

Rabbi is a 'first'

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"That was a difficult stance to take, and yet a stance many of us felt we had no choice but to take."

"Of course, I count myself among the fighters, you won't be surprised to hear," Ellberg told the sisterhood members.

Reconciling her belief in Judaism and her awareness of the secular feminist movement was difficult at times. She found that to be true at times while a student at Brandeis.

"Brandeis was a wonderful place to be a Jewish adolescent, a place that was very supportive." She discovered, however, that the university's religious services essentially were Orthodox ones, complete with separate seating for men and women.

"That was a very painful experience for me."

During her undergraduate years, Ellberg also realized that a variety of other traditionally male fields — law,

medicine, business — were now open to women.

"Any of that, those things were available, but those were not the things I wanted."

During her freshman year at Brandeis, she began to learn to read the Torah. The Torah, or Law of Moses, consists of the first five books of the Bible.

"THAT WAS really a turning point in my life," she said.

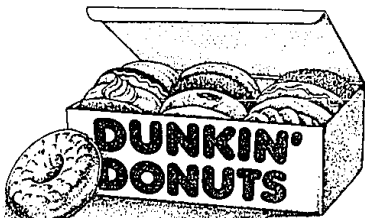
The exemption of women from certain aspects of Jewish law, such as learning the Torah, "unwittingly became the key to the exclusion of women," she said.

The basic books on which Judaism is based "were created before the feminist revolution," and "do not directly incorporate the experience of women."

The rabbis of centuries long ago can't be blamed for the content of those books, she said.

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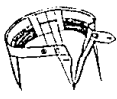
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Amy Ellberg, first woman rabbi of Conservative Judaism, tells her story to Sisterhood of Congregation Adat Shalom.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Liquor license bill clears state Senate

A change in the way some liquor licenses are granted is one step closer to implementation.

So said state Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, about his bill 253 which has been approved by the Senate and awaits consideration by the House.

"This bill will allow the Liquor Control Commission to issue a limited number of tavern (beer and wine sales) licenses on the basis of a community's need rather than on the archaic basis of its full-time resident population," Faxon said.

Many communities have used up their quotas of liquor licenses which are granted on a ratio of one license for every 1,500 residents, said Faxon, whose district includes Southfield, Lathrup Village, Farmington Hills and Farmington.

The population is counted every 10 years so if the population has been increasing there will be no adjustment until the 1990 census is completed, he said.

Senate Bill 253 will make some licenses available to existing full-service restaurants which will be able to add wine and beer to their menus, Faxon said. These special tavern licenses will be subject to several limitations.

The tavern licenses will only permit wine and beer to be served for on-

premise consumption, the license cannot be converted to a Class-C liquor-by-the-glass license and there can't be a bar in the restaurant, Faxon said.

"OFTEN A COMMUNITY which has expended most of its quota of licenses will retain one or two licenses in the hope of enticing a new business to locate there," Faxon said.

"If this business is part of a large chain, it would have no trouble affording the cost of purchasing an already issued license which may run as high as \$70,000."

"An already existing restaurant, struggling to survive in a very competitive business, is in a tough situation. It can't afford the high cost of purchasing the license. And since it is already located there, it has little bargaining power to convince the community to give up its last licenses."

The bill is designed to solve that dilemma by limiting eligibility to restaurants which have been operating for at least six months," Faxon said.

"Although the bill will only authorize up to 50 new tavern licenses per year for four years, it is viewed as a very important start at democratizing the way tavern licenses are distributed," Faxon said.

Madonna offers review class

Courses for health care professionals are scheduled in June and July at Madonna College, Livonia.

Intensive review sessions for persons who will be taking registry exams for medical technology and medical lab

technician will be held June 25 through Aug. 6.

For information or registration, contact the Office of Continuing Education, 591-5186.

Madonna College is at I-96 and Levan Road in Livonia.

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