

IN THE CHURCHES

Israel arouses interest with worshippers

By BOB OLLIVIER
Apparently, we hit a topic of great interest last week: Israel in the last days. Thanks to those who took the time to comment.
Of course, there has been great controversy over that land throughout recorded history. For those who wish to delve into the question of ownership of the Holy Land, read "Whose Land" by James Parker. If the local library doesn't have a copy for you, try J and M Books in downtown Georgetown. It's an open treatise on the blessings and problems relating to the state of Israel, or the Land of Palestine, the legal founding in 1948 being one of the most critical periods in her history.
Compare the land of Palestine in 1936, 1948 and 1967 with the single village in the 19th century. Truly a story book or a study for Jew and Gentile alike.

Maple Avenue Baptist Young People's basketball team played Downsview Baptist (and won) recently. Any other church's young people's group consider themselves challenged. Contact Kevin Potruiff at 877-1244 and set up a date and time. In the humble opinion of this writer, it's an excellent opportunity for the various churches to get to know each other better.

Lots happening at Maple Ave. Baptist: a Men's breakfast this Saturday at 8:30 a.m. in the church hall. Everyone's welcome for films on basketball; a talk Sunday morning at 11 a.m. with Gord Mann of Athletes in Action. Here is a man that knows many of the top athletes in Canada. Sunday evening, the boys of Christian Service Brigade will take the service. These boys are from various churches in town and look for support (not financial) from you.

The Halton Hills Christian Women's Fellowship is getting to be a very popular organization, and with good cause. An opportunity for women to get together over coffee (and dessert!) once a month, the next one Feb. 17, 1:15 to 3:15 p.m. at St. George's Anglican Church Hall in Georgetown.

Speaker will be Sandi Kernohan on "Freedom under Pressure" and Gerry and Dave Kentner will discuss "Entertaining in the Home", including valuable tips on food preparation. Music will be by the Maranatha Trio from Agincourt. Nursery will be available; phone Ruth Buttrey 877-4158 or Cathy Lane 877-7257.

The Anglican Men's Fellowship caters to affairs about four times a year. In addition, the men hold a Father and Son dinner, a Father and Daughter dinner and a special Ladies night. Most Friday nights and Saturdays are busy parts of the Anglican church program, with the men taking a very active role.

While the future looks grim for most people in the world, over two million Jehovah's Witnesses are looking ahead with confidence," commented special representative Douglas Held, at the Circuit Convention in Norval last weekend.

Developing the theme, "Facing the Future with Faith and Courage," Mr. Held said that, "with the problems of rising crime rates, inflation, and ecological difficulties facing us, only a firm faith will sustain us."

The audience of 1,550 listened as the speaker reviewed the many prophecies that point to this period of time in history as one of severe difficulty.

Mr. Held described a true Christian as one with confidence in his God, Jehovah, knowing His ability to deliver His people when in difficulty. A true Christian knows these troublesome things are only temporary and that soon the kingdom for which Christians have prayed for so long, will cleanse the earth making way for a new system of things.

In conclusion, Mr. Held encouraged the audience, "If you are not yet one of Jehovah's Witnesses, study the Bible; learn about Jehovah, Jesus and the Kingdom. With this knowledge you will be able to face the future with faith and courage."

Georgetown's Christian Reformed Church begins a film series entitled "Focus on the Family" Feb. 20 at 8 p.m. The series was prepared by James Dobson, a leading Christian authority on the family.



VALENTINE BAKE-OFF

Children's librarian assistant Judi Starkey (centre) led children on an off-beat Valentine's Day demonstration Wednesday, using playdough to create decorations instead of the usual crepe-paper hearts. These kids, pictured at the Georgetown Library's Guelphview Square headquarters, are Shelly Russell, Kathy Tyrell, Anne-Marie Vito and Deanne Jackson.

Volunteer lack finishes Hillsburgh music festival

Herald Special
Country music fans will be saddened by the demise of the mid-July Hillsburgh Bluegrass Festival after five years of operation.

Festival committee chairman Roger Clark said last week they just couldn't carry on the event this year considering the financial loss suffered last year and the lack of workers plaguing organizers each year.

A meeting held Thursday to discuss plans for the 1981 festival drew only four people and although committee members have worked hard each year, "they burn out" after a

time, Mr. Clark says.

