

# Israeli author has 'Devil's Night' tale



By Susan Buck  
staff writer

The great divide between Detroit and its suburbs is both "perceived and true," according to a touted Israeli writer who grew up in Pontiac. Ze'ev (Bill) Chafets, author of "Devils Night: And Other True Tales of Detroit," spoke Monday to a crowd at the Birmingham Temple, numbering more than 350 people, including many who once lived in Detroit.

Chafets' book drew international attention last year. Metropolitan De-

troiters were caught off guard when they saw their compilation was written in detail by a man who returned to this country for a year and lived in the downtown area before writing his book.

Chafets ranked Detroiters when he called their city "America's first world city."

But Chafets said that he was merely speaking of "third world social indicators" one of which is a high infant mortality.

"DETROIT HAS BEEN AN urban laboratory for the rest of the United States," Chafets said. His book shows "the metamorphosis of a once great city."

"I'm not an urbanologist or a sociologist," Chafets said. In both Detroit and its suburbs, residents told Chafets they had "the feeling of being a refugee" brought on by white flight.

"It's a phrase I heard all over the city and the suburbs," Chafets said. "It's almost as if one person had written the speech and everyone memorized it. The 20 years I spent in Israel were helpful to me. At least in Israel, I feel that it belongs to me."

Chafets, born in Pontiac, now lives in Tel Aviv. He moved to Israel in 1967 and became politically active serving as a spokesman for the Be-

gin government during the early years of that administration.

Chafets is editor of the new weekly, Jerusalem Report. There will be no followup books on Detroit, Chafets said.

"I don't have another book about Detroit in me," Chafets said, during a press conference earlier in the day. "I'm not an expert on Detroit, I just wrote a snapshot."

Chafets said that he continues to be overwhelmed by both Detroit residents who want to learn about their city on Devil's Night — and onlookers from the suburbs and other parts of the United States who watch them do it.

DEVIL'S NIGHT is the night before Halloween (Oct. 31), when pranksters in different parts of the country can be counted on for a dirty trick or two, usually harmless and performed in a spirit of humor.

In Detroit, however, Devil's Night has turned malicious, with vandals setting dangerous fires as a main part of their celebration. While the number of fires deliberately set is disputed, there were more than 200 confirmed cases of arson during Detroit's last Devil's Night, much to the dismay of the mayor and other city officials who decried the practice.

Chafets' book set off a firestorm of its own in Michigan and other

See related story on Page 11A

parts of the country, although it drew little attention in Israel. In the book, Southfield, West Bloomfield, Warren, Dearborn, Howell and other communities were described in the chapter entitled, "The Hostile Suburbs." He considers them "the most segregated suburbs in the country."

The roots of Detroit's problems are economic and racial, Chafets said. "It's easier to get funding for a hotel on the Detroit River than it is to get funding for low-income housing," Chafets said.

The auto industry — once offering high paying jobs to new high school graduates — is not going to save Detroit, he said.

TO EMPHASIZE his point Chafets noted that several years ago when a new Mazda plant offered 3,000 good paying jobs, the company had more than 100,000 applicants. "Opportunities don't exist for the children of the working class," Chafets said.

On Detroit's mayor, Chafets said:

**Southfield, West Bloomfield, Warren, Dearborn, Howell and other communities are described in the chapter entitled, "The Hostile Suburbs."**

"Coleman Young has chosen a particular approach that is confrontational. It's unfair to the mayor to think he is the cause of the problems. It's a masterful politician. If it wasn't for white flight, he wouldn't be elected."

Chafets said that he is most criticized by people who didn't read the book, including many who claimed he was making a fortune off the troubles of Detroit.

Chafets attributes the beginning of Detroit's decline to the 1967 riot. Ironically, Chafets considers himself to be a fan of the Motor City, even though his own grandfather was killed there during a robbery attempt.

"I always liked Detroit before the book and I still like it," he said.



Sharon LaMieu/staff photographer  
Carole Dworkin of West Bloomfield listens intently.

The 23rd Annual International  
**St. Florian Strawberry Festival**  
Saturday & Sunday Noon until 9:00 p.m.  
May 4 & 5

- Fantastic Strawberry Baked Goods
- Continuous Entertainment
- Indoor Las Vegas
- Outdoor Cafe
- Polish Food
- Street Dancing
- Games

1100 West  
St. Florian  
LIC: F-4536-92-R

**FIRST COMMUNION CROSS**  
Fine Glazed Porcelain Hand-Painted Boy or Girl Gift Boxed by Roman, Inc.  
**\$15.00**  
We have everything you need for First Communion

**McDEVITT'S Hallmark**

7 FARMINGTON CENTER 12 MILLS FARMINGTON RD. 478-0707  
UNIVERSAL MALL 12 MILLS WOODWARD 268-6215  
NORTHWOOD CENTER 13 MILLS WOODWARD 268-6215  
EASTLAND MALL CONCOURSE 8 MILLS KELLY RD. 371-8225  
Hours: Mon.-Sat. 9:30-6 Sun. 12-5

**The Challenging Years... 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th Grades**

In the continuing development of:

- Good Self-Esteem/Morals and Values
- Good Study Skills, Test Taking Skills, and Writing Skills
- Competency in a foreign language
- Computer Literacy
- A life long love of reading
- Achievement of excellence in Math and Science
- Creative expression in the Arts and Music

**Kensington Academy**  
1029 E. Square Lake Road  
Bloomfield Hills, MI  
(Between Oakdale and Adams near the 75 Architects exit)

invites you to inquire about our excellent Academic and Athletic Programs.

