



Eight children line up to symbolize the menorah candles. Rachel Kahan, 5, of West Bloomfield, takes her ribbon from entertainer Maureen Schiffman. photos by SHARON LEHMAN/staff photographer

Sharing is caring

Entertainer helps kids learn a Hanukkah lesson

CHILDREN sometimes have short attention spans, but entertainer Maureen Schiffman knows how to lengthen them.

Schiffman, a children's entertainer who lives in Novi, helped about 100 youngsters celebrate the Jewish festival of Hanukkah Wednesday at the Farmington Community Center.

"The children were extremely attentive," noted Nancy Brado, community center program director, "and I'd say the average age was 4."

The children sat up front, close to the stage, so they could be part of the program, which celebrated the victory

more than 2,000 years ago of the Maccabees, a group of Jewish reformers who toppled a regime that was replacing their Jewish culture with Greek customs.

"Maureen is so good at interacting with the kids," Brado said. "She'd pull kids from the audience. She'd say, 'Oh, I forgot my menorah (a special candelabra), but let's make one ourselves.' And they would, with yellow ribbons and things."

THE MACCABEES, after reclaiming the temple in Jerusalem, found that supplies had been desecrated.

Sacred oil for the temple lamps was almost gone and the lamps were expected to burn for only a short time.

But miraculously the lights burned for eight days — the length of the Hanukkah observance.

Jewish families light one candle in the menorah each night of the celebration.

Hanukkah's close proximity to Christmas worries many Jewish leaders who feel that the two celebrations should not be mingled. Schiffman touched on the theme, however.

"She stressed that this time of year is a celebration of light and family for both Jews and Christians," Brado said. "She also said, 'Sharing is caring for someone else.'"



Drew VanMeter, 4½, of Farmington Hills, watches the show with his great aunt, Gladys Zate of Oak Park.



Joining a room full youngsters, Dana Wantin, 8, of Farmington Hills, dances with his brother, Phillip, 11, to an Israeli children's dance called "Akshav."



Relieved to hear the happy ending of a sad tale, Jay Wolk, 4, of Farmington Hills, covers his smile.

Man arrested in restaurant holdup

A 24-year-old Detroit man faces felony charges in connection with the armed robbery of Mountain Jacks restaurant in Farmington Hills Dec. 10.

Charles A. Sykes is charged with two counts of armed robbery and two counts of felonious assault. He stood mute and not guilty pleas were entered on his behalf at his arraignment before 47th District Judge Margaret Schaeffer of Farmington Dec. 13. Sykes was arrested Dec. 12 at his Detroit home.

Sykes did not post the \$150,000 cash bond set by Schaeffer. He re-

mains in the Oakland County Jail. A preliminary examination on the charges is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Dec. 21 in 47th District Court.

Conviction of armed robbery carries a maximum life sentence in prison and a maximum four years in prison for felonious assault.

Police arrested a second man but could not release details.

According to Farmington Hills police reports, three men entered the restaurant near 10 Mile and Grand River just after midnight Dec. 10 brandishing guns.

One carrying a sawed-off shotgun

made verbal threats before shooting into the restaurant's rafters. There were conflicting reports about whether one or more shots were fired.

One 33-year-old patron was robbed of his watch, wallet, jewelry and cash. He and 11 other patrons and restaurant employees were herded into a restaurant cooler where they stayed for about 10 minutes.

No one was injured. Witnesses saw the robbers run toward the Red Roof Inn parking lot east of the restaurant.

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