

The Indiana Jewish Post & Opinion

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Federation Hanukkah celebration

This year Etay Furman hosted Hanukkah on Dec. 17th at the JCC. Candlelighting for the seventh night of Hanukkah on the big menorah outdoors by the Laikin auditorium was only one of the highlights of a very fun evening. Others included delicious Israeli cuisine, a concert by the group Gefilte Phish, the making of olive oil by Lubavitch of Indiana. The evening concluded with a fun family movie titled *Noodles*, in Hebrew with English subtitles, and freshly made popcorn.



Artist Jerry Points, will exhibit his landscapes at the Arthur M. Glick JCC Jan. 1 - Feb. 19. See story "Jerry Points: Strokes of Color" on page IN 5.



Isabelle Shevitz with her mother Ellen Shevitz lighting the JCC Menorah on the last night. Their friend the policeman PJ took the picture. He was the only other participant. "Life in the Diaspora," Ellen commented.

IJHS 37th annual meeting



Erin Hamilton interviewing Garry Mervis, whose family was in the scrap business in Kokomo. Bill Lurvey is listening to the Mervis's family story in the background.



Admiral Harold Robinson



Joan Wolf



Alan Gilbert and Trent Pendley

On Sun., Oct. 25 the Indiana Jewish Historical Society held its 37th annual meeting at the Broadmoor Country Club in Indianapolis.

A new Board of Directors was elected and includes, the following members who will serve three-year terms, expiring in October 2012: Fred Chary, Lana Eisenberg, Lindsey Mintz and Trent D. Pendley. Earlier that same morning, the Board of Directors elected the executive officers: President Alan Gilbert, Fort Wayne; First V.P. Trent D. Pendley, Chesterton; Second V.P. Garry Mervis, Kokomo; and Treasurer David Piser from South Bend. Outgoing Board Member Donna Segal was thanked for her years of service during this October meeting.

Also at this meeting, Trent D. Pendley was awarded a certificate honoring him for his six years of service as president of the society. Newly elected president, Alan Gilbert, highlighted many of Pendley's accomplishments during his presidency, including

(See IJHS, page IN 3)

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

JCC Business Network

The next JCC Business Network meeting will take place Wed., Jan. 13, 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 1rothenberg@jccindy.org.

Open Mic with Blair Karsh

Mr. Blair Karsch and the On Your Level Youth Project will once again host Indianapolis'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.

Regional VP of the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs speaks at CST

Sun., Jan. 17, immediately following 9:30 minyan will be lox and bagels and a speaker. \$3 donation appreciated.

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 Jan. 21, 3:30–4:30 p.m., No registration required. No fee. For more information, go to www.JCCindy.org.

Game Night

Shaarey Tefilla men's club presents Game Night on Sat., Dec. 23 from 7:30–10:30 p.m. Fun for all. Bring your own board games or join some others. Cards will be available. \$10 per couple at the door. \$4 in advance.

JCC Triathlon

Race day is Sun., Jan. 31, 2010, 8 a.m. – noon. Register online at www.JCCindy.org; by phone: 251-9467; or stop by a membership desk. For more information, call Whitney Burdzilaskas, 251-9467, ext. 2238.

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IJHS

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the formation of the honorary board, the creation of the Irma Rosenthal Frankenstein Distinguished Service Award and the continuous Mapping Project. In appreciation of his years of commitment to the society, the board members renamed the Mapping Project to the "Trent D. Pendley Mapping Project" and will gift it to the IJHS archive.

IJHS board member Joan Wolf gave an overview of the IJHS's newest project "History of the Scrap Dealers in Indiana." Joan went to the Center on Philanthropy at IUPUI to work with an intern in the graduate assistance program, who has a degree in history. The intern will interview the dealers and/or their families and then write a paper telling their stories. We hope to have the paper completed by May 2010. Our intern, Erin Hamil-

ton is busy interviewing dealers from all over the state, recording their oral histories and interpreting their business experiences. The IJHS is also asking for any pictures these families might have picturing scrap yards, employees doing their jobs and pictures of the individuals who were involved in these businesses. The goal is to record and preserve this time period when the independent scrap dealers prospered.

The guest speaker of this event, Rear Admiral Rabbi Harold Robinson, was the rabbi of Temple Israel of Gary, Indiana (1974–1977). He was commissioned as a chaplain in 1975. He has 34 years of experience as a military chaplain and has held numerous Reserve Component assignments. He currently serves as the director of the Massachusetts Jewish Welfare Board-Jewish Chaplains Council.

Rear Admiral Robinson explained that there are now

10,000 Jews in active duty in the U.S. military who are invisible to the American Jewish community. There are another 10,000 Jewish individuals who are affiliated with the military (spouses and children). Active Jewish communities exist in military bases around the world, including Korea, Japan, Baghdad, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Qatar. Unfortunately there are only 22 rabbis in active military duty today, and only eight active rabbis in the Army alone. The problem is that rabbis are not enlisting in the military. Without rabbis, there is a lack of Jewish programming and Jewish spiritual guidance to serve Jews in active duty. Rear Admiral Robinson went on to explain that the most important thing that the American Jewish community can do now to support Jews in the military is to talk to their own rabbis and congregations about the shortage of rabbis in the military.

