

The Jewish Post & Opinion

Indiana Edition

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Chag Chanukah Sameach!



The Jewish Post & Opinion
1427 W. 86th St. #228
Indianapolis, IN 46260



Come light the menorah 2011

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Candle	Date	Group	Time
1st	Tu., Dec. 20	BEZ	5:00
2nd	Wed., Dec. 21	HHAI	5:00
3rd	Th., Dec. 22	JCC ECE	5:00
4th	Fri., Dec. 23	JCC After Care	5:00
5th	Sat., Dec. 24	CST	6:15
6th	Sun., Dec. 25	Lubuvitch	5:00
7th	Mon., Dec. 26	JCC	5:00
8th	Tu., Dec. 27	BBYO/NCSY	5:00

Simcha Announcements

Careskey-Armbrust engagement

Dr. Josh and Nancy Lee Careskey of Brewer, Maine and Carmel, Ind., are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Holly Elizabeth Careskey of Cambridge, Mass., to Kurt Willes Armbrust also of Cambridge. Kurt is the son of Dr. Scott and Nancy Armbrust of Green Bay and Door County, Wis.

Holly is a 2004 graduate of Brebeuf Preparatory School in Indianapolis and a 2008 honors graduate of Brown University with a bachelor's degree in biochemistry. She is currently a 4th year medical student at Tufts University School of Medicine and is a dual degree candidate for a medical (MD) degree and a masters degree (MPH) in public health in 2013.

Kurt is a 2003 graduate of Ashwaubenon High School in Green Bay. He is a 2007 magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Brown University with a degree in chemistry. Kurt is currently a Ph.D. candidate in organic chemistry at MIT in 2013.

The couple is planning a May, 2012 wedding at the MIT Chapel in Cambridge, with a reception at the Langham Hotel in Boston. ~ *Mazel Tov!* ✨

Also, Mazel Tov to:

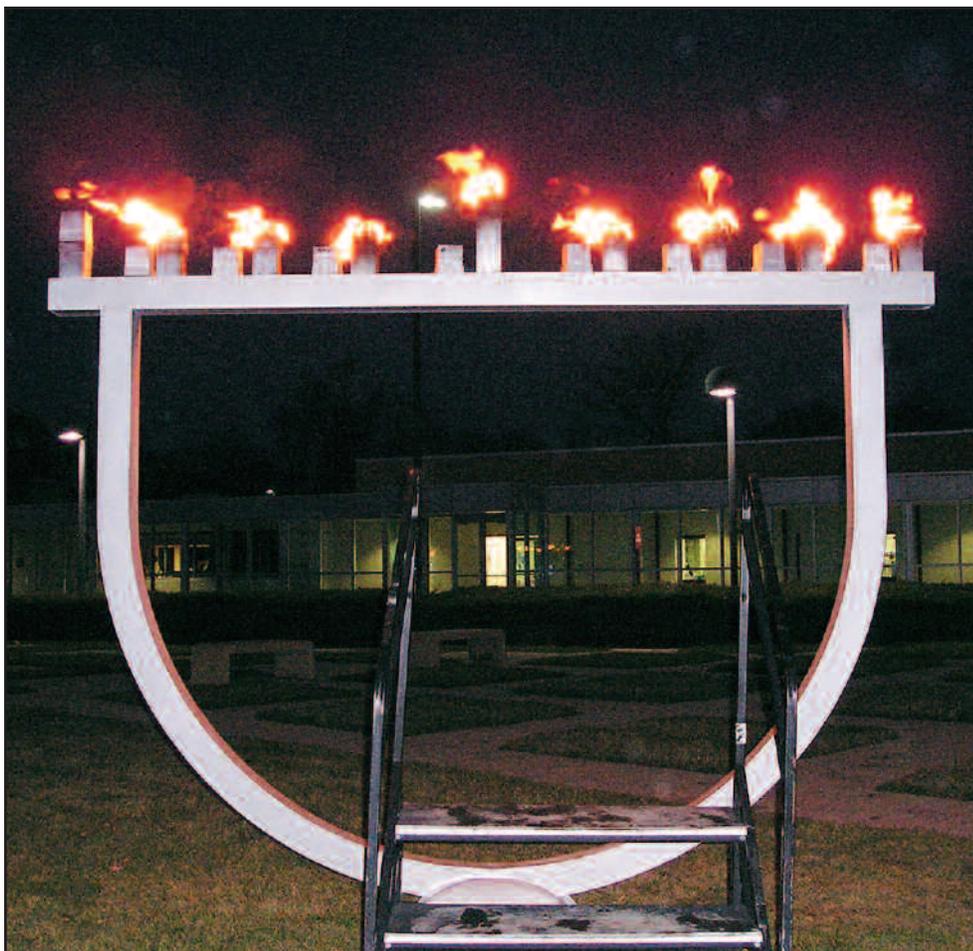
Pearl & Irving Joffe celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary Dec. 8.

Jessie Bernstein celebrated her 95th birthday Dec. 12.

Sylvia Silver enjoyed her 98th birthday party on Dec. 3.

Jeffrey B. Cohen is the new Editor-in-Chief of the Indianapolis edition of *Sophisticated Living*. The magazine can be viewed at: www.slmag.net

Bloomington Judaica artist **Bruce David** and his wife **Diane** are featured in the December edition of *Homes and Lifestyles (H&L) Magazine* in an article about his art which compares him to Tevye from *Fiddler on the Roof*. Access the article at www.homesandlifestylesmagazine.com. ✨



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Editorial

This has been a tough time in Indianapolis with the loss of so many outstanding Jewish residents who lived all or most of their lives here. Even though most lived long, productive and fulfilling lives, we will miss their many wonderful contributions to our community. (See page 12.)

