

BELIEFS *Values*

COMMUNITY MESSENGER

Community Messenger features spiritual announcements from Oakland County religious institutions. Write: Community Messenger, c/o Beliefs & Values Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Our fax number is (810) 644-1314.

Larry and Sylvia Jordan will host the program, which includes guest speakers Gary McIntosh, of Tulsa, Okla., Dr. Peter and Patricia Morgan of Jamaica, and Bertril Barid of Trinidad. The conference, which is free and open to the public, is designed for all individuals, married or single. A Saturday workshop is planned especially for teenagers and senior citizens. For information, call Sylvia Jordan at (810) 354-1990.

item will be a painting by award-winning artist Constance Powell. The free art exhibit will run from noon to 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and from noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday. For more information, call the church at (810) 646-4100.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
The biggest cake in the neighborhood will highlight the 10th birthday of the Neighborhood Project, a program of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit that seeks to enhance the vitality and growth of the neighborhoods of Southfield and Oak Park. The celebration will be held at 3 p.m. on March 16, at the Jimmy Prentis Morris Jewish Community Center, Oak Park. A photo exhibit will document growth in the neighborhood over the last 10 years. Children will be treated to balloons, a clown and a performance by Michael Jacobson and his Jacobson's World of Magic. Chairman of the day is Jeff Surnow of West Bloomfield, who has played an active role in community development. The free family event is sponsored by the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit in West Bloomfield and The Jewish News, based in Southfield. For information, call (810) 967-1112.

GUEST SPEAKER
"From the State of Michigan to the State of Israel" was the topic of Michigan's Secretary of State Candice S. Miller on Feb. 6 when she came to Temple Beth El, 7400 Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Township, to share the experiences of her seven-day trip to Israel and discuss the state of affairs of both Israel and Michigan. Miller also discussed changes that have occurred during her administration and her vision for the next two years of her term in office. The first female Secretary of State in Michigan, Miller assumed her duties in 1994 and has introduced several firsts in the Secretary of State's branch offices to expedite services, such as vehicle registration, renewal through fax and redesigning the driver license to digitally encode information.

FESTIVAL OF ARTS
Nativity Episcopal Church, 21220 W. 14 Mile, Bloomfield Township, hosts its annual Festival of the Arts March 7 through 9, featuring paintings, graphics, sculpture, pottery, photography, glass, textile, fibers and jewelry. In addition to showcasing a juried show of fine arts submitted by 50 Michigan artists, there will be a variety of performing arts, ranging from the seasoned jazz piano of Henry Feinberg and the traditional Irish folk music of Inis-Cool to the Celtic harp and dulcimer music of Cecelia Webster. New this year is the children's event featuring an afternoon performance of Native American dance by Reggie Pettibone. An "Upper Room" shop will feature additional work for sale created by exhibiting artists. The drawing

PRE-PURIM STUDY
"Queen Vaashti: Did She Really Have a Tail?" a pre-Purim study session for adult learners, will be held from 7:45 to 9 p.m. on Monday, March 10, at Cong. Beth Abraham Hill Moses, 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. Led by Susann Coshish, the free program is being held in honor of the new Hebrew month Adar II. The session is part of a monthly Rosh Chodesh study series sponsored by Cong. BAHM and B'nai Moshé. For information, call (810) 851-8880 or (810) 788-0600.

JUDACA CLASSES
"Eilu Y'Elit" judaica classes for adults will be held on six Wednesdays beginning March 12, at Hillel Day School, 32200 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills. Courses meet from 6:15 to 7 p.m. and from 7:15 to 8 p.m. Tuition

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STAFF PHOTO BY LAWRENCE R. MCKEE

Impacting society: COSROW members Carol Mack (left), the Rev. Dr. Marianne Meier and Kathy Mechigian hope to educate the general public on domestic violence by assembling a panel of distinguished professionals to explore the problem.

COSROW experts slate forum on issue of domestic violence

BY RENA FULKA
SPECIAL WRITER

Whenever domestic violence rears its ugly head, the impact is known to reach far beyond the victim suffering at the hands of a raging partner or parent.

