

**WEDDINGS AND ENGAGEMENTS**

**BELIEFS & Values**

**Resolutions that work flow from within**

**FOCUS ON THEOLOGY**



**REV. ALLAN EICKELMANN**

I've given up making New Year's resolutions. I find New Year's resolutions to be nothing more than prescriptions for failure. Most of us are painfully aware of our own shortcomings; we don't need to have those shortcomings reinforced by a set of resolutions that we will never keep.

I think for most of us, our resolutions represent something that we will try to do as long as nothing else interferes. Such a resolution would be, "I will try to lose five pounds as long as the stress of my job

doesn't interfere with my diet and exercise program." Of course, something always does interfere with our resolution, rendering it meaningless, and leaving us to feel like failures. That is why I see most New Year's resolutions as being self-defeating.

A real resolution isn't something that you try to do; it is something that you do. In the words of that feisty little Star Wars sage, Yoda, "Do not try. There is no try. There is only do or don't do." Ironically, perhaps the reason that our resolutions so often fail is because we try too hard.

I remember when I was in high school how hard I tried at sports, and how miserable I was at them, while others seemed to do so well without even trying. It was as if athletic ability just flowed through them. This only made me try all the harder and fail all the time.

There is a spiritual element to everything we do. That which appears easy is only the result of being so perfectly attuned to who you are and

what you are doing that your deeds and your personhood flow together from the same spiritual core. This is not something that can be coerced or forced with all of the trying the world. It is a result of self understanding combined with a trusting spirit.

The way to make our resolutions come to fruition is by making them as natural and free as the air we breathe for when our resolutions give us great anxiety we have already failed to live up to them. Resolutions only work when they flow from the very center of who we are. The point of all of this is that we should only resolve that which we are ready to embody, so that our resolutions help to bring us closer to who we really are by the grace of God. Then we will not need to make a resolution because we will be a resolution.

*The Rev. Allan W. Eickelmann is senior minister of The Congregational Church of Birmingham.*



**Harte-Gale**

Judy Gale and Shane Harte were married Oct. 23 at Sacred Heart Church.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Gale of Beverly Hills. She is a graduate of Groves High School, Hillsdale College and The University of Michigan. She is employed at Ford Motor Co.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Harte of Dublin, Ireland. He is a graduate of Gormanston, University College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin. He is employed at Ford Motor Co.

A reception was held at The Dearborn Inn. The newlyweds honeymooned in Tahiti and Moorea, and they are making their home in Farmington Hills.

**Smits-Nels**

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Smits of Troy announce the engagement of their daughter, Ariel Kathleen, to Frederick Arthur Nels, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Nels of Clive, Iowa.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of the University of Michigan and Cambridge University. She is currently attending Washington University.

Her fiancé holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Kansas and is employed by LifeFlight Eagle helicopter medical transport service, Kansas City, Mo.

An April wedding is planned.

**Harvey-Kort**

Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Harvey of Rochester Hills announce the engagement of their daughter, Lisa Kay, to Max Ilmi Kort, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Kort of Troy.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Troy High School and Oakland University. She is employed by Vanstar in Detroit.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Troy High School and Albion College. He is employed with Ernst & Young in Detroit.

A June wedding is planned at the Rochester Hills Museum.

**How to submit your special announcement**

Local engagement, wedding, anniversary and birth announcements run in the Thursday and Sunday editions of The Observer & Eccentric.

Rochester areas should send information to The Eccentric, 400 Water Street, Suite 203, Rochester 48307.

For engagement announcements, please submit at least 45 days before the wedding.

Black and white, 5 x 7 photos are preferred, but color photos and other sizes will be accepted.

If you have questions regarding your announcement, call Sue Wilks in Birmingham at (248) 901-2500; Debbie Douglas in Rochester at (248) 651-7575, or Katie McManus in Farmington at (248) 477-5450.

Residents of the Birmingham-Bloomfield, West Bloomfield and Southfield areas should send their engagement, wedding, anniversary or birth information, with or without photograph, to: Attn Brides, The Eccentric, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

Residents of the Farmington area should send information to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48935.