Volunteers are always found to handle last minute details of the festival but the real planning and burden of organizing it are left to half a dozen people each year, he says, and it's gotten to be too much.

Financial problems stemming from poor attendance last year added to their woes.

"We began with \$6,000 last year and wound up with \$3,000," Mr. Clark says. It gets a bit hairy trying to organize a \$15,000 to \$18,000 event on \$6,000 and I'm not going to try on \$3,000."

Competing events nearby cut into their attendance last

year, Mr. Clark said. The fact they were only a one-day show while the Orangeville Summerfest and the Waterford Bluegrass Show were three-day weekends made it difficult for them.

So far no other community group has shown interest in carrying on the festival.

Remaining festival funds will be distributed to the Hillsburgh Lions Club, the Hillsburgh Optimists Club, the fire department, the Erin Township Tennis Club and area girl guides at a presentation night in the municipal office Feb. 19, Mr. Clark said.

Property standards bylaw gets public attention Monday

Herald Special
Those interested in the town's new property maintenance and occupancy standards bylaw have their chance to raise points about it at a public meeting in the council chamber Monday.

The bylaw was released to the public Feb. 2 and copies are available from the planning department, town planner Mario Venditti says.

The bylaw is being put in effect only on the business improvements areas of Acton and Georgetown but it has been designed so that it could be changed to include all of Halton Hills if a future council wishes to do so.

The bylaw is built on existing building, fire, health and hydro codes and is necessary if the town hopes to get in on main street revitalization programs through the ministry of housing.

Mr. Venditti says the bylaw is something in the nature of an insurance policy. If the government is going to lend the town money to fix up its downtown cores then it wants a guarantee that things won't be allowed to slip backwards again a few years after the project is completed. The bylaw acts as the guarantee.

Included in the bylaw is a provision to establish a property standards committee of not less than three ratepayers appointed by council who will hear appeals of any notices of violation issued by the bylaw enforcement officer.

If the bylaw enforcement officer serves an order to comply (with standards) owners will have up to 90 days to meet the order or they can appeal conditions in the order by serving notice of appeal to the committee within 14 days of the order being issued.

If they still are unhappy with the committee's decision it could be appealed further to a county court judge.

An owner found guilty of an offence through the judicial process may be fined no more than \$500 per day that the violation exists but fines are not applicable during the early stages of any dispute of an order when appeals are being made to the committee or before than when a violation is found.

A very last resort for the town would be to make the repair of demolition and charge the owner the cost of the work on the current year's tax bill.

Council will also be looking at amendments to the Geor-

town and Acton official plans at the Feb. 16 public meeting since these amendments are necessary in order to enact the bylaw.

Staff hope to have the

amendments and the bylaw in place by the end of February in order to get in on the ministry's 1981 budget with their grant application for the downtown revitalization program.

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Local library features flicks

The Georgetown public library has become veritable "cinplex" with a wide variety of entertaining and educational films on view all the time. All showtimes are 7 p.m.

This Friday, Ricki Tikki Tavi (based on Rudyard Kipling's popular story), Magic and Music and The Reluctant Dragon will delight the youngsters.

A week from tonight (Feb. 18), there's Virginia Woolf: The Moment Whole, a film about Henry David Thoreau and The Brontes Lived Here. Star Wars fans won't want to miss The Making of Star Wars Feb. 20. On Feb. 25, the library offers a film about Norman Bethune, and on Feb. 27, Big Henry and Best Horse.

March films include Wheel of Fortune (Mar. 4), Civilization (Mar. 6), Churchill the Man (Mar. 11), Mrs. Amworth and Silver Blaze (Mar. 13), The Man Hunters (Mar. 18) and Lasers (Mar. 20).

The Acton Public Library offers a film festival for children Mar. 24, featuring beginning at 1 p.m. and featuring Man from Nowhere and Peregrine Hunters, both suitable for ages 10 and up.

Georgetown has a variety of crafts-oriented films Mar. 25 at 7 p.m., including Wax and Wool, Batik, Metal Workers, Earthware and Threads.

There's a film festival for pre-schoolers Mar. 26 at 10:30 a.m. in Georgetown and a look at the twenty-first Olympic Games at 7 p.m. Mar. 27.

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