Temple Beth El

What's Missing from Our Congregation? ... You!

Temple Beth El consists of Jews aligned with Reform Judaism who are of all ages, occupations and income levels. Our programs are designed to meet the spiritual, religious, educational and social needs of our members, including families, singles, students and seniors. Temple Beth El is a member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

There are many ways to become involved and acquainted with other congregants. During our membership process, you can tell us about your interests and we will direct you to programs to meet your needs. You can become involved in shaping the direction of our Temple's future by attending a class or participating in a program or worship service.

WORSHIP

STUDY

ACTIVITIES

We encourage you to get to know our Rabbis, Cantor, Executive Director, Director of Public Relations, Principal of Religious School and other staff by attending Shabbat Services and by becoming active in our programs, activities, and on committees. You may also meet privately with staff by appointment.

We invite you to make Temple Beth El your home and become part of our congregational family. Please call for membership details and see why over a 1000 families have joined Temple Beth El.

With our reference guide you will be able to get your questions answered and will make participation in Temple activities more convenient.

Temple Beth El Phone Directory
Temple Office: (704) 366-1948
Fax: (704) 366-1365
Clergy:
Rabbi Bennett, Rabbi Spitalnic, Rabbi Schindler (704) 944-6789, *Cantor Bernard*

Administrative:
Arthur Kramer - Executive Director; Cherie Flitton - Director of Public Relations/Editor of the Voice; Steve Rosenauer - Bookkeeper; Becky Cohen - Assistant to the Rabbis; Reuven Green - Administrative Assistant; Betty Crawford - Secretary to Cantor Bernard; Pam Linker - Secretary to Arthur Kramer
Education:
Roz Cooper - Director, Consolidated Hebrew High School (704) 944-6782; *Debbie Block - Director, Preschool* (704) 944-6777; *Susan Jacobs - Principal, Religious School* (704) 944-6787
Maintenance:
James Curry - Building Supervisor
Temple e-mail:
Info@beth-el.com
Rabbi Bennett:
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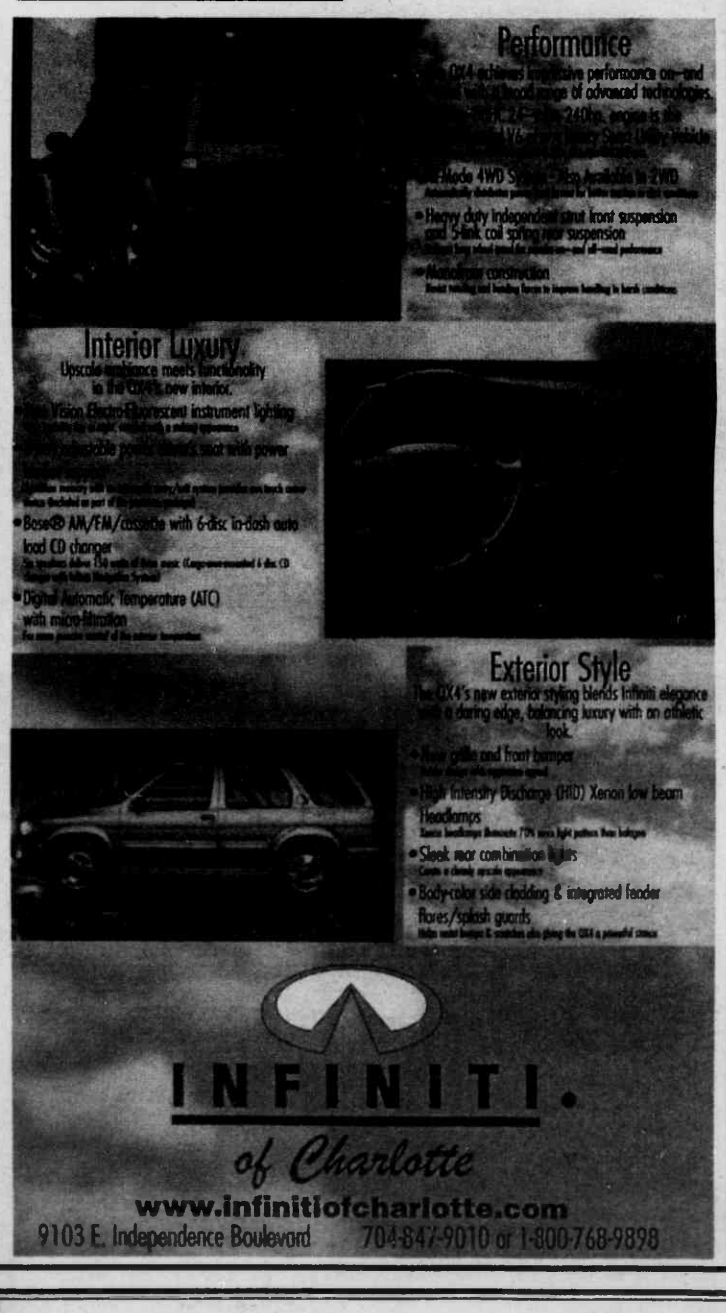

