

The Indiana Jewish
Post & Opinion

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Happy Hanukkah



Art by John Domont

JCRC, a special resource in Indianapolis

By Cindie Harp

What makes the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of Indianapolis unique amongst other city's JCRCs?

We have a full-time, professional lobbyist. Less shocking than the fact we have one is

that so few other cities (many with much larger Jewish communities) no longer do.

"Our JCRC has a lobbying arm. That's actually fairly rare," explained Michael Wallack, JCRC president.

David Sklar, our lobbyist, takes it further. "The issues that we deal with are fairly rare. There are very few JCRCs who are still actively engaged in the area of social justice, such as in education and civil rights issues. More and more JCRCs are being folded into the local Federations, so it's more about accessing grants, bringing in money – fundraising. It's a conscious choice of this community

to maintain a presence at the state house."

"That decision is made easier by the fact that many other local organizations have dropped their lobbyists, including the ICLU, and others have cut way back on their lobbying. Because the Jewish community here is smaller (than in many other states), we are less likely to have Jewish representation in the General Assembly. If you go to New York, or California, or Florida, there is a Jewish voice in government. There is much less of that here," explained Wallack.

Sklar notes, "On a simplistic level, it does make justifying the lobbying expense easier be-

cause the greatest concentration of the Jewish population in Indiana is in the state capitol."

The national organization, the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, counts 125 JCRCs around the country, as well as other national organizations like Hadasah and National Council of Jewish Women, in its roster. In addition, all the Councils for the different Jewish movements are members, too. JCPA functions in a similar fashion as our local JCRC does: opening a dialogue among all the synagogues and Jewish organizations and trying to build consensus.

JCPA is more of a bottom-up, rather than a top-down structure."

In other words, JCPA supports the local JCRCs needs and takes direction from the organizations it represents, rather than dictating an agenda. And

while the national organization lobbies on Capitol Hill, the local JCRCs are just that: local. "That's not to say that we won't call a congressman's office with a particular issue, but it's not a regular activity," Sklar adds. Still, the main focus is on the state level, including federal dollars that come to the state.

Both Wallack and Sklar agree that Marcia Goldstone, longtime executive director of the JCRC, has had an enormous impact on the staying-power of the Jewish presence in the statehouse, too. "We have also been fortunate to have a series of excellent lobbyists, including Sklar's immediate predecessor, Lindsay Mintz," says Wallack.

While the coming session is a short one at the statehouse, "there are probably a number of issues coming up that we will get actively engaged in," Sklar explains. "Issues including the continuing discussions of the family and social services administration, contracts

(See JCRC, page IN 11)



President Michael Wallack on left; JCRC lobbyist David Sklar on right

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

JCC Business Network

The next JCC Business Network meeting will take place Wed., Dec. 16, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Please plan to join us and invite your friends. Grow your business and build meaningful relationships. When you come to this meeting, be prepared to tell us about yourself and your business – what we can do for you and what you can do for us. The Business Network is free to JCC members and first timers. Anyone else, it is only \$5. Pay at the door. Please RSVP to Larry at 715-9233 or lrothenberg@jccindy.org.

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Caregiver Support Group

If you are caring for a family member or friend on a regular basis, you might be interested in participating in this

informal group. Facilitated by Judy Sosin, MSW, JCC associate executive director, this is a safe place to share emotions and experiences, seek and give advice, and exchange practical information with others. You will see that your situation is not unique, that you are not alone in your feelings and experiences and you may find other people who have struggled with the same problems as you and have found answers. Third Thursday of each month. Next meeting Dec. 17, 3:30–4:30 p.m., No registration required. No fee. For more information, go to www.JCCindy.org.

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Open Mic with Blair Karsh

Mr. Blair Karsch and the On Your Level Youth Project will once again host In-

dianapolis's premiere youth open mic events, which have produced standing-room-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 a good seat and meet the artists.

Sat., Jan. 16, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Christian Theological Seminary with Peace Learning Center. www.peacelearning-center.org. Martin Luther King Day Festival and Community Event, 1000 W. 42nd St., Indianapolis, 596-9730.

Clean out your house

The National Council of Jewish Women Boutique in association with Thrifty Threads is seeking donations of your gently worn clothing, shoes, furniture and other miscellaneous household items. Your tax-deductible donations will be accepted Monday – Saturday 10:00–5:00. Pick-up is also available. The Boutique at Thrifty Threads is located next to Half-Price Books on the southwest corner of 86th & Ditch at 1501 W. 86th St. Fifty percent of the profits go to Thrifty Threads go to the Julian Center



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Cinema Israel — at the JCC

All screenings are at 7:00 p.m. at the JCC Laikin Auditorium, 6701 Hoover Rd.

Thurs., Dec. 17,

Noodle: Miri is a twice-widowed, EL AL flight attendant.

Her well-regulated existence is suddenly turned upside down by an abandoned Chinese boy

whose migrant-worker mother has been deported from Israel. In this drama, an Israeli woman

and a five-year-old boy start a journey that begins in Tel Aviv and ends in Beijing. On their search for answers, they learn about themselves and about their families. (2007) Rated: Suitable for all ages. Runtime: 90 min.

