

## Adat Shalom honoring past president



Hannah Linden

The Sisterhood of Adat Shalom Synagogue will honor past president Hannah Linden at its annual Donor Day luncheon and program on Tuesday, May 6.

The featured speaker at the luncheon will be celebrity photographer Linda Solomon.

Linden has been a longtime leader, not only at Adat Shalom, where she and her late husband Jack joined in 1951, but in the community as well.

Linden is a graduate of Wayne State University with a bachelor's degree in education. After her presidency of Adat Shalom Sisterhood, Hanna became the first elected female board member of the Synagogue.

Her community volunteerism began when her children were young, as PTA president and vice president of the Girl Scouts of Metropolitan Detroit. She has been active in many Jewish organizations throughout the area - a leader in Michigan Branch and a national board member of Women's League, and president of the League of Jewish Women's Organizations of Metropolitan Detroit.

Linden continues her enthusiastic participation on the Cooperative Council of Jewish Women's Organizations, in the Music Study Club of Metropolitan Detroit and in the Adat Shalom Sisterhood. Her numerous recognitions include the "Thanks Badge,"

the highest honor an adult can earn in scouting, the "St. Ursula Award" for community service to the less fortunate and the "Heart of Gold Award" from the city of Detroit.

Donor Day events will begin at 10 a.m. with coffee and an array of boutiques. Lunch will be served at noon.

There is a minimum contribution in order to attend Donor Day. Proceeds from the afternoon will help support the Sisterhood's many projects, which benefit both Adat Shalom and the community. Advance reservations by April 21 are required.

Charlotte Edelheit is chairing this year's Donor Day. Serving with her on the Donor Day committee are: Dante Allan, Tobie Dobkin, Janis Holman, Helayne Kaplan, Sharon Lubetsky, Sandra Miller, Ann Rudy, Judy Rudy, Hannah Monique Uchey, Linda Warner, Joyce Wolkstein, Sisterhood President.

For further information, please call the Synagogue office at 851-5100.

## BELIEFS Values

# Orchard United marks 50 years

BY RENA FULEA  
SPECIAL WRITER

The Crystal Bells will represent their own generation in worship when members of Orchard United Methodist Church celebrate their 50th anniversary as a Farmington Hills congregation.

While the 45-member choir pays tribute to a fruitful past and present, the 3-, 4- and 5-year-olds will play their colorful instruments on cue in acknowledgment of the generations yet to come.

"We're celebrating 50 years of faithfulness, and it continues to be the purpose of Orchard to make disciples of Jesus Christ and equip, inspire and set people free to live their faith," said Rev. Carol J. Johns, pastor. "People have always been important at Orchard and our faith in Jesus Christ, too. Every generation coming through Orchard wants to share the faith with their kids. They want relationships with other people that are genuine and real."

The anniversary weekend begins at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 26, with a dinner at Vladimir's on Grand River in Farmington Hills. The evening features a multi-media presentation with history vignettes and dancing with the Imperial Swing Orchestra to tunes dating back to the church founding.

On Sunday, a single service at 10 a.m. unites the entire congregation in worship. The Rev. Paul Blomquist, the former pastor, is returning to preach. After the

service, there will be a remembrance coffee hour in the fellowship hall with a display of memorabilia. Additional parking is available offsite.

Members of Orchard United Methodist Church first came together as a group in 1946, when 20 individuals met in the home of Albert Brennan on Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills.

"We wanted to form a congregation to get our kids into Sunday school," recalled charter member Beth Graham of Farmington Hills. "Mostly, we just decided we really wanted to be in a church. There were no churches close to this area."

Assisted by the Rev. Stanley Stone of First Methodist Church in Farmington, the fledgling congregation worshiped at the Bond School before purchasing its first building on 13 Mile Road, which had previously served as a pool hall and machine shop.

In 1960, members took up residency in their newly constructed sanctuary and fellowship hall at 30460 Farmington Road. Money for the pews and stained glass windows was raised through memorial donations.

In 1995, the education unit, offices, parlor and the Clyde and

Beth Graham Chapel were added. The building was renovated in the 1980's to enhance the ongoing ministries.

"We always hoped for progress, but we had no idea what would happen," recalled Graham, whose family donated the five-acre site for church use. "We've grown, but the feeling of this church is the same. I don't think we've changed much in our feelings or in the way we worship."

Jan Brachel of Farmington Hills has been the church organist since the age of 12, when she was called in as a substitute on Christmas Eve.

"We've always had a very eclectic music program from day one with everything from Bach to Rock," said Brachel, a music teacher at North Farmington High School. "This is not a spectator place. There's massive involvement here."

Throughout her 30-year involvement with the church music program, Brachel has directed eight choirs and continues to introduce premier, inspirational music supplemented by visual aids, drama and impromptu sketches that put churchgoers in touch with reality.

"It's therapeutic. It's great fun. I enjoy it," said Brachel. "I've stayed probably because it's a very street-smart spirituality. Professionally speaking, there's a Disney atmosphere here with everybody willing to try something new and get out of their comfort zones."

The 820-member congregation also takes an active role in local mission work in Pontiac and Detroit. Within the congregation, members offer one another support through the Stephen Ministry program of care giving. Two years ago, Johns became the seventh pastor to head the congregation after first serving churches in Saginaw, Bay City and Owosso. A graduate of Adrian College and Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary, her strengths lie in finance, program development, outdoor Christian education and dramatic arts.

"My role is to be an enabler, to be prophetic in terms of sharing the faith, and to be genuine in terms of being a real Christian," said Johns, a Royal Oak native. "The focus of what we're trying to do is to make disciples of Jesus Christ, to give you the tools to use in your everyday life that speak to you where you live. That faith is something we integrate into our lives with a real sense of genuineness. We're not pretentious here. We're just made of real people who are striving to be Christians."

For information about the 50th anniversary celebration at Orchard United Methodist Church, call (248) 626-3620.

## Local women planning National Day of Prayer May 7



Correction: This photo appeared last week with an incorrect identification. Left is Roz Bressler and right is Anne Barnett.

What seems like only yesterday to Pauline Jacobs and Eleanor Plee, has grown to seven years of their commitment to encourage the Rochester, Rochester Hills and surrounding areas to pray on behalf of the nation.

Since 1991, when they first gathered with six people in the

parking lot of St. Andrew Catholic Church to pray their endeavors have grown to roughly 300 people.

The theme this year, "America Return to God" is a visual sign for Jacobs and Plee. After success with an all day event last year at the Rochester College (formerly Michigan Christian),

Jacobs and Plee are planning the event again for this year from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. May 7 at Rochester College to bring people together to pray.

"People must recognize the healing of our land can only come by standing together side-by-side in prayer," Jacobs said.

The program will begin with

an assembly of prayer. WUFL Family Life Radio will broadcast portions of the event throughout the day. Rochester Hills Mayor Kenneth Shell will be a speaker along with Steve Wright, station manager for WUFL and Fr. Dennis Laesch, associate pastor of St. Andrew Catholic Church to name a few.

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