

BELIEFS & Values

Volunteerism helps others - and you, too



REV. TIMOTHY F. BABCOCK

Just week, across our nation, National Volunteer Week was observed. People who made major contributions to various civic, charitable, religious and other groups were recognized and celebrated. Though it does not receive as much attention as more notable events and happenings, this recognition of volunteerism is one of the more important things we do as civic and religious communities.

In my opinion it would be hard to overemphasize the importance of volunteers. People who are willing to make their time and talent available to help others and to accomplish significant goals are, in many cases, the "life-blood" of society. There are so many important things that can happen only when people are willing to give their time, talent and effort. From another perspective, most of the things that really help to improve the society in which we live are dependent upon volunteers.

It has been observed that any society is made up of "givers" and "takers." There are numerous people who ask "How can I help?" or "What can I do?" Unfortunately, there are far more people who only ask, "What's in it for me?" National Volunteer Week gives us the opportunity to celebrate the first group while highlighting the importance of what they do. Hopefully, observances such as this will awaken those who only seek to be taken care of by others to the importance of becoming contributors themselves.

Those in our society who are over 50 will be able to remember the challenge that President John F. Kennedy gave to our nation: "Ask not what your

country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." Those who are in their 20s and 30s can remember President George Bush's thousand points of light. Each one, in his own way, was pointing to the importance of people stepping forward to accomplish the good things that our society needs - to make a positive difference.

In contemporary society however, this is a greater challenge than it has been at other times. Too many people today are tied up only in their own lives and concerns. Too many of us never ask of ourselves or anyone else "What can I do to help?" If our needs, and those of our families, are taken care of, we often feel there is nothing else to be concerned about.

Virtually every major religion stresses the importance of being volunteers whether in the church itself or in our society. It is of great importance to society as a whole, and to us as individuals. Those who are willing to sacrifice their own time and talents for the care and betterment of others need to know how valuable they are.

Observances like National Volunteer Week help me to be more conscious of the contributions many people are making. I am conscious of volunteers at the public library, the local hospital or nursing care facility, our schools and, certainly our churches.

I am always proud when I encounter members of my Faith Community being active volunteers. I am happy for them and for those they serve. I rejoice because I know they understand what God designed us to be and to do - for one another, not only for ourselves.

If you have never been a volunteer take time to consider it now! Rejoice and be glad, for you will have helped to make someone else's life happier and better! Thank you to all who do volunteer. Your generosity will be certainly blessed, as others are blessed by it.

St. John's celebrates 40 years

On Sunday, April 26, members and friends of St. John Lutheran Church, 23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills, celebrated the congregation's 40th anniversary.

The day's celebration carried the theme: "Forty Years of Faith." Retired Pastor Emeritus Charles Fox spoke at the 8:30 and 11 a.m. worship services. Senior Pastor Daniel Cave and Associate Pastor Mary Olivanti served as presiding ministers.

At 10 a.m. there was a special tree planting and dedication on the church grounds. This gift was provided by some of the original Charter Members who helped organize the congregation on April 27, 1958.

The congregation thanked God for "Forty Years of Faith" by giving a special offering to a new Lutheran Church which is starting in Macomb Township. The monetary presentation was made at the anniversary banquet scheduled for 1:30 p.m. at the Novi Hilton.

St. John Lutheran Church held its first worship service Nov. 17, 1957, in the gymnasium of the old Farmington Junior High School.

With an original base of 35 worshippers, the congregation has grown to a baptized membership of more than 600 people. Pastors Cave and Olivanti now



St. John's Charter members Melvin Walch, Marie Walch, Diana Harrawood Canup, Leo Harrawood, Senior Pastor Daniel Cave, Pastor Emeritus Charles Fox and charter member Donald Otto prepare for the tree planting.

serve the congregation.

During preparation for the 40th anniversary there has been much reminiscing about the early years when Gill Road was only dirt and gravel, the church parking lot was often a sea of mud, and the leaking flat roof

consumed hours of discussion.

Church facilities have been enlarged and major improvements have taken place over the 40 year history. Plans are now being studied to accommodate future growth.

Regular worship services are

Sunday at 8:30 and 11 a.m. with Sunday school classes for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Everyone is welcome and invited.

If there is a need for pastoral services, call anytime at the above number.

Photographer Solomon to speak at Adat Shalom

The Sisterhood of Adat Shalom Synagogue will feature celebrity photographer Linda Solomon at its annual Donor Day Luncheon and Program on Tuesday, May 5.

Linda Solomon is a nationally recognized photojournalist, whose celebrity portraits include Elizabeth Taylor, Gerald and Betty Ford, Norman Lear and Tim Allen.

Her photographs are recognized by a distinctive use of natural lighting and are featured on Good Morning America, for which she is a guest commenta-

tor and correspondent.

In addition to her gallery exhibitions, Solomon has the distinction of having had the first one-woman show in the 86-year history of the New York Friars Club. She is a frequent lecturer and teaches photographic technique around the country, specializing in teaching photography to children 2-12 years old.

"I learned when I was a child that I could express what I was feeling by looking through the lens of my camera and taking a photograph," she said. "Photography builds confidence and self-

esteem. Children learn to appreciate the beauty in their lives and thereby the beauty in themselves."

Donor Day events will begin at 10 a.m. with coffee and an array of boutiques. Lunch will be served at noon. Prior to Solomon's presentation, the group will honor Past Sisterhood President Hanna Linden for many years of dedicated volunteerism within the Synagogue and in the community.

There is a minimum contribution in order to attend Donor Day. Proceeds from the after-

noon will help support the Sisterhood's many projects, which benefit both Adat Shalom and the community.

Charlotte Edelheit is chairing this year's Donor Day. Serving with her on the Donor Day committee are: Danie Ailan, Tobi Dobkin, Janis Holman, Helayne Kaplan, Sharon Lubetky, Sandi Miller, Anna Rudy, Judy Rudy, Hannah Monique Ulyrich and Linda Warner. Joyce Weingarten is Sisterhood President.

For further information, please call the Synagogue office at 851-5100.

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