Thurs., Jan. 14

Blaumilch Canal – The Big Dig: This is a 1969 Israeli comedy directed by Ephraim Kishon, which depicts the madness of bureaucracy through a municipality's reaction to the actions of a lunatic. A lunatic with a digging compulsion (Blaumilch) escapes from an asylum, steals a jackhammer and proceeds to open up a main street in Tel Aviv. The city consul and the police don't want to look like they don't know who is responsible, so they help the lunatic finish his masterpiece – a canal in the middle of the city! The film was nominated for the Golden Globe Award, Best Foreign Language Film. (1969)

Thurs., April 22

Metallic Blues: Shmuel and Sisso are car dealers who tell the story of the second generation of Holocaust survivors. On their journey to Germany they try to sell classic Lincoln cars and have to face their joint past, put their friendship to a test and mostly learn about their identity through the Israeli German connection. (2005) Rating: Unrated. Runtime: 90 min.



Thurs., March 25

Charlie and a Half: One of the most famous Israeli movies that became a cult classic! Charlie's life is rather boring. He's a small-time crook from a troubled neighborhood, making his living through fraud and gambling, together with his young friend Miko. It all changes when Charlie meets Gila, a beautiful rich girl from North Tel Aviv. Charlie tries to conquer her heart, much to the chagrin of her parents. But Charlie has his tricks and Israeli shticks to fool everyone. Will he succeed? (1974) Rated: Suitable for all ages. Runtime: 105 min.

Thurs., Feb. 11

Kippur: This movie is the tale of two friends, Weinraub and Russo, who serve in the IDF as reservists and have to fight together during the Yom Kippur War in 1973. The movie was made with assistance of the IDF. The movie played in the Cannes Festival. (2000) Rating: Unrated. Runtime: 120 min.

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Teaching our children about 9/11

By Ari J. Kaufman

A portion of my work duties consists of guiding groups around downtown Indianapolis's Historic District, which is replete with war memorials and monuments honoring those who've perished while fighting to defend our freedom. While many of the groups are veterans themselves, the preponderance are schoolchildren. And as the years have gone by, I have noticed that when we heed attention to the 9/11 tributes, fewer of them remember that horrific day that's etched in our memories just as Pearl Harbor is to many of our parents and grandparents.

Thanks to former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani's

lead, a new curriculum is being introduced in public schools to students. In seven states, including Indiana, this course is aimed at teaching children about the events of Sept. 11. Not only are the lessons evenhanded, they're imperative, and very much overdue, as we proceed into the next phase of our post-9/11 world.

"This is one of the critical subjects on which young people should develop some ideas and thoughts," Giuliani said. "They're going to have to live with this for quite some time."

On Sept. 11, 2001, I was living in Los Angeles, and awoke to reports that an airplane had crashed into the World Trade Center. Driving to the school

where I taught, I received updates and details from radio reports. An hour later, I was trying to explain the incomprehensible to 33 fourth and fifth graders.

During the morning assembly our assistant principal opted to deem what happened a "tragedy," not an attack, and spoke of those who "lost their lives" instead of those who were murdered. While no one yet knew who had taken control of those planes, it was immediately clear to all that the nation was under attack.

tion is to give young people a framework to think about 9/11, all that it meant then, and all that it means to the present and future.

"We're not sugarcoating the event," said Michael Gardner, director of the Sept. 11 Education Trust, a nonprofit group of victims' families and survivors, spearheading this initiative. "We've included images that are challenging."

The curriculum requires students to use Google Earth software to map global terrorist activity. While that may seem

as a little league team minding its own business until America overstepped its bounds.

Aren't there are already enough children in the world today who believe that America and Israel are Big and Little Satan? Recall any United Nations Convention where issues of war and peace are obfuscated, and blame is placed on Israel and her allies by people denying the Holocaust. Recall the scenes of Palestinian children and other rogue Muslims celebrating in the streets on Sept. 11.

Instead of such hatred and ignorance, I'd feel more confident about the future if our children celebrated life but remained fully aware that there are some really bad people intent on taking such a wonderful life away. Yes, there's a fine line between imploring children to fear all the evil in the world and simply being alert, but it's quite another to imply that if only America would change its ways, bad people would disappear forever.

Thank goodness seven American states have wisely chosen the first step toward honest discourse and honoring the dead. Hopefully the other 43 states soon follow and educate their children about the first monumental moment of the 21st century.

Ari Kaufman is a military historian with the Indiana War Memorials Commission in Indianapolis. Also an Associate Fellow at the Sagamore Institute, Kaufman is the author of new fiction book, Marble City. The book can be found through Amazon or Iuniverse.com. Here's the synopsis: Isaac Hyde's life is in flux. He has a wonderful wife and children, but necessity has taken him away for a year. Suddenly transplanted from familiar environs into a unique cultural arena of America, Isaac must adjust to an unfamiliar pace of life and form relationships with those who become intertwined in his journey. What transpires during the next year reawakens his sense of purpose and reminds him what matters most.

Thanks to former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani's lead, a new curriculum is being introduced in public schools to students. In seven states, including Indiana, this course is aimed at teaching children about the events of Sept. 11. Not only are the lessons evenhanded, they're imperative, and very much overdue, as we proceed into the next phase of our post-9/11 world.

Looking back on that day eight years later, I can't help but wonder how teachers discuss the anniversary in their classrooms. (That's assuming they mention it at all – they didn't at my cousin's high school in Columbus, Ohio.) In many ways, their challenge is greater than mine was, as most elementary and middle school students today have no memory of this day that changed America.

We now all know that 19 radical Islamists hijacked four airliners that fateful Tuesday morning, with the intention of slaughtering as many innocent Americans as possible. Are we doing the next generation more damage by shielding them from the reality that the Western world faces ruthless enemies? Are there basic facts that even children should know about the war that has been waged against Americans by such evildoers?

