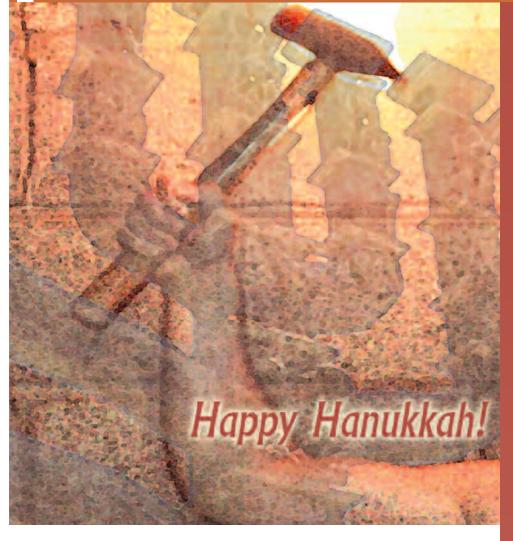
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Volume 79, Number 3 • November 21, 2012 • 7 Kislev 5773

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Yehuda ben-Mattityahu was one of five brothers. Born following Yochanan and Simon, but before Eleazar and Jonathan, Yehuda was the middle child of a family called Hasmoneus. And long before they were thrust into Jewish history's most underrated series of fortunate events, these boys were shaped by their high-priest father into a band of uncompromising patriots who yielded to no one.

They leveraged this strength of certainty into a perfect storm of crumbling-empire meets partisan-posse, and where vast armies were denied by a guerilla warrior general they called "The Hammer." In his acts he was like a lion, and like a lion's whelp roaring for his prey. (Maccabees I, 3:4)

Verse 2:4 of Maccabees I, written some 40 years after the events it chronicles, introduces us to "Judah, who was called Maccabeus," a Greek transliteration of the Hebrew word ma-ke-vet or ma-ke-ves — a stone-cutter's mallet or sledge hammer. Clearly the heavy hitter among the sons of Mattityahu, "Judah The Hammer" is a moniker that easily evokes all the attitude and can't-refuse insistence of a mob enforcer.

Uncompromised and fanatically devoted to the rights of Jews to freely practice Judaism, Yehudah HaMakevet, his brothers, their armies of liberation, and all they accomplished deserve our remembrance and celebration as they commanded us, each 25th day of *Kislev*.

(see About the Cover, p. 2)

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Simcha Announcements

Mazel Tov to...

Four generations of Lande's at Congregation Beth-El Zedeck on Nov. 10 for the Bat Mitzvah of Brittany Ashley Lande, daughter of Paul and Julie Lande, granddaughter of Ann Lande and Marcie Burford.



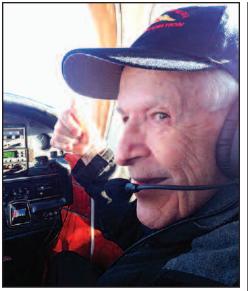
L to R: grandfather Phil Lande, greatgrandmother Ann Lande holding Jack, and father Jeremy Lande.

Arthur Mirkin celebrated his 93rd birthday wth a flight.

On a beautiful morning, Nov. 3, 2012, three generations of Mirkins were fortunate enough to go for a plane ride around Atlanta for Art's 93rd birthday. Many thanks to pilot, Marc Wise for his huge generosity in time and his trusty Piper Archer II out of Peachtree Dekalb Airport. It was a special moment when son Barry and grandson Everett, age 13, were finally flying together in a small plane. Barry was Everett's age when his father began taking him flying regularly in Indianapolis, many years ago. Art Mirkin, formerly of Indianapolis and longtime member of Congregation B'nai Torah was a Navy pilot in World War II. He celebrated his birthday in Atlanta where he lives now. Good times!



L to R: Everett, Barry, and Art Mirkin, and pilot Marc Wise.



Arthur Mirkin flying high at 93.

Simchas Welcome! Had a recent joyous occasion in your family or Jewish organization? The Jewish Post & Opinion – IN Edition welcomes your announcements for placement in our Simcha section. Submit photos and text to: jpostopinion@gmail.com. Next Deadline: Nov. 30, 2012. All decisions on publishing, date of placement, size of photo, and length of announcement are at the sole discretion of the publisher.

About the Cover

Judah The Hammer

This cover art and story are by Stephen Schuster.

Steve Schuster is a past-president of Temple Sinai in Worcester, Mass, and sits on the Massachusetts council of AIPAC. A writer and engineer, Steve is CEO and founder of Rainier, a leading PR agency for technology companies, including more than 40 Israeli firms. Steve travels to Israel every three months on business and is deeply committed to providing a voice in North America for Israel's innovation economy. Steve's Liberation Haggadah was published in 2009. He can be reached at steve@rainier co.com.





Fighting continues and injuries and deaths mount. At the beginning of Thanksgiving week, it feels bitter and sad that this long into human history, the anger and heedlessness of some force conflicts to continue to erupt in war. We pray that all of us created by the same God will be inspired by that Divine light to seek peace. May God who creates harmony throughout the cosmos spread peace to us, to Israel and to all the world.

~ Rabbi David Wolpe, 11-19-12

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Editorial

After the following was published in our Nov. 7 National edition, I received an important addition from the producer/editor Christine Romero. See bold on page 6.

As part of the Heartland Film Festival that took place in Indianapolis Oct. 18–27, I saw a movie that I highly recommend – *Besa: The Promise*. Before I mention details of this documentary, this Festival was started in Indianapolis in 1992 to showcase uplifting independent films that celebrate the positive aspects of life. These movies promote positive change in people's lives through the transformative power of film.

The Festival has expanded over time and is now one of the fastest growing in the country showing films from all over the world. As was the case in this viewing, frequently the filmmakers are at the theater afterward to answer questions from the audience.

Producer Bill Morgan, Managing Partner of JWM Productions makes his home in Carmel, Ind., immediately north of Indianapolis. He was on hand and stated that during the eight years it took to make the movie, approximately a dozen elderly witnesses filmed had died.

In advance of the showing, I received an email about the movie with a press release. After researching, I understood the movie is about, among others, a Muslim family from Albania during World War II who, at the risk of their own lives, hid a Jewish family from Bulgaria in their home.

In my email to the producers, I wrote that with the focus of media attention today on Muslim suicide bombers targeting Israeli Jews, it would be nice to see an example of the opposite. This brought to mind other times in history when Muslims were good to Jews such as when they were expelled from Spain in 1492 and were welcomed in Turkey and other Muslim countries. However, I said I would not attend if the movie had a lot of graphic violence.

One of the producers and editor, Christine Romero responded."In our film, there are none of those images, although there are emotional stories told in the first person by rescuers and witnesses that reveal great bravery." She said this allows Holocaust survivors and World War II veterans to enjoy an uplifting story about an important piece of history that is nearly unknown, without having to see a repeat of graphic images.

In this movie, Muslims who hid Jews started calling them by Muslim names and gave them Muslim garb to wear so that when the Nazis came and asked who they were, the Muslims could say they were

(see Editorial, page 6)

Chassidic Rabbi

By Rabbi Benzion Cohen

Reprinted from 12-30-09.

Baruch Hashem, we had a beautiful Chanukah, with many miracles. Chanukah was and is a time of miracles. Here is one from this year.

I met Shmuel at our local hospital. I smiled and wished him a happy Chanukah and a speedy recovery. He smiled back and thanked me. I suggested that he put on tefillin. He politely declined, saying that he has never put on tefillin. I asked why not, and he told me his story.

He was born in Poland 79 years ago. His grandparents were very religious. He remembers his grandfather's long white beard. His parents were less religious. They sent him to a Jewish school, where he learned Torah and also secular studies. When he was 11, the Nazis murdered his parents and most of his family. He escaped to Russia and grew up there in an orphanage. In 1957 he moved to Israel.

