

Birmingham Bloomfield Chai Center
The Birmingham Bloomfield Chai Center sponsored a "Light Up the Night" event Wednesday, Dec. 4, in conjunction with lighting a giant outdoor 6-foot menorah for the first time in downtown Birmingham. This was followed by a Hanukkah celebration in the Baldwin Public Library. The menorah will be on display this week. Call (248) 203-6721.

First Baptist
The Living Nativity, an enactment of the birth of Jesus, will be presented for the fifth year at First Baptist Church, at the corner of Willis and Bates on Ring Road, in downtown Birmingham. Performances will be at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. each evening. Friday-Sunday, Dec. 6-8.

The performances feature live animals, a full-sized crèche, 20 characters in costume, dramatic narration, special lighting effects and Christmas music performed by area choirs and soloists. Area music personalities narrate most of the performance. (248) 644-0450.

Nativity Episcopal
"Nativity at Nativity," featuring 100 Nativity sets from around the world, is 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, at Nativity Episcopal Church, 21220 W. 14 Mile, Bloomfield Township, on the

north side of 14 Mile, between Lahser and Evergreen. There will also be a "hands-on" center for children, and books, ornaments and Nativity sets for sale. Admission is \$2; family \$12. Visit the Web site at www.nativityepiscopalchurch.org, or call the church at (248) 646-6100.

Also at Nativity Episcopal
The Outreach Committee at Nativity Episcopal is sponsoring a "Save the Sweater" project, in which they are asking participants to give adult and children sweaters to pass along for those who will be without this holiday. The committee asks that the sweaters be in good condition, e.g., no holes, seam openings, or spots that cannot be removed, freshly cleaned, and that you are no longer wearing. Each should have a note pinned to it indicating size and any other pertinent information. Bring contributed items to the church anytime up until Christmas Day. The committee will fold them, tie festive ribbons with "Merry Christmas" tags, and label "GIFT" on them. Call (248) 646-6100. The church's Web site is nativityepiscopalchurch.org.

Franklin Community
On Dec. 7, Franklin Community Church, 26425 Wellington, Franklin, holds Holly

Day. The church sanctuary will be open for meditation and for viewing the Christmas tree. Organ music will be provided. On Dec. 8, the Michigan Flute Orchestra, led by world-renowned Shaul Ben-Har, will present a free concert in the sanctuary. (248) 626-6606.

Elu v' Elu
"Israel in Text and Tradition," a Sunday study series led by Michael Weiss, is in progress. It's sponsored by Elu v' Elu, the adult Jewish learning project of the Michigan Conservative movement, from 10-11:30 a.m. Dec. 8 and 15. Host is Cong. Shaarey Zedek, 27375 Bell Road, Southfield. Sessions can be attended separately. No charge. Registration not necessary. (248) 593-3450 or e-mail learn@eluvellu.org.

St. Anastasia Catholic
The Rev. Ken Kauchek from St. Anastasia Catholic Church in Troy will present "Are You Buying the Stairway to Heaven?" The third in a series of four discussions, 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11, at Marini's Restaurant, 18 Mile and Rochester roads in Troy. (248) 689-8380.

First Presbyterian
Are you feeling less-than-joyful about the holiday season? First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, 1659 W. Maple, is offering an Advent Service of Hope

at 7:10 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11. This service of prayer, song, candle lighting and Scripture will help you prepare for Christmas in a different way. Call (248) 644-2040 or visit the Web site www.fpcbirmingham.org for more information.

Christ Church Cranbrook
The Adult Education and Ecumenical Committees of Christ Church Cranbrook hosts a fall series of Sunday Morning Forums on the general theme of religion and violence, with a focus on areas where religion has been a component of severe civil unrest. On Dec. 15, Peter Bertocci will speak on Religion, Ethnicity, and Nationalism. The forums are 10:20-11:20 a.m. at Christ Church Cranbrook, 470 Church Road, Bloomfield Hills, at Lone Pine and Cranbrook roads. (248) 644-5210.

Bethany Rochester
A divorce-recovery program series for men and women of all ages will meet for eight weeks, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Thursdays beginning Dec. 12, at St. Ireneus Parish Center, 771 Old Peach Road, Rochester. For more information, call Phyllis (248) 373-1286 or Mike (248) 652-3860. On the Web: bethanyol-southwesternmichigan.org.

ONGOING

Troy Seventh-day Adventist
Teens and young adults are invited to a weekly "Saturday Night Revue" with music, a message and gym night. It's at 7 p.m. at the Troy Adventist Academy behind the church, 2775 Crooks, Troy.

First Baptist
A global gifts and craft shop is open for the eighth year in downtown Birmingham, through Dec. 21, at the First Baptist Church, 300 Willis at Bates. The shop is non-profit, staffed by volunteers. All proceeds go to mostly Third World craftsman and artisans who make the gifts and crafts. Hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesdays-Saturdays.

First United Methodist
Caregivers of Elderly Parents, a monthly support group, provides a supportive atmosphere for adult caregivers to gain insight, understanding and the ability to deal with the emotions and details of caregiving. The groups meet from 7-9 p.m. at the church, 1509 W. Maple, Birmingham, in the Wright Parlor, R104. Adult care available with a reservation. Call Janice Lewis at (248) 646-6407, Ext. 3127.

Community Congregational

An ongoing Bible study class is 7:30 p.m. Thursdays in the parlor at Community Congregational Church, 27800 Southfield Road in Lathrup Village. Anyone may attend. (248) 557-0044.


■ An adult Sunday School class meets at 9 a.m. in the parlor.
■ A Thursday evening prayer meeting is at 7 p.m. followed by a Bible study meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Anyone may attend all activities.
■ The Village Early Learning Center for infants through preschool-aged children is about to open. For information, call (248) 557-0045 or e-mail VELC@aol.com.

Northbrook Presbyterian
The Men's Connection at Northbrook Presbyterian Church, 22055 W. 14 Mile, Beverly Hills, gathers every Thursday morning for prayer, Bible study, fellowship and a continental breakfast. All are welcome. (248) 642-0200.

■ A Bereavement Support Group meets the fourth Tuesday of every month. The group is facilitated by a bereavement specialist and is for those dealing with any type of loss.

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**Lunch & Dinner
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Our way of saying thank you for your support throughout the year, we invite your family to a complimentary lunch or dinner with Santa. Space is limited, so reserve early!
Dinners • Wednesdays • at 6:30 p.m.
December 4, 11, and 18
Lunches • Saturdays • at Noon
December 7 and 14
Located in our Community Room at the "G" Entrance.
Call 248-476-1160 for reservations.

Smile for Santa
Holiday photos with Santa are now available at the Value City Stage. Beautiful digital packages by Dreamweavers House of Fine Photography start at \$10. Photos available weekend and daily throughout December. (Be gentle when you tug on his beard - it's real!)

Sounds of the Holidays
From the sweet sounds of the dulcimer to the nostalgic choruses of Barbershop and Dickens, the Mall echoes with live entertainment throughout the holidays. Watch your newspaper calendar or see in-house flyers for the complete schedule of events!

Send Santa Your Wish List
Stop by Holiday Headquarters and visit their friends Letter Center. While you shop, your kids can create and mail their Christmas wish list to Santa. 11 a.m. Call (248) 476-4507 for weekly selections. No charge. Located by Sears Court.

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