This new curricula will assist in these areas. Its inten-

intense, it's clearly better than prior alternatives. In England for example, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) explained the sixth anniversary of 9/11 to children this way:

"The way America has gotten involved in conflicts in regions like the Middle East has made some people very angry, including a group called al-Qaeda – who are widely thought to have been behind the attacks. In the past, al-Qaeda leaders have declared a holy war – called a jihad – against the U.S. As part of this jihad, al-Qaeda members believe attacking U.S. targets is something they should do."

The BBC took down the page amidst a barrage of criticism. The damage, of course, was done, as there's no way a child could read these words and not believe America deserved to be attacked. It further amused me how in their faux analysis, the BBC described al-Qaeda as a "group," innocuous

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Chuck Cohen, What a Mensch!

By Matthew J. Silver

With an ease and assuredness befitting a man who has spent over half of his life raising money for the federation, Charles "Chuck" Cohen has been chosen to co-chair the North American Jewish Federation's Planned Giving and Endowment Committee.

A Bronze Medal winner from the Vietnam War, he grew up in Greenville, Ky., where his grandfather opened a general merchandise store in 1909. It evolved into a hardware and furniture store, which his father ran until 1999. Chuck moved to Indianapolis from Cleveland in 1971 and promptly became involved with the Jewish community here.

In 2001 he and his wife went to Buenos Aires, Argentina, on behalf of the United Jewish Communities' King David Society mission, when the economy there had downturned. There were approximately 200,000 Jews living in Argentina, and at the time, the number living below the poverty line had increased sevenfold. They met Jews from various walks of life, many middle-class professionals who had lost their jobs, and some people who had lost one-time lucrative businesses. They visited many Jewish organizations and institutions, some of whom had benefited from JDC and federation assistance, including a now-closed Jewish high school whose kitchen was used to provide baked goods to sell to the community as a means of supporting 14 families.

The 1994 car bombing of the community center building that killed 85, many of whom were social service professionals, resulted in a continuing shortage of those providers. Government officials and at least four police officers were thought to have been involved. As a result, all Jewish buildings now have concrete barricades in front.

They were wined and dined by the Jewish community, including an exquisite dinner in a Jewish couple's posh penthouse after a Shabbat service

for four b'nai mitzvah. They had lunch with the U.S. ambassador to Argentina, and met the mayor of Buenos Aires. "We even met the president of the country, and his finance minister," said Cohen. "One week later, he wasn't the president anymore."

However, in what must have been a very touching moment, to a destitute woman and her young daughter, he handed her an airplane ticket to Israel, and a mezuzah for their new home in Jerusalem. They had been sleeping in a city park.

"This mission was one of the best, if not the best, we've ever attended. Now we have to inform the Jewish community about the Jews of Argentina and the needs of Jews in South America. Upon reflection, what really struck us is how similar the Jews of Buenos Aires are to us. The major difference is they speak Spanish rather than English. Only fate caused their grandfathers to turn south while ours turned north," Chuck wrote in a JFGI report.

"We were in Israel on 9/11," Cohen said when speaking of his 15 visits to Israel. "The feeling there was of great sympathy for Americans, but it also made Americans realize what it has been like in Israel for many years. I was there twice last year. Once for the GA, but my wife called and said my father died, so I had to come home. The second time was for my grandson's bar mitzvah in December."

In 2004, as part of an educational effort for federations to bring local broadcasters to Israel, Indianapolis talk show host Greg Garrison went with Cohen and Michael Papo to Israel, where Garrison did a series of three-hour radio call-in shows from the *Jerusalem Post* building. "[Natan] Sharansky was in the studio, Netanyahu called in, senators and congressmen called in. I'd never seen that side of radio," said Cohen. Tom Rose, former publisher and CEO of the *Jerusalem Post*,

was instrumental in initiating the ongoing America's Voices in Israel program that brings broadcasters and opinion makers to Israel. "I thought about going to Israel because it captured my interest. Now I know I'll be coming back because it's captured my heart," said Doug Tracht, who regularly broadcasts to 500,000 listeners in the Washington, D.C., area.

Locally, Cohen was the chairman of the Federation's Long-Term Endowment Initiative that reached the \$100 million mark in funds and commitments by 2005, the 100th year anniversary of the Federation.

Of Bernard Madoff's debacle, Cohen said it was a triple whammy: "Combined with the economy's downturn, and the philanthropic organizations that lost a lot of their money in the market, it's going to hurt.

But I think there has also been an attitudinal shift, and people, even the wealthy ones, are more apprehensive." He also noted that a number of middle-class people lost their jobs, and that in turn will affect the smaller donations that make up a sizable portion of the federation's giving.

He will share his new position with Lori Fritz of Minneapolis. "We hope to restate the cause for giving overseas," he said.

Chuck and his wife Karen

are the parents of 3 grown children and the grandparents of 8 and 2 step-grandchildren.

Matthew Silver is a freelance writer, researcher, and musician living in Indianapolis.



Karen and Chuck Cohen

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JCC's Katz ACE classes – New schedule

All Katz ACE adult classes and programs meet at the Arthur M. Glick JCC, 6701 Hoover Rd. Registration and more information can be found online at www.JCCindy.org, by phone: 317-251-9467, or by visiting a JCC membership desk.