Preprinted forms that outline the information needed for your engagement or wedding announcement are available at Observer & Eccentric offices.

Residents of the Troy and

**COMMUNITY MESSENGER**

Community Messenger features announcements from Oakland County religious institutions. Write: Community Messenger, c/o Beliefs and Values Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspaper, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham.

**EILU V EILU**

Eilu v Eilu, the cooperative adult Jewish learning project of the Detroit Conservative movement, is offering the following educational programs.

"Beginner-Plus Conversational Hebrew" with Ahuva Newman is on from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesday nights. Phonetic Hebrew reading ability is a prerequisite. For information, call (248) 557-2739.

"How Rashi Wrote the Bible," taught by Ruth Bergman, will meet from 12:30-1:30 p.m. on twelve Thursdays starting Jan. 7 at Congregation Beth Abraham Hillel Moses, 5075 West Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Tuition is \$60 for members of organizations sponsoring Eilu v Eilu, \$84 for others. Phonetic Hebrew reading ability is a prerequisite.

"The Joseph Story: Bible and Commentaries," taught by Nehama Glogower, will meet from 2:15-3:15 p.m. on six Wednesdays starting Jan. 6 at Hillel Day School, 32200 Middlebelt Road, Farmington Hills. Tuition is \$30 for members of sponsoring organizations, \$42 for others.

Eilu v Eilu is sponsored by Adat Shalom, Beth Abraham Hillel Moses, Beth Shalom, B'nai Moshe, Hillel Day School, Shaarey Zedek, and Women's Judaism-Michigan Branch. To register, or for more information, call (248) 737-1931.

**BETH SHALOM**

Rabbi David A. Nelson of Congregation Beth Shalom in Oak Park will conduct a home learning session at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 6 and 20 in the home of Dr. Sandy and Lynn Lipman in West Bloomfield. The session is entitled "Understanding Midrash." For information, call Beth Shalom

Executive Director Barbara Cook, (248) 547-7970.

**JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER**

Starting on Jan. 26, Seminars for Adult Jewish Enrichment will offer 57 courses at the Jewish Community Centers in West Bloomfield and Oak Park.

Conservative, Humanistic, Orthodox, Reform, Secular and the unaffiliated will come together for these courses. The Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit and the Agency for Jewish Education are presenting SAJE, with co-sponsorship from the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit and the Detroit Jewish News.

Courses will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays at the D. Dan and Betty Kahn JCC in West Bloomfield. Both 7:30 and 8:30 p.m. classes will be offered. For more information, call (248) 661-7649.

**International Institute names new officers**

Farmington Hills resident Stanislaw Golec will serve as 1998-99 Board president of the International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit Inc.

now a staff member of the Department of Psychiatry, Detroit Receiving Hospital, and the WSU School of Medicine.

The International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit, founded in 1919 by volunteers at the YWCA, is a United Way Community Services Agency that provides individual and immigration counseling to the foreign born. Call (313) 871-8600 for more information.

Among new officers of the board for 1998-99 is Barbara Kasoff of Southfield, vice president of Voice Response Corp. in Detroit.

**are you On-Line yet?**

Maybe you're using your computer to write the great American novel, or play cool games, or keep track of your inventory, or tackle some spread sheets. So maybe it's time to expand your horizons. Go global. You know, hit the internet. Check out the news, information and entertainment in your own backyard and around the world. Stay on top of the Y-2K problem. Internet access through Observer & Eccentric On-Line isn't going to cost you a bundle, either—just \$15.95 per month. You'll get 100 hours of free usage per month; go over 100 hours before the months' up and it's only an extra buck-eighty an hour. It's easy to sign up for O&E On-Line! In fact you can use your computer and log on to <http://oeonline.com/subscribe.html> You'll hear from us with your new account within 48 hours after we hear from you. Rather pick up a phone? That's cool. Our subscription lines are 734-591-0500 or 248-644-1100.

