

# The audience is willing to wait for Bella — the lady with the hat

By Shirlee Rose Iden  
staff writer

**A**NADIR OF networking was reached last week when three political leaders worked together for the sake of one audience.

The scenario was set when the speaker for an open forum was delayed when her flight was late getting in from New York City.

For the leadership and members of Na'amat USA, Greater Detroit Council, and the Labor Zionist Institute, the scenario was a nightmare. What do you say to 600 people waiting to hear a national figure, the famous "lady with the hat"?

Bella Abzug, known as a powerful

and arresting speaking on many topics, was scheduled to speak on the empowerment of women and diminishing civil rights.

Shortly after 7 p.m. that night, people began to file into the social hall of Adat Shalom Synagogue, unaware that the speaker they awaited was not yet in her Embassy Suites hotel room in Southfield, but still a lot of flying miles away.

Once, twice, and a third time, synagogue staff carried in more chairs, stopping only when 600 were set up. Shortly after 7:30, only scattered seats among the 600 people were not filled.

TO ANSWER the "What do we do now?" question between them, Past National President Frieda Leemon,

chairman; Ruth L. Miller, Dorothy Tendler, and others put their heads together about how to save the program should Bella be too late to appear. By this time she was in the air and President Evelyn Noveck was at Detroit Metro in charge of grabbing Abzug and quickly getting her to the hall.

They decided they must begin the program and count on State Rep. Maxine Berman, scheduled to introduce the speaker to speak elastically, as long as necessary.

Just for insurance, they decided to call Maryann Mahaffey, member of the Detroit Common Council, who was hardly recovered from the election 48 hours earlier when she garnered the top vote in a large field of candidates.

"When I got the call, I said I would come," Mahaffey said. "I walked into a packed auditorium with no preparation at all. By that time we knew Bella would make it." In her red suit, Berman, looking upbeat, ad-

mitted her task was attractive. For any politician, such a platform, such an audience was a plum. "This happened to me recently once before," she said. "I have a lot to say, not to worry."

Berman, first elected to the Michigan House in 1982, is chair of the Election, House Taxation, and Sub-Committee on Tax Credits and serves as vice chair of the Consumers Committee. Her focus was clearly on women's issues.

"Part of the sky fell in with the Webster Decision by the Supreme Court on abortion," she said. "The rest will come down soon. The court won't overturn Roe vs. Wade but will block access to abortion."

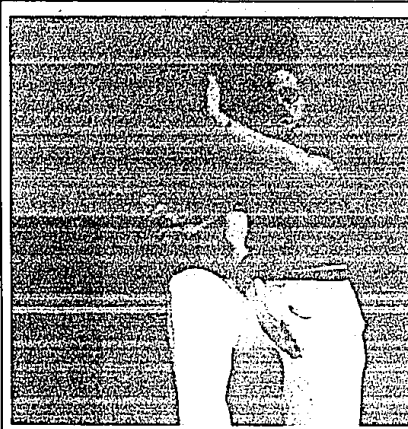
She pointed out that three of the Supreme Court justices who voted for Roe vs. Wade (legalized abortion) are in their 80s. "Before Roe, women were forced to be criminals."

Berman predicted that the Michigan Legislature will be stalled for this entire year. "Abortion will over-run everything, followed by discussion on the death penalty and the debate over flag burning."

She implored the audience to support the pro choice rally planned at 1 p.m. the Sunday (Sept. 17) in Lansing, saying "Numbers are everything."

Mahaffey, who is a social worker, was speaking about a renewal of coalitions for women to take action to re-establish rights recently abridged and the necessity of day care "essential for the freeing of women" when the smiling Abzug was marched up the aisle to the dais and the day was saved.

Her introduction by Berman concluded: "Bella, thank you for opening so many doors and sharing the keys with all of us."



## Tai Chi Chaun

Anton Simper will emphasize a personalized practical approach to Tai Chi Chaun, in classes which begin at 6:45 p.m. Monday, Sept. 25, in The Community Center. Simper has practiced the Yang style of Tai Chi for 13 years, which concentrates the mind, calms the emotions and increases one's awareness and sense of well being. Fee is \$50. Registrations taken by the center, 477-8404.

## Bible study will start

The Ladies' Community Bible Study at Detroit First Church of the Nazarene begins Tuesday, Sept. 26. The 12-week study, "Talking With God: A Workshop on Prayer," will be taught by Mary Lewis, wife of Pastor Holland Lewis. The session will

be 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Child care is provided, from nursery age to pre-kindergarten, with a special Bible curriculum.

Detroit First Church of the Nazarene is at 21260 Haggerty Road. The telephone number is 348-7660.

## Fantasia shows holiday fashions

The American Lung Association of Southeast Michigan along with GM's Cadillac Division presents an explosive new holiday fashion show — "Fantasia." What makes Fantasia so explosive is that the show marks the Detroit debut of George Simonon, a highly regarded New York designer presented by Bettina of Farmington Hills.

The production features new special effects and choreography by Leah Marks as well as selections from Kossin's Clothing, John Darakjian Jewelers and Bricker-Tunis Furs.

First in the area's offering holiday shows, Fantasia hopes to draw hundreds of fashion conscious people to the Hyatt Regency Dearborn Nov. 15, as well as raise thousands of dollars for the fight against lung disease in Metropolitan Detroit.

The show will begin at 5 p.m. with cocktails and two hours of boutique table shopping. A special opportunity to take a look into the future will be offered show-goers as 10 of Detroit's finest psychics will be available.

Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. and the collection will be shown at 8 p.m. The evening will be topped off by an auction highlighted by some special pieces from show participants as well as donations of travel, entertainment and accessories.