Free Vacations & Making Money Travelling

Learn over 40 different ways to take free vacations, even earn some money while traveling. This class only offered once per year. Wed., April 21, 6:30–9:30 p.m. \$33 / \$22 JCC members. Also \$15 for optional, but highly recommended, book/class materials (paid in class to instructor—the 120-page book normally retails for \$39.95 and provides names, phone numbers and websites of all of the contacts you need to put this practical information to use).

Calligraphy: Brush Lettering

Intermediate-to-advanced level class requiring knowledge of a calligraphic hand. Participants will learn how to use chisel-edge and pointed brushes. Jan. 18 – Feb. 22, 6 sessions Mondays, 12:30–2:30 p.m. \$108 / \$72 JCC members.

Calligraphy: Beginning Italic

No previous experience necessary. Supplies available at the first class for a \$25 fee. Jan. 19 – Feb. 23, 6 sessions. Tuesdays, 9:30–11:30 a.m. \$108 / \$72 JCC members.

Calligraphy: Continuing Italic

For those with some calligraphy experience, this class will review the structure of the basic italic alphabet, refine it, learn flourishes and create a finished piece of lettering. March 9 – April 20, 6 sessions; no class March 30. Tuesdays, 9:30–11:30 a.m. \$108 / \$72 JCC members.

Floral Painting

No drawing ability required to learn how to paint impressionistic and stylistic flowers in watercolor or

gouache. March 8 – April 19, 6 sessions; no class April 5. Mondays, 12:30–2:30 p.m. \$108 / \$72 JCC members.

Beginning and Refresher Mah Jongg

Learn the rules and basic strategy of this age-old game. \$8 card fee payable to the instructor at the class. March 3–24, 4 sessions. Wednesdays, 9:30–11:30 a.m. OR 7–9 p.m. \$45 / \$30 JCC members.

Painting Workshop

Explore and discover creativity. For all levels. Instructor: Joani Rothenberg, local artist. Feb. 2–23, 4 sessions. Tuesdays, 9 a.m.–Noon. \$134 / \$89 JCC members.

Writing Camp for Adults

Explore the writing process at the level of both craft and art. Instructor: Ingrid Cummings, radio host of *Rubicon Salon*, author of *The Vigorous Mind* and columnist for *Indianapolis Monthly*. Jan. 5 – Feb. 9, 6 sessions. Tuesdays, 6:30–8:30 p.m. \$82 / \$55 JCC members.

Conversational Spanish for Beginners I

This class is in partnership with IUPUI. Jan. 26 – March 2, 6 sessions. Tuesdays, 6:30–9:00 p.m. \$127 / \$85 JCC members.

How to Play Blues Harmonica

In partnership with IUPUI. Learn basic techniques of traditional and country styles, including solos and accompaniment. A 10-hole diatonic harmonica in the key of C (may be purchased at the first class meeting). Instructor: Allen Stratyner. Feb 16 – March 23, 6 sessions. Tuesdays, 6:30–7:30 p.m. \$79 / \$53 JCC members.

Mindfulness Meditation

In partnership with IUPUI. Includes instruction, guided meditations and Q&A. The fifth day of this course (Sat., Feb. 27) is an optional meditation retreat at a different location, for which you may attend a morning or afternoon session or both. Participants may

bring cushions. \$12 materials fee payable to the instructor at the first class.

Instructor: Doug Hanvey. Jan. 30 – March 6, 6 sessions. Saturdays, 2–3 p.m. \$83 / \$55 JCC members.

Awakening to Your True Nature

In partnership with IUPUI. This class is designed for newcomers but will also include new material for those who have taken the instructor's previous classes. The fifth day of this course (Sat., Feb. 27) is an optional mindfulness retreat at a different location, for which you may attend a morning or afternoon session or both. \$20 materials fee payable to the instructor at the first class. Jan. 30 – March 6, 6 sessions. Saturdays, 3:15–4:45 p.m. \$83 / \$55 JCC members.

Partner Yoga

Learn how to give and receive the sensations of light massage, therapeutic stretch and joyful partnership in 10-minute segments for nearly two hours. Come alone or bring a partner: romance not required! Instructors: Eve Early, chiropractor Eve Early and Mike Fischer, movement therapist. Wed., March 24, 7–8:30 a.m. Couples \$45 / \$30 JCC members. Individuals \$30 / \$20 JCC members.

Great Decisions 2010—Great Discussions with the Foreign Policy Association

Moderated discussion group to share ideas on some of the most interesting and complex issues of our times. April 7 – June 2, 8 sessions; no class May 19. Wednesdays, 7–8:30 p.m. \$33 / \$22 JCC members.

Fitness Boot Camp

8 weeks, one-hour sessions of intense boot camp training. Tuesdays/Thursdays, 6–7 p.m. \$204 / \$136 JCC members per month. Dec. 1–29 (no class Dec. 24). Jan. 5–28,

Feb. 2–25, March 2–25 (no class March 30), April 6–29, May 4–27 (no class May 18).

Power Training Classes

For cyclists and triathletes looking to increase power output and improve lean body mass and overall performance. Jan. 4 – Feb. 24, Mondays/Wednesdays, 5–6:15 p.m. \$109 / \$89 JCC members; March 1–17, Mondays/Wednesdays, 5–6:15 p.m. \$89 / \$69 JCC members.

