

Interfaith

from page B8



Warm welcome: Through Interfaith Connection programs, Marilyn Hertzberg (left) and Sue Stettner work to create a non-threatening setting for interfaith couples and their extended families to explore Judaism.

on campus at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and at Wayne State University in Detroit. Also popular are camps for children and their grandparents.

"A lot of our programs help you get in touch with who you are as an individual. Until you know who you are, you can't move forward," said Hertzberg, a Bloomfield Hills resident. Free family programs like Stepping Stones to a Jewish Me and First Step, which are geared to unaffiliated children and parents, open the door for hands-on exploration of the Jewish faith in comfortable, non-threatening settings in various locations throughout Oakland County.

Hertzberg is among the social workers involved in the programs, which run anywhere from six to 25 weeks. She is also available to those who wish to consult outside the workshops.

"Judaism is a home-based religion. If we educate the child and not involve the parents, then the child comes home to a home

that's not able to engage, answer questions, talk," said Stettner, who heads Stepping Stones from her office at the Agency for Jewish Education, 21550 W. 12 Mile. "We encourage people to make a decision to raise their child with some identity, whatever that may be. Our goal is not to communicate that everyone in the world be Jewish. We want families to be healthy and feel welcome in the community. Some people who come are truly on a fence. This is an opportunity to learn. It's really trying it on and taking from it what is comfortable for you."

Interfaith Connection also provides comprehensive, take-home family guides to Hanukkah, Shabbat, the fall holidays, conducting a Seder and keeping kosher.

An outreach resource line offers everything from program information to answers about Jewish tradition.

Through its quarterly newsletter, the Interfaith Connection keeps in touch with 280 partici-

pating family units, 60 percent of which have gone on to affiliate with a synagogue or temple.

"There's so many people out there that need the variety of services we're offering," said Hertzberg. "We've got lots of goodies on the back burner."

In January, Interfaith Connection will begin to expand its services to include Jewish cooking workshops, a family-style taste of Judaism, guest authors, a web site on the Internet and programs for babies and toddlers.

"It's been wonderful because we know we've changed family living in terms of Judaism," added Stettner. "When you have children, you have a legacy to create that involves developing a family and nurturing that family. Parents respond because they want to do the best thing for their children. Our goal is to make people feel comfortable, give people an access point and make their journey and their life a positive one."

For more information, call the resource line at 1 (800) 397-4876.

Focus

from page B8

God who loves us. Judgment and love are not opposites. Judgment is one way that a loving — but un sentimental — God loves us. The God who loves us all holds us all accountable in order to save us from ourselves and from the most ruthless among us. We

may debate how to get to be what we are — but we may be confident that God knows. God doesn't hold us accountable to get even — but reshapes us so that we might resemble what God intended us to be.

Ronald P. Byars, Ph.D., is pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham. To leave a voicemail message, dial (313) 953-2047, ext. 1851, from a Touch-Tone phone.

Nardin Park hosts yule services

Nardin Park Church in Farmington Hills will offer four different Candlelight Services on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24. Times are 4:30, 6, 8 and 11 p.m.

All four services will include the singing of carols, the reading of the Christmas scriptures, music, a meditation by the Rev. Benjamin Bohnsack entitled "Great Joy!" and a candlelighting ceremony.

The 4:30 p.m. family service will be informal and shorter, with music by the Genesis and Cherub children's choirs.

At 6 p.m. a community service features the Wesley Singers and New Generation youth choir, along with

liturgical dancers "Lyrical Expression." Many people from throughout the community will join the congregation in celebrating the occasion.

The Traditional Nardin Park Christmas Eve is the 8 p.m. metropolitan service, with music by the combined Chancel and Sanctuary Choirs, and three feature soloists.

Midnight communion is offered to everyone at the 11 p.m. service, with music by the Bohnsack family brass and soloist Paul Beck.

Nardin Park pastors, the Rev. Benjamin Bohnsack, the Rev. Kathleen Gross, the Rev. Jane Bergquist and the Rev. Robert Baugh, want to literally open the doors to people

from across the area.

"The music and pageantry of Christmas Eve are truly spectacular, stirring our hearts in ways that bring the meaning of Christ's birth to all," said Pastor Bohnsack.