On one hand, this is a tragic story. I can only try to imagine what he went through, and I certainly can't blame him. On the other hand, he is a special person. This is one benefit of my work in the hospital. I get to meet and know many special people. The Torah teaches us that everything that happens is for the good, even though we may not always understand. What good comes from hardships and suffering? For one thing, it often makes us into better people. Metals are refined in furnaces, and souls are refined by hardships. I feel privileged to be able to talk to survivors of the Holocaust. The ones that I have met are warm, kind and sensitive. I feel even more privileged if I succeed in helping them in any way, especially to bring them back to our Father in Heaven.

Shmuel told me that he hardly remembers his father and mother. So I tried my best to help him form a relationship with *Hashem*, the Father of all mankind.

I asked Shmuel why he is in the hospital. He told me about his heart trouble. That day he didn't put on *tefillin*, but his son did. I could see that this made him happy. Deep down all of us want to do *mitzvahs*.

We met again the next day. We were happy to see each other. Again he wouldn't put on tefillin, and again his son did.

The third day he told me that tomorrow he was scheduled to have an angioplasty. Some of the arteries that supplied his heart with blood were clogged up, and they were going to try to open them up. This is serious business. For the tenth time I suggested he put on tefillin and pray, and

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for the tenth time he firmly and politely declined. I said to myself, "Today is Chanukah. Hashem, please make a miracle."

Shmuel pointed to another patient at the end of the room. "You see that man? He is an Arab, but he speaks Yiddish better than either of us." Shmuel called the Arab over, and we got into a lively conversation in Yiddish. Yiddish is a very special language, and all three of us were greatly enjoying the conversation. I asked the Arab to help me to convince Shmuel to put on tefillin, especially since he has never done this mitzvah, and he is scheduled to do a serious operation. The Arab tried, and again Shmuel refused. The Arab looks at me and

(see Benzion, page 9)

M. Dorfman

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Community Events

"Can You Keep A Secret?" Confidentiality and Jewish Law in the American Legal System

Attorney-client privilege requires that attorneys not disclose client confidences under Indiana Professional Conduct Rule 1.6. What does Judaism say about confidentiality and does that come into conflict with our obligations under Indiana law? In this course, we will look at these questions with an eye toward Indiana law, Jewish law, and nationwide developments in these areas. Approval for CLE credit pending.

Instructor: Jeremy Kridel; Date: **Tues., Nov. 27**; Time: 11:30 am–1:00 pm; Cost: \$75; Location: Katz & Korin, PC (334 N. Senate Ave, 46204).

JCC Business Network

The next meeting will be on **Wed.**, **Nov. 28** at 6:30 p.m. at the Arthur M Glick JCC, 6701 Hoover Rd. RSVP to Larry Rothenberg lrothenberg@jccindy.org or call 317-715-9233.

Jewish Lawyers

Jewish lawyers group meets for lunch on the fourth Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is **Nov. 28** at Shapiro's downtown at 12:15 p.m. Presently, the group's leaders are Irwin Levin, Zeff Weiss and Elliot Levin. For more information contact Elliot at edl@rubin-levin.net.

Ramah Outdoor Adventure Camp in the Rockies – Info session

Join other families to see a short video and speak directly with Program director, Matt Levitt on **Wed.**, **Nov. 28** from 7:15–8:15 p.m., at Shoshana Harper's home along with returning camper Nadav Harper, 8924 Pinyon Ct., (North Willow Farms), Indianapolis.

RSVP to Matt: mattl@ramahoutdoors .org; 303/261-8214 x106 *OR* Shoshana: shoshanaharper@comcast.net; 317/414-1480.

Located on a majestic, 360 acre alpine ranch, Ramah Outdoor Adventure is in the heart of the one million acre Pike National Forest, only 90 miles from Denver. Your children can experience the great outdoors in a kosher/Jewish atmosphere:

Mountain biking, Whitewater rafting, Rock climbing, Horseback riding, Farming, Pioneer crafts, Wilderness survival, Meaningful Shabbat/Jewish experiences, and much more, of course! Direct flights from Indianapolis to Denver, and camp transportation from the airport to camp! Currently enrolling for the following 2013 summer programs: Ages 8–15 for the camping sessions, Teens ages 16 & 17 for a Leadership Training Program.

Menorah Making Workshop

Lubavitch of Indiana is hosting a pre-Chanukah Menorah Workshop at The Home Depot, 9855 North Michigan Rd. on Sun., Dec. 2, 1–3 p.m. Event is free, parents stay.

Hasten Hebrew Academy Chanukah Dinner

The Hasten Hebrew Academy will be holding its annual Chanukah Dinner on **Dec. 2, 2012** at 5 p.m. in the Cultural Arts Center at the Hasten Hebrew Academy. The Chanukah dinner is the Academy's

"kick-off" event for the Chanukah Campaign which serves as a major fundraiser for the school.

This year's dinner will feature guest speaker, **Yehuda Avner**, author of

the book, *The Prime Ministers: An Intimate Narrative of Israeli Leadership*, in which he shares his first-hand experiences working with Israel's political leaders.

Ambassador Yehuda Avner was born in Manchester, England in 1928 and arrived in British Mandatory Palestine in 1947. He fought in the Siege of Jerusalem in the War of Independence, and was among the founders of Kibbutz Lavi in the Galilee.

Ambassador Avner moved to Jerusalem in 1956 and joined the Israeli Foreign Service in 1958. For the next 25 years, he worked for five Israeli prime ministers: as Speechwriter and Secretary to Prime Ministers Levi Eshkol and Golda Meir, and as Advisor to Prime Ministers Yitzhak Rabin, Menachem Begin, and Shimon Peres. As a top political aide, Ambassador Avner was privy to the inside workings of Israel's prime minister's office, and was present for major decision-making moments related to military operations and diplomatic negotiations.

During his lengthy diplomatic career, he also served in positions at the Israeli Consulate in New York and the Israeli Embassy in Washington, DC. In 1983, he was appointed Israeli Ambassador to Britain, and from 1992 to 1995, served as Israeli Ambassador to Australia.

Guests are invited to attend the event, catered by Dina Cohen for a \$300 per person donation. (Donations are tax-deductible minus the cost of the meal.)

For more information on this event or to make a donation, please contact Marcy Ekhaus at 317/251-1261 or mekhaus@hhai.org.

Joseph: Beyond the Technicolor Dreamcoat

Explore the story of Joseph beyond the text in the Torah. Using modern texts as a tool to further our understanding, we will explore the many lessons taught through Joseph's life story. As part of the course, we will attend a performance of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at Civic Theatre. Additional tickets for the performance will be available by contacting the BJE Office. Instructor: Rabbi Paula Winnig; Time: 6:30–8:00 pm; Dates: Wed., Dec. 5, 12, and Sun., Dec. 16; Cost: \$55 (includes ticket).

Israeli Movie Night - Yellow Asphalt

On **Thurs., Dec. 6** at 7:30 p.m. in Room A25 at the Arthur M. Glick JCC, join Marva Eden, our Israeli Community *Shlicha*, for Israeli Movie Night. Movies are always free of charge, with popcorn and drinks provided. Rated PG-13. Visit www.jfgi.org to register for this movie night!