JCC Indoor Triathlon

Sun., Jan. 31, 8 a.m.–Noon, ages 13 and up (by race day). Swim 20 minutes; Bike 20 minutes; Run 20 minutes. The JCC Indoor Triathlon is a great way for newbies to try a triathlon and for seasoned athletes to maintain fitness in the winter. Prizes, t-shirts and other goodies for all participants. Competitive athletes: \$35 / \$28 JCC members. Noncompetitive participants: \$30 / \$23 JCC members.

Fit Joints Plus: Arthritis Foundation Aquatic Program

Deep water aerobic workout while working on range of motion with a certified Arthritis Foundation instructor. Mondays/Wednesdays 10:45–11:30 a.m. Fridays 1–2 p.m. \$6 / \$4 JCC members. 10-pass: \$50 / \$30 JCC members.

Aquajoints: Arthritis Foundation Aquatic Program

Range-of-motion workout with gentle exercise in shallow water with a certified Arthritis Foundation instructor. Mon.–Thurs. 10–10:45 a.m.; Mondays/Wednesdays 9–9:45 a.m.; Tuesdays/Thursdays 10:45–11:30 a.m.; Tuesdays/Thursdays 6:30–7:30 p.m.; Fridays 8:30–9:15 a.m. \$6 / \$4 JCC members. 10-pass: \$50 / \$30 JCC members.

Aqua Therapy & Rehab

For individuals recovering from strokes, joint replacements, athletic injuries and other conditions. Please check with your insurance company regarding reimbursement. 1-hour session: \$75 / \$65 JCC members. 1/2-hour session: \$42 / \$35 JCC members.

Jerry Points: Strokes of Color

In the JCC Art Gallery – Bold plein air oil paintings, still lifes in brilliant colors. Jan. 1–Feb. 19. Reception: Thurs., Jan. 7, 5:30–7:30 p.m. Meet the artist and join us for refreshments.

Suzy Friedman: Brush with Nature

In the JCC Art Gallery – Fluid brushwork and fresh, energetic paintings of nature, still lifes and more. Feb. 24–March 22. Reception: Thurs., Feb. 25, 5:30–7:30 p.m. Meet the artist and join us for refreshments.

Mosaics: Pieces of Glass

In the JCC Art Gallery – Suzy Friedman's mosaic students present their works. March 25–April 9. Reception: Thurs., March 25, 5:30–7:30 p.m. Meet the artists and join us for refreshments.

Rosa Maria Dies: Paintings from My Box

In the JCC Art Gallery – Simple in design but complex in texture. Intaglio and relief painting. April 13 – May 28. Reception: Thurs., April 15, 5:30–7:30 p.m. Meet the artist and join us for refreshments.

Aaron Carroll,

Don't Swallow Your Gum!

Author presentation – Myths, half truths, and outright lies about your body and health. *Don't Swallow Your Gum* will be available for purchase and autographing at the presentation. Wed., March 10, 7 p.m. \$5 / \$3 JCC members. Preregistration preferred.

Two Voices: Bonnie Maurer and Rusty Moe, A Conversation, With Poetry

Two highly-respected poets share their work and discuss the creation of richly textured poetry. The poets' books will be available for purchase at the presentation, with an opportunity to have books signed by the authors. Tues., April 13, 7 p.m. \$5 / \$3 JCC members. Preregistration preferred.

(See Ace, page IN 11)

CRITICS CORNER



"La Boheme" — A wonderful life

By Charlie Epstein

I have seen many productions of *La Boheme*, even some where members of the audience fell asleep. In the Indianapolis Opera performance at Clowes Memorial Hall, no one fell asleep. In fact this production was not only entertaining, it was a thrilling experience.

The cast was superb. The sets were magnificent. The fast-paced direction by Michael Ehrman was excellent. The fascinating melodies of Giacomo Puccini were marvel-

ously played by the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra under the baton of the talented James Caraher.

Newcomer Maureen O'Flynn sang the coughing role of Mimi with verve. The other female in the cast Laura Z. Pederson was vibrantly energetic as Musetta. The four gentlemen renters of the garret were vocally thrilling: Sean David Anderson as Marcello the painter, William Joyner as Rodolpho the writer and lover of Mimi, Gustav Andreassen as

the philosopher Colline, and Chad Reagan the musician.

La Boheme has an excellent libretto by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa, but overshadowing the words is the lustful and glorious music by Giacomo Puccini. The Indianapolis Opera Chorus was under the direction of chorus master John A. Schmid. The Indianapolis Children's Choir joined the festivities in the second act. This four-act opera did not seem that long, probably due to all the talent connected with production.

(See *Life*, page IN 15)

The musical about love comes to Indy

The Color Purple makes its Indianapolis premiere for a limited one-week run starting Dec. 29. The performances will be at Clowes Memorial Hall. The musical is part of the Broadway Across America series. This award winning musical garnered 11 Tony Award nominations including Best Musical. It ran on Broadway for over two recording-breaking years. It is based upon the classic Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Alice Walker and the inspiring and moving film by

Steven Spielberg.

The Color Purple is the unforgettable story of a woman who finds the strength to triumph over tremendous adversity. The Grammy-nominated musical score features gospel, jazz, pop, and the blues. The libretto is by Pulitzer Prize-winning Marsha Norman with music by Brenda Russell, Alice Willis and Stephen Bray. This production has choreography by Donald Byrd. Oprah Winfrey is one of the many producers of this musical.

How we see at light's season

By RABBI STEVEN M. LEAPMAN

January's herald and har-binger, December arrives, heavy clouds its ominous entourage,

Weather as a somber sentry advances – this wary season's annual cavalry commences its ride.