The night's grand finale will announce the winning ticket of the one week use of a Cadillac Allante.

Tickets are \$35 each and are available by calling the American Lung Association at 559-5100. Tickets will also be available at the show for a \$40 donation.



Bella Abzug

## Center marks 20th year

Editor's note: For 20 years the doors of the Community Center have been kept open through the work of men and women who volunteer to serve as its directors. The Farmington Observer introduces the members of the 1969 board to readers as part of the center's 20th anniversary year observance.

Gary Jonna is serving his second year on the board of directors of the Community Center Farmington-Farmington Hills. Working with the building and grounds committee, he has played an integral role in the center's kitchen remodeling efforts. He has also been involved in fund raising.

Jonna believes an important goal of the board is to perpetuate the

preservation of the historic building and its many cultural programs. He supports a phased physical improvement program to improve the center to better serve the public.

As a real estate developer, he has been active in many related civic and professional organizations. He is chairman of the zoning board of appeals for Farmington Hills, the former chairman of the energy commission for Farmington Hills, a building appeals board member, a past charter tax amendment committee member and a past member of the ad hoc committee for the construction of the new police station. He is also a member of the Farmington area YMCA board of directors.

He and his wife Doris have one son, James. They have lived in Farmington Hills for six years.

## Self-help workshops offered at Madonna

Madonna College is offering a series of workshops this fall to help families cope with many of the problems they face today.

The " Fireside Chats " will be on the Madonna College campus in the Founders Room of the Residence Hall which is an informal setting with a fireplace and comfortable seating. All three workshops are open to the public and free of charge.

The first of the series will be "Dangers of Smoking/Benefits of Quitting" at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 29, sponsored by Henry Ford Hospital and Madonna College cultural Affairs. It will be a workshop format which incorporates audience participation.

Kathy Walters of Fairlane Health Services will explain what smoking does to the human body and how it progresses with age. She will give advice on how to quit and where to receive additional help.

The second workshop "Drugs and Alcohol: Our Loved Ones in Its Control" will be 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 18.

Madonna College is at 1-98 and Levan Road, Livonia.

Helen Hodge of Chemical Dependency Department, Ann Arbor Hospital, will offer advice and information to family members and friends of substance abusers. Hodge will focus on what the user may be experiencing physically and mentally, common feelings a loved one may be experiencing, and avenues a person may seek out for help.

The final in the series, "Managing Our Lives Through Stress Management," will be 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 15, and is sponsored by Providence Hospital and the Madonna College Cultural Affairs Committee. Guest speaker Larry Wall will talk on the dynamics of coping with daily stressors and setting life goals to help increase mental and physical stamina.

Madonna College is at 1-98 and Levan Road, Livonia.

## Providence Hospital is banning smoking

Beginning Sunday, Oct. 1, Providence Hospital of Southfield will be a non-smoking institution with all previous smoking areas eliminated. The new policy was approved by the hospital's board of trustees.

All medical evidence indicates that smoking is the major cause of preventable disease and deaths in this country, according to Beverly Baker, assistant vice president at Providence.

"Smoking is also a fire and safety hazard," she said. "For these reasons, and for the health, comfort and safety of patients as well as visitors,

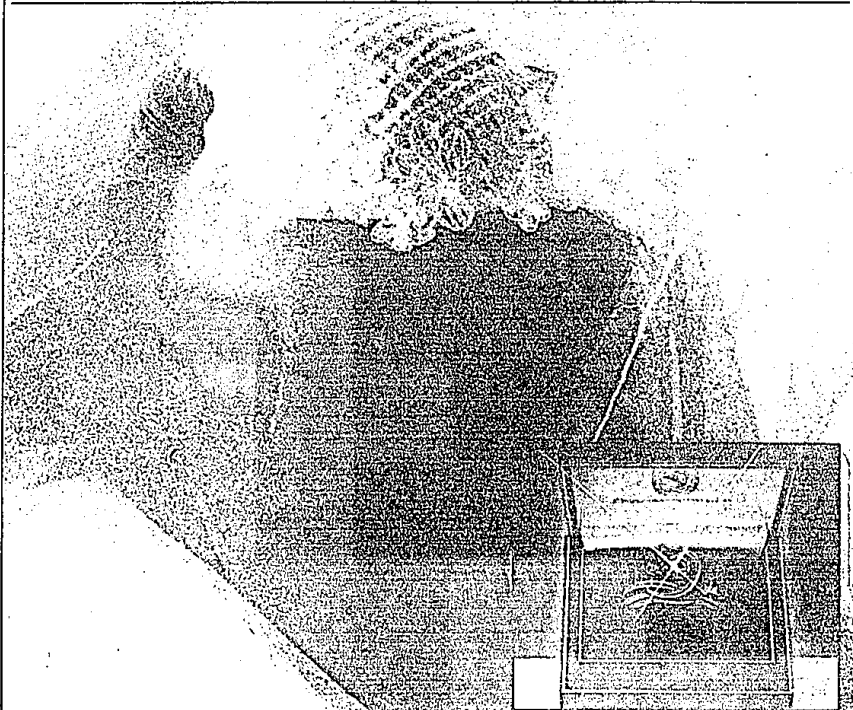
employee and staff, smoking is not permitted anywhere in the hospital after Oct. 1."

The new policy also puts Providence in compliance with Public Act 315 of 1978, which prohibits smoking in hospitals except in specially ventilated and enclosed areas.

Physicians will be permitted to prescribe Nicorette gum which contains nicotine for patients who might have difficulty complying with the ban during their hospital stay, but only under conditions agreed to by the medical staff.

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