

# Humanistic Judaism breaks ground for new center

Birmingham Temple continues to celebrate its 30 anniversary by physically creating a new national and international center for Humanistic Judaism on its current campus on 12 Mile Road in Farmington Hills.

The International Federation of Secular Humanistic Judaism, the Society for Humanistic Judaism, and the Birmingham Temple of Farmington Hills, Michigan will break ground Sunday for the Pivnick Center for Humanistic Judaism. The 5,800-square-foot center will become part of the Birmingham Temple campus and is expected to be completed

in the spring of 1994. It is named for Benjamin and Lorraine Pivnick, longtime supporters of Humanistic Judaism. The center will provide headquarters for the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism, which serves as the intellectual center for Humanistic Judaism.

Currently, four students are enrolled in the rabbinic program of the institute and more than 60 people are enrolled in the Leadership Program for ceremonialists, professional leaders, and educators for Secular and Humanistic Jewish communities around the country.

In addition, the center will serve as headquarters for the Society for Humanistic Judaism, a federation of 21 Humanistic Jewish communities in the U.S. and Canada, including the Birmingham Temple.

Founded in Detroit in 1969, the society supports these local communities; publishes journals, educational, and celebrational materials; and promotes the growth of Humanistic Judaism in North America.

The center will house the Birmingham Temple education programs, including adult education classes, Sunday and

weekday school programs, Hebrew school, and bar/bat mitzvah and confirmation classes. An extensive education and resource library will also be located at the center.

"The center provides a physical home for Humanistic Judaism," explains Rabbi Sherwin Wine, founder of Humanistic Judaism and rabbi of the Birmingham Temple. "While Humanistic Judaism will continue to impact people wherever they live, the center gives us tangible grounding and a greater ability to support individual communities. We look forward to many years of celebrating,

learning, and practicing Humanistic Judaism."

Secular Humanistic Judaism embraces a human-centered philosophy that combines rational thinking with celebration of Jewish culture and identity. It affirms the power and responsibility of human beings to shape their own lives independent of supernatural authority.

Secular Humanistic Jews value their Jewish identity and the aspects of Jewish culture that offer a genuine expression of their contemporary way of life.

## County nurse lauded by Patterson

Quick thinking on the part of an Oakland County public health nurse probably saved the life of a 2-year-old in a Birmingham bridal shop last June.

But recently it earned her a special commendation from the Oakland County executive's office.

McDaniels, who lives in Sterling Heights, was in the bridal shop on June 22 when she heard scream-

ing in another part of the store. When she investigated, she saw five women crowded around a child who was not breathing.

Almost instinctively, McDaniels said, she started to perform the Heimlich maneuver. "Out popped this high mint, and he started breathing right away."

## Foster care board members needed

The Michigan court administrative office is seeking volunteers to serve on the Oakland County Foster Care Review Board.

The board will meet on the third Tuesday of each month to

review a representative sample of cases of foster care as the result of abuse or neglect.

Board members will be selected to reflect a cross-section of the population of the county.

Volunteers must live in Oakland County. Volunteers will be expected to meet about one day a month and to attend an initial two-day training program in Lansing in November. Call (517) 334-6403 before Oct. 6 if you're interested.

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