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Shades of Pink:
An Evening for Women, Wine and Wellness.
Not a bad way to spend an evening!

Celebrate women's health with those you love! PacificSource Health Plans and the United Way are joining forces to host "Shades of Pink: An Evening for Women, Wine and Wellness."

Learn the latest on women's health, nutrition and beauty, while sampling local wines and products.

Shades of Pink
October 3, 2006
3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Valley River Inn

This is a free event, so invite all the special women – and men – to join you!

Raffle drawings for fun prizes!

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KZEL 96.1 ROCKS
95.3 THE MOOSE
STAR 102.3 Real Music Variety!

news Briefs

TORAH! TORAH!

If some time in the past you felt inspired by the musical *Fiddler on the Roof* in its lighter moments and imagined joining the cast in a song and dance number, this may be your chance. For the first time ever, during the high holidays of Rosh Hashanah (Sept. 22-24) and Yom Kippur (Oct. 1-2), Eugene is getting its own custom-made Torah scroll. A celebratory procession will begin at 5:30 pm Wednesday, Sept. 27, starting from the UO Knight Library.

Music, chanting and torch fire will lead the way in an investiture designed to be all inclusive to the community at large. Why? According to Rabbi Asi Spiegel, "Sure, the Jews brought the Torah to the world, but since then, millions of others have come to believe and accept it. The street procession represents a symbolic connection between the message and wisdom of the Torah and the daily life of Eugene."

The original Torah set down by Moses 3,319 years ago became the first five books of the Jewish Bible, adopted verbatim as the *Old Testament* by Christians. So what's the big deal of a "made-to-order" Torah? The answer is in the numbers.

A Torah scroll must be hand written on kosher parchment by a specially trained "Sofer" scribe. Before he can even begin, he must learn more than 4,000 rules for this sanctified task. Then comes the hard part. There are 304,805 letters (each representing a word, partial word or phrase) that must be inscribed without error to duplicate the first Torah that ever was. If only one letter is missing, wrongly written, spaced inexactly, or touching another letter, the whole Torah becomes invalid and the scribe must make corrections in a prescribed manner.

"I know it sounds harsh," Rabbi Spiegel said, "but 99.999 percent kosher equals 100 percent *not* kosher."

Naturally this carries a heavy price, and donations are being accepted via www.chabadofeugene.org or by calling Chabad House at 484-7665.

With all this at stake, the final letters of the Eugene Torah will be inscribed sometime between 4 and 5:30 pm in the Knight Library Browsing Room. Hold your breath.

— Joseph A. Lieberman

WALK-BIKE SUMMIT

Why are there so many fewer children walking or riding their bikes to school today than in the past? This topic was addressed for the second year in a row at the Oregon Planning Institute held in Eugene last weekend, with planners from all over the state looking at how to implement federal legislation regarding getting kids to school and home safely, without cars.

The topic of safe routes to school is coming up again on the agenda of the free Eugene Walking and Biking Summit planned for Oct. 7 on the UO campus. Also on the agenda are: a new pedestrian and bicycle strategy planning process for the city, making Eugene an even better place for bicycling and walking, sharing the road issues, Eugene's bicycle and bike accessories industry, bicycle tourism and innovative pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.

The summit runs from 8:30 am to 1 pm Oct. 7 at the Erb Memorial Union on campus. Registation is encouraged at www.eugene-or.gov/walkbike or by calling 346-3889.

CORRECTIONS/ CLARIFICATIONS

The *EW* cover story "Doomed to Demo," Aug. 17 incorrectly added $50 million to city consultant's estimated cost of a new City Hall by including operations and maintenance costs. The new City Hall is now estimated to cost up to $135 million. But that figure does not include construction inflation or borrowing costs, which could push the final cost to taxpayers above $200 million.

drawing as therapy by harvey dickson

When God was a kid, nobody believed he would ever create anything.

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