Mr. Blair's Open Mic Group

Mr. Blair Karsch and the On Your Level Youth Project will once again host Indianapolis's premiere youth open mic events, which have produced standingroom-only crowds at previous events. This is the largest all-city event with a focus on youth expression through spoken word. There's even room for adult performers as the evening allows. Come one, come all. This event will be an open stage for all ages to perform and practice any form of spoken word entertainment. Poetry, prose, comedy, hip-hop, rap, acoustic music and more are some of the most popular forms. Get there early to have a snack, drink, get (see Events, page 7)

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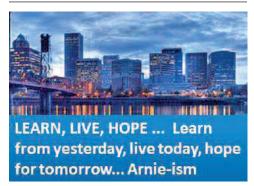
Carmel - E. of US-31 at W. Carmel Dr. (126th St.) **E. 96th Street -** E. 96th St. at I-69

Indy Legends of Doo-Wop

Jimmy's Four Sounds backed by Arnie and the Soul Brothers are back again! Last summer, these two Indiana groups tore it up with their rock 'em-sock 'em dance music, toe-tapping doo-wop and dreamy jazz from the late 1950s and 1960s. They will be back on the JCC stage for an evening of fun and music. Put on your dancing shoes and don't miss an extra surprise on the dance floor! On **Sat., Mar.** 16 from 8–10:30 p.m., \$20/\$15 for JCC members or \$150 for a table of 10.







Arnie-ism by Arnie Goldberg; www.mktgusa.com.

EDITORIAL

(continued from page 3)

distant family members who had come to stay with them.

When one of the Muslims was asked by one of the filmmakers what gave them the courage to risk their own lives for strangers, the response was that it is part of their religious beliefs. Also according to the Albanian moral code "besa" – which is practiced throughout this nation without regard to religion – when a person in need comes and asks for help, it becomes an obligation to help that person in every possible way. The Albanians stood up to the Nazis armed with this moral code.



Rexhep Hoxha (r) and his son Ermal (l) at the Western Wall in Jerusalem. ©JWM Productions, LLC.

According to the movie, approximately 2,000 Jewish lives were saved by Albanians, 70 percent of whom were Muslims. Also mentioned is that due to their sympathetic king, Albania was the only country in Eastern Europe who allowed refuge to the Jews.

Although most of us have heard stories told by Holocaust survivors, what was unique about *Besa: The Promise* is that one is able to see actual footage of one survivor's situation almost 70 years later. The movie, *Forgiving Dr. Mengele* about Auschwitz survivor Eva Kor – which I saw at The Heartland Film Festival six years ago – has a moving scene with her and other children walking out the front gate on liberation day Jan. 27, 1945. However, later I found out that scene was staged for the camera and actually

filmed the following day.

In our Holocaust issue last April (www.jewishpostopinion.com/Jewishpost /NAT_4-25-12.pdf) I wrote a story about Harry Cybulski and Dora Goldberg, sibling survivors who had been hidden on a farm in a village about 25 miles from Paris. At the time they arrived, he was age 4 and she was 9. They were told not to speak Hebrew or Yiddish or give any sign whatsoever that they are Jewish. Only the farmer and his wife would know. When they returned on a visit 50 years later, they were shocked to find the whole village knew. Even though German soldiers lived there, everyone kept it a secret. It would have been extraordinary to be with Cybulski and Goldberg when they were told this news.

This is what this movie does. The viewer gets to see a very emotional meeting when Rexhep Hoxha, son of the Muslim-Albanian rescuer visits Aron Etrogy at his home in Israel. Etrogy was 10 when his family fled Sofia, Bulgaria and escaped to Tirana, Albania. This meeting takes place more than 60 years after the war with no contact taking place in the years between.

Portraits by Norman H. Gershman, a renowned Jewish-American photographer who is determined to document first-person accounts of the Albanian Muslims who rescued Jews, are blended with animation, rare archival film, and poignant interviews with witnesses. The film is directed by Rachel Goslins. Another producer is Jason Williams. Music is composed by Philip Glass, and director of photography is British cinematographer Neil Barrett.

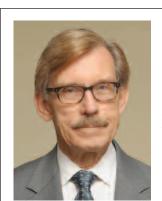
Jennie Cohen, November 21, 2012 🌣

On this date in Jewish history

On November 21, 1945

Actress Goldie Hawn was born.

~ From *The Jewish Book of Da*ys published by Hugh Lauter Levin Associates, Inc., New York.



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EVENTS

(continued from page 4)

a good seat and meet the artists.

Sat., Dec. 8 7:30–9:30 p.m., Brics, "The place to chill in Broad Ripple", On the Monon Trail, 901 East 64th St. Brics' Number: 317/257-5757.

Twelfth annual Chanukah on Ice

On **Sun., Dec. 9** from 11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., Lubavitch of Indiana is hosting Chanukah on Ice at the Arctic Zone, 16616 Southpark Drive in Westfield. Will YOU be there?! Admission includes skate rental, snacks, etc. \$4 per person, \$15 per family or \$180 sponsorship. For more information or to RSVP call 251-5573 or email info@lubavitchindiana.com.

Chanukah Chaggiga

Lubavitch of Indiana invites everyone to a community-wide Chanukah celebration on Mon., Dec., 10 at 5:30 p.m. at the Arthur M. Glick JCC. This event is free! Activities for kids, Morrocan-Israeli food, songs, and fun! Krembo will join us at the Israeli Chanukah Party!

Ronen Chamber Ensemble first concert of 2012–2013 season

"Echoes and Resonances: Songs of the Past, Sounds of Today"

The concert will be held on **Mon.**, **Dec.** 10, 2012 at 7:30 p.m., in the sanctuary of the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, 6501 North Meridian Street. Soprano Janice Roger (IHC Cantor) will serve both as narrator and singer as she joins Ronen musicians in music inspired by folk tales and traditions from Jewish life. This is the Ronen Chamber Ensemble's 29th concert season. ISO principal clarinetist David Bellman and ISO cellist Ingrid Fischer-Bellman are co-artistic directors of the series. This concert is free of admission charge. For Information call 317/846-9334, or visit Ronen's web site: www.Ronen Chamber.org.

Hadassah Lunch and Learn

Presenting notable Jewish women who have contributed to society in the arts, science, business, and gender history; Lunch and Learn take place at Shapiro's in Carmel, 918 S. Rangeline Road and begins at 11:00 a.m. On **Dec. 12**, Ruth Mosko Handler creator of the Barbie doll and founder of Mattel Toy Co., and Beatrice Alexander creator of Madame Alexander dolls will be discussed.

A Health and Art Fair

Sun., Jan. 13, 2013 – a health & art fair titled "L'Chaim: Arts and Wellness for Better Living" will be held at Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation.

Rabbi Arthur Green

Scholar in residence in Bloomington

Rabbi Arthur Green, Ph.D., will be scholar in residence for the weekend beginning Jan. 18, 2013. Rabbi Green is recognized as one of the world's preeminent authorities on Jewish thought and spirituality. In addition to his Hebrew College Rabbinical School role as Rector, he serves as Irving Brudnick Professor of Philosophy and Religion at Hebrew College and is Professor Emeritus at Brandeis University. Previously, he taught at the University of Pennsylvania and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, where he served as Dean and President from 1984 to 1993. One of the purposes of his trip to Bloomington is to help install Rabbi Brian Besser, the new rabbi at Congregation Beth Shalom.

Welcome to Fabulous Jegas!

Bigger, brighter and better than ever! The Young Leadership Division of the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis is hosting this event on **Sat., Jan. 26** at 8 p.m. at the Arthur M. Glick, JCC. Open to the community, ages 21+. Step into fabulous Jegas! Tickets \$18 includes:

• Blackjack, Texas Hold'em, Craps, and more, • Fifty chips per person at the

entertainment, • Amazing prizes.

This event is open to all individuals who make a minimum \$36 tax deductible gift to the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis 2013 Annual Campaign. To RSVP and to make your pledge, visit

www.JFGI.org. Dietary Laws Observed

door, • Hors d'oeuvres, • Vegas-style

• Cocktail Attire • Cash Bar.

Music @ Shaarey Tefilla

Congregation Shaarey Tefilla, the conservative synagogue in Carmel, welcomes all for music up close for the 2012–2013 season. Join us on **Mon., Feb. 25**, at 7:30 p.m. for "A Stellar Reunion," featuring Tchaikovsky's Souvenir de Florence with the members of Time for Three, violinist Alexander Kerr, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra's Concertmaster Timothy Lees and Principal Cellist Ilya Finkelshteyn.

