BELIEFS Values

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

The Living Nativity will be at 6:30, 7:30 and 8: 30 p.m. Friday Dec. 10, Saturday, Dec. 11 and Sunday, Dec. 12.

Robert Jones, radio personality for WDET and known as the foremost blues acoustical guitarist in the metro area, will narrate the 6:30 p.m. Saturday performance. He will sing at the 7:30 and 8:30 p.m. performances and offer a mini-Christmas concert of music in the sanctuary for twenty minutes after those performances.

Also narrating: Guy Gordon, anchor for Channel 7 TV News, Sunday performances; Marie Osborne, WJR Radio Morning News Anchor, 7:30 and 8:30 p.m. Saturday performances; Mayor Russell Dixon of Birmingham and Ray Gardner, 7:30 and 8:30 p.m. Friday performances.

The Children's Chorister Guild and The Chancel Choir, both of First Baptist Church of Birmingham, will be among choirs performing.

Free refreshments after each performance will be provided by the Kroger Village Store and the Great Harvest Bread Co. All performances are free and open to the public.

First Baptist Church is at 300 Willits Street, at the corner of Willits and Bates between the Jacobson Department stores.

TEMPLE KOL AMI

Temple Kol Ami, 5085 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, announces its annual Scholar-in-Residence Shabbat in honor of Founding Rabbi Emeritus Ernst J. Conrad. This year, Joel Hoffman Ph.D., an expert in translation and ancient Hebrew, serves as scholar.

At services at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10, Hoffman speaks on "How to Read Jewish Texts: Science, Theology and Spirituality." At 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, he discusses, "How Do We Know What Hebrew Means?" He will lead a group study of a text. Shabbat morning worship services are at 11 a.m.

The community is welcome. For further information, call the temple at (248)661-0040.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

First Church of Christ, Scientist, of Bloomfield Township sponsors a free public lecture, "Welcoming the Spiritual Millennium," at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, at The Holiday Inn of Southfield, 26555 Telegraph Road, south of I-696. Speaker Maryl F. Walters lectures around the country as a member of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship.

TEMPLE SHIR SHALOM

Temple Shir Shalom, 3999 Walnut Lake Road, holds its monthly children's Shabbat service from 9:30 -11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 11. Ma'at Shabbat is a Shabbat experience for families with children up to age 7, with stories, songs, puppets, crafts and a snack. Other dates for Ma'at Shabbat are Jan. 29, March 4, April 1, and May 20. No reservation necessary. For more information, call the temple office at (248)737-8700.

CHRIST CHURCH CRANBROOK

At 9:15 and 11:15 a.m. services on Sunday Dec. 12, the annual nativity pageant, the "Festival of Gifts," will be enacted at Christ Church Cranbrook, 470 Church Road, Bloomfield Hills. Gifts brought by parishioners and visitors will be distributed to Wayne and Oakland County human service agencies. The pageant, initiated in 1929, is re-enacted by acolytes and a couple live animals. In Saint Paul's Chapel, a manger scene is created, with a live "Baby Jesus."

Gifts should be new and unwrapped. Suggestions include warm clothing, toys, games, books for children, hats, gloves or mittens, toiletries, and gifts of money to support the work of the agencies.

Call the church at (248)644-5210 for more information.

■ At 7:30 p.m. 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12, at Christ Church Cranbrook, Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings will feature "Holiday Brass," its annual seasonal concert for brass and chorus. The ensemble will be joined by the men's singing group, the Grunyons.

The concert will begin at 7 p.m. with Kevin Good and his DCWS colleagues demonstrating why trumpeters select different types of trumpets for different types of music. DCWS is an ensemble of professional musicians drawn primarily from the Detroit Symphony and Michigan Opera Theater orchestras. A post-concert reception will be held. Ticket prices are $22, $18 for students and seniors, and $10 for children under 12. Tickets may be ordered by calling DCWS at (248)362-9329.

