

BELIEFS Values

Interfaith service to focus on unity in prayer

BY RONA FULKA
SPECIAL WRITER

Leading to the entrance of Temple Shir Shalom is a path of clay pavers that form an olive branch with berries — a symbol reflecting the temple's name, which means "song of peace."

It is in this spirit of peace that the newest house of worship in West Bloomfield will host the community's fourth annual Interfaith Service of Celebration.

The event, scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. on Sunday, May 19, is expected to draw members from more than a dozen different faith backgrounds to the temple at 3999 Walnut Lake Road.

"This is a service for people who want to pray, because their faith will be represented in some way here," said Rabbi Michael Moskowitz, rabbi at Temple Shir Shalom and planning committee member. "It's a way to demonstrate our unity."

One representative from each participating house of worship will be involved in leading either the litany, response, prayer scriptural reading. The benediction will be said in English, Hebrew and Chaldean. Now to the celebration this year is a combined children's choir led by Penny Steyer of Temple Shir Shalom. Susan Snow of Holy

Spirit Lutheran Church will direct the combined adult choir.

"It will be a complete, well-rounded service," said the Rev. Bruce Quatman, pastor of Holy Spirit Lutheran Church in West Bloomfield and chairman of the event. "The highlight is going to be the music."

The guest speaker for the evening will be the Rev. William Quick, senior pastor of Metropolitan United Methodist Church in Detroit. Quick is the Sunday host of "Open Doors," which can be seen on WDIV-TV Channel 4. He also has a daily radio broadcast on WEXL, entitled, "The City Pulpit," and can be heard Sunday mornings on WJR and WLQV radio broadcasts.

The West Bloomfield Clergy Association has been involved in various ecumenical events for a number of years. The Service of Celebration was officially begun four years ago as the association's contribution to Michigan Week, which is being observed this year from May 18-27. The gathering is held at a different house of worship each year.

"We're the second generation of enlightened clergy that recognizes that we do share a faith that transcends our religious expressions," said Quatman.



Spirit of Unity: The Rev. Bruce Quatman (left) of Holy Spirit Lutheran church joins Rabbi Michael Moskowitz at Temple Shir Shalom to plan for a celebration of spiritual bonds.

"We're truly appreciated for keeping this spirit alive in West Bloomfield."

The Rev. Art Ritter, minister of Pine Hill Congregational Church in West Bloomfield, has

been involved with the interfaith event since its inception. He served as chair the first three

years and is now a member of the planning committee.

"Eleven to 13 congregations will be represented here," said Ritter. "People will see all of those different congregations come together. That's the thing that moves them."

"Most people turn to religion in times of crisis. This is an opportunity to turn to it at a positive time and come together," said Moskowitz. "It will give us an appreciation of how our communities can work together ... and help us in the future to face a crisis when we know we have a support system here."

The Interfaith Service of Celebration is expected to last nearly an hour. Refreshments and fellowship will follow. Ushers and docents from Temple Shir Shalom will also be on hand to lead tours of the facility, answering questions and discussing the symbolism found throughout the temple from the Jerusalem stone in the walls to the stained glass windows.

"We're hoping to fill this place with 200 to 300 people for a nice, intimate, musical service," added Moskowitz. "Our sanctuary can seat 1,800. And if we bust at the seams, that'll be great."

Brass group to play Sunday

The St. James Friends of Music will present the Blaser Quintet in a free concert at 4 p.m. Sunday, May 12, at St. James Episcopal Church, 355 W. Maple, Birmingham. This brass ensemble all Detroit Symphony Orchestra, will feature the music of J.S. Bach, Giovanni Gabrieli and Jean Mouret on the program.

An added feature will be the brass combining with organ on several numbers. The Blaser Quintet is led by the trumpet duo of Kevin Good and Bill Lucas. The organist will be Dr. E. Robert Irwin, St. James music ministries director.

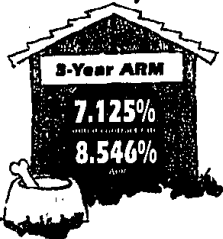
This is another in a series of programs in honor of the church's 1995 centennial celebration.

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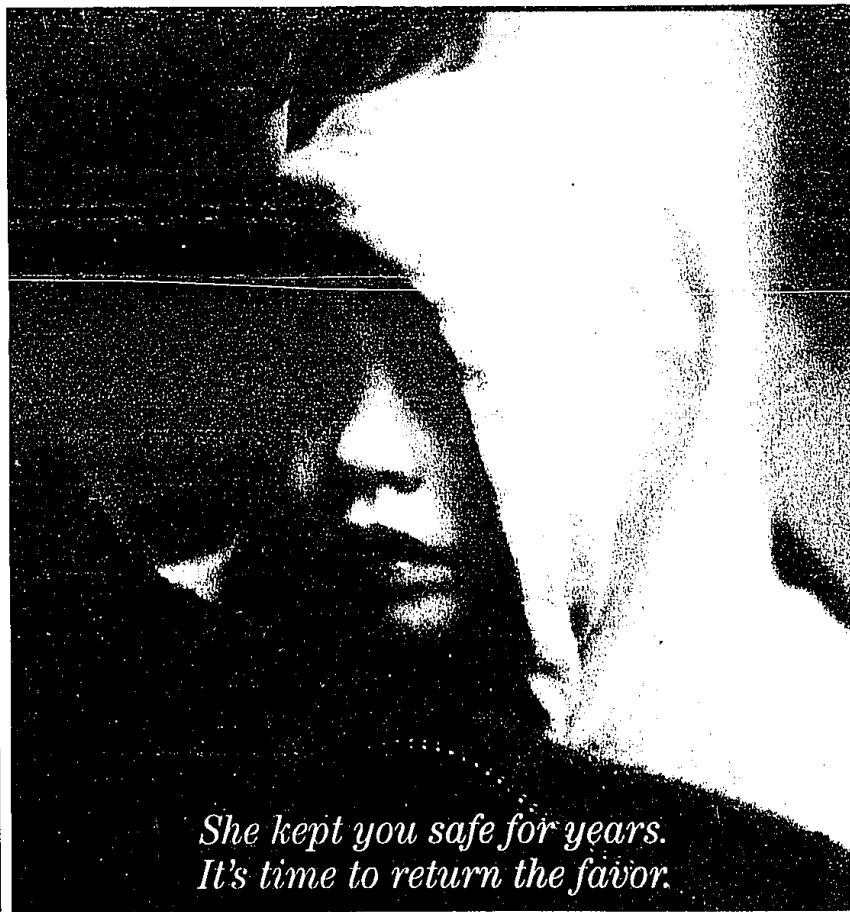
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