

## BELIEFS Values

## Oakland women to join in global, interfaith prayer

BY RENA FULKA  
SPECIAL WRITER

Biblical women like Tamar, Susanna and the concubine from Bethlehem will be remembered along with the modern-day women of Bosnia-Herzegovina and those prostituted in Asia when members of the Birmingham Area Church Women United gather for a worship service entitled, "Women and Violence and the Church."

The ecumenical service is the main focus of 1996 World Community Day, an annual event observed by CWU's 1,600 local and 62 state units and other affiliates worldwide. The Birmingham program begins at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 1, at First United Methodist Church, 1589 W. Maple Road.

The central theme calls attention to violence against women and affirms CWU's ongoing commitment to justice and peace between people and nations.

Event chairwoman Betty Breedlove is president of United Methodist Women at First United Methodist Church, Birmingham.

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Barbara Minard  
Bloomfield Township

ingham. The Beverly Hills resident joined CWU earlier this year when her church was chosen to host 1996 World Community Day.

The Birmingham observance is expected to draw 100 women of diversity in age, race, economics and ethnicity. A luncheon is included and child care is available. The guest speaker will be the Rev. Penny Hackett Evans, who works in the Community Education Department at HAVEN, a Pentecostal shelter for victims of domestic violence.

"We wanted a speaker who has worked with women who have experienced some type of violence in their life," said Breedlove. "We hope to personalize it a little more and use examples of women who have experienced violence in the Oakland area. We want to bring awareness to the

violence so we can all be more understanding and motivated to help these individuals."

"It's happening all around us," added Barbara Minard of Bloomfield Township, a new CWU member who serves as the key delegate of the host church. "We want to let women know that there are places to go if they decide not to stay in their situation."

Anna May Smith of Bloomfield Hills has been involved with Church Women United for 25 years and serves the sisterhood as coordinator of ecumenical celebrations.

"I think this is one of the more grim subjects we've addressed, but it is one we have to be aware of," said Smith, a member of Franklin Community Church, United Methodist. "I think it does reinforce your faith when you see other women from other

churches sharing your concerns. We hope all the prayers will have an effect."

CWU is a national movement through which Christian women express the ecumenical dimensions of their faith. The Birmingham unit was organized in 1937 with women from five churches in the city. Today, the group is led by President Lois Poston of Birmingham, and includes women from 26 Oakland County congregations.

"My job is to keep the purpose of Church Women United in focus and give other leaders encouragement," said Poston, a longtime member of First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham.

Other churches affiliated with CWU's Birmingham unit include Beverly Hills United Methodist and Northbrook Presbyterian in Beverly Hills; Embury United Methodist, First Baptist, Holy Name Catholic Church and St. James Episcopal, all in Birmingham; and Beautiful Savior Lutheran, Christ Church



STAFF PHOTO BY LARRY R. MCKEE

United effort: Anna May Smith (left), Barbara Minard and Betty Breedlove will join fellow members of Birmingham Area Church Women United in an ecumenical World Community Day worship service that will bring awareness to violence against women.

See WOMEN, B5

## Volunteers visit Cass Corridor

More than 200 volunteers from the First United Methodist Church of Birmingham will visit the Cass Community United Methodist Church in Detroit on Saturday, Oct. 26, with hammers, saws, paintbrushes and brooms in hand.

"First Church Making A Difference at Cass" is part of the church's year-long 176th anniversary celebration.

With a \$80,000 budget, congregants will refurbish Cass's homeless shelter and medical clinic. Sprucing-up of the sanctuary and offices will include new carpeting and a partial new roof. A children's room in the new homeless shelter will be completed, including toys. Volunteers at the church in Birmingham will prepare a lunch to feed 400.

Funding for the project comes from the First United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women, Methodist Union and private contributions.

The church is at 1589 W. Maple in Birmingham. The pastor is Dr. Bill Ritter.

Cass Community United Methodist Church has a long history in Detroit, and provides a homeless shelter, day care for developmentally disabled seniors, a free medical clinic, Saturday meals for Cass Corridor residents, and job training and referral services.

## Anniversary of Yitzhak Rabin's death to be observed

The first anniversary of the death of slain Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will be observed on Thursday, Oct. 24, through several community memorial programs.

Adat Shalom Synagogue in Farmington Hills will hold a special program that will include memorial prayers and words of Torah taught in Rabin's memory. The program, which begins at 7:30 p.m., will also feature a documentary film to honor the life and memory of Rabin entitled "Soldier in the Army of Peace."

The Bloomfield Hills-based

Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Detroit has asked Jewish organizations to display a lit yahrzeit (anniversary of death) candle and a picture of Rabin during business hours on Oct. 24. Jewish day schools and afternoon religious schools are expected to teach lessons about Rabin's life.

The following programs have been planned to pay tribute to Rabin in the days after the anniversary:

The Jewish Community Council is sponsoring the second

Unity Shabbat to be held on Oct. 25-26. Sponsored by Council's Jewish Unity Committee, Unity Shabbat seeks to bring together Jews of all backgrounds through the unifying spirit and celebration of Shabbat, the Jewish sabbath. The first Unity Shabbat fell immediately following the Rabin assassination. The scheduling of this year's program on the Shabbat closest to Rabin's yahrzeit is in part to serve as a commemoration of the tragedy that brought Jews throughout the world together.

On Sunday, Oct. 27, "A Concert for Peace" will take place at

Temple Israel in West Bloomfield. The concert, at 7 p.m., is co-sponsored by the Michigan Israel Connection and will feature Israeli artist Adda Shur and Cantor Robert Adelson.

The date of the anniversary, or yahrzeit, corresponds with the date on the Hebrew calendar of 11 Cheshvan, the day in 1995 when Rabin was assassinated. Jewish memorials are held on the anniversary of the Hebrew date, not the English date, which was Nov. 5, 1995. The Hebrew calendar follows the lunar cycle and fluctuates annually.

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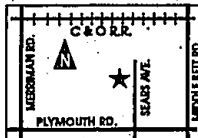
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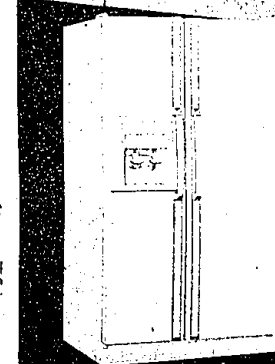
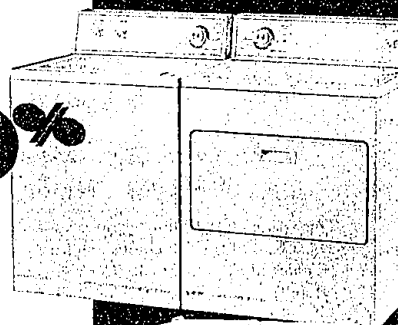
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