

# Synagogue vandalism causes 'great sadness and violation'

By Teri Banas  
staff writer

One quarter of Phyllis Scherman's family was killed in the Holocaust and her husband spent six horrible years in a Nazi concentration camp.

So when she looked at the red painted swastikas and racial slurs painted on the Livonia Jewish Congregation last Sunday, she felt a wave of "great sadness and violation" come over her.

"I just feel that who ever did this is a sick person because well people just don't do things like this," she said.

Scherman is a longtime member of the 80-family member congregation, its spokeswoman and a 23-year resident of the Seven Mile neighborhood surrounding the synagogue.

This week she asked that people not look disparagingly upon the community for the acts of vandalism done to the synagogue and adjoining United Hebrew School last weekend. Sometime in the night vandals painted red swastikas and the words "Jew, Niggers," on the synagogue's signs, doors and windows as well as at the adjoining United Hebrew School.

She spoke instead of restraint in labeling a community she's known as supportive and welcoming as anti-Semitism.

"My great fear is that people will look down on this community (because of the vandalism). That would be awful," she said. "This has been a fantastic neighborhood. Everyone helps everyone. It's just like this congregation, one family."

"I've lived here for 23 years, my parents moved here when Livonia was just a township, and there's never been anything like this before," she continued.

"I wouldn't have lived here for 23 years if I felt this was not a good community."

HER COMMENTS were accentuated by the numerous offers of support and assistance she has received from throughout the community.

"My phone has been ringing off the hook. The response has been one of shock, sadness and disbelief — and it just hasn't been from our congregation. "People have been stopping by to ask what they can do to help. A man from the Universal Unitarian Church in Farmington said he was on his way to church when he almost got rear-ended for what he saw (on the synagogue). He got out to look at it, then drove to church and told his minister about it. That morning the minister made an announcement from the pulpit and they've offered to help in any way."

Scherman said she also received a telephone call from Livonia Mayor Edward McNamara. "I was just too shocked up to talk to him at the time so he said he'd call me back the next day."

Concerned over the community's image, McNamara on Tuesday issued a statement that government officials were "appalled" by the "senseless acts of vandalism" done there.

"The citizens of Livonia come from a variety of ethnic backgrounds and ascribe to many religious affiliations. . . . We are certain this is an isolated incident that does not reflect the atmosphere of our citizens nor the attitude of the good people of Livonia," said McNamara.

HE SAID he had prepared the statement because he wanted people to be aware of (the act), that we are trying to

apprehend the individuals involved and that we want to prevent it from happening again.

"No community wants this reputation," he said.

McNamara seems to have his own theory on the matter.

After requesting and reading the police reports about the incident, McNamara said he believes "It almost sounds like kids are involved. It sounds more like vandalism than wickedly."

You got to wonder, they didn't paint the brick, they painted the areas that could be cleaned off, and they used a water-base paint.

"It leads me to believe it's rather a low budget terrorist or a not too wicked vandal," he said.

One theory investigators have examined is the supposition the incident was somehow stimulated by a nine-week television program about Judaism airing on Channel 56.

## ELECT Ronald A. GOLDSTEIN



Paid for by the committee to elect RONALD A. GOLDSTEIN, 47th District Judge

### 47th District JUDGE

Tue., November 6, 1984

- Resident: Farmington Hills
- Over 25 years experience as a Trial Attorney in all courts
- Married, 3 daughters
- "It is my intention to enforce the laws as intended by the legislature."

**NOW IS THE TIME FOR A CHANGE!**

## Classic Interiors



Since 1937

A Beautiful Store with Beautiful Furniture

20292 Middlebelt Rd. (South of Eight Mile)  
Livonia • 474-6900

• Open Mon., Thurs. & Fri. 'Til 9 P.M.

ENJOY A DAY IN THE COUNTRY  
Come On Out to Parshallville's Historic  
**TOM WALKER'S GRIST MILL**

Tom Walker's Grist Mill is one of the few remaining water powered Mills in Michigan. The present Mill is over 100 years old. We hope you will come to the Mill and enjoy the activities the mill has to offer.

—NOW OPEN FOR THE SEASON—

- Country Store
- Gift Shop
- Cider & Donuts
- Candies
- Barrel Furniture
- Candlemaking
- Tours

FROM DETROIT:  
Take I-96 west to US-24 (Go north on US-24 past M-24 to Old Road Exit Turn right on Old Road follow signs & down signs to Grist Mill.