- Tuition Dates for Admission
- Financial Aid
- After School Clubs

For further information call Director of Admissions Julie Oldani • (313) 647-8060

**Best of Bloomfield Hills**  
THE HEATHERS in Bloomfield Hills  
Condominiums from under \$150,000  
Square Lake Rd. between Opelyke and Adams  
ROBERTSON BROTHERS GROUP COMMUNITY DEVELOPERS

**Oriental Express**  
FURNITURE OUTLET  
The 3rd Annual "Real Sale"  
10-70% OFF OUTLET PRICES

Dining & Bedroom Sets • Curio • Floor Screens  
Cabinets • Accessories & More

Closed Mondays, Tues.-Sat. 10-6, Sun. 12-4  
408 S. Lafayette • Royal Oak • 541-2722

**MATSEL'S GALLERIES ANNOUNCES AN IMPORTANT ESTATE AUCTION**  
1 DAY ONLY  
SUNDAY, MAY 5-1 p.m.  
At our Gallery • 815 Woodward Ave., Pontiac  
(1 Mile North of Square Lake Rd.)

Approximately 300 "Choice" Items from the Estate of Dorothy Dawson and various other collectors and consignors

**PARTIAL LISTING:** Ca. 1900 Sterling Silver Fallwore set, Orientalia, Japanese Ivory Figures, Hardstone carvings, Oil Paintings, Large Bronze Collection, Bolinas Gut Crystal, English & European Porcelain, Large Oriental Rug Collection, 10 Chippendale Style Mahogany Dining Chairs, Antique French Finlock Pistol, Prints: Audobon, Dali, Chagall, Friedlander, 6 Panel Koromandel Screen, English Watercolor, German Quill & Cuckoo Clock, Patchwork Quilt, Mahogany Dining Table, Child's Banjo, Louis XV Style Commode, Carnival & Depression Glass, 4 Pastor Mahogany Chippendale Style Queen Size Bed; Over 400 pieces of fine jewelry AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!

**VIEW:** Sat., May 4 - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. & Sun. - Noon to Auction

**TERMS:** Cash, Check, American Express, MasterCard, Visa & Discover (10% Buyers Premium)

**CATALOGUES:** \$2.00 at the door  
**ABSENTEE AND TELEPHONE BIDS ACCEPTED**  
Consignments and Estates Accepted for Future Auctions

**Matsel's Galleries, Inc.**  
815 Woodward Ave. • Pontiac, MI 48341 • (313) 338-9010  
(Opposite St. Joseph's Hospital)

**Beauty Break**  
WE'RE READY WHEN YOU ARE

Enjoy our no-appointment Beauty Break during the day or evening, even Sunday. Simply come into our salon, sign up and when your name is at the top of the list, the next available stylist will be happy to assist you. Beauty Break gives you flexibility and great low prices like these:

- Haircut \$8
- Shampoo & Finishing \$8
- Perm Wave \$8

(with the purchase of haircut, shampoo and finishing)  
These are slightly higher for longer hair

- Seven Locations:
  - Livonia 476-6340
  - Birmingham 477-2900
  - Warren 333-3580
  - Universal 574-2240
  - Lakeland 247-4700
  - Macomb 293-7700
  - Westbrook 278-8080

\*Birmingham salon is closed Sunday

**CROWLEY'S**  
LIVE TO QUALITY. QUALITY TO LIVE.

**EXTRA CAR IN DRIVEWAY**  
CAR GETTING ON NERVES? TAXES TOO HIGH?  
Help us help those in need!  
By donating your used car, boat, real estate...and receive fair market value as a tax deduction when you itemize.

**CALL 373-9000**  
VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA

**GIBSON School For The Gifted**

- An independent, co-educational day school for gifted students ages 4-13.
- Accredited by the Independent Schools' Association of the Central States
- Open to all, regardless of race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin.
- Low student to teacher ratio
- Financial aid available.

**SPRING OPEN HOUSE**  
THURS., MAY 9 1-3 p.m. & 6-8 p.m.

12925 Fenlon Road  
Redford, MI 48239  
537-8688

**FENCE MATERIALS**  
PORTABLE DOG RUN SALE

**Do-it-Yourself**  
10'x10'x6' with gate  
(w/door construction aluminum fabric)

**\$299 Complete**

**OPEN MON. to FRI. 8 to 5 SAT. 9 to 2**

38286 Dodge Park • Sterling Heights • 264-8811

**MASTER FENCE**

IN CELEBRATION OF THE GRAND OPENING OF OUR  
**BERNHARDT GALLERY**  
AT TEL-TWELVE MALL...

**SAVE 30% ON SPECIAL ORDERS ONLY**  
at both locations on fine furniture from Bernhardt over thru May 31st. Stunning living room, dining room and bedroom displays.

Stop in and see for yourself why Bernhardt is known for quality and craftsmanship.

Our courteous staff of professional interior designers will help you

**SOUTHFIELD** • 26000 Telegraph Rd. • (313) 276-1000  
**WEST BLOOMFIELD** • 27000 Telegraph Rd. • (313) 276-1000

**sternward studios**