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

At 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12, Peace Lutheran Church, 17029 W. Thirteen Mile Road, two blocks east of Southfield Road, presents "An Afternoon of Music for Organ and Voice." It is performed by William Jean Randall, organist/choir director for Utica United Methodist Church and the Scottish Rite Cathedral, Detroit. Music by Bach, Vierne and others, and a sing-a-long of Christmas hymns. Light refreshments afterwards. Free admission.

EILU V EILU

Eilu v Eilu, sponsored by the Detroit Conservative movement, is a year-round resource for adults seeking to connect with Jewish history, holidays, culture and Torah. For more information on the organization or its programs, call (248)737-1931, e-mail eilulearn@aol.com, or go to http://www.cbabm.org/eilu.htm on the World Wide Web.

Upcoming programs include:

■ "The History of Hebrew: Silent Survival," the second in a three-part Latte & Learning series, is at 10 a.m. Monday, Dec. 13, with Rabbi Aaron Bergman at Borders Books & Music, 30995 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. $5; students may register at the door. Dec. 20: "Modern Revival."

CONGREGATION B'NAI MOSHE

At 11:30 a.m. Monday, Dec. 13, the Hamispacha Lunch and Learn Series for the Enhanced Generation (Seniors) at Congregation B'nai Moshe, 6800 Drake Road, West Bloomfield, will begin with lunch at $6 per person. The topic is "Lessons from the Chasidim," with Rabbi Elliot Pachter. Reservations required by Thursday, Dec. 9. Call the synagogue office at (248)788-0600.

HOLY NAME

Holy Name Church in Birmingham offers a special "Singles Celebrate Christmas" gathering of single adults at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14, in the back room of Dick O'Dow's Irish Pub. In the spirit of Holy Name's Theology on Tap series, Monsignor John Zenz will speak on our connectedness to something much larger than ourselves. An open forum follows his introduction. Singles Celebrate Christmas is free and open to the public. For additional information, contact the parish office, (248)644-2244.

FIRST BAPTIST

A global gifts and crafts shop and a UNICEF shop is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Dec. 23, in the First Baptist Church, corner of Willits and Bates in Birmingham.

Restaurant collects goods for center

Gest Omelettes, a bustling neighborhood cafe offering homestyle breakfast and lunch in Commerce Township, will serve up holiday spirit to kids in need this season.

From now through the holiday season, owner Cindy Lagas will collect donations at the restaurant to help ensure the children at the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center in Farmington Hills have a happy holiday season.

In addition to raising money, Lagas will open her doors for the second year in a row at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10, to host a holiday party for 40 children in the center's residential treatment program. The children are wards of the court, ranging in age from 4-17 and have been removed from their homes due to severe physical, sexual and emotional abuse.

"My staff and I have chosen to give the gift of ourselves to the children this year," said Lagas. "We'll have dinner together, bake Christmas cookies, make a craft, sing carols and have a surprise visit from Santa Claus."

All of the money donated at Gest Omelettes this season will benefit the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center's programs for children and families in crisis in metro Detroit. Services include residential, foster care and adoption services for severely abused and special-needs children and Marillac Outreach Services, Transitions and Jendayi House Programs for high-risk infants and their young mothers and fathers. Together, these programs serve more than 1,000 infants, youth families annually in southeastern Michigan.

