

BELIEFS Values

Resolutions mark Jewish New Year



FOCUS ON THEOLOGY

Every fall, the Jewish community around the world celebrates a season of joy and personal introspection. The major holidays of Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year), Yom Kippur (the day of Atonement), and Sukkot (the Feast of Booths) are behind us now. And in the coming weeks, several other celebrations of Jewish life will captivate our children's religious school classrooms and the places of worship in every synagogue and temple. This is a wonderful time to celebrate with the Jewish community.

This time every year, I count my blessings. I consider myself lucky to have the opportunity to worship and celebrate these traditions with family, friends and the community.

At this juncture in history, it seems as though the dream of religious freedom holds firm even as people in other places of the world are not afforded the same opportunities. Our community provides us with diversity and acceptance, which should not be overlooked.

As the Jewish New Year 5757 begins, there is a spirit of festivity in my life. Every week brings a different holiday from our tradition.

The New Year, though, is the sweetest of these wonderful celebrations. As a member of the Jewish community, I find myself in the enviable position of celebrating New Year's twice each calendar year: once in the fall and again on January first. Two New Years... Two celebrations... Two sets of resolutions.

On the secular New Year's selection, I find myself making

the same resolutions year after year.

While eating my black-eyed peas (a testament to the Southern blood running somewhere in my veins,) I vow to lose weight... to work out twice a week... to remember my wife's birthday and our anniversary... to end procrastination... to read a good book... and on... and on.

By February, all of these goals have been re-thought and by March... they are long forgotten.

At this time of year, my New Year's resolutions look different. They are of a more spiritual nature. I turn inward to my soul and seek to change the essence of my being.

They are personal and yet I hope they will change the world around me. Perhaps they in will inspire me to become a better person. And maybe they will inspire you.

Over the coming year I hope to:

- Look for good things rather than bad.
- Keep an open mind.
- Boost another person's self-esteem every day.
- Enjoy life!
- Allow myself to dream.
- Find time to explore prayer.
- Be inspired by the world.
- Allow myself and others to cry.
- Help!
- Listen to myself and to other people.

This is just the beginning of my list. Please add yours to mine and make this a wonderful new year. Join me now at a time of celebration for my community... and we will check up on one another when January 1 rolls around. Until then, I resolve to...

Rabbi Joshua L. Bennett is one of the spiritual leaders at Temple Israel in West Bloomfield. You can reach him at the synagogue at (810) 661-5700.

Holocaust Center marks anniversary

Robert E. Rubin will be the principal speaker at the West Bloomfield-based Holocaust Memorial Center's 12th anniversary dinner on Oct. 20.

Rubin will come to Detroit from Washington, D.C. to join the Holocaust Memorial Center in honoring former Treasury Secretary Henry Morgenthau with a posthumous Righteousness Award.

Morgenthau is being honored for his efforts in prodding the Roosevelt Administration to take steps to alleviate the situation of the Jews in Europe during the Holocaust. He was responsible in large part for the establishment of the independent War Refugee Board in 1944. Morgenthau's grandson, Robert Patridge Morgenthau, will accept the award in his grandfather's name.

Robert Morgenthau is the managing director of Lazard Freres, an investment banking firm.

Robert E. Rubin has been recognized nationally and internationally as a man of extraordinary talents in the fields of finance and economics. He graduated with highest honors from Harvard College in 1960 with a bachelor's degree in economics. He received an L.L.B. from Yale Law School in 1964 and attended the London School of Economics.

The dinner, chaired by businessman Alan Zekelman, will be held at 6 p.m. at the Westin Hotel in Detroit's Renaissance Center. The theme of the evening will be "A Celebration of Achievements."

For ticket and dinner information, call the Holocaust Memorial Center at (810) 661-0840.

COMMUNITY MESSENGER

Community Messenger features spiritual announcements from Oakland County religious institutions. Writer: Community Messenger, c/o Beliefs & Values Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Our fax number is (810) 644-1344.

■ ORGAN RECITAL
The Saint James Friends of Music will present the distinguished organist, David Craighead, in recital at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 13, at St. James Episcopal Church, 365 W. Maple, Birmingham. Craighead chaired the organ department of the Eastman School of Music for 40 years. His program will include works by J. S. Bach, Marcel Dupre, Cesar Franck, Charles Ives, Leo Sowerby and others. The concert and parking are free to the public.

■ SINGLES FORUM
The 12th annual singles conference "United in Love" will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 6, at St. John Lutheran Church, 1011 W. University, Rochester Hills. Keynote speaker will be Mike Wendland of WDIV-TV in Detroit. Seventeen different workshops will be offered covering

single parenting, finances, intimacy and communication. Cost is \$25 before Sept. 29, \$30 thereafter. Lunch is included. Call the Rev. Fred Traugott: (810) 628-9340.

■ INTRODUCTION SEMINAR
Temple Beth El, 7400 Telegraph, Bloomfield Township, is offering "Introduction to Judaism," a 16-week seminar for prospective converts, non-Jewish partners of Jews and Jews seeking a better understanding of Judaism. Led by Rabbi David Castiglione, the seminar will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings beginning Oct. 9. The fee is \$50 for members, and \$75 for non-members. Couples are encouraged to attend together and will be charged only one fee. To register or obtain more information, call the Congregational Education Office at (810) 851-1100.

■ MEMORIAL CONCERT
"The Thirst, A New Work for Jew and Clarinet" will be presented at the 10th annual Walter Litt Memorial Concert at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 10, at Cong. Beth Abraham Hillel Moses, West Bloomfield. The free program features Donna Blue Lechman. Refreshments will be served.

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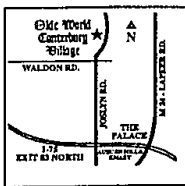
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FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:

(810) 391-5780



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