

Jewish scholar to lead family forum

Plante & Moran, LLP, a Southfield-based public accounting and management consulting firm, is teaming with Jewish Family Service, a social service agency based in Southfield and West Bloomfield, to bring Jewish scholar, author and radio host Dennis Prager to Cong. Shmarye Zedek for a family forum on the evening of Nov. 18.

Among Prager's work is the most widely used introduction to Judaism in the world, "The Nine Questions People Ask About Judaism," which he co-wrote with Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, and his latest work, "Happiness is a Serious Problem."

Prager will be in the area as featured speaker at the Plante & Moran-sponsored Masters Forum. His presentation at The Masters Forum will focus on business ethics.

Prager will speak in the evening at a community program on family life. An entertaining speaker, Prager's comments will revolve around his "obsession" with what's right and what's wrong, addressing the subversion of basic values that were once accepted concepts of American life.

Dennis Blender, partner-in-charge of Plante & Moran's organizational training and development practice and a member of the board of Southfield-based Jewish Family Service, is coordinating the community event with Judy Kotzen, MSW, of Jewish Family Service.

For more information on Dennis Prager's Nov. 18 presentation at Shmarye Zedek, call Judy Kotzen at Jewish Family Service, (248) 559-1500.

Church gears up for holiday giving

BY RENA FULKA
SPECIAL WRITER

Members of Orchard Lake Community Church, Presbyterian have already begun filling their shopping carts with food, clothing, toys and gifts for the upcoming holiday season.

But the carefully selected items aren't bound for home. Once purchased, they quickly make their way to the church for distribution to needy recipients the purchasers will never meet.

Sharing the holiday joy with the needy is a longstanding tradition for the 1,000-member congregation that makes its home on the shore of Orchard Lake. "We see people coming in with multiple shopping bags," said Kathy Winterhalter of West Bloomfield, who coordinates the Christmas outreach program. "People in this church feel very, very blessed and fortunate."



STAFF PHOTO BY JEFF KOSZAL

Leading the way: Dick Mudge (left), Flora Bertrand, Kathy Winterhalter and the Rev. Dr. David Robertson provide leadership and encouragement for a host of outreach programs that have become a longstanding tradition at Orchard Lake Community Church, Presbyterian.

Thanksgiving baskets filled with cranberry sauce, yams, potatoes and other holiday trimmings are distributed through the Lighthouse in Pontiac and the Pontiac Chapter of FISH, two non-profit organizations that provide services to the poverty-stricken. At Christmastime, baskets are filled with fruit, soup, tuna, Christmas cookies and candy for the elderly living alone. Perishable foods like turkeys are purchased with the church's treasury funds. "Last year, we helped 450 families in Pontiac," said Flora Bertrand, chairwoman of West Bloomfield, chairwoman emerita of the church's

FISH program. In addition to food, a wide range of new toys and electronics are collected to stock the shelves at the Baldwin Avenue Center Holiday Store, where gifts are grouped for toddlers, children, teens and adults. The Holiday Store allows parents the dignity of being gift providers by letting them select appropriate clothing and wish list items for their children

along with the paper, tape and ribbons to wrap the gifts. Last year, the program brought Christmas cheer to 600 families. Church members opt for interaction can volunteer their time to serve the store as clerks.

"People are so enthusiastic. Part of why people come to church is to have the opportunity to reach out to individuals and families in need," said

Winterhalter. "In the past, often churches would send money. People are becoming less satisfied with that. They want the church to provide a hands-on experience for them."

The ringing in of the New Year may end the holiday season, but it doesn't bring closure to the wallets and hearts of the congregation at 5171

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Kirk from page B9

The Kirk's first pastor was the Rev. Dr. Leslie A. Bechtel who retired in 1953. He was followed by the Rev. Dr. Harold C. DeWindt, who assumed the Kirk pulpit on Nov. 29, 1953. He served the suburban Detroit church for more than 17 years until his death on April 17, 1971.

Dr. Pritchard, a native of Scotland, is ably assisted by two associate pastors. The Rev. Mr. Raymond B. Knudsen II is responsible for congregational care. The Rev. Mr. David J. Hanna is in charge of Christian Education. An Associate Pastor Nominating Committee is engaged in a search for a fourth member of the Kirk's pastoral staff.

Interfaith Round Table slates Brotherhood Dinner

The Greater Detroit Interfaith Round Table will honor Ford Motor Co. chairman and CEO Alex Trotman and Detroit philanthropist and civic leader Mandell L. "Bill" Berman of Franklin at its 50th annual Brotherhood Dinner in Detroit on Nov. 18.

Chaired by Siegfried Buschmann of Bloomfield Hills, chairman and CEO of the Troy-based Budd Co., the banquet marks the 70th anniversary of The National Conference. The Greater

Detroit Interfaith Round Table is the southeastern Michigan branch of The National Conference. Keynote speaker for the evening will be Sanford Cloud Jr., president and chief executive officer of The National Conference, a human relations organization founded 70 years ago to fight bias, bigotry and racism in America. The National Conference promotes understanding and respect among all races, religions and cultures through advocacy.

conflict resolution and education.

"Alex Trotman and Bill Berman will join a distinguished group of community leaders who have been honored by the Round Table through the years," said Round Table Executive Director Dan Krichbaum of Bingham Farms. "The first honoree, in 1948, was Nelson Rockefeller and others have included Harvey S. Firestone, Rosa Parks, Max Fisher of Franklin and Judge Damon Keith.

"We are particularly honored that Sanford Cloud will be our keynote speaker. He is a nationally respected leader who has significantly expanded The National Conference reach nationally and internationally since taking over its leadership in 1994."

Proceeds from the dinner will underwrite the Leadership in the New Century (LINC) program, a new Round Table initiative to provide leadership development opportunities.

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