The Glass Chimney

May All Have a Happy and Healthy New Year!

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Miriam Landman hosts Federation Women's Luncheon

A very delicious kosher luncheon was prepared and served by Nancy Landman and her staff of Great Cooks & Company, Inc. at the home of Miriam Landman. Several different original works of art with a Jewish theme were on display on the walls in the rooms of the house where the women could view them. The event brought together a community of women who have been together through thick and thin. They were happy to be able to see each other again for such a good cause.

Gladys Nisenbaum shared this comment with the women, "I was born here in Indianapo-

lis and lived here all my life. The Federation Communal Building (previously the Phoenix Dance Hall on West Morris St.) and the Kirschbaum Community Center (known simply as "the Kirschbaum" at 2314 N. Meridian) were always there for me. I enjoy giving to the Federation. It's a matter of paying back for all I have received." Photos by Jennie Cohen.



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Continued from Women's Luncheon page IN 4

4th Annual Indoor Triathlon at the JCC

Athletes of all skill levels have begun training at the JCC for the 4th Annual Indoor Triathlon. Anyone 13 and older (by race day) – member or nonmember – is invited to swim, bike and run, 20 minutes each in the Indianapolis JCC's Indoor Triathlon at the Arthur M. Glick JCC. Race day is Sun., Jan. 31, 2010, 8 a.m. – noon.

Participants can enter either a competitive or noncompetitive category. All entrants receive packet, t-shirt, goodies

from race sponsors, and food and water throughout the event.

Volunteers for the race can save \$5 off their registration fee.

Competitive Athletes: \$35 / \$28 JCC members (Space is limited in this category – Register right away!). Cycling portion will take place on CycleOps Power Indoor Cycles. Prizes awarded for highest average wattage based on weight, most laps completed in the swim and most laps

completed in the run.

Noncompetitive Athletes: \$30 / \$23 JCC members. Cycling portion will take place on Spinning bikes with odometers.

Register online at www.JCCindy.org; by phone: 251-9467; or stop by a membership desk. For more information, call Whitney Burdzilaskas, 251-9467, ext. 2238.

Jerry Points: Strokes of Color

After a long and successful art career as a teacher and graphic designer, Jerry Points has returned to fine arts and embarked on a whole new career. The artist's spectacular oil paintings feature landscapes in a palette that is uniquely Jerry's. Whether working on large canvases or small plein aire studies, his work is defined by bold colors and expressionistic brushstrokes.

Jerry's paintings will be on exhibit Jan. 1 – Feb. 19 at the Arthur M. Glick JCC, and

is free and open to the public during regular building hours.

Points says, "Painting provides me enriching time alone and yet the opportunity to be a part of a family of painters." As the past president of the Stutz Artists Association, the artist has led a family of artists to opportunities for greater visibility through the many shows and events hosted throughout the year at the Stutz Building. He also is responsible for creating the Urban Sketchers Indianapo-

lis, a loosely formed local group of artists that is part of a national movement of sketchers. More information is at: <https://urbansketchers-indianapolis.blogspot.com>.

Jerry Points is foremost an artist, but he is also a teacher, a leader and a visionary. The JCC is proud to present his exhibit of paintings.

Opening Reception: Thurs., Jan. 7, 5:30–7:30 p.m. Free and open to the public. Meet the artist. Refreshments will be served.

The new year of the trees

Tu B'Shvat is the *Rosh Hashanah La'Ilanot*, or the new year of the trees. The name itself comes from the date of the holiday, the 15th day of Hebrew month Shevat. In this year 2010, Tu B'Shvat falls on Sat., Jan. 30.

Tu B'Shvat is considered the new year for the purpose of calculating the age of trees. The Torah forbids fruit from trees grown in the land of Israel to be eaten during the first three years of the trees' lives; the fourth year's fruit is for G-d; and after that, the fruit can be eaten.

No matter when during the year a tree is planted, it is considered to have aged one year as of Tu B'Shvat. It is said that this is the time at which the tree stops being nourished by the waters of the previous year and begins to be nourished by the waters of the new year.

Tu B'Shvat is a *minor* Jewish

holiday, meaning there are no restrictions on working, and it is one of the four Rosh Hashanahs mentioned in the Mishnah, which is the basis of the Talmud.

