



DAN DEAN/staff photographer

Rabbi Daniel Syme spoke to Oakland County educators at the recent "Institute on Judaism" at Temple Israel.

Rabbi: Schools must teach more than 3 Rs

By Tim Smith
staff writer

Today's children want to do something to make the world a better place, but they don't know how. So it's up to schools to point them in the right direction, said the Rabbi Daniel Syme, keynote speaker at the recent 22nd annual "Institute on Judaism" at Temple Israel in West Bloomfield Township.

"By incorporating actions into the classroom, kids can emerge from the educational experience — not only as literate human beings — but with a sense they can make a difference," Syme said before presenting his speech in Herman Hall. "There's absolutely no reason why a public school should remain a place solely of academic learning."

Syme repeated that view during his speech, on a concept he called the "Curriculum of Empowerment." "It's asking too much that our children be given a chance, in very small ways, to make a difference?" Syme asked the audience. "In their own minds to act upon our world instead of being overwhelmed by it? Jewish tradition says no."

THE DAYLONG seminar, presented by the Temple Israel Sisterhood, also intended to do the following:

• Help teachers and administrators from Oakland County districts better understand their Jewish students and the problems they might face in the public schools.

• Enable them to become acquainted with rituals and symbols of the Jewish faith, primarily those prevalent during holidays.

Among 12 Oakland County districts with representatives in attendance were West Bloomfield, Walled Lake, Southfield, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Farmington Hills, Troy and Rochester.

Syme, who is vice president of the New York City-based Union of American Hebrew Congregations, suggested steps schools could take that might help "empower" students. Those included: Providing food bins year-round in hallways so students can bring canned goods from home; only using textbooks and materials made with recycled paper to help save the environment.

ANOTHER SUGGESTION was to transform gymnasiums into night-time shelters for the homeless during the cold winter months. "I think it's an excellent idea," said Marcia Wyderko of the Fairview Early Childhood Center in Farmington Hills about helping the homeless. "I found the speech to be enlightening."

Walled Lake Middle School teacher Bruce Campbell said school boards need to look into the possibility. "They're there and often not used. It's a thought."

Although in support of the notion, Walled Lake Board of Education trustee Esther McNelis pointed out "every time you try to start something like that you run into six things. But I'm not opposed to it, personally, because there's a tremendous need."

In his speech, Syme also proposed making efforts to "go about eliminating bigotry, first in our classrooms and then, hopefully, beyond their confines."

Also crucial is training teachers to be aware of troubled youngsters — showing signs they are victims of child abuse or entertaining thoughts of suicide.

"WHEN I was a child, the words youth and suicide rarely were used in the same breath," the rabbi said, pointing out that today there are thousands of suicides annually in the United States.

"Is it any wonder so many children flee to drugs and alcohol as a means of escape," Syme said.

Syme told the teachers they must

be "cheerleaders" for their students' educational efforts and provide them with encouragement.

"In a world gone mad, they need to feel some sense of control. In a world of hate, they need to feel a sense of their capacity to heal. In a world of turmoil, they need some assurance that their generation has a chance to repair the damage that past generations have done. And we begin that process today — gently, gradually," Syme said.

The impassioned speech drew a positive response from audience members.

"THEY (STUDENTS) need to

make wise decisions for themselves," Campbell said. "But they need to make these decisions with guidance from educators (and) the family."

Bloomfield Hills Andover High School assistant principal Gayle Maudlin said she thought the key message was for educators to "find some way to allow what's already in them to be valued and nurtured."

Maudlin, who said she recently accompanied Andover students on an educational retreat, noted that "kids are aware of issues" but become frustrated when not given a chance to "make a difference."

Temple displays holiday symbols

By Tim Smith
staff writer

The symbols and traditions of Jewish holidays from Rosh Hashanah to Shavuot were on display recently at Temple Israel in West Bloomfield, where the 22nd "Institute on Judaism" took place.

The daylong seminar, presented by the Temple Israel Sisterhood, strived to inform Oakland County educators about special problems faced by Jewish students and improve classroom relationships.

Displayed in the lobby were tables representing each holiday, complete with symbols.

"Jewish people feel that symbols are very important in translating values to their children," said Temple Israel Sisterhood's Roseanne Fienman when asked why the tables were included in the seminar.

One of the tables highlighted Sukkot, known as the "celebration of the harvest."

Visitors could view ritual items such as an etrog (a special citrus fruit) and lulav, which is a type of palm branch, Fienman said.

"IT'S RIGHT after the high holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. There's still time to give thanks for the bounty of the earth," said Fienman, describing Sukkot's meaning.

