

## BELIEFS Values

# Temple Israel to dedicate garden, social hall

BY RENA FULKA  
SPECIAL WRITER

Construction, landscaping and decorating crews have been weaving their way in and out of Temple Israel to create two sacred places of spiritual inspiration — the L'Dor V'Dor Generation to Generation Garden and the Barbara and Herman Frankel Wing.

With the finishing touches now in place, the public is invited to join the Oakland County congregation for dedications scheduled in conjunction with two family-oriented events.

On Monday, Sept. 2, Temple Israel's sixth annual Labor Day picnic will commence with the 11:30 a.m. dedication of the L'Dor V'Dor Garden. Created by Gary Roberts of Great Oaks Landscape in West Bloomfield, the half-acre garden offers a unique setting for teaching, contemplation, concerts, family lifecycle events and Sabbath services under the stars for today's congregants and the generations to come.

"Our goal as a religious institution is to make Judaism be experienced in diverse and exciting ways for every generation," Rabbi Harold Loss said.

A free family picnic follows the dedication and continues until 3:30 p.m. Offerings include hot dogs, popcorn, ice cream, pony rides, a petting zoo, magician, moon walk, and Frisbee exhibition. The Temple Brotherhood will sponsor a blood donor drive on site from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Labor Day picnic, held in conjunction with a different theme

dedication each year, has become a tradition for the congregation of 2,900 households. More than 1,600 individuals attended last year's event, consuming 2,850 hot dogs. A even larger crowd is expected this year.

"It's a time when everyone in the community can come together," said West Bloomfield resident Pat Blackwell, the temple's building manager. "It's generally a wonderful afternoon."

On Sunday, Sept. 8, the dedication of the Herman and Barbara Frankel Wing and the grand opening of the newly renovated John and Rose Herman Social Hall will take place at 2 p.m. during a special celebration dubbed "An Affair to Remember."

With a focus on lifecycle events, the free open house will showcase the new social hall at Temple Israel.

Vendors will exhibit their wares in the atrium, cappuccino and dining will be offered in the garden, and the Korman Hall will house creative B'nai Mitzvah party themes.

FAMILY SIMCHA TABLES will fill the Pitt reception area, book dedications will take place in the library, and a 30-foot slide will await children in the courtyard.

"We have a fabulous building. This is our chance to shine here at temple," said Blackwell, who relies on a host of volunteers to support ongoing temple events like these.



Proud boosters: Pat Blackwell (left), building manager; Linda Friedlaender of West Bloomfield, chairwoman of vendor relations for "An Affair to Remember"; David Tisdale, congregation president; and Sheila Schiffer, "An Affair to Remember" co-chairwoman, pose in the new social hall at Temple Israel.

Sheila Schiffer of West Bloomfield, who is co-chairing "An Affair to Remember" with Barbara Stewart of Bloomfield Hills and Wendy Allenberry of West Bloomfield, gave her own rendition of how the new Herman and Barbara Frankel Wing came into being.

"There was a desire. There was a need. And then there was an angel," said Schiffer, referring to the project's major donors.

The Frankels of West Bloomfield, said Loss, "also brought their creativity, heart and time to this process."

West Bloomfield resident David Tisdale, who serves the congregation as president, was a driving force in seeing both temple projects to completion.

The Wing was begun in July and completed in 46 days by Stoneridge Construction Co. of Oak Park.

The project involved the transformation of the 350-seat banquet hall to an elegant, 450-seat ballroom with three large chandeliers, tract lighting and a portable stage and dance floor. The hall will also serve as a sanctuary for parallel services during the upcoming High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

Both the L'Dor V'Dor Generation to Generation Garden and the Herman and Barbara

Frankel Wing were created to provide spiritual inspiration by enhancing the physical environment at the temple at 5725 Walnut Lake Road.

"God's creativity and presence is around us wherever we are," said Loss.

"We've had the good fortune to have wonderful congregants, leadership and professionals that made this happen."

Our job is to infuse it with meaning."

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