The series presents a broad range of musical styles and collaborative musicians uniquely focusing attention on a Jewish theme, composer, or performer. Artistic Director, violist Michael Strauss, crafts each program as you would an excellent meal, with the comfort of familiar composers and their masterworks balanced with the zest of new or little known pieces. Known for its intimate, casual setting and meet-and-greets with the performers at after concert receptions, this is the place to be. Congregation Shaarey Tefilla is located at 3085 West

116th Street, Carmel. Call 317-733-2169 for ticket and more information.

Jewish Bereavement Group

The Albert & Sara Reuben Senior and Community Resource Center began a bereavement group in partnership with Community Home Health Services, a part of the Community Health Network. This bereavement group, which has a Jewish perspective and is facilitated by Rabbi Bruce Pfeffer, is open to all. For information regarding meeting times please contact Julie Sondhelm at 317-259-6822 x6.

The Mothers Circle

Enrollment is always open – we welcome all women of other faith traditions who are raising Jewish children in the context of an interfaith marriage or committed relationship with a Jewish partner. Come learn about Jewish holidays, rituals, ethics and the how-to's of creating a Jewish home, and get to know some amazing women just like you! For information, contact Patti Freeman Dorson, Facilitator, at 441-5259 or themotherscircle@comcast.net.



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Chag Sameach

By Rabbi Lew Weiss

Hanukkah 5773 – a time for renewal, restoration, unity

Hanukkah is the Jewish Festival of Lights and Dedication. During the dark and gloomy days of winter we devote eight days to celebrating God's gift of light and warmth. The Festival of Hanukkah commemorates the triumph of light over darkness, freedom over slavery, liberty over coercion, faith over cynicism, and hope over despair. Hanukkah is a Feast for Rejoicing in God's victory over evil and humanity's hope for the future.

Hanukkah is one of the oldest historical holidays to celebrate God's gift of religious freedom and liberty. Over two thousand years ago, in 165 BCE, at Modiin, in Northern Israel, Judah Maccabee, son of the Hasmonean High Priest Mattatias, fought a war for freedom of religious worship against the Hellenistic Syrian troops of the dictator Antiochus Epiphanes, who thought he was the image of God. God blessed the Hasmoneans with a victory of the few over the many.

The Assyrian forces had defiled the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. When the Jews were able to overthrow their oppressors, Judah the Maccabee and his four brothers were able to find only one small jar of pure oil for one day of sacred use. A great miracle occurred, and the oil lasted for eight days. Thus Hanukkah becomes an eight-day celebration of light and rededication. Hanukkah is also related to the Hebrew word for education – the sacred task of passing on our glorious tradition of Torah and faith.

From Dec. 8 through 15, we light the *Hanukkiah*, or *menorah*, adding one candle or supply of oil each night, adding on holiness according to the tradition of Rabbi Hillel.

We eat *latkes* and *sufganiyot* and cookies that remind us of the Miracle of the Oil. Many exchange gifts or donate *tzedakah* (charity) to make the holiday meaningful. Children, the focus of many Jewish observances, spin the *dreydl* to recognize that a great miracle happened there.

Most often, *Hanukkah* coincides with the Torah Portion *Miketz*, Genesis 41–44. We read about the dreams of Joseph, how his brothers conspire against him and say, "Behold the dreamer of dreams comes, let

us see what happens to his dreams." *Hanukkah* is about dreams – dreams of freedom, justice, and peace. Significantly, about 40 days after *Hanukkah* is Martin Luther King Day. On Jan. 21, we remember Dr. King, who is considered a drum major for justice in our own times.

Some years, due to the Hebrew lunar leap year, *Hanukkah*, Christmas, and Kwanzaa fall at the same time. I believe this was a message from God about the importance of interreligious unity at a time of war, tsunami, earthquake, hurricane, and flood.

Kwanzaa is a unique African American celebration that focuses on traditional African values of family, community responsibility, commerce, and self-improvement. Kwanzaa means "the first fruits of the harvest" in the African language Kiswahili. Kwanzaa was founded in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga and is celebrated by more than 18 million people worldwide. During seven days, candles are lit to celebrate the traditional African values of Unity, Self-Determination, Community Responsibility, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity, and Faith.

It is interesting that Kwanzaa recalls a harvest festival, since some scholars think that *Hanukkah* is a delayed celebration of *Sukkot*, the biblical Feast of Booths, a harvest thanksgiving festival.

Some of our historical rabbis were concerned that *Hanukkah* might be interpreted as a glorification of a military and material victory. Perhaps this is why they chose the Prophet Zechariah as the *Haftarah* for *Shabbat Hanukkah*. Zechariah 4:6 proclaims: "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by My Word says the Lord of Hosts."

In Israel, they read the letters on the *dreydl* as referring to a great miracle occurring *here*, not just *there*.

We also can celebrate *Hanukkah* this year by celebrating a new miracle of oil, independence from foreign oil. We can make our oil last longer. We can celebrate a miracle of environmental conservation,

protecting our home, the earth. This would be true faith and true freedom.

Rabbi Everett Gendler points out that the *Ner Tamid*, the Eternal Light, was once fueled by oil from olive trees that are "perpetually renewed and replanted" as in the ancient olive trees in Israel. We, too, must find a renewable energy source so we can create our own modern-day miracle of oil, independence and freedom.

Hanukkah teaches responsibility and education. We must learn about the unity of creation and our responsibility for its care. Shalom also refers to the unity and peace of creation – all is connected. As Rabbi Tarfon says in *Pirke Avot*, the Ethics of the Fathers, "It is not your obligation to complete the task, but neither are you free to desist from it."

May our celebration of *Hanukkah* this year remind us of the need for a new miracle of oil and *tikkun olam*, renewal and restoration of the works of creation. Have a happy and safe holiday season.

Rabbi Weiss was born in Philadelphia and ordained by Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, along with his wife Rabbi Faedra Weiss. He worked as a social worker/ counselor in alcoholism and mental health and as a paramedic in Cincinnati before starting his career in chaplaincy. More than 20 years ago he came to Indianapolis as the Jewish chaplain at Methodist Hospital, now IU Health Methodist Hospital. He also works with the airport, the fire and police departments, the American Red Cross, and the Mental Health Association Crisis Line. Faedra and Lew have three daughters. Reprinted from a previous Hanukkah issue of this newspaper.



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Shabbat Shalom

By Rabbi Jon Adland

Pirke Avot 4:8 – Rabbi Yosi used to say: He who honors the Torah is himself honored by mankind. He who dishonors the Torah shall himself be dishonored by mankind.

November 16, 2012, *Toldot* Genesis 25:19–28:9, 2 *Kislev* 5773

For the last 20+ years, my Thanksgiving has begun with an Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve service – first in Lexington, then in Indianapolis, and now in Canton. This year Temple Israel and Shaaray Torah will host the service at Beit Ha'am. We will pray together, sing together, and take up a collection to support the downtown Thanksgiving basket program. Rev. Diana Thompson of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will be our speaker. I can't think of a better way to prepare for a day of Thanksgiving than to bring an interfaith community together to give thanks.

Often on Thanksgiving Day we forget about the meaning of this day. As we prepare our sumptuous feasts, watch the parade and/or football, we sometimes forget to pause and give thanks for those things that are truly meaningful in our lives. At the same time, I know that many families do come to their feast table and pause to let everyone say what they are thankful for.

So let me say this, I am thankful for my family whose support is never ending and love is unconditional. I am thankful for Karen who will officially join this family before the next Thanksgiving in 2013. I am thankful for the years Baldwin gave us and that we were there with him at his last moment. I am thankful for this amazing congregation, Temple Israel that has opened its arms and hearts to Sandy and me. I am thankful for the new and old friendships that continue to be a part of my life.

