

# Local rabbi promotes humanism

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deal with pain and frustration? How do I deal with my talents?"

WINE'S SELF-ASSURED manner makes itself shown with the ease in which he espouses his philosophy. "My philosophy is that the purpose of life is the achievement of human dignity — to increasingly become the master of my own life."

Mastering one's life includes developing the strength to face reality, the generosity to share with other people and the recognition and positive use of talent, Wine said.

Equally important for Wine is seeking out of life rather than waiting for it to happen. "I assume the responsibility for my happiness is mine. Try to do something different. Start a new organization. I lecture,

write a book. Do something different than the routine. I find waiting (for life) is the most humiliating posture," he said.

Raised in a Conservative congregation — Shaarey Zedek in Detroit — Wine later graduated as a Reform rabbi from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati.

Although Wine's ideology developed while studying for his bachelor's and master's degree in philosophy at the University of Michigan, he thought he could express his ideas through the Reform movement of Judaism.

AFTER HIS graduation from rabbinical school in 1956, Wine served as an Army chaplain in Korea for two years. When he returned home in 1958, he served as assistant rabbi at Temple Beth El in Detroit (now in

Bloomfield Township) until 1960, when he helped organize another Reform temple in Windsor — Temple Beth El II.

After realizing the Reform movement was not what he wanted, Wine left in 1962. That same year, his philosophies began to find a home in an organized doctrine when a person interested in forming a new congregation contacted him.

When 18 couples met with Wine, he made his philosophies immediately clear. Eight couples stayed that night to begin formation of the new congregation. The rest left. But it was the beginning of Humanistic Judaism.

Now long after its living-room beginnings, Humanistic Judaism and Wine have become internationally known.

The man behind the controversy

and international notoriety, however, approaches life and its pleasures quite simply.

Walking — six-to-seven miles a day — and reading are his favorite pastimes.

BUT it is traveling the world, at least one major trip a year, that captures his heart. Armed with a goal of traveling to just about every area of the globe, Wine's itinerary this summer includes Scandinavia and the Soviet Union.

"Travel for me is an adventure, an exposure to new people, new environments," Wine said. "Travel is a learning experience. It's an opportunity to establish contacts with new cultures. And there are certain places around the world that have extraordinary beauty."

Recent acts of international ter-

rorism are doing little to dampen Wine's curiosity about the world. "The one quality you need for life is courage. You do not allow events to intimidate you. The way to let terrorism win is to lock yourself up in your house. Life is a risk," he said.

While his congregation continues to grow, Wine's influence is following suit. Yet controversy has posed no obstacle to Wine's determination to spread his philosophies. In founding the Birmingham Temple, Wine also organized the Society for Humanistic Judaism, headquartered in Farmington Hills. In 1983, Wine also organized the Israel Association for Humanistic Judaism.

In October, the first meeting of the International Federation of Humanistic Judaism will take place with delegates gathering from around the world. "In the course of

23 years, we have gone from local to international," Wine said.

WINE is also a member of the North American Committee for Humanism, which has established a school, the Humanist Institute in New York City, for the training of Humanist leaders. To date, the school has 40 students.

"We are in the process of creating humanistic communities all over North America," he said.

Maintaining his belief that communication between people of different backgrounds and beliefs around the world is essential, Wine has also organized the Conference on Liberal Religion. Clergy of various faiths have gathered together for discussion because of a belief "that truth is not to be found in one religious tradition."

## Honigman speaks out about lobbying

By Mary Lou Callaway  
special writer

In office only 16 months and planning to run again this year, state Rep. David Honigman had some harsh words for lobbyists at the annual West Bloomfield-Farmington League of Women Voters meeting April 19.

"The growing power of special interest groups and their hired gun lobbyists is a threat to the integrity of the democratic process," he charged.

Still, the West Bloomfield Republican said lobbying may be "cleaner" than it was in an earlier era and sometimes works to bring issues to light.

He has found his first-term experience both exciting and frustrating, calling his peers "political warriors," who get elected "using words, money, mass mailings and phone banks as axes and bayonets."

