

Great Purim Baking Day features hamantashen filled with love

One hundred and fifty volunteers met on Monday, Feb. 15 at three different locations to make over 1,000 hamantashen for the Great Purim Baking Day coordinated by the Jewish Pavilion.

"This event was truly a community partnership," said an event organizer.

The day was a project in conjunction with the Give a Day/Get a Disney Day promotion to support and recognize community volunteerism. According to Cathy Swerdlow, program director of the Jewish Pavilion, "We would not have been able to do this if not for the support of

Oakmonte Village at Lake Mary, Chambrel at Island Lake and Savannah Court and Cove of Maitland. They provided the space, the kitchen support and all the ingredients."

The volunteers came from all walks of life and all ages. "Children under the age of 17 had to be accompanied by an adult so this was truly a family activity," said an event planner. "And the children were wonderful."

At Savannah Court there was a lull in activity as the hamantashen were baking. Marissa Giron, 13, offered to sing. "Marissa was fantastic. Her warmth and charm shone through with her beautiful voice," said Nancy Ludin, executive director of the Jewish Pavilion.

At Oakmonte Village at Lake Mary, residents Edith Zwick, Norma Cagen and Alice Weinruch readily

shared their experience and expertise. They were busy demonstrating and assisting with proper technique for the perfect shape.

The residents at Chambrel at Island Lake began congregating outside of the baking area as soon as the word spread about the Baking Day. By the time the first hamantashen were cooling there was quite a crowd. The children eagerly brought trays of pastries

out to the living room and served the fruits of their labor. Emily Rowe, 9, proudly said, "We told them the kids made them!"

Summing up the experience, Ludin remarked, "The best part of the Great Purim Baking Day is that Jewish seniors in over 40 facilities will get to celebrate Purim with delicious hamantashen filled with the most special ingredient—love."

B'nai Mitzvah

Hannah Wieselthier

Hannah Wieselthier, daughter of Rick and David Wieselthier of Longwood, Fla., will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah on March 6, 2010 at Congregation Beth Am in Longwood.

Hannah is in the seventh grade at Greenwood Lakes Middle School, where she is an Advanced Program honor student. She is in Concert Chorus and is a peer counselor working with special needs children. Hannah was selected as part of the Belin-Blank Exceptional Student Talent Search. She is a Girl Scout and a Child Life Member of Hadassah. Hannah enjoys cheerleading and is a member of the National Cheer Champion Lake Mary All Stars. She also likes hip-hop dancing, photography, hanging out with her friends, texting and playing with her Goldendoodle, Ella.

Sharing in the family's simcha will be Hannah's sister, Lindsey; her brother, Zach; her grandparents, Sima and Jerry Feldberg of Longwood, and Merna and Harold Wieselthier of The Villages; and relatives and friends from Florida, Texas, New Jersey, Illinois and Georgia.



Lindsey Wieselthier



Lindsey Wieselthier, daughter of Rick and David Wieselthier of Longwood, Fla., will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah on March 6, 2010 at Congregation Beth Am in Longwood.

Lindsey is in the seventh grade at Greenwood Lakes Middle School, where she is an Advanced Program honor student. She is in Concert Chorus and is a student media specialist. She is a Girl Scout and a Child Life Member of Hadassah. Lindsey enjoys cheerleading and is a member of the National Cheer Champion Lake Mary All Stars. She also likes hip-hop dancing, photography, hanging out with her friends, texting and playing with her Goldendoodle, Ella.

Sharing in the family's simcha will be Lindsey's sister, Hannah; brother, Zach; grandparents, Sima and Jerry Feldberg of Longwood, and Merna and Harold Wieselthier of The Villages; and relatives and friends from Florida, Texas, New Jersey, Illinois and Georgia.

Zach Wieselthier

Zach Wieselthier, son of Rick and David Wieselthier of Longwood, Fla., will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah on March 6, 2010 at Congregation Beth Am in Longwood.

Zach is in the seventh grade at Greenwood Lakes Middle School, where he is an Advanced Program honor student. He is in the Navy JROTC and is a peer counselor working with special needs children.

Zach was selected as one of the Who's Who Among America's Middle School Students. He is a Boy Scout in his seventh year of scouting. Zach, who attended the Medical Academy at the Orlando Science Center, likes science, medicine, riding roller coasters and Facebook.

Sharing in the family's simcha will be Zach's sisters, Hannah and Lindsey; grandparents, Sima and Jerry Feldberg of Longwood, and Merna and Harold Wieselthier of The Villages; and relatives and friends from Florida, Texas, New Jersey, Illinois and Georgia.



The Jewish Pavilion coordinated the Great Purim Baking Day with 150 volunteers.



Getting ready to enjoy hamantashen at Oakmonte are, from left: Norma Cagen, Martina Schwartzberger (staff), Edith Zwick and Alice Weinruch.



Residents and volunteers alike join forces in making hamantashen for the Great Purim Baking Day at several long-term housing facilities.

Bar Mitzvah

Benjamin Evan Rosenblum

Benjamin Evan Rosenblum, son of Jim and Carolyn Rosenblum of Ocoee, Fla., will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah on Saturday, Feb. 27, 2010 at Congregation Ohev Shalom in Orlando.

Ben is in the seventh grade at Ocoee Middle School, where he plays French horn in the wind ensemble and is enrolled in the gifted program. He is also a member of Kadima at COS. He holds a first-degree black belt in the Kwon Do, and holds a first-class rank in Boy Scout Troop 641.

Sharing in the family's simcha will be Ben's grandparents, Bill and Pearl Metz of Maitland, Fla.; and aunts, uncles and cousins from Central Florida; Carmel, Ind.; Northern California; Columbus, Ohio; and Boston, Mass.

Ben is also the grandson of the late Earl Rosenblum and the late Liese Rosenblum.



Marissa Giron sings at Savannah Court and Cove.