## Dead Sea Scrolls offer glimpse of ancient world

BY MARY QUINLEY

CONSESSMENT

If you're a history bull or a
curious soul, consider a jaunt to
Grand Rapids to check out the
Dead Sea Seroids exhibition.
Through Junet, this rare collection of the carliest surviving
text of the Hebrew Bible,
known to Christians as the Old
Testament, will be outleplay at
the Van Andel Museum Center.
The most important (reasun) to see this exhibit is education," said Emanuel Toy, editor
in chief. Dead Sea Seroils
Publication Project. Children
and adults of all ages come to
see it, just to learn, he said.

## DISCOVERY

In 1947, while searching for a

In 1947, while searching for a lost goat in a cave near Qumran, an ancient Judacan settlement on the northwest shore of the Dead Sea. a leadout in shepherd discovered a clay jar containing seven parchement scrolls. During the two decades after the initial discovery, 28 nearly complete serolls and fragments of another 900 serolls were found in the area. Most scholars believe that the scrolls were written more than 2000 years ago by the Essene seet, a monastic bruther than 2000 years ago by the Essene seet, a monastic bruther than 2000 years ago by the Essene seet, a monastic bruther than 2000 years ago by the Essene seet, a monastic bruther than 2000 years ago by the Essene seet, a monastic bruther than 2000 years ago by the Essene seet, a monastic bruther than 2000 years ago by the Essene seet, a monastic bruther than 2000 years ago by the Essene seet, a monastic bruther than 2000 years ago by the Essene seet, a monastic bruther than 2000 years ago by the Essene seet, a monastic bruther than 2000 years ago by the Essene seet, a monastic bruther than 2000 years ago by the Essene seet, a monastic bruther than 2000 years ago by the Essene seet, a monastic bruther than 2000 years ago by the Essene seet, a monastic bruther than 2000 years ago by the Essene seet, a monastic bruther than 2000 years ago by the Essene seet, a monastic bruther than 2000 years ago by the Essene seet, a monastic bruther than 2000 years ago by the Essene seet, a monastic bruther than 2000 years ago ye



If you visit the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibition at the Van Andel Museum in Grand Rapids, you can catch a glimpse of the Dead Sea through a 'window' in the wall of a simulated cave.

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As you meander through the galleries you'll see fragments of 12 different scrulls, including writings from the books of Exodus and Psalms.

"My favorite (part) is the biblical scrolls. The beautiful Psalms are well written, clear and large. The vaid.

Also on display are numerous artifacts from Qumran - ancient coins, leather sandals and a pottery inkwell believed to be connected with the writing of the scrolls.

Esther, is represented. Be sure to pause at the viewer in one concern of the exhibit to watch the Parchment Making video. The video features an intriguing easy-to-understand explanation of the process of writing

IF YOU GO

What: The Dead Sea Scrolls

When: Through Sunday, June 1

Cost: Advance ticket purchase recommended, however, tickets are available at the door, \$14 adults, \$10.50 for children 17 and younger Where: Van Andel Museum Center, 272 Pearl St. NW, Grand Rapids Information: (616) 456-3977 or www.grmuseum.org

## WHILE YOU'RE IN GRAND RAPIDS

What: Foremost's Butterffies are Blooming, the nation's largest temporary butterfly exhibit

When: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week, through Wednesday, April

Where: Frederik Meijer Gardens, I-96 and E. Beltline, Grand Rapids Cost: \$8 adults, \$7 anyone 65 and older, \$6 students with ID, \$4 children 5-13, free children 4 and younger

Information: (888) 957-1580, (616) 957-1580, www.meijergardens.org or www.butterflies.foremost.com

child that comes from a Christian family might wonder about the bible. Another reason for visitors of all ages to see the show, Daly said, is that the exhibit presents a lot about life 2000 years ago that the average person is not familiar with. and copying text.

Is the exhibit appropriate for kids?

"I think some kids are attracted; said Pete Daly, assistant public relations officer, Van Andel Museum Center.

"The Dead Sea Scrolls are a very important part of religious history in the Western world—and, because the scrolls are the oldest version of the bible, any

Interactive displays are a hit with museum-goers. With the

read the faded texts. Another hands-on option is to attempt the tricky task of piecing the scrolls together.

On weekends, a DSS Discovery Room is open for anyone who has purchased a ticket to the exhibit. The room is expecially appealing to the younger crowd. Here, kids are invited to use costumes, puppets and props to act out stories from Christian, Jewish and Muclim traditions. Or, let them make a scroll to take home or set a table for a Passover feast.

In the DSS Resource Room, also available on weekends to ticket holders, visitors will discover a comfy setting with maps, copies of the scrolls, learning games and videos. These tools provide a plethora of info for partous who are eager to delve deeper into the history of the scrolls, the Dead Sea and archeology.

Hunge? Wander into the Museum Oasis Cafe to dine on Mediterranean-style cinisine. Seven days a week, choose from a buffet menu that features Chicken Jerusalem, hummuse cultinary treats.

Reservations are encouraged.

more culinary treats.

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## ing of the scrolls. BOOK OF RULES

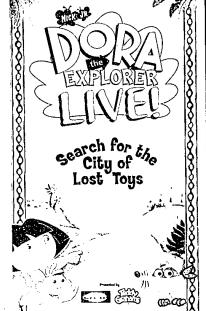
Have a seat near a copy of the Book of Rules and flip through

Book of Ruies and mp mospo-the pages.
This book of community laws reflects the lives and beliefs of the people of Qumran.
Members who broke a rule were barred from the commu-al meal.

were barred from the command meal.

The scrolls were written on parchment and papprus in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.
Every book of the Hebrew Bible, except the book of





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