Lawmakers must sometimes make all-or-nothing choices that can affect millions of people, he said.

"THE DARK underside of the legislative world is posed by those special-interest groups and the lobbyists they hire, some as brazen as they are powerful," said Honigman.

"Lobbyists, with self-proclaimed respectability, are tempted by staggering fees. Lawmakers and their aides are quitting in droves to cash in on connections they made as

legislators and staff members.

"For many, public service has become a revolving door, a mere internment for a lucrative career. The interests of the common citizen are too often stand still in the face of the onslaught of those special interests and their hired guns."

But he acknowledged the citizen may benefit from lobbying such as in tax deductions for mortgage interest or state and local taxes.

"Lobbyists often conceal the fact they are lobbyists by calling themselves lawyers, governmental affairs specialists and public relations consultants," he said.

"They do serve a useful purpose by showing busy legislators the virtues and pitfalls of complex issues. Lobbying is cleaner than in an earlier era and in some ways the growth of special interest groups is healthy."

Legislators, too, Honigman said, "practice extortion against lobbyists by sometimes threatening to vote against sought-after laws unfavorable to the special interests unless campaign contributions are made."

He does not exempt either Republicans or Democrats from his charges. "What he finds offensive is the practice of delayed action on such bills as the liability insurance issue. That, he said, was stalled "for the purpose of milking doctors, lawyers, insurance companies and bar owners ... a standard joke around the Lansing Capitol."

When the big lobbying gun line up on opposite sides, they tend to cancel each other out and that may stall action on a bill, he said.

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HONIGMAN'S SOLUTION would be to place further limits on campaign expenditures and public financing of elections. But he believes reforms are unlikely "because incumbents can almost always raise money more than challengers."

Honigman reportedly spent \$75,000 in his successful campaign to unseat former state Rep. Robert McGee of Commerce Township. McGee now represents HGH Health System as its governmental agency relations consultant, of which Huron Valley Hospital in Commerce is a member.

## Voters' league elects officers

The West Bloomfield-Farmington Area League of Women Voters adopted local programs and elected officers at their April 19 annual meeting at Lowrey's Restaurant in West Bloomfield.

To serve two-year terms are Linda DePorter of Farmington Hills, president; Mary Lou Coleman of Farmington Hills, vice president; and Marianne Woodward of Farm-

ington Hills, secretary.

Elected to the board of directors are Beatrice Frank of West Bloomfield, Deborah Macon of West Bloomfield, and Shelly Paros of Farmington Hills.

Continuing in office are Pat Laaman of West Bloomfield, second vice president; Patsy Smith of Farmington Hills, treasurer; and directors Lola Koch of West Bloomfield, Vicki

Strimel of Westbloomfield and Anne Drabbs of Orchard Lake.

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- Cooperation between governmental units.
- Adequate housing for senior citizens.
- Separation of executive and legislative powers in government.

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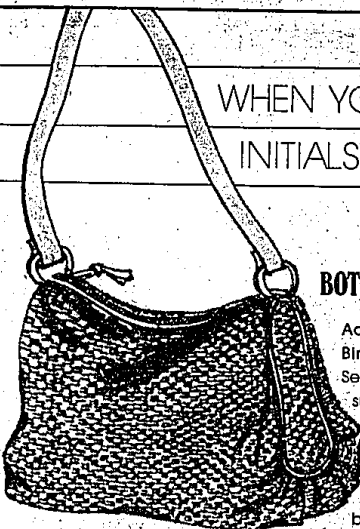
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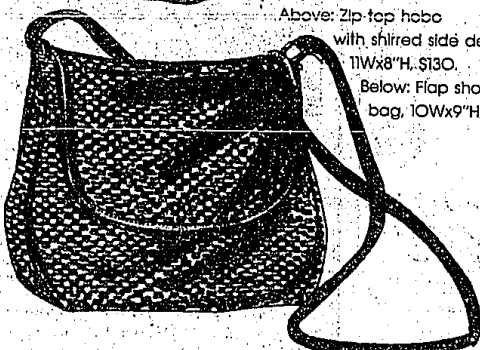
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