HOURS: M-F 10:30 - 6  
Sat. & Sun. 10 - 7  
625-9079

## BLOCK OUT SUMMER'S HEAT & WINTER'S COLD

with

### 100% THERMO VINYL REPLACEMENT WINDOWS

- Maintenance Free Finish
- Insulated Glass for Energy Efficiency
- Available in Triple Glazed Glass
- Our other Quality Products include:
- Insulated Steel Doors
- Patio Doors
- Bay & Bow Windows
- And Much More

### MERLE MYERS GLASS

DEARBORN/DOWNRIVER • 846-4404  
NORTHWEST SUBURB • 471-7892

Bank Financing Available

## THE BIRMINGHAM TEMPLE ANNOUNCES

### The School for Human Relations FINANCIAL SEMINAR

November 1st Financial Planning for Singles  
November 8th Financing Your Child's Education  
November 15th Financial Planning for the Spouses of Professionals

Thursday 7:30 p.m.  
Class Leader: Sandra Yelenak  
Independent Certified Financial Planner, Registered Financial Advisor  
Tuition is \$5.00 per session

### DECEMBER'S PROGRAM

How to be a Successful Stepparent  
Helping Children Deal with Divorce

Thursday, December 6 & 13 7:30  
Class Leader: Ingrid Grossberg, M.S.W.  
Sidney Grossberg, Ph.D., M.S.W.  
Tuition is \$5.00 per session

For Registration and Information Call: BIRMINGHAM TEMPLE  
28811 W. 12 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48018  
477-1410

## FALL FASHION STARTS HERE...

# 1/2 OFF

# 40% OFF

Select Group of Suits

## Just Marilyns

## In Home Modernization ... The Builder Can Make The Big Difference.



Once you know who we are... you won't buy from anyone else!

How long has it been since you found someone who takes old-fashioned pride in his work? Who doesn't skimp and cut corners? Who gives you a full measure of honest value, and backs his work to the hilt? Who prices every job fairly, so that it doesn't cost you an arm and a leg?

In the home modernization field, especially, people will say that's an impossible dream. Today, Bob Stern is making it come true.

**bob stern**  
BUILDING COMPANY

6190 Dunmore  
West Bloomfield  
855-3880

In Our 3rd Decade of Service

## Stained Glass Sale

### ARMSTRONG GLASS

12 x 12's

Reg. \$2.35 EACH **3 FOR \$5.00**

BULLSEYE GLASS  
20% OFF SHEET PRICE

4" COPPER FOIL  
(1.25 mil.) \$1.50

PRICES GOOD THRU NOV. 10, 1984

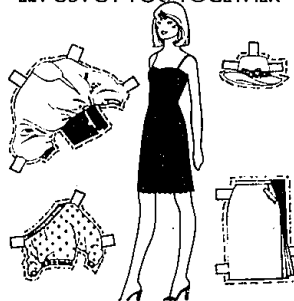
SPECIALS EVERY SATURDAY

**GLASS CRAFT**

471-9003

3465 Grand River  
(N. of W. of Farmington Hills)  
Farmington

## CUT THE BOREDOM OUT OF YOUR WARDROBE LET US PUT YOU TOGETHER



OCT. 27th SATURDAY, 1:00 P.M.

RESERVATIONS ONLY LIMIT 35 GUESTS

\*PLEASE BRING YOUR "WHITE ELEPHANTS" such as JACKETS • SUITS • SKIRTS • ETC. SIZE 4-16 FREE HEMMING

LET US PUT YOU TOGETHER 476-1150

\*Special Fall Sale

THIS WEEK  
Buy 2 items receive 20% OFF  
Buy 3 or more and receive 30% OFF  
excluding accessories

## Invest in a Stiffel Timeless beauty at a once-in-a-lifetime price.



1/3 OFF  
ALL LAMPS

1/3 OFF  
ALL LAMPS

# SALE

The world's most beautiful lamps are yours today - at a beautiful price.

Come choose from the renowned Stiffel collection. Stiffel's half-century of fine craftsmanship is evident in each and every lamp we make. The rich finish. The unique design. The meticulous attention to detail. Just the kind of exquisite quality you'd expect from Stiffel. But at an unexpected low price.

So for a limited time only, enjoy the timeless beauty of Stiffel at once-in-a-lifetime prices. Make a classic decision. Invest in a Stiffel.

**OUR PRICES ARE BEST!**

**Walker & Buzenberg Furniture**

240 NORTH MAIN STREET • PLYMOUTH • PHONE 459-1300

Mon., Thurs., Fri. 10-6, Tues., Wed., Sat. 10-6  
Free Parking (next to Regency)