Yet, even with all this Thanksgiving swirling around us, my heart and soul go out to my brothers and sisters in Israel. Once again they are being bombarded with rockets aimed at nowhere and falling somewhere at random. The streets of southern Israel are empty as the residents take cover in their bomb shelters. I used to write that I believed peace and a solution were near, but during this last decade I have become less sure of my beliefs.

When someone's goal is to destroy and kill you, how do you sit at a table and negotiate? I pray for the lives in jeopardy. My heart goes out to all those who live in

Happy Hanukkah!

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fear. Please let this terror end soon so that when we sit at our tables next week, we won't be hearing about more rockets being fired or soldiers in harm's way. Isaiah had the vision so long ago, "Let them beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, nor shall they learn war anymore."

Enough madness. Enough killing and rockets and bombings. It is time for peace –"I swear it's not too late."

When you light your Shabbat candles this evening, light one for those in Israel so that they will know that we stand with them. Light the other candle for the upcoming day of giving thanks and may this day be filled with gratitude and the presence of God.

Rabbi Adland has been a Reform rabbi for more than 25 years with pulpits in Lexington, Ky., Indianapolis, Ind., and currently at Temple Israel in Canton, Ohio. He may be reached at j.adland@gmail.com.



BENZION

(continued from page 3)

says, "Me redt tsu de vand" (It's like talking to the wall). We all had a good laugh.

In the next bed was another Arab. He, his wife and daughter also tried to persuade Shmuel to put on tefillin. He wasn't convinced. Finally I said to him, "Tomorrow they are going to try to open up the arteries to your heart. If they are successful, then you will thank Hashem and put on tefillin." He said, "Okay."

I met Shmuel the next day, sitting by the window in his room. He was happy. The operation had been successful, and his heart was feeling better. He put on tefillin and read the *Shma* prayer. It was a beautiful experience for all of us. We had a double celebration. Now he was feeling better both physically and spiritually.

A real Chanukah miracle, but with an important difference! In the original Chanukah miracles, 2,200 years ago, the nations of the world were our opponents. We had to overcome them in order to fulfill Hashem's commandments. Now many of the nations of the world, including the Arabs in today's miracle, are helping us to serve Hashem. This is the beginning of the fulfillment of the prophecy of *Moshiach*. The Torah promises that in the end of days, all of the nations will work together with us to serve Hashem.

It is up to each of us to help make this happen. We have to learn Torah and do mitzvahs to bring Moshiach now!

Rabbi Cohen lives in K'far Chabad, Israel. He can be reached by email at bzcohen@ orange.net.il. *

Obituaries

David F. Kahn, 87, died Oct. 22 at Marquette Manor. He was born in Indianapolis on Aug. 2, 1925 to S. Carroll, Sr. and Nanette (Falk) Kahn. David was a graduate of Shortridge High School. He then proudly served his country during WWII in the US Army in Europe and the Pacific. He received his BS degree from Indiana University School of Business where he was a member of the ZBT Fraternity. David spent his career working at Capital Consolidated Incorporated and retired as an executive in 1976.

He was a member of the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation and Brotherhood; past President B'nai B'rith Lodge 58; past President of Junior Chamber of Commerce; past President, long time Secretary, and Melvin Jones Fellow of the Washington Township Lions Club; a life member of IU Alumni Association; and member of Meridian Hills Kiwanis. David was a member the Indianapolis Museum of Art and a docent for over 25 years. He was also a member of the Asian Art Society, Children's Museum, Indiana State Museum, Eiteljorg Museum, Indiana Historical Society, Indianapolis Zoological Society, and Indiana Jewish Historical Society. He traveled around the world with his beloved wife Joan and enjoyed playing bridge.

David is survived by his wife of 36 years, Joan Dee; children Paul (Alison) Kahn of San Diego and Lisa Bunch (Jim McCarthy) of Indianapolis; stepsons, Arthur (Mary Lou) Dee of Rochester and Michael (Marsha) Dee, M.D. of Louisville; grandchildren, Jodie Bunch, David (Brittaney) Bunch, Janel Bunch, Andrea (Eric) Altman, Jamie Kahn, and Melanie Kahn; greatgrandchildren, Kyle Anderson, Ally Jo Bunch, John David Bunch, and Rachel Altman; brother, Robert Kahn. He was predeceased by his brother, S. Carroll Kahn, Jr.

Funeral services were in the IHC Chapel



on Oct. 25. Burial followed in the Indianapolis Hebrew Cemetery North. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Charity of your choice. Arrangements entrusted to **Aaron Ruben Nelson Mortuary**. Friends may leave a message of condolence for the family at www.arnmortuary.com.

Morris Calderon, 91, died Oct. 24. A

lifelong resident, he was born on March 10, 1921 to Sam and Fina Calderon. Morris was a co-owner of the Calderon Brothers Vending Company with his brothers, Ernie and



Charlie. He retired at the age of 65. Morris then cofounded Calderon Textiles in 1983 with his son and daughter.

He was a member of Congregation Beth-El Zedeck, Etz Chaim Sephardic Congregation, Monument Masonic Lodge, and Hooverwood Guild.

Morris is survived by his wife, Tillie; children, Sam (Stephani) Calderon and Elaine Kaplan; and grandchildren, Michael Kaplan, Nicholas Calderon and Matthew Calderon.

Funeral services were held Oct. 26 at the **Aaron Ruben Nelson Mortuary**. Burial followed in Congregation Beth-El Zedeck North Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Etz Chaim Building Fund or Congregation Beth-El Zedeck. Friends may leave a memory or message of condolence at www.arnmortuary.com. The family wishes to extend their deepest gratitude to the staff at Marquette Manor and may God Bless them all.

Norma Ruth Hirst, 82, died Oct. 25. She was born in London on Aug. 5, 1930 to Michael and Pauline Lewis. Norma was a graduate of the Pitman's Secretarial College in London. She served as an executive secretary at Irwin R. Rose and Company for over 30 years, retiring in 1999.

Norma was a member of Congregation Beth-El Zedeck, Hadassah, the National Council of Jewish Women, and was a former co-president of Ha'Ima Hadassah. She also taught Sunday School at Congregation Beth-El Zedeck for many years.

She is survived by her son, Sheldon (Jody) Hirst of Indianapolis; granddaughters, Marci and Traci Hirst of Los Angeles; and sister, Gloria (Alan) Stanley of London. The family wishes to thank the wonderful staff of Brookdale Place at Willow Lake for their compassionate care.

Graveside services were held Oct. 28 at Congregation Beth-El Zedeck North

Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Alzheimer's Association or Congregation Beth-El Zedeck. Arrangements entrusted to **Aaron Ruben Nelson Mortuary**. Friends may leave a memory or message of condolence at www.arnmortuary.com.

Carol Ann House Greenwald, 64,

died on Oct. 24. Born in Elwood, Ind., she was a graduate of Purdue University and received her MBA from The Bernard M. Baruch



Graduate School of Business of New York. A financial and budget analyst, she worked in New York in the entertainment industry with CBS, NBC and RCA Records and the John Blair Co before coming back to Indianapolis where she worked for Melvin Simon and Associates as a Budget Manager.

Carol is survived by her husband Lawrence and daughter Julia Greenwald, her parents, Joe and Mary House, her brother Dr. Jerry House (Sharon), step children Shelly Malmon (David), Robert Greenwald (Erin) and Rochelle Greenwald and granddaughter Adina Malmon also survived by a niece and 2 nephews.

Carol had many hobbies including playing bridge at the local bridge club and was a long time member of a neighborhood euchre group. She loved to play the stock market and made occasional visits to the local casinos. Most of all she loved her home in Ft. Myers, Fla.

