

Feeding The Hungry

Birmingham Temple provides and serves meals at Detroit soup kitchen for its annual Winter Mitzvah.

On Sunday, Feb. 9, the Birmingham Temple family room in Farmington Hills was filled with two large assembly lines. Temple members of all ages had come to participate in its annual Winter Mitzvah.

Wearing plastic gloves and chatting with neighbors on the line, participants put together 350 sandwiches, then added fruit, chips and dessert and placed the food in lunch bags. Some sandwich fillings and desserts had been made at home — other food and supplies were purchased with member-donated funds.

The next day, bright and early, Temple volunteers transported the food to the soup kitchen of the Central United Methodist Church in Downtown Detroit, and then stayed to serve and socialize with patrons.

Temple members chose February for this project because they were told it was a difficult time to find volunteers. Feeding the hungry is an expression of the congregation's deepest moral values. □



Temple members work on the sandwich assembly line.



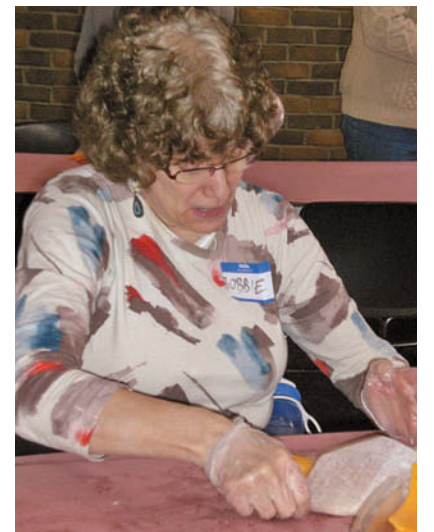
Anita Stromberg of Lathrup Village serves desserts to soup kitchen patrons.



Rabbi Jeffrey Falick (second from the left) and Birmingham Temple members enjoy the assembly line.



Temple members helped serve at the soup kitchen.



Roberta Slade of Livonia carefully puts together a sandwich.

Guilty Plea

Former Birmingham mayor pleads guilty to drug charge, pledges to recover from addiction.

Ronelle Grier
Contributing Writer

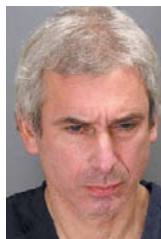
After pleading guilty to possession of methamphetamine in Oakland County Circuit Court on Feb. 12, former Birmingham mayor Seth Chafetz, 54, talked about his recent stay in a local rehabilitation facility and his commitment to recovering from his drug addiction.

The plea was accepted by Judge James Alexander, who allowed Chafetz to remain free on personal bond of \$25,000 providing he submits to daily drug tests, completes the Intensive Outpatient

Program (IOP) at the Henry Ford Maplegrove Center and continues his participation in a 12-step recovery program.

Attorney Gabi Silver presented the court with a recommendation letter from the Maplegrove facility, where Chafetz was an inpatient for three weeks. She asked the court to allow her client to continue on his path to recovery.

"My client was released today, and he is doing really well," said Silver, a partner in Cripps and Silver Law of Detroit. "He looks 100 percent better and is speaking logically and clearly now."



Seth Chafetz

Chafetz was arrested on Aug. 20, 2013, when police found methamphetamine and other drugs at his Bloomfield Hills home. While out on bond, he was arrested again on Nov. 19, 2013, in a Home Depot parking lot in Madison Heights and charged with a felony count of delivery or manufacturing of methamphetamine. As a result of that arrest, his bond was revoked and he was remanded to the Oakland County Jail to await trial and sentencing. At his attorney's request, Chafetz was released on Jan. 22 to begin an inpatient program at Maplegrove.

Chafetz told the court on Feb. 12 that he realized he had become addicted to methamphetamine and was determined to continue his recovery and move forward in a positive direction.

"Five years and one month ago, there was a big change in my life," Chafetz said, "and I made one bad decision one eve-

ning ... It cost me my reputation and my job, and I want to get my life back."

Chafetz, who was a figure skating coach for Olympic gold medal winners Meryl Davis and Charlie White, said he looks forward to getting back on the ice himself.

"I have my lawyer to thank for starting my recovery," Chafetz said. "She knew there was a problem before I did, and she let me sit in jail until I detoxed and my brain cells cleared. Then she started fighting for me and didn't stop."

Chafetz, who was mayor of Birmingham in 2003, also served on the Birmingham City Commission and the Baldwin Public Library Board of Trustees for several years.

A sentencing hearing before Alexander will take place on March 19. According to court records, Chafetz will stand trial on April 14 for the charges stemming from his Nov. 19 arrest. Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Colleen O'Brien will preside. □