

Rabbi: Suburban integration, Detroit linked

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Rabbi Sherwin Wine says there are two Detroit, one old and one new.

The old one is centrally located, tired and bogged down by economic decline and racism. The other is affluent and what most refer to as the suburbs.

Distinctions end there.

"All of our lives are tied together by a social reality," Wine said. "Those artificial boundaries cannot hide the reality of that connection."

Wine spoke passionately of his native Detroit to the Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council

Tuesday. He is rabbi at Birmingham Temple in Farmington Hills.

Each evening the podium and its microphone, Wine moved forward and directly addressed his audience in the Farmington Training Center.

"To survey Detroit's future is to understand its past," Wine said.

He spent a good portion of his talk tracing the city's 300-year history, dating back to when Native Americans were the primary inhabitants.

The French settled here and were later replaced by settlers from the east.

Subsequent immigration by Irish, Italian and Polish people set up the Catholic church struc-

ture that exists today. Jewish people also arrived, often encountering anti-Semitism, Wine said.

African-Americans moved north to find a better life.

Economic prosperity dictated the influx of new people. With the emerging auto industry, Detroit was a boom town.

"In the 1920s, people in the suburbs were dying to get into Detroit," said Wine ironically.

Tensions arose between different groups, especially during volatile economic times. Many ethnic hatreds were resolved through inter-marriage, Wine said.

Racial problems proved more unwieldy. One of the city's worst race riots took place in 1967, but in 1943.

At the same time, better roads provided access to plusher suburbs. Affluent people moved.

"The first move to the suburbs was not motivated by racism," Wine said. "But, certainly, the continuing movement was."

As flight continued, the disparity between two Detroit's developed. The toll is evident today, Wine said.

Otherwise, there wouldn't be a multicultural/multiracial council.

To that end, Wine asked members of the Farmington/Farmington Hills group to examine its purposes.

"It can do what I call dilettante activity," he said. "Oh, I just love



Rabbi Sherwin Wine

Farmington Observer Newspaper groups honor

The Farmington Observer was honored recently by the Michigan Press Association and the Suburban Newspapers of America.

The Farmington edition took two of 14 awards presented to the Observer Newspapers group by the Michigan Press Association in the 1994 Better Newspaper Contest.

In the SNA's 1994 editorial contest, Observer business report-

er Doug Funke took second place for best coverage of local business and economic news. A first place for best front page was won by copy editor Beth Sundria-Jachman.

The business award is given in "recognition of the editorial staff which best provides consistent information about local business activity."

Judging is based on how well

announcements of a routine nature are blended with stories and statistics which aid readers in understanding local business and the implications of social, political and economic news.

The front page award is in recognition of a newspaper's best front page, "one which creates a positive first impression of the newspaper and entices readers to read the inside pages." Judging is based on news writing, layout, design, graphics, flag and use of headlines.

"The MPA and SNA awards underscore our commitment to provide coverage of local events and are the result of hard work and dedication on the part of community editor Tom Baer, copy editor Beth Sundria, photographer Sharon LeMieux, reporters Larry O'Connor and Bill Cou-

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