

COMMUNITY NEWS

Temple Beth Zion Sisterhood luncheon was held at the Westwood Country Club

Submitted by JULIE FELDMAN

WILLIAMSVILLE — The Temple Beth Zion Sisterhood Donors Luncheon was held on Sunday, June 10, at the Westwood Country Club.

Vanessa Myers and Jane Goorevich co-chaired the annual event.

There were loads of prizes, and fashions from Mabel Danahy, The Perfect Gift and Furs by Russell.



(Left to right) Donna Yablin, Donna Dickman, Helen Weintraub and Eileen Burch enjoyed attending the Temple Beth Zion Sisterhood Donors Luncheon.



Attendees were Susan Recoon and Laurie Criden.

Award presented at BBYO in Marci Birzon's honor

TORONTO — The Lake Ontario Region of BBYO held their annual awards ceremony recently. Ken Polk of Williamsville, N.Y., and Bradley Garfinkel of Los Angeles, (formerly of Snyder, N.Y.), who were in BBYO 25 years ago, attended the event to present the 20th annual Marci Birzon Leadership Award.

"When Marci died in 1992, the Birzon family created a memorial fund to honor Marci's commitment to BBYO as a teen and then as an adviser," Mr. Polk said. "For the last three years, the BBYO executive director in Toronto has asked that someone who knew Marci come to Toronto to present the award and I was honored to have been asked, especially since this year is the 20th anniversary of the award."

Polk and Garfinkel met three of



The 20th anniversary of an award the Birzon family established in her name. Pictured are Shara Carr Epstein (Toronto), Bradley Garfinkel (Los Angeles, formerly Amherst, NY), Iris Fruchtman Roth (Toronto), Tatum Shiff (Toronto), Yehuda Kochanowski (Toronto), and Ken Polk (Williamsville).

their BBYO friends from Toronto at the ceremony to present the award. Tatum Shiff from Toronto was the recipient.

"The Marci Birzon Leadership Award is one of the most coveted awards that teens in Toronto aim for

at the end of each year," said Kevin Goodman, Executive Director of BBYO Toronto. "It was great having those who knew Marci here this year to connect today's kids with the past and to honor Marci's legacy."

Keith Birzon, Marci's brother, added, "I want to thank those who took the time to go to the awards ceremony. It means a lot to me and my family that Marci is remembered by BBYO 20 years later. I hope this award keeps going for many years to come."

Lisa Elkin Jasper, formerly of Rochester now living in New Jersey said, "Even though Marci is gone, her memory is one that keeps us together as lifelong friends."

While BBYO is not in Buffalo anymore, there are discussions taking place about the possibility of re-starting chapters in the Buffalo area.

Recent Kadimah School events

Submitted by CATHY SHAUGHNESSY

Kadimah School of Buffalo's fifth grade class held its D.A.R.E. graduation recently. It was coordinated by middle school science teacher Anna Martinick.

D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) was founded in 1983 in Los Angeles and is now being implemented in 75 percent of U.S. school districts. D.A.R.E. teaches children the skills they need to avoid involvement in drugs, gangs and violence.

At Kadimah, fifth-graders completed a six-week program during which they learned about drugs and their effects on the body. Students created lists of the numerous activities they could do in place of drugs. In conjunction with their lessons, Amherst Police Officer Kathy Onions visited the classroom every Monday for the duration of the program to reinforce lessons about peer pressure and living productive drug and violence-free lives.

At graduation, the fifth-grade class received a special visit from the Amherst Police K-9 Department. K-9 Officers Onions and Tom Grillo brought in K-9 dog Addie. Students learned about how K-9 dogs are trained, treated and used in the department.

In other Kadimah news, the first-grade class, in conjunction with the kindergarten and second-grade classes, held its annual Siddur Presentation program. Directed and organized by first-grade Hebrew teacher Becky Laufgraben and kindergarten and second grade Hebrew teacher Einav Symons, the students practiced for months. They students sang, spoke and danced, showing off all the things they learned throughout the school year. Many family members and school peers attended the presentation. The students were then given their own Siddurim donated by Hannah



(Left to right) The fifth grade D.A.R.E. graduates included Sarah Rodwin, Zipporah Munoz, Irie Maldonado, Anna Zarzecki, Hannah Danziger, Alex Shuman, Jordan Richheimer, Ben Sanders and Josh Schechter. (In back) Science teacher Anna Martinick and Police Officer Kathy Onions.



(In front row) First-graders Amanda Rottenberg, Lour Jahshan and Georgia Fox performed in the first grade siddur presentation. Also pictured are Macy Halim, Lauriemar Maldonado and Amira Wardlaw.



(Left to right) Hannah Kaminker presented a Siddur to Kadimah student Alma Sorek.

Kaminker. Joshua Allen, a fourth-grader new to Kadimah this year, was also presented with a Siddur. This year's Siddurim covers were designed by Nancy Ortiz. Leah Schneider also created design and did the calligraphy. T-shirts were donated by Mark Richheimer of Sumar Promotions.

First-grade students include Daniel and Georgia Fox; Aaron Herman; Lour Jahshan; Amanda Rottenberg; Amira Wardlaw; and Simara Ramirez. Alma Sorek, now a second-grader, began the year in first grade;

she also played a pivotal role in the Siddur presentation. This year's presentation was dedicated to the memory of Leonard Kaminker and in honor of Hannah Kaminker.

Kadimah offers classes for students 18 months through eighth grade and welcomes students of all backgrounds. Its Business First middle school ranking is among the highest of any school in Western New York. More information is available at www.kadimah.org or by calling (716) 836-6903.

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