Adat Shalom to host tribute for Israel Bonds

Bandleader Eric Rosenow's slight figure is well known to thousands of Detroiters. He and his "Continentals" have been a familiar presence at weddings, bar mitzvahs and holiday dances for more than 28 years.

An then there is his association with Israel Bonds: By his count, he has played for more than 300 Bond events.

The Tribute Dinner will be held at Congregation Adat Shalom in Farmington Hills. Chairmen of this year's Einstein-Israel Bond effort are Linda Apfelblat, Henry Dorfman and Sam Freedman. Chapter incoming president is Mania Lesh. For reservations and further Tribute Dinner information, call Israel Bonds, 557-2900.

"The band and I feel like we are lifelong members of the Detroit Bond 'family.' " Actually, his association with Israel Bonds goes beyond that of entertainment. As a member and twice past president of B'nai B'rith Albert Einstein Lodge, he is a long time supporter of the Lodge and Chapter's participation in the Bond program. He has served often as the lodge's Israel Bond chairman, or as a ticket chairman for the organization's annual Bond dinner dance.

He thus often held a dual role as, on the night of a dinner dance, he and his band provided a musical salute to the dinner honoree.

This year, on Sunday, May 3, the date of the Einstein Israel Bond Dinner Dance, Rosenow will not be found on the bandstand. In tribute to his outstanding service to Israel and the Bond organization, the Oak Parker, a German-born survivor of the Nazi years, will be seated on the dais as the 1981 Einstein honoree. He will be the recipient of a special award from the State of Israel and it is expected that Einstein members and other friends will honor Rosenow with record-setting Bond purchases, declared lodge president Charles Growe.

The honoree-elect began his musical education at the piano keyboard when he was eight years old and later attended Berlin's Stern Conservatory. It was also during these years that little four year old Eric, while visiting in his father's barber shop, was "discovered" by some professional actors. From then until he was 16 years old, Eric appeared in 26 German motion picture films. Hitler's edict forbidding Jews to appear in German films ended what might have been a lifetime acting career. (In a bittersweet experience, Rosenow was able to view himself in the role of a paperboy in "M," starring Peter Lorre, when that film was shown at the Detroit Institute of Arts.)

In 1939 Rosenow, then 23, and his older brother escaped the Holocaust by fleeing to Shanghai. Their parents were able to join them soon after, and the family spent nine years in the war-torn Far Eastern city.

"There were 20,000 of us — Germans, Austrians, Poles. We were helped by the Red CRoss and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society. The Japanese controlled the city. We were now very poor but we were alive."

Rosenow married Anne in Shanghai in 1946; they immigrated to Detroit in 1948. Here he found work at the Chrysler-Dodge Main Plant, but also returned to his piano, playing clubs and bars, giving piano lessons.

Of the 10 original men recruited for his "Continentals" in 1953, six are still with him. In addition to the regular dates for Israel Bonds and others, last year alone the band played 21 special concerts in Oak Park Park, Southfield Recreation Center and Hart Plaza downtown.

Rosenow has been active as a Tree chairman for the Jewish National Fund. He is on the board of American Friends of Mogan Dovid Adom and is a past vice president of Shaarit Haplaytah-Holocaust Survivors. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Detroit Federation of Musicians, Local No. 5. He and Anne have visited Israel twice.

Having reached what many consider retirement age, does he ever think of slowing down? "Never. I love my work. I love to entertain. I love my adopted country and I love Israel. I want to keep on doing what I can, in my way, for as long as I can."

ERIC ROSENOW

Communion breakfast served Ash Wednesday

Lutheran church women begin the Lenten season with a breakfast on Ash Wednesday, March 4, at 9 a.m. in St. John Lutheran Church, on Gill Road.

The "Soup and Bread Meal," which will be followed by a worship service, is open to all Lutheran women affiliated with American Lutheran Church and Lutheran Church of America.

Reservations are requested by calling 474-0584. A nursery will be provided for pre-school children.

On each Wednesday thereafter throughout Lenten season, a series of dialogue sermons called "Dialogue at the Crossroads," will begin at 7:30 p.m.

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