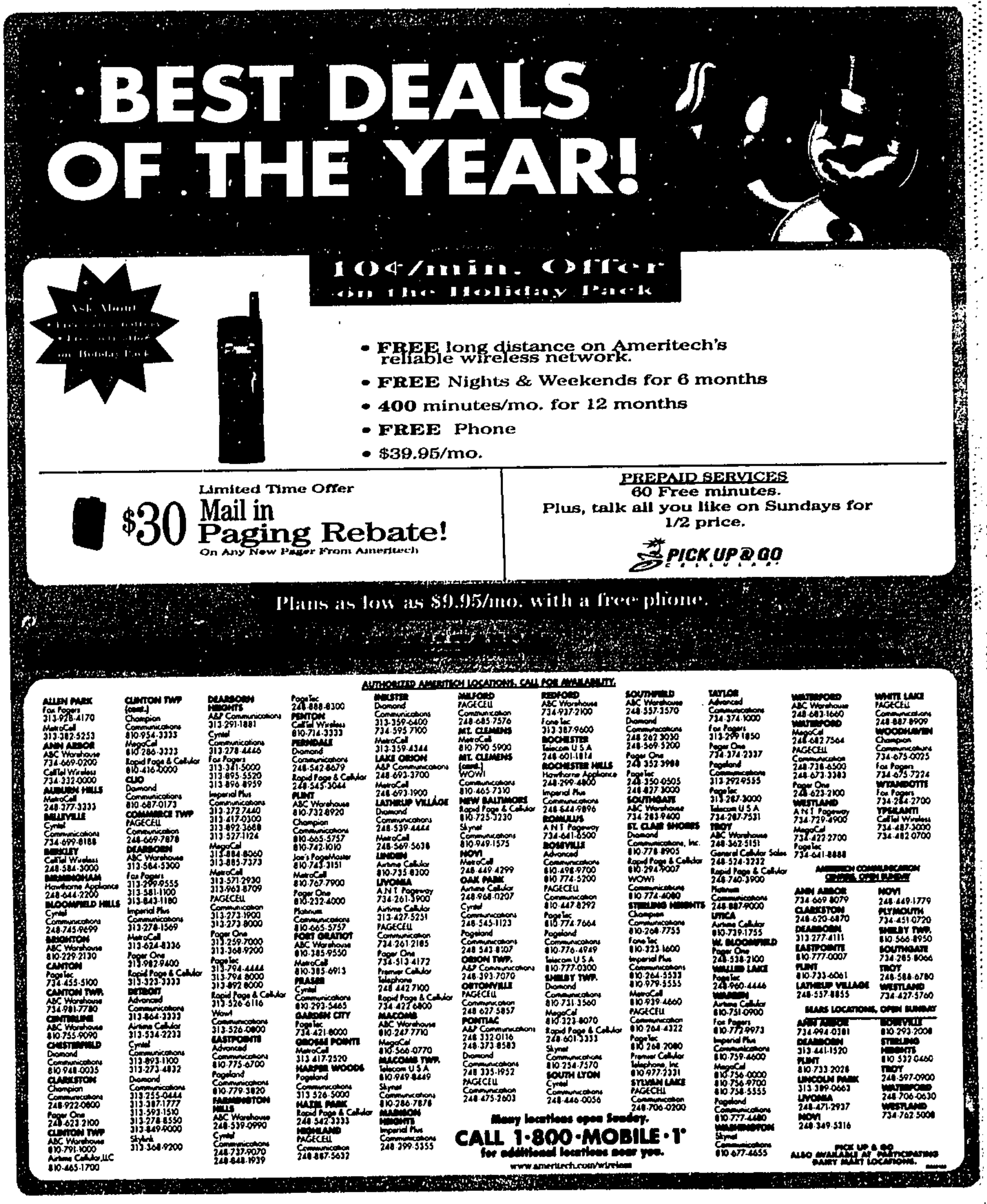
Hillside play on Y2K set

Hillside Elementary School in Farmington Hills is putting on an original play at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16, in the school gym.

This is an original play written by Sue Patee for her fifth grade students featuring a little "bug" called Y2K. The whole class is involved in the dialogue, as well as songs from each decade and choreography featuring the Charleston, the twist and the shuffle.

Adat Shalom celebrations

The bat mitzvah of Allison Gordon, the daughter of Andrea and Sheldon Gordon, will be celebrated at Adat Shalom Synagogue in Farmington Hills.

Eli and Matthew Clark, sons of Bruce and Carol Clark, will become b'nai mitzvah at Adat Shalom Synagogue.

Rabbis Daniel Nevin and Herbert Yoskowitz serve the congregation. Cantor is Howard K. Glantz. The Friday night, Dec. 17, service begins at 5 p.m. The Saturday, Dec. 18, service begins at 9 a.m.