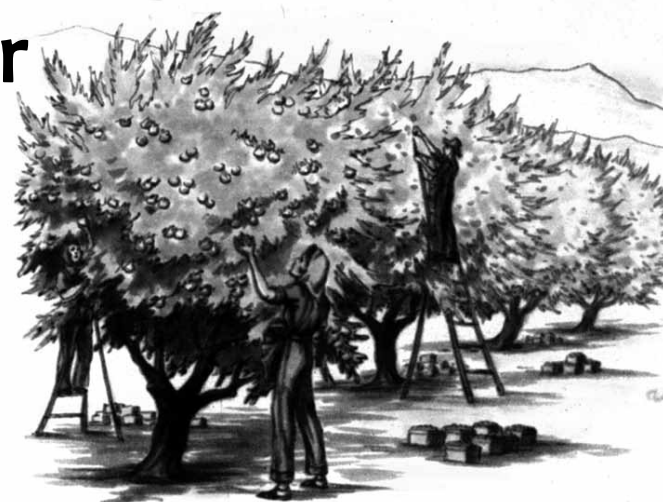
During the Middle Ages people celebrated Tu B'Shvat by eating fruits. Two centuries later, in the 1600s, Rabbi Yitzchak Luria of Safed and his disciples honored the day with a short Tu B'Shvat seder, somewhat like a Passover seder. In modern times, many Jewish school children celebrate by planting trees. Many Jewish families celebrate with family gatherings and reflection, by eating fruit, or even with a special meal made up of fruits of the tree. Raisins, grapes, figs, olives, and nuts are commonly part of such a meal.

The custom of celebrating

with fruit is especially common in the Chassidic community, where it's been tied in with the Esrog (the citron fruit taken hold of on Succot). In addition, Kabbalistic tradition teaches that eating these fruits somehow creates a connection with the more abstract Tree of Life.

And, indeed, trees are often a metaphor for many other things: for man, for bearing fruit, for investing in the future, for giving, and for the gifts we have received, and of course for the Torah and the Tree of Life.

For more on Tu B'Shvat or ideas on ways to celebrate, go to Torah.org/learning/yomtov/tubshvat or to wikipedia.org/wiki/Tu_B'shvat. Also watch the schedule at your congregation for events related to Tu B'Shvat.



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OBITUARIES

Lawrence M. "Larry" Stillerman, 84

Lawrence M. Stillerman, of Indianapolis, died Dec. 21, 2009. He had worked in the shopping center field for almost 30 years as a retail leasing, marketing and property management consultant. In 1994, Larry retired as president of Jonesreport, Inc., an international shopping center newsletter publishing company of Indianapolis. Larry was cofounder and former president of Stillerman Jones & Co., Inc., international consultants in retail and shopping center market research, leasing and management, 1977-1994.

Larry was assistant to the vice president of leasing for Melvin Simon & Associates (now Simon Property Group). Larry also organized, developed and directed M.S. Management Associates, a subsidiary of Melvin Simon & Assoc., 1962-1974.

In the late 1940s and early 50s, Larry worked variously as general reporter, copy editor and executive sports editor for the *Indianapolis Times*.

In World War II, he earned technical sergeant stripes and campaign medals with the 526th squadron, 379th Bombardment Group in the European Theater. He flew as radio operator on 18 missions in B-

17s in the 8th Army Air Force. Following his military service, Larry secured his bachelor's degree from Indiana University in 1948.

He was active throughout the years in many Jewish and professional organizations.

Survivors include his beloved wife, Florence; two daughters, Irene (Perry) Olds and Susan Stillerman; son, Phil (Della) Stillerman; seven grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; brother, Donald (Janet) Stillerman; and sister, Paula Falender.

Funeral services were held Sun., Dec. 27 at Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary, 11411 N. Michigan Rd. Burial followed at Beth-El Zedeck North. Online condolences can be made at www.arnmortuary.com.

Gordon S. Levi, 72

Gordon S. Levi died Dec. 21, 2009. Gordon was born Nov. 22, 2009 in Indianapolis to the late Dr. Leon Levi and Pearl Goodman Levi. He attended MIT and Western Reserve University. He was employed as a property manager and was a music and photography enthusiast. Survivors include his sister, Joyce Levi. A graveside service took place Sun., Dec. 27 at Beth-el Zedeck South Cemetery.

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Laughter is the best medicine

On Sun., Dec. 13, members of Congregation Shaarey Tefilla participated in a Laughter and Wellness program conducted by Carol Filkins, MS, CLL. The event was cosponsored by CST Men's Club and Sisterhood. After learning about the benefits of laughter and wellness, the group participated in fun exercises that are also healthy!



HA HA HA!



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National News



First Row: The Hanukkah Menorah at the Brandenburg Gate. The Brandenburg Gate is the symbol of the City of Berlin. It marked the formal entrance to old Berlin. Today, of course, it is in the center of a metropolis of 3.5 million people; Berlin Victory Column; The Neues Museum has a magnificent collection of Egyptian art. It is known for the beautiful bust of Nefertiti; **Second Row:** Famous Weihnachtsmärkte – the delightful Christmas markets that are found throughout the streets of Berlin. Peter Eisenmann’s acclaimed “Memorial to the Dead Jews of Europe” is located in close proximity to the Brandenburg Gate and the German government offices. It evokes the feeling of a grave yard with its stones; Germany is reconstructing the magnificent facade of the Schloss, the Imperial Palace. The reconstruction of the Schloss will cost \$400 million Euros. The Communist government of East Germany destroyed the Schloss. **Third Row:** Remnant of the Berlin Wall. The remnants of the Berlin Wall are now a favorite spot for tourists to take photos; The memorial to the Book Burning of Hitler. Notice the bookshelves under the ground are empty. *See story on page Nat 8. Photos by Annamaria Fato.*