Not its horsemen we would fear, but all that still lingers unsettled as calendars thin and candles are lit.

Cautious, humbled eyes arise, lifted on high within heated, yet strangely hurried, enclaves,

Gazing out tenuously through, if not beyond, prosperity's frosted suburban panes.

Were light our food, who in America would know hunger?

Were technology a lasting



sustenance, who in America would mutter when counting blessings?

Amidst all we find current and quick, one must still depart the city and flee these sanctuaried settings

To note, perhaps even foster, a formative absence of artificial light, and when we have done so,

To hear this whisper of success which through silence practices restraint for its own sake and ours.

Hills, fields and forests – wherein and all throughout they trained and trooped,

Hasmonean heretics opposing Grecian splendor and its retinue of aesthetic, though untrustworthy, gods,

Jews as warriors tested and taught to persevere while un-

dergoing their epoch's exile, one far north of Eden,

Convictions furthered and callings fulfilled when at last our Temple was regained.

A faith and its adherents vindicated and through a hammer's blows anointed, more through victory than oil.

And for all they endured and for all tales subsequent Talmudic renderings would not only inspire, but imply

We are indebted to these most ferocious of Antiochus' assailants,

Heroes who banished the darkness their era's resurrected Pharaoh would impose, evil Greek-Assyrian

And emperor who knew not any but a Hellenic Joseph and the compromises such shallow ones always prefer.

(See *Season*, page IN 15)

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JCRC

Continued from page IN 2
for Medicaid eligibility...property taxes are still going to be an issue again this year with the caps...there are going to be some education issues, like teacher licensing and funding. All the state social agencies are continuing to be asked for reductions in their budgets, so we will keep our eyes on that with our coalition partners, if we can...Election redistricting is coming up next year, and that will be a very heated situation."

So at the end of the day, does the JCRC always reach a consensus within the Jewish community? The answer is no, and a sometimes emphatic one at that. Still, maybe unanimity is not really the point. The underlying message of the old joke: "Two Jews, three opinions?" Everyone is still talking to each other. That is a form of success in itself.

Cindie Harp lives in Indianapolis. She can be reached at: cindieharp@gmail.com.

Ace

Continued from page IN 9

A Rabbi Looks at Torah and Koran Narratives

Rabbi Bienstock will lead discussions comparing the holy books of Judaism with those of Islam. The class will explore points of comparison and divergence in such stories as Adam and Eve and Abraham and Joseph. Feb. 4-25, 4 sessions. Thursdays, 7-8:30 p.m. \$45 / \$30 JCC members.

A Blueprint for Action—Career Direction

In partnership with IUPUI. Free workshop focusing on the most productive steps toward an effective job search. Tues., March 16, 6-8 p.m. Preregistration strongly encouraged so we have enough materials on hand.

The Business Network

Networking at the JCC for Fun and Profit. Join a fascinating group of professionals at the JCC Business Network monthly meetings. Third

Wednesday of each month (ongoing), 6-8 p.m. \$5 / free for JCC members and first-timers. Call 251-9467 to register.

Discovering the White River

Experience the natural beauty of the White River from the water. We'll paddle from just above the Indianapolis Art Center, past Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation and through Holliday Park on a float of approximately two hours' duration for an opportunity to see a variety of wildlife and natural features. Cost includes transportation, use of livery-grade rafts, life jackets and paddles. A group leader from Friends of the White River will serve as guide. Some physical activity required. Participants must be at least 15 years of age. Transportation provided to and from the White River. Sun., May 16, 2-5 p.m. \$30 / \$20 JCC members.

Legal Aspects of Social Marketing for the Business Owner

Learn how to protect your business from legal headaches. If you're curious about advertising online or using Facebook, Twitter or blogging to raise your company's profile, beware! There are all sorts of legal pitfalls. Hannah Kaufman Joseph, attorney at Hollingsworth & Zivitz, P.C., will also offer guidance on how to run contests, sweepstakes, coupons and other promotions. Thurs., Feb. 25, 6:30-9 p.m. \$30 / \$20 JCC members.

Caregiver Support Group

Caregivers will benefit from participating in this informal group. This is a safe place to share emotions and experiences, seek and give advice, and exchange practical information with others. Third Thursday of each month, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Free; no registration necessary.

Living With Cancer

Those with cancer wishing to speak with someone in our community who has shared a similar experience are invited to contact community social worker Julie Sondhelm at jsondhelm@jfgi.org or at 259-6822. Free.



Hanukkah 5770 – a time for renewal, restoration, unity

By RABBI LEW WEISS

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 con-

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 bibli-

Hanukkah is one of the oldest historical holidays to celebrate God's gift of religious freedom and liberty.



spire 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, four weeks after Hanukkah is Martin Luther King Day. On Jan. 19, 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

cal 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 (See Hanukkah, page IN 12)

Hanukkah

Continued from page IN 11

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. Almost 20 years ago he came to Indianapolis as the Jewish chaplain at Methodist Hospital, now Clarion Health. 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, a dog and cat, and are affiliated with Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation and Congregation Beth-El Zedeck.

Adult Education at IHC

The following classes are offered by Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, 6501 N. Meridian St. For more information, call 255-6647.