"Once you really start to examine it, the impact touches all of us," said Carol Mack, a Birmingham educator and attorney. "There are two women I know that were murdered as a result of domestic violence. I feel that part of my calling is to represent them in their absence."

Mack is vice chairwoman of the 17-member Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) at First United Methodist Church, Birmingham. The commission hopes to educate Oakland County residents on the issue by sponsoring a panel of distinguished professionals who will explore domestic violence — from the emotional, to the physical, to the legal and medical.

"The purpose is to educate our congregation and the community. It's a burning issue in this country today," said the Rev. Dr. Marianne Meier of Bloomfield Hills, the church's associate minister of pastoral care and visitation. "We need information so we can use it in confrontation with our loved ones."

Kathy Mechigian of Bingham Farms, a new member of COSROW, was instrumental in suggesting that the topic of domestic violence be addressed as part of this year's program. Mack and Meier, also relatively new COSROW members, were quick to offer their support.

"We all can name people we know that have been victims of

domestic violence," said Mechigian, a medical sales representative. "The dimension of the problem became very personal when I realized the impact on the children. As long as we don't have the courage to name names and care enough to intervene, the problem will continue. The reason for this forum is to learn appropriate intervention — to save the children, if anything else."

The general public is encouraged to attend "Women History Month Lecture: Domestic Violence," at 7 p.m. on Sunday, March 9, in the Thomas Parlor of First United Methodist Church, 1689 Maple, Birmingham. Child care will be available during the free, two-hour program.

Issues to be explored include the definition of domestic violence, how to identify the problem, the steps for resolution, life after abuse and community resources.

Distinguished professionals interpreting the legal aspects include the Honorable Edward Sosnick, chief judge of the Oakland County Circuit Court, Nancy Diehl, Wayne County prosecuting attorney and specialist on domestic violence and sexual abuse, and Commander Dan Studt of the Birmingham Police Department.

Other panelists include Penny Hackett-Evans, Community Outreach coordinator for the HAVEN shelter in Pontiac and MaryAnn Flarety, M.D., Oakwood Annapolis Hospital in Wayne. Co-moderators are Karla Plante, of Southfield, assistant prosecuting attorney, Wayne County Child and Family Abuse Bureau, and Bruce Hayden of Beverly Hills, director of operations at First United Methodist Church, Birmingham.

Each panelist will speak for 15 minutes on his/her specific area of expertise. Participants will be provided with cards for writing anonymous questions, which will be addressed by the panel after the presentation.

"The end result is harmony," said Mechigian. "We're trying to create safety and harmony in relationships."

COSROW was established by the United Methodist General Conference in 1974, as a work area within the local churches to address the status and role of women and their equal participation in all aspects of church life.

Members of COSROW hope the panel discussion on domestic violence will be well attended by citizens of the greater community, since domestic violence knows no boundaries and affects individuals of all ages and all walks of life.

"It's so pervasive. And yet no one has the courage to name names and point fingers. No one wants to get involved," added Mechigian. "Over 800 women that we know of died last year in this country as a result of domestic violence. And 25 percent of young women between the ages of 13 and 18 experience domestic violence. So there's a strong likelihood that your child, your daughter, can become a victim of domestic violence. How are you going to prepare her for that?"

The panel discussion, which will focus on the effects of domestic violence, should provide insight in meeting this and other related challenges.

For more information on "Women's History Month Lecture: Domestic Violence," call Rev. Dr. Marianne Meier at (810) 646-1200.

FAMILY FORUM
Family Victory Fellowship, 19421 W. 10 Mile, Southfield, is hosting its fourth annual family conference entitled, "The Productive Family," Wednesday, March 19 through Sunday, March 23. Conference seminars

include "The Power of the Bible Through Figures and Stories," by Florence Purvis, Bible scholar, on March 24. The Lunch and Learn program will present "Eye-witnesses to Lincoln's Gettysburg Address," by Weldon Petz, Ph.D., Lincoln scholar, on March 10, "Gaining Insights into How Values Influence Our Decisions," with Carl Steward, management consultant, on March 17, and "Festering the People of the Bible Through Figures and Stories," by Florence Purvis, Bible scholar, on March 24.

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Pictured above (left to right): Anthony Devine, Vice President, Republic Bank and Traci Phillips, The Big Idea.

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