

Saturday Bat Mitzvah observed

By SHIRLEE IDEN

Andrea Rosen is a 14-year-old trail-blazer.

She is the very first girl at Adat Shalom Synagogue in Farmington to celebrate her Bat Mitzvah at a Saturday morning service.

Up to now, girls were only allowed to ascend the bimah on Friday evenings. Saturday observances were reserved for boys.

"It's very exciting and challenging. I feel excited to be the first one doing something like this," she said.

She admits that many men in the congregation have told her they don't approve at all of the innovation.

"The kids are more accepting about it and just shrug it off," she said.

RABBI JACOB Segal and Seymour Rosenbloom call the change a move to provide for greater involvement for young women in Shabbat services.

"The ritual committee and board of trustees adopted our new policy one year ago," Rabbi Rosenbloom said.

Under the new procedures, the young woman has to have reached the

age of 14 and completed Judaic studies through at least one year of secondary education.



ANDREA ROSEN

"Under these regulations," the rabbi said, "the Bat Mitzvah ceremony now becomes exactly equivalent to the ceremony of Bar Mitzvah for boys."

It also indicates that a young woman has reached the age of religious maturity when she is expected to assume her responsibility for participation as an adult member of the Jewish community.

ACCORDING TO the rabbi, a number of young women are currently in

the process of preparing for their Bat Mitzvah in the coming months.

The preparation is a long and studious process of concentration and memorization to reach the required proficiency.

Andrea, who expects to continue her Jewish education through high school, has been an active member of Adat Shalom's United Synagogue Youth Group.

Last year she served as president of its junior unit.

When she ascends the bimah this Saturday to chant the Haftarah she has studied so hard to learn, Andrea will have the moral support of other members of her family participating in the day's service with her.

And just as she is a trailblazer in her synagogue, so is she an example in her family. Her younger sister is already preparing to observe her own Saturday Bat Mitzvah within the next year.

Synagogue to host workshops

Seymour Cohen, director of the B'nai Brith Commission on Community and Veterans Services, will be the keynote speaker at the 30th Annual Seminar-Workshops for B'nai Brith leadership, sponsored by the Metropolitan Detroit B'nai Brith Council, on Wednesday, Aug. 28, at Adat Shalom, 29901 Middlebelt, Farmington. More than 400 lodge leaders will participate.

Registration will take place at 5:30 p.m. with dinner starting at 6 p.m. David Levine is president of the B'nai Brith Council. John Anstandig, a vice president of the B'nai Brith Council, is the seminar chairman.

The seminar is designed for lodge officers and committee chairmen and outlines the plans and objectives for the year. There are 25 lodges with a total membership of about 7,500 in the Metropolitan Detroit area.

Cohen, of Washington, D.C., the guest speaker, is on the faculty of the University of Maryland School of Social Work. He has served as national program director of the B'nai Brith Youth Organization, the world's largest Jewish Youth Organization. He is the author of articles on drug abuse education, community action, prison work, older adults and veterans affairs.

He is staff director of the B'nai Brith Senior Citizens Housing Committee and is president of the B'nai Brith Headquarters Staff Association.

For reservations, write or call B'nai Brith office, 354-6100, 21711 W. Ten Mile Road, Southfield, Southfield, 48075.

Services set at Kol Ami

Regular Sabbath eve services of Temple Kol Ami will be conducted at 8:30 p.m. Friday at the Birmingham Unitarian Church, Woodward Avenue at Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills.

Rabbi Ernst J. Conrad will officiate and lead a pulpit discussion on the topic of "Peace in Jewish Tradition." The Torah portion deals with war and peace in Biblical days.

An Oneg refreshment period will follow the worship hour.



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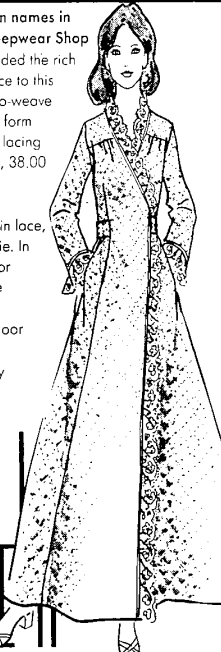


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