

# Baptist church to mark Passover

by ELIZABETH TAUFA  
Reporter

With Easter this coming Sunday, it's easy to get bogged down in visions of bunnies, eggs and candy.

However, this is one of the most important religious days in the Christian calendar, and the roots of Christianity lie in the Jewish faith.

This history is being embraced by the Shalom Baptist Church, which meets in the VFW Post 416, 18 East Spring St.

The church will hold a Seder meal, the traditional meal of the first day of the Jewish holiday of Passover, at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 7. The meal will include chicken, vegetables and Jewish desserts. "The Seder meal is used to teach the Jewish roots of the Christian faith," said Pastor Roland Mills. "It's the story of redemption."

Mills noted that the Seder meal can be used to educate those who don't know about the history of the Jewish people, from being enslaved by the Egyptians to their eventual escape and freedom,

hence, the redemption of a race of people — including Christians.

"The relationship between Passover and Easter is connected in the meal," Mills said, noting that a Seder meal can be equated to the last supper of Jesus Christ. "It's the most powerful message you can tell, and it's over 35 centuries old."

Mills has his own story of redemption, however.

Approximately a year after moving with his family — a wife and seven children ages 5 to 19 — from North Carolina to start a congregation in Western New York, Mills was diagnosed with acute leukemia and given just a few days to live.

After six months of chemother-

apy in 2002, Mills' cancer went into remission, and he began to volunteer at Roswell Park Cancer Institute, where he had been treated. As a chaplain, he helps others in similar situations.

In 2004, however, Mills underwent a bone marrow transplant and is now doing well.

In April 2006, Mills returned to preaching at his church and his mission to emphasize the Jewish history of the Christian faith.

The church congregates at 10 a.m. Sundays and at 7 p.m. Thursdays, except for the second Thursday of each month.

The Seder meal is free, but reservations are required because seating is limited.

For more information or reservations, call 439-1188.



Pastor Roland Mills



**SCHOLARSHIP WINNER** — Violinist Alexander Boissonnault, a senior at Williamsville South High School, was the winner for the 22nd annual Friends of the Amherst Symphony Orchestra and the Williamsville Rotary music scholarship competition held March 3. He will pursue a career in music performance as a violinist.

## On the Campus

Catherine Dines, Kelly Dunn, Alexandra Tetrault, and Jessica Yes, all of Amherst, were inducted into the St. Catherine of Siena Chapter of the National Honor Society of Holy Angels Academy on March 15.

Susan Buzzard, of East Amherst, has been named to the dean's list for the fall semester of the 2006-2007 school year.

Medaille College Amherst Campus will hold an information session on the Accelerated Learning Programs in Business at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 4 at the Hilton Garden Inn Hotel, 4201 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga.

Alivia Ruiz, daughter of Elaine and Angelo Ruiz of Amherst, will attend the Rochester Institute of Technology in the fall. She will graduate from Sweet Home High School in June and will major in medical illustration at RIT's College of Imaging Arts and Sciences.

## What's Going On

### JCC to host Secrets from Buffalo

JCC Benderson Family Building to host Secrets of Buffalo from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Thursdays now through April 26 at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo, Inc., 2640 North Forest Road. April 5, Secret Hands.

### UB to hold acoustic performance

The Center for the Arts at the University at Buffalo will present Aaron Lewis of Stained at 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 4 in the Mainstage Theatre on the North Campus. Tickets cost \$29; \$25 for students. Call 852-5000

# Amherst/Williamsville Library News

The following events will be held at the Williamsville Library, 5571 Main St., Williamsville. For more information, call 632-6176.

**Spring Crafts** will be at 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 17 for ages 5 and up.

**"WNY Explorer Guide" Author Visit** with Christine Smczynski will be at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 17.

**Story Time with Miss Beth** will be held at 10:30 a.m. Mondays for toddlers and at 11:30 a.m. Fridays for 3 to 5 year olds.

The following events will be held at Clearfield Library, 770 Hopkins Road in Williamsville. For more information, call 688-4955.

**Friday Fun** will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday, April 13 for ages 2 to 5 years.

**Becoming American** will be held at 4 p.m. on Fridays, April 13 and 20 for grades K and up.

**Computer Basics For The Total Novice** will be held from 10:30 a.m. to noon Monday, April 16.

**Spring Crafts** will be held at 4 p.m. Monday, April 16 for ages 5 and up.

The following events will be held at the Eggertsville/Snyder Library, located at 4622 Main St. Call 839-0700.

**Happy Spring** will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday, April 6 for ages 2½ to 5 with an adult.

**Bedtime Story Time** will be held at 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 9 for ages 2 and up.

**McLaughlin Chess Nuts** will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 14 for all ages.

The following events will be held at Audubon Library, 350 John James Audubon Parkway. For information, call 689-4922.

**Kids Knitting** will be held at 4:30 p.m. every Tuesday from now through May 1.

**Adult Knitting** will be held at 6 p.m. Tuesdays now through May 1.

**Geronimo Stilton** will be held at 4 p.m. Thursday, April 4 for ages 5 and up.

**Noodlehead Stories** will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 7 for ages 6 and up.

### BNI Business Makers meeting set

BNI Business Makers will conduct its weekly meeting from 7 to 8:30 a.m. Thursday, April 5 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst, 6320 Main Street, Williamsville. Dave Snell of Carstar Collision of Amherst and Eastern Hills will speak. Visitors welcome. For more information, call Bryan Castro at 907-4465.

### Book club meeting set at Fanny's Restaurant

The Amherst Book Club will meet at 12 p.m. Thursday, April 5 at Fanny's Restaurant, 3500 Sheridan Drive. Jean Vernon and Louise Seibold will review Alexander McCall Smith's "First Ladies' Detective Agency" series of seven books. For more information on the book club, call 839-2904.

## Seniors head to NYC

The Amherst Senior Travel Club, an organization of the Amherst Center from Senior Service, has space available for a trip to New York City.

"Broadway Bound New York City" is a four-day, three night trip from April 27 through 30. Activities will include a ride to the observation deck of the Empire State Building, a tour of NBC studios, a Broadway matinee, a three-hour harbor cruise, and time for shopping and sightseeing.

Price per person for double occupancy, is \$615 and includes motor coach transportation, hotel accommodation in New Jersey and three full breakfasts and two dinners in the city.

Membership in the senior travel club is open to all members of the Amherst Center for Senior Services. The club meets on the third Tuesday of the month. The yearly membership fee is \$7 for an individual and \$10 for a couple

For more information on the New York trip or the club, call Audrey at 688-7059

## St. Paul's basket gala set

The St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Eggertsville will host its fifth annual Basket Raffle on Saturday, April 28 at the the Marriott Hotel, 1340 Millersport Hwy, Amherst.

The Basket Gala is to benefit the Emergency/Disaster Relief Fund created five years ago to assist those in need in the Western New York area.

Doors will open at 5 p.m., dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. and calling begins at 7:30 p.m.

"The Gala event itself is obviously intended to be a festive celebration," said the Rev. Daniel

Hoffman, pastor at St. Paul's. "We want people to have fun, come for a nice meal, and get a nice basket for a great price. But the gala has a purpose. The funds we raise are all to be used to assist people who are poor, hungry, hurting and in need."

Tickets are \$21 which include a sit-down dinner and five Chinese auction tickets. There will also be a 50/50 raffle and grand prizes.

Tickets are available from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at the church office. Call 835-0407.

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