She was a member of Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation. Funeral services were held Nov. 1 at **Aaron Ruben Nelson Mortuary**. Burial was in the IHC North Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Theodore "Ted" Kaplan, 91, died Nov. 2. He was born Feb. 23, 1921 in Gary, Ind. He was the fifth of thirteen children born to Gertrude Yalowitz Kaplan and Max Kaplan, who preceded him in death. He was also preceded in death by his brothers Eugene, Harold, Jerome, Julian, Norman, Ralph and Seymour and sisters Elaine, Marcella, Shirley and Sylvia. He graduated from Emerson High School and Gary Junior College.

As he always liked to say he spent three years, one month and one day in the Army Air Corp during World War ll as a radar mechanic serving in the South Pacific on Christmas Island. He worked for 25 years as a salesman for Yalowitz Fruit Company in Gary and for 25 years as a salesman for Ochs Paper Company in Indianapolis as a restaurant supply salesman. After retirement he volunteered for Gleaners

Food Bank, St. Vincent de Paul, Second Helpings and Meals-on-Wheels.

In Gary, Ted belonged to Temple Israel, where he served a term as the treasurer of the congregation. A member of the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation (IHC), he volunteered as a tour guide and usher for the Brotherhood. He enjoyed fixing small appliances, painting, wallpapering and gardening and frequently did repairs for family and friends.

He is survived by his beloved wife Rosemary and children, Dan (Donna Bowman) Kaplan of Berkeley, Calif., Suzanne Kaplan of Danvers, Mass., and Amy Kaplan of Indianapolis; grandson, Michael Kaplan Robbins of Hamilton, Mass., and sister Joan Silverman of Sherman Oaks, Calif. Graveside services were held in Temple Israel Cemetery, Portage, Ind., on Nov. 6, 2012. A memorial service was held at IHC. Memorial contributions may be made to IHC.

Martin J. Berkowitz, 87, born March 21, 1925 in Gary, Ind, died Nov. 3. At a young age his family moved to Indianapolis. Martin was a graduate of Shortridge High School. Upon graduation he enlisted in the Army. He proudly served his country during World War II.

After his discharge he became involved with several different retail businesses and in 1969 he entered the Property, Casualty and Life insurance business until his retirement at the age of 80.

Martin is survived by his beloved wife, Lois Essak Berkowitz and his devoted children, Michael (Dierdre), Marc (Alice), Lori (Daryl) and 5 grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at **Aaron Ruben Nelson Mortuary** on Nov. 6 and burial was private. Memorial contributions may be made to Hooverwood Guild or to Alzheimer's Association.

Margaret Merin, 98, died Nov. 5, 2012 at her home. She owned and operated Merin Draperies for 40 years. She was a member of Congregation B'nai Jacob. Survivors include sons, Harry (Sharon) Merin, Edward (Kathy) Merin; daughter, Ruth (Stan) Katzen; five grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Mark Merin. Graveside funeral service was Nov. 6 at Fort Wayne Jewish Cemetery Old Decatur Road with Rabbi Mitchell Kornspan officiating. Memorials may be made to Congregation B'Nai Jacob or American Red Cross Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund. Arrangements by D.O. McComb & Sons Lakeside Park Funeral Home, Fort Wayne.

Amy Rosenberg Kline, 52, of Carmel, died Nov. 11, 2012 surrounded by

her loving family. She was born June 10, 1960. Amy was a graduate of Michigan State University. She had worked as a Buyer for both Marshall Fields and Sears before moving to Indianapolis. Here she worked for Gary Nance Designs as an Administrative Assistant; but her real passion was for helping in her daughters' schools. She served 2 terms as PTO President at Woodbrook Elementary, at Clay Middle School, and for Carmel High School.

Amy is survived by her loving husband, Spencer; her daughters, Haley and Lindsay; parents, Ron and Susan Rosenberg; brother, Rob (Karen) Rosenberg; sister, Missy (Scott) Saunders, 10 nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at Congregation Beth-El Zedeck on Nov. 13, 2012. Burial followed in Beth-El Zedeck North Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to in honor of Amy's devotion to Carmel Clay Schools, to the Amy Kline Memorial Scholarship, www1.ccs.k12.in.us/foundation/ or to the Sidney Maurer Memorial Feed the Hungry Fund c/o Beth El Zedeck. Arrangements by **Aaron Ruben Nelson Mortuary**.

Waltraud "Wally" Hene, 92, died on Nov. 13 at Hooverwood Nursing Home where she had resided for the past 7-1/2 years. She was born in Landau, Germany on Feb. 11, 1920 to Solomon and Adelaide Feibelman. After her mother's unexpected passing, her father remarried, and Wally was raised by her stepmother, Mina Feibelman. Before WWII, the family moved briefly to Switzerland, before settling in Manchester, England. In 1938, Wally came to New York and worked as a dental assistant. She met her husband, William in New York and moved with him to Indianapolis where she worked for a number of years in the family business, Hene Meat Company.

Her passion was volunteer work. She served on the Borinstein Home Board, now Hooverwood, and as the founder of New Horizons, a group established for older adults at Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, was a board member of IHC, and a member of IHC Sisterhood and Hadassah.

The Hooverwood staff and residents fondly knew her as the book and activities lady. She adored her grandsons and was fortunate and happy to be able to live long enough to enjoy her two great-grandsons, who visited her weekly.

The family wishes to thank the caring and loving staff of Hooverwood, especially 1B, for their attention and support. A special thanks to Andre Fall, an activity programmer at Hooverwood, for her many kindnesses and attention to Wally. For the past eleven years, Wally has treasured her special relationship with her caregiver, Eula Moore, and the family is also grateful to her.

Wally is survived by her loving and close family: daughter, Carol (Ken) Joseph; grandsons, Brent (Hannah) Joseph and Robby (Marissa) Joseph; her precious great-grandsons, Oscar and Judah Joseph; her niece, Lois (Mark) Zoll; and her nephew, John Hene. She was fortunate to have had many close cousins and friends. She will be missed by all.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, William; brother-in-law, Paul Hene; sister-in-law, Margot Hene; and great nephew, David Zoll. In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate contributions to Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, Hooverwood, Popsies Pantry, 6905 Hoover Road, c/o The Elder Resource Center, or a charity of your choice.

Funeral services were held Nov. 15 at IHC. Burial followed in IHC South Cemetery. Arrangements entrusted to **Aaron Ruben Nelson Mortuary.**











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Child survivors conference held in Cleveland

BY MICHAEL BLAIN

CLEVELAND – The International Jewish Child Survivors Conference, recently held in Cleveland, attracted some 500 delegates

from several parts of the world. The full, long title of the gathering was "the 24th Annual World Federation Conference of Jewish



Child Survivors of the Holocaust and their Descendants, Second and Third Generations, Spouses and Families." The theme was "Legacy of Strength and Courage."

As expected, the majority of attendees came from the United States, but also from Israel, Poland, Canada, Holland, United Kingdom and Peru. Many of the "child" survivors are now in their 80's. I was 16 when liberated and am 84 now. The two co-chairs of the event, Rose Gelbert was a hidden small child in Poland; Morry Weiss was another hidden small child in Slovakia. Both are in their 70's. Some of the survivors brought their children (second generation), and grandchildren (third generation) and some brought their non-survivor spouses.



Michael Blain (center, child survivor) with Sandy Lessig (right, second generation), Sylvia Blain (left, spouse of survivor).

Delegates with Hoosier connections included Sandy Lessig, daughter of Walter and Irene Breisacher. She was born and grew up in Indianapolis and lives in Houston, Texas. Also Ruthie and Betzalel Holzer, formerly of Indianapolis now residing in South Bend; and my wife Sylvia and I, formerly of Indianapolis now living in Cleveland. (Also registered were

Harry Merin, his wife Sharon of Indianapolis, and brother Edward, Fort Wayne. The Merin brothers had to cancel because of the death of their mother, also a survivor, from Fort Wayne. [see obituaries on page 11])

There were a total of 38 workshops, panels, seminars and films. Seminar #8, for example, dealt with "The Impact of Survivors' Aging on the Second and Third Generations." Panel #10: "Jewish Rescue, Resistance – Untold Stories." An overflow audience and a spirited discussion was held at Workshop #38: "Spirituality After the Holocaust: Where was God and where is He Now."