Among other tables were those for Chanukah, Passover, Shema Torah and Shabbat, the Hebrew equivalent for Sabbath.

"We want the teachers to understand what our year is like, our cycle," Fienman said. "We want teachers to see how (Jewish) children celebrate their holidays."

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CITY OF FARMINGTON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS (Summary)

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was called to order by Mayor Richardson at 8:00 p.m. on November 27, 1991, in Council Chambers, 21500 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan. Notice of the meeting was posted in compliance with Public Act 267-1976.

PRESENT: Campbell, Hartsock, McShane, Richardson, Tupper. OTHERS PRESENT: City Manager Deane, Director LaSoff, Asst. Director Goshman, Asst. Director Schultz, City Clerk Bushey.

The Oath of Office was administered to newly elected Council members. Council elected William S. Hartsock as Mayor and Arnold T. Campbell as Mayor Pro-Tem.

Minutes of the previous meeting of November 4, 1991, were approved as corrected. Council held a public hearing on the Community Development Block Grant Program 1992-93 and adopted a resolution authorizing application to Oakland County Community Development Div. for \$20,000 Street Improvements, \$20,000 for Senior Citizen Center and \$3,061 for Administration.

Minutes of other boards were received and/or filed. The CPA firm of Plante & Moran presented the 1990-91 annual audit report. Council approved the use of the temporary sign at the Santa Surplus Store in the Village Commons until December 24, 1991.

Council adopted a resolution supporting H.R. 3601 relative to the Local Partnership Act of 1991.

Council approved the DDA's request for signs, banners and helicopter landing of Santa on December 7, 1991.

Council issued a proclamation designating November 17-23, 1991, as MICHIGAN WINTER AWARENESS WEEK.

Council indicated that it will approve the transfer of a Resort License into Farmington for the operation of Mr. B's Border Cafe in the Village Commons Center. Council approved outside seating as indicated on the site plan for Mr. B's.

Council authorized the following payments on the Sewer Improvement Project: To Black and Veatch — \$61,311.21; To Posen Construction — \$109,837.20; To Dan's Excavating — \$287,039.69.

Council authorized the City Manager to waive bid process and purchase motor vehicle fuel through the State or County contracts for the rest of this fiscal year. Public comments and Council comments and announcements were heard.

Council made the following appointments to Boards and Commissions: — Farmington Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees - Arnold T. Campbell;

— Planning Commission - JoAnne McShane; — Special Assessment Deferred Payment Review Committee - JoAnne McShane;

— Southwest Oakland Cable Commission - William S. Hartsock; — Southeast Michigan Council of Governments - Arnold T. Campbell; — Oakland County Vision 2010 and Eight Mile Corridor Committees - Shirley V. Richardson;

— St. Clites Facility Study Ad Hoc Committee - JoAnne McShane; — Board of Zoning Appeals - Richard Peters; Board of Zoning Appeals Alternate: Richard L. Tupper;

— Board of Review - Mary Bush. Council received the third quarter Public Safety Operations Report. The following ordinance was adopted:

ORDINANCE NO. C-593-91

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDERS THE CITY OF FARMINGTON ORDAINS

That the Traffic Control Order issued by the Director of Public Safety of the City of Farmington, dated February 4, 1972, is hereby amended as follows: Chapter 5, Amend Section 5.9 as provided for in Section 31-196 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Farmington.

CHAPTER 5 — PROHIBITED PARKING

AMEND SECTION 5.9 — Leek Lane Street

A. South side from Orchard Lake Road west to alley running north and south behind BelAire Plaza.

This ordinance was introduced at a regular meeting of the Farmington City Council on November 4, 1991, was adopted and enacted at the next regular meeting of the City Council on November 18, 1991, and will become effective ten (10) days after publication.

AYES: McShane, Richardson, Tupper, Campbell, Hartsock. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None.

Monthly bills were approved for payment. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

WILLIAM S. HARTSOCK, Mayor JOSEPHINE M. BUSHEY, City Clerk

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Sealed bids will be received by the City Clerk, City of Farmington Hills, at the City Hall, 31555 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335, until 10:00 a.m. local time, December 12, 1991. Bids will then be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time for:

BID NO. 91-92-180 DIGITAL CALL SEQUENCER BID NO. 91-92-171 MAILING SERVICES

Specifications may be obtained from the Purchasing Department on or after WEDNESDAY, November 27, 1991.

All offers submitted are to be clearly marked for the specific item.

The City of Farmington Hills reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, either in part or in whole, to waive any formalities, and to accept the bid which it believes to be in the best interest of the City.

KATHRYN A. DORNAN City Clerk

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