Modern Jewish History Class

Tuesdays, Jan. 12 – Feb. 16, 6:30 p.m. (6 sessions). This class will focus on the seminal events in Judaism and Jewish life during the modern years beginning with the French Revolution. We will look at the creation of the various Jewish denominations, Jewish life in America, Zionism, immigration, the Holocaust, Israel and more. Instructor: Rabbi Jon Adland. Fee: \$40 IHC members / \$50 nonmembers.

Desperate Housewives of the Bible II

Tuesdays, Jan. 12 – Feb. 16, 6:30 p.m. (6 sessions). While most Jews are familiar with Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, and other men of the Bible, little is known about their wives. Learn about the women

behind these men from Biblical and Rabbinic texts. While it may not be Wisteria Lane, these women have some very special stories. Instructor: Cantor Janice Roger. Fee: \$40 IHC members / \$50 nonmembers.

Hebrew Reading

Tuesdays, Jan. 6 – Feb. 10, 6:30 p.m. (6 weeks). For those who know the aleph-bet but need assistance reading basic prayers. Fluency and accuracy will be built through practice in an easy-going, nonthreatening classroom atmosphere. Instructor: Marv Goldstein. Fee: \$40 IHC members / \$50 nonmembers.

Make Your Own Tallit

Tuesdays, Jan. 12 – Feb. 2, 6:30 p.m. (4 sessions). Cathy Kravitz, a professional artist, will guide you as you design and make your own beautiful

tallit or one as a special gift. Use a kit we provide for you or bring your own fabric. No sewing skills necessary. Fun and creative! Instructor: Cathy Kravitz. Fee: \$50 IHC members / \$60 nonmembers.

Your Teen and Sex

Wed., Feb. 3, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Talking to teens (especially your own!) about sex is often an uncomfortable and difficult event. This workshop, facilitated by Marcia Goldstein and Leslie Montgomery of Planned Parenthood, will provide tools to enhance these discussions, help parents acknowledge their child's sexuality and answer questions. Open to every parent, this evening is especially important for families with teens participating in the Derech Torah Sexuality Kallah (Feb. 6 and 7). No fee, but registration requested.

Questions about Hanukkah

Q. Who led the Jewish resistance?

A. The inspiration came from a religious group known as Chasidim.

Q. Who were they?

A. They were ardent devotees of Judaism who were the forerunners of the Talmudic Pharisees.

Q. Did they carry on the warfare?

A. No. The military leaders were five brothers known as the Maccabees, and their

father, Mattathias, the Hasmonean.

Q. What does Maccabee mean?

A. The origin of the word is not certain. Some believe it means "hammer;" others believe that the word is made up of the initials of the prayer: "Mi Chawmochaw Baw-aylim Ah-Do-noy," "Who is like unto Thee, O Lord, among the mighty?"

Q. What were the names of these brothers?

(See Questions, page IN 13)

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OBITUARIES

John J. Hurwitz, 93

John J. Hurwitz died on Nov. 26, 2009, after having lived at Marquette Manor for over five years. He was a retired commercial and industrial real estate broker and realtor. He started the John Hurwitz Co. in 1955 and was active in real estate brokerage for over 45 years.

John was born in Sioux City, Iowa, on July 23, 1916, to immigrant parents, Charles and Mary Hurwitz, both from Russia. John was the youngest of four brothers, two of whom have preceded him in death: Dave of California at 96 years, and Louis of Florida at nearly 99 years. His surviving brother, Hy (Calif.), will be 98 next February.

During World War II, the U.S. Army brought John to Fort Benjamin Harrison, here in Indianapolis, and at Thanksgiving dinner in 1942, he met Selma H. Cooper, of Louisville. They married on March 14, 1943, and would have celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary.

Survivors include his wife, Selma; daughter, Gloria Gernstein, son-in-law, Terry Gernstein, Esq., both of McLean, Va.; son, Rick; daughter-in-law, Rhonda Gerson-Hurwitz; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

John was a 58-year member of Monument Masonic Lodge, a lifetime member of B'nai Brith, and, also held memberships in the Scottish Rite of Indianapolis, Kiwanas, the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, and was a retired member of the Columbia Club, Metropolitan Indianapolis Board of Realtors, the Indiana Association of Realtors, and the National Association of Realtors.

Contributions may be made to Kiwanas of Meridian Hills (Indianapolis) or the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation.

Monument Masonic Lodge conducted a service Sun., Nov. 29 at Aaron-Ru-

ben-Nelson Mortuary, 11411 N. Michigan Rd. A funeral service followed. Burial took place at Indianapolis Hebrew Cemetery South. Online condolences: www.arnmortuary.com.

Theodore Vernick, 97

Theodore Vernick, formerly of Michigan City, Ind., and a resident of Indianapolis since 1990, died Nov. 30, 2009. Born in Elgin, Ill., he moved to Michigan City in 1950 to assume a position with Northern Indiana Steel Supply Company where he worked for nearly 30 years, until he retired, rising to the post of chief financial officer and treasurer.

A member of Michigan City's B'nai Brith Lodge and Sinai Temple, Vernick also joined Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation when he moved here. Although work and his devotion to his family consumed most of his time, he also played golf and bowled and led religious services for the inmates at the federal penitentiary in Michigan City.

In later years his vocal skills became his trademark as he entertained all who would listen with songs by Al Jolson.

Son of the late Herman Vernick and Mary Bolnick Vernick, he was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Esther. Survivors include two children, Victor E. Vernick (Phyllis) of Indianapolis, and Muriel A. Glick (Marvin) of Chicago; four grandchildren, Steven Glick (Melanie), Lisa Dery, Michelle Glick and Kevin Vernick (Shoshana); and three great-grandchildren, Jace and Reese Dery and Noah Glick.

