

Girls' Night Out Seventy women let loose at Vashti's Banquet for a fun time.

Sisterhood of Congregation Shaarey Zedek in Southfield again welcomed women of the entire Jewish community to join them for a girls' night out at their fourth annual Vashti's Banquet on Tuesday, Feb. 5.

Almost half of the women came from synagogues other than CSZ, including the Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue, Adat Shalom, B'nai Israel, Shir Shalom, Temple Israel, Beth Shalom and the Woodward Synagogue, to name a few.

The synagogue was transformed into a Middle Eastern bazaar, where 70 women enjoyed Middle Eastern kosher food, kosher cocktails and belly dancing.

"Vashti's Banquet was such a blast!" said Vashti Committee member Suzi Terebelo of Southfield. Other committee members were Jeri Fishman of Southfield, Mary Knoll of Bloomfield Hills and Karen Katz of West Bloomfield. "There were phenomenal Vashti martinis and a very hilarious 'Desert Housewives' overview of Vashti."

The women enjoyed great Middle Eastern fare and most of the women belly danced with instructor Lana Mini and walked away adorned with beautiful henna body art. □



Lauren Cohen of Lathrup Village, Sisterhood President Linda Cohen of Franklin and Jennifer Teper of Farmington Hills



Vashti Committee: Jeri Fishman of Southfield, Mary Knoll of Bloomfield Hills, Suzi Terebelo of Southfield and Karen Katz of West Bloomfield.

Photo by Brett Mountain

Safety First Aqua Tots helps children with special needs improve skills and stay safe.

Friendship Circle of West Bloomfield and Aqua Tots Swim School of Troy recently hosted a day of swim instruction for children with special needs.

Children ranging from ages 5-15 participated. Nine children arrived, excited to have fun in the water while at the same time learning the importance of water safety.

Aqua Tots Swim School owner Annette Tomina spoke with each parent to determine what areas needed to be worked on. Most children worked on floating on their backs and opening their eyes under water.

One child had a huge fear of the water and, by the end of the lesson, with the help of his instructor, was jumping off the side of the pool into the water — laughing the whole time.

Julie Zorn came with her two sons, ages 10 and 8. "My sons both had a very positive experience during their swim classes," she said. "My sons are both good swimmers, but have difficulty with socialization due to having autism. The swim instructors were sensitive to my children's unique needs. The instructors kept the lessons moving along at a good pace while engaging my boys in learning new skills. Thanks to all at Aqua Tots for your warmth and kindness!"

Bassie Shemtov, director of Friendship Circle, said, "Aqua Tots is a great program that helps our kids with special needs develop coordination and fine motor skills while having fun in the water. It also teaches our kids an important lesson in water safety — something any parent would be grateful for." □



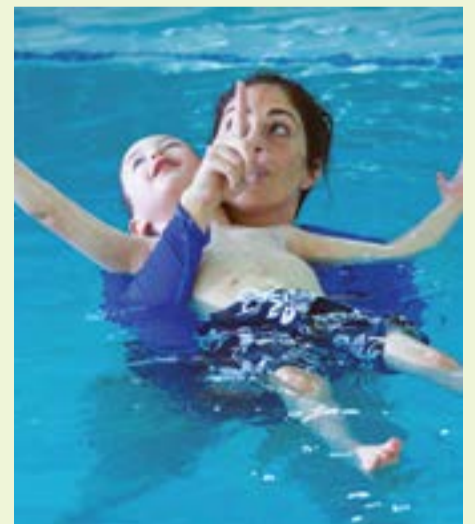
Sean Zorn works with instructor Kristan Carlisle.



Addison Mills paddles a canoe with stabilization from instructor Kristan Carlisle.



Drew Zorn works on his kicking with instructor Annette Tomina.



Conner Larson with instructor Annette Tomina