Child Holocaust Survivors at Conference, L to R: Jeanette Buchwald, Judy Hersh, Sylvia Blain, Michael Blain, and Al Hersh.

Prominent speakers and panelist (total of 49) included academicians, authors, educators and survivors, to name but a few: Roman Kent, internationally known "voice of survivors," he holds many distinguished positions: Chairman of American Gathering of Holocaust Survivors, treasurer of the Claims Conference and others.

Patrick Henry, PhD, has published books on Voltaire, Camus, Montaigne and others. His most recent book, We Only Know Men: The Rescue of Jews in France During the Holocaust was published recently.

Mordecai Paldiel, PhD, is a leading scholar on the Rescue of Jews during the Holocaust. Dr Paldiel, born in Antwerp, Belgium and educated at Hebrew University and Temple University, now resides in Jerusalem.

Prof Eva Kahana, born in Budapest, survived as a young child by hiding in a church basement. She is currently Distinguished University Professor at Case Western University.

Philip Bialowitz, is one of a very few survivors of Sobibor, the Nazi death camp. He is the author of *A Promise at Sobibor: A Jewish Boy's Story of Revolt and Survival in Nazi Occupied Poland*.

The Conference was held at the Renaissance Hotel, downtown Cleveland. All the meals were strictly kosher. There were daily and Shabbat religious services. When the Rabbi failed to show for one of the Shabbat Services, I volunteered to conduct the service. (My experience conducting services on board cruise ships and for seniors at Park Regency in Indianapolis came in handy.)

The Cleveland Conference was considered a great success by its organizers and attendees. Last year's Conference was held in Warsaw, Poland. Previous conferences were held in Jerusalem, Skokie and Detroit. Possible sites for next year's Conference are Berlin or Florida.

Michael Blain is a Child Holocaust Survivor and Koran War Veteran. He lived in Indianapolis for 40 years where he headed the Israel Bonds office. He and his wife Sylvia now reside in Beachwood, Ohio.



Three Child Holocaust Survivors, all three Korean War Veterans: Ted Hersh (left), his brother Al Hersh (right), Michael Blain (center).

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Yiddish for Everyday

By Henya Chaiet

What my clever mother used to say – part 2

Hert zach tzoo Yiddishe frient, dee mahme vil eich zaugen nauch ah por verter. (Listen up Yiddish friends, my mother has a few more words for you.)

- 1) Mitt ayn tauchess ken men nischt tansen auf tzveh chasehness. (Since you only have one behind, you can't dance at two weddings at the same time.)
- 2) Ahz meh vil dem maulzeit orentlich halten dahf menem in tzveh tzoohsch palten. (If you want to be fair, sometimes you have to divide the portions.)
- 3) Ahz meh grate nischt aun erev Shabbas, haut men nischt auf Shabbas. (If you don't prepare ahead as in the case of Shabbas, on Shabbas it's too late.)
- 4) *Far altz coomt ah-tzeit*. (Everything in its own time.)
- 5) Farnem zich dee hent vet zein shtil dee kaup. (Busy your hands and your head will be quiet.)
- 6) *Altz in aynem iz nischt tau by kaynem.* (In life, no one has it all.)

On the passing of our youngest sister who had been ill for many years, my mother comforted us with these words:

- 7) *Gaut vase vauserr toot.* (G-d knows what's best.)
- 8) *Gelt feart dos velt.* (Money rules the world.)

On marriage, mother had this advice for her five daughters when considering a husband:

9) Cook nischt far shanekeit auder reichkeit, cook far menschlichkeit. (Don't look for beauty or riches, look for good character.)

In the spring when the trees and flowers started to blossom she would comment:

10) *Altz coomt tzuh rick fun erd nor der mensch nischt.* (Everything returns from the earth except man.)

Henya Chaiet is the Yiddish name for Mrs. A. Helen Feinn. Born in 1924 ten days before Passover, her parents had come to America one year prior. They spoke only Yiddish at home so that is all she spoke until age five when she started kindergarten. She then learned English, but has always loved Yiddish and speaks it whenever possible. Chaiet lived in La Porte and Michigan City, Ind., from 1952 to 1978 and currently resides in Walnut Creek, Calif.

Share gifts that won't be recalled



BY RABBIS
DENNIS C. AND
SANDY E. SASSO

December brings the holidays of Christmas and Hanukkah, each with its distinctive history and message. Yet at the heart of both there has evolved a common theme of light and gift giving.

In the course of time, the spiritual focus of the holidays has been overshadowed by the material. Even before Thanksgiving, the consumerist thrust of the season begins to surface. What seems to matter most is what bargains we can get, how much we can purchase for how little.

[December 8, 2012] is the first evening of Hanukkah. During the next eight days, Jewish families and friends will gather around the menorah, eating latkes, playing dreidel games, singing Hanukkah blessings and songs. Three weeks hence, Christian families will gather around Christmas trees, sharing festive meals and singing carols. On both occasions, gifts will be exchanged.

If we were to follow the news reports, the health of the country is measured by how much we purchase during this season. The more we spend, the better off our economy is purported to be.

Our children receive more than 5,000 messages a day telling them to buy something. Advertisers spend billions of



dollars to target our youngsters. And they are paying close attention. Studies have shown that children younger than 18 spend \$150 billion in consumer goods and services in the United States annually. Experts report that by age 3 children begin to believe that consumer brands actually embody their personal qualities whether they are cool, or strong or smart. In a recent study, researchers at Stanford University found that children ages 3 to 5 tend to rate food that is wrapped in McDonald's branded paper as tastier than the same food wrapped in plain paper. They are unable to distinguish between facts and illusion.

Too often during this season we convey the wrong lessons. We teach our children that material products satisfy and that happiness can be bought. We create in them increasing discontent by celebrating goods rather than goodness. We train our children to be consumers rather than stewards

How do we help the next generation to stand up to this consumer culture when what they want most is to be part of it? In a world of abundance where so many have so little, how do we say no to a life devoid of care and concern for others, to a life filled more with having than being, greed than gratitude?

At the heart of Hanukkah is the refusal to succumb to the tyranny of the majority. It is an affirmation of the unique gifts of the individual and of each faith community.

Both Hanukkah and Christmas had in their origins a countercultural and anti-establishment message. Hanukkah confronted the homogenizing allure of Hellenism and Christmas responded to the overpowering authority of Rome. Both provided alternative visions to the ethos of their times.

Sadly, in our generation there has been a reversal of the meaning and deeper values of our holidays. For many, the celebrations of both Hanukkah and Christmas have been transformed from their message of light over darkness to a message of glitter and tinsel; from lasting good to disposable goods; from service and caring to pampering and acquisition.

While it is fitting to show our affection and holiday joy by the exchanging of gifts, let us not allow the material goods we purchase to overpower the sense of appreciation and wonder, the spirit of generosity and sharing that are at the heart of the holidays. Let us find ways to unwrap with our children and loved one gifts of time and memory, gifts of faith, gifts of the spirit. These will never be recalled.

Rabbis Dennis and Sandy Sasso have been senior rabbis at Congregation Beth-El Zedeck since 1977. Reprinted with permission from the Indianapolis Star December 4, 2007.



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Live from Terre Haute, it's Elliott Gould!

