a lot of lecturing," Wine said. "I majored in philosophy at the University of Michigan and I lectured for a while at the University of the Life that the there is a need on the part of the public to be introduced to new ideas and new literature," he said. "So with the help of a lot of friends, we organized the Center. Our home base is Birmingham but our lectures are primarily here (Somerset Mall audi-torium). We also hold them in Grosse Pointe, Plymouth, Bloomifield Hills, West Bloomfield and downriver."

West Bloomfield and dowarives."
Each month the Center bosts as Sunday Forum and a Thursday Forum at Somerset. Programs are offered other days of the week at other locations. Topics have ranged from the ethics of corporate mergers to rediscovering love to glasnost to the wars of the CLA.

The Center has sponsored more than 440 lectures on contemporary and classic literature and more than 25°s on current events and lifestyle problems. Margaret Mead, Robert Octs, Phillip Stater and Suan Sontag are among some of the many guest lectures.

This month's Sunday Forum topic trevolve around "Making Myself Strong," including "Being Decisive," "Developing Discipline," and "Self-Rellance." The Thursday Forum for Eucose on "The Frontiers of Science." It includes reviews of new science books by Stephen Hawking, Robert Augres, Michael Carzaniga and Michael P. Chighlert.

"I DO a lot of background reading

chaiel P. Ghighlert.

"I DO a lot of background reading and try to draw from a lot of sources when I give my lectures," Wine said. "Generally I do most of my reading between I1 at night and 2:30 in the morning, when I won't be disturbed. I don't require a lot of sleep and I can't read during the day, I just don't have the time."

The Center has seen tremendous growth in the number of people who attend, nearly tripling since its onset, he said.
"People who've come through the years have developed a verry strong stachment to the group," wine said. "We usually get a very diverse crowd and what we offer is a way of learning that doesn't involve a classroom and extensive time commitments."

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Another project developed by the Center is the monograph, a series of written essays on subjects of either philosophical or general or historic interest. One has been written for the past three years and their topics include the fear of death, the future

of the automobile industry and the unique.

of the automobile industry and the pursuit of happheas. "We wanted to have a series of written essays on important issues," Wine said. "It hink they have lasting value and are of interest to a lot of people."

Jim Fletcher is a Birmingham resident and a Center board member. He's been involved with the Center "almost since it's beginning" and now sits on its board. "I'm an old generalist myself and in a world of intense specialization It hink it's marvelous that Sherwin can talk on 60 different subjects every year as if he's an expert on all of them. He's an educator, but he's very

"I'M 80 years old and I've never seen an equivalent of this man," Fletcher said. "We need people who can move easily and without fer in areas where angels fear to tread."

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Fletcher said he became involved
with the center through his wife, who
at the time was trying to be a part of
growing community activities.
"She came home with the
newsletter and all it took was one
lecture and I've been hooked every
since," he said. "For a time I helped
lecture. I was a professor and I liked
to talk and Sherwin asked me if I
had a lecture up my sleeve and of

course, I did."

course, I did."

As a member of the board, Fletcher sald its purpose is to discuss any Center problems and act as a sound-ing board for Wine's ideas for future lectures. Questions about upcoming cetures, time and places should be directed to the Center, 535-0264.
"I think the lectures I enjoy the most are when he talks about two world's trouble spots," Pictebre said. "It's really his specialty. He travels to all of these places every summer so he can give a first-hand perspective."
"He's a no-man college and a one-man faculty," Fletcher said with a laugh. "My standing joke is that

Na nice to live in a contege town. So what is the history of the miverse?

So what is the history of the miverse?

Wine explained that Hawking be lieves in the "Big Bang" theory, when though he clarified the pirrase, same that the same in the pirrase, and the same in the same in the pirrase, and the same in the same

## Party planners

Michelle Dorrington of Plymouth (front row, from left), Sue Johnston of Canton, Sue Johnston of Canton, Sue Johnston of Canton, Sue Johnston of Canton, Garanington Hills, Vicky Sorenson of Westland (back row, from lott), Marcia Kanowski and Dians Tarnacki, both of Livonia, are the "brains" behind the annual Catholic Central High School Valentine card party. The party will be held at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15, in the high achool cafetorium, 14200 Breskfast Drive, Redford. Admission is \$4 and covers cards, dice, games and dessert. For reservations, call Janet Lovell at 4767-5817 or Carol McGrath at 681-6270.











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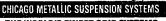
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