Services and burial were private. The family suggests that memorial contributions be made to Hooverwood Indianapolis Jewish Home, Inc., 7001 Hoover Road, Indianapolis, IN 46260. Arrangements: Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary.

What is Hanukkah?

By ELLIE SANDLER

Hanukkah, often referred to as the "Festival of Lights" or the "Festival of Dedication" is the holiday commemorating Jewish victory in the struggle for religious freedom.

When a small band of Jews, called the Maccabees, were compelled to battle a much larger Syrian-Greek oppressor in 165 BCE, the Jews emerged victorious, resulting in the recapture of Jerusalem and the rededication of the Holy Temple.

When the Temple menorah was relit, there was only enough sacred oil to burn for one day. Yet, according to tradition, the oil miraculously lasted eight days until more purified oil could be found.

It is custom to mark the holiday by lighting the Hanukkah

menorah, adding an additional candle with each night of the eight-day festival. According to Maimonides, the preeminent Jewish scholar, it is fitting for each member of a household to kindle the Hanukkah lights on one's individual menorah.

Though the holiday is considered a minor festival, the Hanukkah has taken on increased significance in modern times. The holiday has become an occasion to exchange gifts, sing Hanukkah songs, play the Hanukkah game "dreidel," and eat Hanukkah treats such as potato latkes, an Ashkenazic tradition, and *sufganiot* (jelly donuts), a Sephardic tradition.

On the Jewish calendar the holiday begins on the eve of the 25th of Kislev, which corresponds this year to Friday evening, Dec. 11, 2009.

Questions

Continued from page IN 12

A. The best known of them was Judah. The others were Simon, Eliezer, Jonathan, and Jochanan.

Q. Where are these events recorded?

A. In the Books of Maccabees of the Apocrypha.

Q. What is the Apocrypha?

A. The Apocrypha is a collection of religious books assembled or written after the Biblical period.

Q. And how is the holiday celebrated?

A. By the lighting of candles, beginning with one candle on the first night and an additional one on each successive night; the recitation of special blessings; the singing of Ma-oz

(See Questions, page IN 15)

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Season

Continued from page IN 10

And so after centuries now asleep since our central sanctuary's battle-wrought reclamation

We harbor our fragile freedoms as one holds a grudge against all the anxieties that abundance brings.

We who construct neon empires and travel regularly across Internet highways,

Could we return to a time and sentiment when the simple energy of eight tapers sated our souls?

Can all the ease our electricity creates assuage the emptiness we feel, yet cannot fathom,

The harsh progress that blinds us in an age of atomic power and unastonished, unquestioned privilege?

At Hanukkah then, we allow ourselves a pause and so follows the determination,

Let us make a winter solstice teshuva and cultivate as we kindle wisdom's menorah

Which at its finest and fullest still shines, though always one short of a minyan.

And so humility lends us a lesson, a wordless, though visible, testimony,

One which, as the shamash, serves but practices restraint for its own sake and ours:

As The Holy One, so long ago, made miracles to outshine any Epiphanes,

May The Source of Blessing now speak and be heard, though Hanukkah is a holiday of sight rather than sound.

Nevertheless, Dear God,
May we move slowly enough,

Discern patiently enough, and one day realize that for all our ambitions

Our pace is more than enough,

And so are we!

Rabbi Steven M. Leapman is an addictions counselor at Oaklawn Facility in Elkhart and Goshen, Ind. He is a former U.S. Navy/USMC chaplain with interests in pastoral counseling, health-

care and bereavement as well as interfaith relations. He also enjoys creative writing.

Life

Continued from page IN 10

Next, in March, comes the highly anticipated Gilbert and Sullivan comic opera *The Mika-*

do. It sparkles with humor and many hummable tunes like "A Wandering Minstrel," "Three Little Maids" and "Tit Willow."

Questions

Continued from page IN 13

Tzur (Rock of Ages) and the exchange of gifts.

Q. Why is an additional light lit each night?

A. To indicate the growth of the miracle that the oil which should have lasted only one day lasted for eight.

Q. When does Hanukkah begin each year according to the Hebrew Calendar?

December 16, 2009 IN 15

A. The first light is lit on the eve of the 25th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev.

Q. When did these events take place?

A. About 165 years before the Common Era — about 2,146 years ago.

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Chanukah



**Kosher Valley
Chicken**
USDA Grade A,
Whole

\$2.49
With Card lb

**Kosher Valley
Bone-In
Turkey Breast**
Frozen, USDA Grade A

\$2.99
With Card lb



**Kroger
Russet
Potatoes**
10 lb Value Bag

\$2.49
With Card

**California
Cuties
Clementines**
Rich in Vitamin C, 3 lb Bag

\$3.77
With Card



**Kedem
Sparkling Juice**
Select Varieties,
25.4 oz

\$3.99
With Card



**Glicks or Streit's
Chocolate Coins**
53 oz

3\$1
for With Card



**Gefen
Honey Bear**
12 oz

\$3.99
With Card



**Golden
Blintz**
Select Varieties,
7.5-13 oz

2\$7
for With Card



**In The Bakery
Round
Pumpnickel
Rye Bread**
Full Line Sale, 16 oz

\$1.99
With Card



**Handi-Foil
Foilware**
Full Line Sale

**25%
OFF**
With Card
Shelf Tag Reflects Savings