

BELIEFS Values

Learning is a family affair at Kol Ami

BY HARD PERT TEMPLETON SPECIAL WRITER

In many cases when a family is invited to take a class together, the course center on a hobby like hunting or boating.

At Temple Kol Ami, in West Bloomfield, parents and their children are encouraged to worship and enjoy lessons of the bible together.

The Temple's Family Shabbat School, a year-round program that generally meets every other Saturday from 9-11 a.m., is currently accepting enrollment. The course is designed for families with children in kindergarten through third grade.

What makes this unique is that ours is the only synagogue in town doing a program like this where kids and parents are coming together for classes," Rabbi Amy Brodsky said.

A joint worship service begins the Saturday morning program. After that, some designated weeks the children and their parents will learn together as one large group; other weeks children and parents will have lessons in two separate groups.

"What makes this unique is that ours is the only synagogue in town doing a program like this where kids and parents are coming together for classes ... Just seeing that their parents are interested is good for the kids and I think it sets a good example for them. It's not just having the kids dropped off at religious school."

Rabbi Amy Brodsky Temple Kol Ami

Brodsky leads the joint worship service and teaches the adult course.

"The topic is the same and they are learning the same things that week but the topics are course addressed at different levels," Brodsky said. "Then they come back together for the last few minutes and review what was learned and the kids will show off the projects that they made during the week."

While the program is geared for kindergarten through third grade a number of families bring along their younger children and that has worked out fine at Temple Kol Ami.

"We try to have some things available that will amuse the younger ones and they do pick up on some of the information the older kids are learning that day," Brodsky said.

The past year's theme was hol-

idays and the students and their parents learned the historic and biblical nature of the Jewish holidays were about and how they were celebrated throughout history and today.

"They also learn to recognize the Hebrew alphabet and some Hebrew words," Brodsky said. "And they learned who the people in a synagogue are, like the rabbi and the cantor. And some people even came into the classroom and discussed their jobs with the kids."

Ready to begin the second year of the program, Brodsky said the first year's enrollment included four families.

"And all four are coming back so that's a good sign," Brodsky said. "We're hoping to get the word out so more families will take part in this too."

This curriculum is "Torah and

Values" and Shabbat School students will learn many biblical stories like that of Adam and Eve.

Brodsky said the Shabbat School on Saturday replaced the traditional Sunday religious school program offered to children in grades K-12 at Temple Kol Ami. Students in kindergarten through third grade who attend the Saturday program with their parents don't have to go to the Sunday program.

"They will learn the same material in Shabbat School, if not more," Brodsky said.

The new class schedule will begin on the Saturday after Labor Day. Those interested in checking the program out before enrolling are welcome to stop by the Temple on Saturday, Aug. 29 at 9 a.m. to observe the Shabbat School. Brodsky simply asks that interested guests call to let her know that they are coming so she can bring enough materials for everyone.

This program is open to Kol Ami members as well as families who are not affiliated with Temple Kol Ami. There is a charge.

For further information, contact the Temple Kol Ami Religious School office at (248) 661-6099.

Right to privacy is not unrestricted



REV. TIMOTHY F. BABCOCK

right (much more so than many other parts of our world).

The American dream, in many ways, is representative of the private ownership of house and land. In some parts of society, the ultimate form of this dream is a location where one's house is separated in such a way that it cannot be seen by neighbors or others.

Privacy is also the basis for some very important, and controversial rights in our society.

"The right to individually bear arms is an application of the right to protect one's privacy and property. Laws limiting by whom and under what circumstances we can be recorded are founded on the right to privacy.

"The current legal position of the right to an abortion is based on a woman's legal right to private control over her body.

And now we have the president's assertion that his intimate interaction with another person is private behavior and should not be subject to further investigation and review.

Understand and support the right to privacy as we enjoy it in this country.

There are many in the world who would desire such a right. It is a core concept of what American is about and deserves protection and

respect. I do suggest, however, that the right to privacy, like most other rights, is not an unrestricted right.

The laws of our states and nation recognize this and place certain limitations on one's control over one's own property when the common good is at stake and would be affected by what we do, namely:

This is the basis for zoning laws and for the right of eminent domain enjoyed by government bodies when seeking to accomplish a purpose that would benefit the greater good of society.

It is the basis, also, for limitations that restrict the right of one property owner to infringe upon the rights of another.

While we hold the right to privacy, we do so as members of a society, and exercise it in that context.

The right to privacy is also, to some extent, limited when individual members of society agree to assume a public position.

Particularly when they assume positions of leadership, which deserve and command the respect of their fellow citizens, an individual man or woman can no longer say "my life is strictly my own."

Even positions of public service at lesser levels carry with them some of this expectation. Such a life, though it still enjoys fundamental rights to privacy, must be lived under public scrutiny and analysis. One cannot ask for a privileged position in society without accepting this reality.

The degree of a right to privacy of a man or woman is what is being presented to the American people, and to our elected representatives, at this time.

To what extent do we

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Rabbi Franklin remembered in archival exhibit

Rabbi Leo M. Franklin, Rabbi of Temple Beth El from 1899 to 1941, will be remembered Sept. 10 through Oct. 30 in "The Man and His Message," an archival exhibit presented by the Rabbi Leo M. Franklin Archive of Temple Beth El.

The exhibit celebrates the life of a man whose contributions to the Jewish and general community continue to have an impact today.

His efforts led to the founding of both the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit and the Round Table of Catholics, Jews

and Protestants, now the National Conference for Community and Justice.

His commitment to ecumenism also led him to conduct the first Interdenominational Community Thanking Service while his interest in youth led to the establishment of the Jewish student organization at the University of Michigan, a forerunner of today's Hillel Foundation.

He was the creator, as well, of the first English language Jewish newspaper in Detroit. There was, it is said, scarcely a social or civic cause to which he did not

devote his time and energy.

On Sept. 9, a preview celebration will be held to mark the opening of the exhibit honoring Dr. Franklin's life and his achievements. A 6:30 p.m. buffet dinner at the Temple will be followed by the presentation of a specially commissioned video, "Bringing Communities Together: The Legacy of Rabbi Leo M. Franklin."

The video highlights the life of both El's longest-serving rabbi and offers the opportunity to hear Dr. Franklin and others voice his views on assimilation,

anti-Semitism, Zionism and other issues of his time. The evening will conclude with a tour of the exhibit. Cost of the preview is \$60 per person.

For information or reservations please call the Temple Archivist, Heidi Christein, 851-1100, ext. 3137.

"The Man and His Message" can be viewed, at no charge, daily through Oct. 30 at the Temple. Tours for groups of 10 to 25 persons may also be arranged by calling the Temple, 851-1100. Two week's notice is requested for group tours.

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