The reputation of Nardin's music ministry and Minister of Music Melvin C. Rookus, is well established through their 10 fine choirs and their annual concert series.

The candlelighting ceremony is especially impressive, with each person given a candle in the subdued light, Bohnsack says.

Nardin Park United Methodist Church is at 29887 W. Eleven Mile in Farmington Hills, just west of Middlebelt.

Children's '97 Directory

Children have many special needs... and because parents don't always have a lot of time, the Observer & Eccentric has created this unique directory to make life just a little easier.

Activities

BASKETBALL AMERICA
Sports Complex
YOUTH LEAGUES
257 W. Clarkston Rd. • Lake Orion
248-693-5858

Call for more info

Child Care

Montessori Educational Center
12 mos. - 5 yrs.
7 am - 6 pm
(313) 541-4410 • 24331 W. Eight Mile
Lockers Available January 3, 1998

Music Instruction

Kindermusik
THE PREMIER MUSIC PROGRAM FOR YOUNG CHILDREN
• Kindermusik Beginnings
18 months to 3 1/2 years
• Growing with Kindermusik
3 1/2 to 4 1/2 years
• Young Child I and II
4 1/2 to 7 years
Classes begin the week of January 26th at Arnold Williams Music.
Contact Norma Albrecht, a fully licensed Kindermusik® Instructor and Early Childhood Music Specialist.
Register Early!
Arnold Williams Music
(313) 453-6586
Child's Lifelong Growth

Christmas Tree Guide

BOUGHAN'S
Assure Freshness.
Cut your own tree!!
2 FARMS TO SERVE YOU
Pine-\$22.00 Spruce-\$35.00
Drive to & thru fields
(313) 867-8888
13651 Montclair Rd. • Berwyn, MI
Pine-\$22.00 Spruce-\$35.00
Fir-\$59.00
Wreaths, Candles, Candles, Stockings, Holiday Trees
Wagon Rides, Santa Claus, Weekend Drive
(313) 867-8888
4800 S. Dixie Rd. • Detroit, MI
We Honor All Tree Farm Coupons

Braun's Tree Farm
Fraser Fir • Douglas Fir
Blue Spruce • Scotch Pine
White Pine
Prices from \$10.00 and up
We shake and bale.
Location: 780 Warren Rd.
Between Fontaine Trail and Whitmore
Lake Rd. in Ann Arbor, Mich.
Pine & Spruce
Wednesdays 5-8pm, or by appt.
(313) 863-2717

CHRISTMAS TREES
Beautiful
Blue Spruce &
Scotch Pine.
6-12 ft.
Come Prepared.
M-24 North of Oxford
1500 W. Brocker Rd.,
Metamora, MI.

Mosher's Tree Farm
7156 N. Terebental Road
Oxford, Michigan 48130
Located 6 Miles West of US 23
313-426-5271
• Featuring Beautiful White Spruce Trees
• Choose & Cut Christmas Trees
• Potted Trees
• All trees only \$30.00
Includes baling and tree bag
• Free candy and cider
HOURS:
Weekdays 1:00-5:00 pm
Weekends 9:00 am-5:00 pm

SUPER PREMIUM TREES
Choose from over 2000 trees - 600 standing - 400 inside our greenhouse
2 1/2 ft. to 10 ft. sizes available.
Also wreaths, roping, poinsettias.
PLYMOUTH NURSERY
Christmas in the Country
9900 Plymouth Rd. - Just 10 minutes east of US-23
453-5500

Matthes Evergreen Farm
13416 Lulu Road • Ida, MI 48140
313-269-2668
FUN! Over 60 Acres of Choose & Cut, also pre-cut & balled. All trees cleaned, wreaths, roping, centerpieces.
FUN STUFF Weekends thru Dec. 14
Daily 9 am-Dark
1-75 South or Telegraph to Auburn Follow SIGNS
\$2 OFF any tree with this ad. O/E

Buy your Christmas Tree & Wreaths at:
CLARKSTON EVERGREEN NURSERY
Selling live & cut trees 3-7 ft. & fresh handmade wreaths, swags & grave blankets.
HOURS:
Mon-Fri 2pm - 9:30pm
Saturday Noon - 9pm
6191 Clarkston Rd.
248-625-9336

For more information regarding this directory please call:
June 313-953-2069 • Rich 313-953-2099 • Fax 313-953-2232