Bible Themes are Feature of Ohio Ceramic Artist's Work in Reform Women's Annual Art Calendar

An award-winning graphics designer from Akron, Ohio, who turned to ceramic sculpturing in clay as a hobby and made it into a life's work, is the featured artist in this year's Jewish Art Calendar and High Holy Day greeting card published by Women of Reform Judaism-The Federation of Temple Sisterhoods (WRJ).

Seven works by Bonnie Cohen that are pictured in the calendar and cards are based on motifs ranging from stone carvings of biblical times to contemporary Jewish ritual objects. She also produces whimsical sculptures, synagogue plaques and large wall murals.

The pocket-sized calendars, published for the last 87 years by the Reform Movement's women's affiliate, have become traditional as a popular gift for family members and friends, and for personal use. They are available from sisterhood Judaica shops at Reform synagogues across the United States and Canada, including at Temple Beth El in Charlotte. WRJ has chapters at more than 600 congregations throughout North America.

The new edition of the Art Calendar covers the Jewish year 5761 (September 2000 through October 2001). It lists Torah and Haftarah portions, Jewish, American and Canadian holidays and provides space for appointments and notes.

Ceramic artist Bonnie Cohen's principal focus is on biblical themes, and in this vein, she has even designed her own "alphabet" of ancient and modern imagery,

"Noah's Ark" is the title of this stoneware clay wall piece by Bonnie Cohen, featured in this year's Women of Reform Judaism pocket calendar.

employing a variety of favorite symbols that include the sun, moon, stars, seas, palm trees, peacocks and elk. These timeless motifs recur repeatedly in her sculptured pieces.

The artist works in a studio in her home in Akron. Her unusual technique consists of first carving her designs into hardened clay blocks and then pressing them into soft, wet clay. It is an ancient technique of pottery decoration similar to printmaking. The slabs of clay are then "draped" over wooden or Styrofoam forms and shaped into ritual objects, decorative sculptures or tiles. Ms. Cohen paints on glazes, using layers of different colors that give a rich, variegated surface. After the first firing, the top surface is sanded off to reveal the impressed figures. She achieves a layering effect by subjecting the work to multiple firings and the addition of 24K gold "accents." Many of her pieces carry biblical quotations and prayers, which she inscribes through hand lettering.

The artist is a graduate of Carnegie-Mellon University, where she received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. She enrolled for additional studies in ceramics at the University of Akron while producing award-winning graphic designs for corporate clients. Her work in ceramics, which started out as a hobby, eventually became a full time professional pursuit. Her creations have been shown in galleries, juried shows and museums throughout the United States. In addition to "telling stories in clay" through her own ceramic sculptures, she teaches Judaic art at the Hebrew high school in Akron and is involved in collaborative Judaic art projects with children and adults. She and her husband have two sons.

Biblical texts, Ms. Cohen says, have been her greatest source of inspiration. "Often, I sit in Sabbath services and hear a beautiful line of Torah. Later, in my studio, I struggle to give the words meaning in clay," she explains.

In addition to their availability at Temple Beth El's gift shop, the new WRJ Art Calendar and cards may be ordered directly from Women of Reform Judaism, 633 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017-6778; phone (212) 650-4060; fax (212) 650-4050. If ordered by mail, single copies of the calendar are $12, including postage and handling. ✡

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