CANDLES Annual Fundraiser

By Susan Lerner

How did TV and movie star, Elliott Gould, end up in Terre Haute, Ind., the weekend of Oct. 13, 2012? Oscar-nominated Gould is known for his roles in movies such as M*A*S*H, Ocean's Eleven, Ocean's Twelve, Ocean's Thirteen, and The Muppet Movie, and has worked extensively in television, notably as Monica and Ross's father, Jack Geller, on the hit series Friends. He flew to Terre Haute to speak at the annual fall fundraiser for C.A.N.D.L.E.S. Holocaust Museum.

CANDLES is an acronym for Children of Auschwitz Deadly Lab Experiments Survivors, and its founder, Eva Kor, is one of those survivors. When Kor gave her usual Saturday presentation the afternoon of the fundraiser, Gould sat attentively in the audience, taking notes. "I'm here to support Eva, her work, and the museum," he said. Ms. Kor, an energetic and diminutive woman, began her presentation to the group of 20 by explaining that Hitler came to power in 1933, one year before she was born. "My destiny had already been decided."

Kor and her family were taken to Auschwitz by cattle car. They exited at an area called a selection platform, and it was here that she saw her parents and two older sisters for the last time. She lost everyone in her family but her twin, Miriam, within 30 minutes of their arrival. In a bathroom she saw three corpses, and at that moment she made a vow to do everything in her power to stay alive. Dr. Josef Mengele subjected Eva and Miriam to cruel and humiliating experiments, all in the name of science. "I spoiled the experiments. I survived," Kor remarked.

Kor's anguish didn't end when she and Miriam were freed from Nazi tyranny. Like many Holocaust survivors, she continued to suffer from after-effects of trauma. She now espouses an ideology that sets her apart from many others in her situation and sets CANDLES apart from Holocaust memorial organizations – she advocates forgiveness. She came to this conclusion over time, and her journey is captured in the documentary, *Forgiving Dr. Mengele*.

For Kor, forgiveness isn't dependent on whether or not the perpetrator atones, and it doesn't mean she forgets that crimes were committed. "It was time to forgive, but not to forget," she said. It wasn't until she forgave the Nazis that she was able to heal herself. She said, "Forgiveness gives me complete freedom from the pain."



Susan Lerner with Elliot Gould.

"I want to get to know Eva," Gould told me. At 74, Elliott Gould still sports his trademark curls and wry smile. Despite his decades-long film career, he didn't exhibit any evidence of a Hollywood ego. In speaking about celebrity and Judaism he said, "My Judaism is a fabric of who I am. I'm a good Jew, but I'm not observant. I believe that religion has to do with what kind of human being you are and how you live, not for the recognition you receive."

For Gould, those aren't empty words. He helped with the first Lubavitch telethon. He worked for Chabad when the Chabad house at UCLA was burned down. A project he's particularly proud of is a video he completed last year for Aish Hatorah, "Listen to Grandpa, Andy Ling." "I play Grandpa, and Andy Ling is my grandson, a 30-year-old who has lost his values and finds them by reconnecting with me."

Gould told me how, as a young man, he was held captive by his fears. Over the years he has, as he put it "learned to see through the darkness into the light." Along this path, he met a variety of people whose words of wisdom helped him. One

of these pivotal figures was Indiana-born coach John Wooden, who spoke to Gould about love and the importance of maintaining balance in one's life.

CANDLES' fundraiser, billed as "Live from Terre Haute, It's Elliott Gould!" took place in a ballroom at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, a nearby institution which has long supported Kor's work. Before dinner, a five-piece band played standards while Gould obliged the crowd, gladhanding and posing for pictures. After dinner the band played the *M*A*S*H* theme song as Mr. Gould took his place on the stage for an extended Q&A with the audience.

"It's a privilege and a blessing to be here," he said. Audience members asked Gould a variety of questions, from what it was like to be married to Barbra Streisand "a great privilege", to what's on his bucket list "to be a wonderful grandfather to my grandchildren". In one of the evening's funnier moments, someone asked him if former *Friends* cast member, Courtney Cox, had ever invited him to guest star on her new show, *Cougar Town*. "That would frighten me," said Gould.

When Mr. Gould finished answering questions, Eva Kor joined him onstage. She spoke about her upcoming educational trip to Auschwitz, and encouraged Gould and others to join her. Gould expressed genuine interest, and it was such a positive gesture that it brought to mind his remark concerning darkness and light. Kor had survived dark times most of us could barely imagine, and is now an advocate for self-healing through forgiveness. The work she does through CANDLES has lit the way for many. The evening concluded as she looked out at the crowd and said, "Never give up on your dreams."

Susan Lerner is a freelance writer living in Indianapolis. She is working towards an MFA in Creative Writing and posts book reviews at http://booklerner.blogspot.com.

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The Hanukkiah

BY SYBIL KAPLAN

In the Temple stood a seven-branched candelabrum, or *menorah*, which was lit each day by the High Priest. There were also others for ornamental purposes. When Antiochus removed the Temple menorah, Judah Maccabee had a duplicate built (called a candlestick with lamps upon it, in one Apocrypha translation) and he lit it, although there is no mention of oil to light it. When the Second Temple was destroyed, the menorah was said to have been carried to Rome and a replica being carried by Jewish slaves was carved on the inside of the Arch of Titus.

Lighting a Hanukkiah or eight-branched candelabrum with one to serve as the shamash (one which lights the others) is a popular Chanukah custom. Originally, eight individual ceramic or stone lamps with wicks were lit with olive oil. Jews from Yemen and Morocco also used rough stone lamps with scooped-out places for the wicks and the higher one for the shamash. At some point, people began the custom of hanging their lamps on the left side of the door, opposite the mezuzah because Jews were commanded to affirm the miracle in public. When it became dangerous to display the Hanukkiah out of doors, people began lighting them inside the house, frequently by a window.

A wide variety of those *Hanukkiyot* in diverse decorative styles and materials

have been preserved throughout the years.

As early as the 12th century, replicas of the menorah with the additional two holders were found in synagogues so that poor people and strangers could still benefit from lighting. Eventually, this design was used for home Hanukkiyot, but some people criticized the custom of lighting in the home. At some point, discussions ensued on which wall to place the synagogue Hanukkiah and by the 16th century, lighting in the synagogue became established as an addition to lighting at home.

Hanukkiyot dating back to 13th century Spain and southern France display a straight row of holders with a backplate. One can also find Hanukkiyiot made of bronze from the time of the Renaissance (14th century), depicting Judith and the head of Holofernes. According to Michael Kaniel in A Guide to Jewish Art, in Morocco, in the 17th century, the Hanukkiah was the most widely used ritual object, and it was often made of gold, silver, brass, bronze, iron, lead, glass, wood, glazed ceramics, terra cotta, bone, pomegranate shells, walnut shells and bark. Then the brass style became popular with North African Arab designs using flowers, foliage, fruits, and animals. Those from Iraq often used the khamsa, the open hand symbol against the evil eye. European Hanukkiyot, mostly after the 17th century, are found in brass with animals symbolic of Jewish folk art. Later on, they appear in silver and were commissioned from silversmiths. European artisans often created

Hanukkiyot from silver using plant designs. An 18th century lamp from Germany depicts the prayers for lighting the candles. A 19th century lamp either from Libya or Morocco is made of ceramics. Twentieth century designs in Morocco were of silver and used animals and plants in the design.

Originally wicks and oil were used, but in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, many people replaced these with candles. Traditional Jews, particularly in Jerusalem, still use the wicks and oil and hang the Hanukkiah outside the home in a glassenclosed container. Electric Hanukkiyot atop public buildings is also customary in Israel.

The primary rule about Hanukkiyot is that the eight holders should all be at the same level, and the shamash should be higher than the others.

Sybil Kaplan is a journalist, book reviewer, food columnist and feature writer (and long time contributor to the JPO National edition) who moved from Overland Park, Kan., to Jerusalem in September 2008.







Happy Hanukah!

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