We will never forget them, but we can focus our attention on the potential goodness that will most likely transpire because of the solid foundation that they laid for us. They would not want us to be overly sad or depressed during Hanukkah so below I am reprinted a light-hearted editorial from Jan. 14, 2004.

Eli and Ethan, my two nephews mentioned below are now 13 and 12 respectively. They have grown to be such mensches, and to this day they still get along rather well, looking out for each other and not fighting too much. Now they are preparing for their double bar mitzvah coming up next spring.

Not everyone plays by the rules and sometimes that is okay. Our house seemed very quiet on Jan. 4 after all the out-of-town visitors left. When the 18th visitor had arrived, I stopped counting, so I do not know exactly how many of my family came to visit this December.

One of the highlights of this holiday season was playing dreidel with my nephews from Birmingham, Ala. Eli, age 5, and Ethan, age 4, are the two youngest of my sister Rena's three sons.

When I was growing up, we played dreidel sitting in a circle on the floor. One sibling took a turn spinning the dreidel, and everyone watched to see on which Hebrew letter it would land. Each person had a turn until it was back to the original spinner who would start the next round.

If it landed on *shin* the spinner would get 300 points. *Heh* was worth 50 points, *nun* was 5, and *gimel* was 3. After several spins, everyone would add their total points, and the one with highest was the winner.

We also had contests to see who could keep their dreidel spinning the longest, which one of us could keep the most dreidels spinning at once, and who could spin the dreidel upside down.

During Hanukkah this year, my sister took Eli and Ethan to the local Jewish Community Center where they had their choice of two different indoor pools in which to swim. When they returned to the house, Ethan said, "We went to a different JCC."

Eli and Ethan attend preschool at the JCC in Birmingham. It is a nice JCC, but smaller, which is not surprising because the Jewish community in Indianapolis is larger.

One of the boys was carrying a 3" x 5" card that said, "LET'S PLAY DREIDEL." When I read it, I saw the rules were very different. The most desired letter became the least and vice versa.

It said, "Everybody gets an equal number of pennies (or nuts) and puts one in the center for the pot. Each player gets a turn to spin the dreidel. If it lands with the *nun* up, the player gets nothing; with the *gimel* up, the player takes all the coins in the pot; with the *heh* up, the player takes half the coins, with the *shin*, the unlucky player gives one penny to the pot. When the pot empties out after a *gimel*, each player puts a penny in and the game goes on."

I sat down to play this new version with the boys and all went well for the first two or three rounds. At that point, when it was either one's turn to spin, and the dreidel landed on a letter other than a *gimel* (win the pot of pennies), there was a pause in the game.

"That did not count, it accidentally hit my knee," or "I get to do it over because it was a bad spin," they would say. Mind you, when it was a *gimel*, there were no complaints.

The rules were altered. The new rules were: I put pennies in the pot. One of the nephews takes a turn. When his spins finally produce a *gimel*, he takes the pennies from the pot and adds them to his pile. Then I put more pennies in the pot. The other nephew gives it a whirl until he lands a *gimel*.

Three things impressed me. The first was that neither of the boys seemed to mind that much when the other one wanted to "do over" his spin. In my day, the response would have been, "Sorry it hit your knee, but it still counts," or "No do-overs allowed."

Secondly, how their eyes lit up when they "won" a few pennies. If they only knew that small amount would not be enough to buy even a candy bar. Last but not least was how well, at such a young age, they identified and uttered those Hebrew letters.

Happy Hanukkah!
Jennie Cohen, December 21, 2011 ✨



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About the Cover

The 1-8 grade students of the Hasten Hebrew Academy of Indianapolis show their creativity and joy for Chanukah with these homemade chanukiot. Well done kids! Chag sameach!



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 new *Simcha* section (see page 2). Submit photos and text to: jpostopinion@gmail.com. **Next Deadline: Feb. 5, 2012.** All decisions on publishing, date of placement, size of photo, and length of announcement are at the sole discretion of the publisher.

Community Events

Open Mic for the Soul Coffee House and Talent Night

The Baha'i Center of Indianapolis will open its doors on the **last Friday of every month** as a service to the people of Indianapolis for an evening of music, song, poetry and conversation from 7-10 p.m.

We would like to provide the residents of the city including all nationalities and faiths who love to listen to and perform live music, with a smoke free and alcohol free, spiritually uplifting environment in which to get out and enjoy the company of their neighbors and fellow residents.

Plan to come and enjoy the music and conversation, even if you don't wish to take the stage. Small groups and choirs are welcome. The Center is equipped with microphones, amplifiers and a sound system as well as electric piano, drums and congas.

Many of those participating will be bringing snacks, desserts, finger foods and beverages to share. You are welcome to bring something, but it is not required.

Future dates for the Coffee Houses: **Dec. 30, Jan. 27, Feb. 24, and Mar. 30.** This is a family friendly event open to people of all ages. People are welcome to present music and poetry in their own native languages.

The Baha'i Center is located at 3740 West 62nd Street – just East of Guion Road on the north side of the street. For more information contact Karen Loftus at karenloftus1956@gmail.com.

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. Questions should be directed to Julie Sondhelm at 317-259-6822 x6. Meeting dates and times are: **First Thursday of each month** from 7 p.m.–8:30 p.m. and the **Third Monday of each month** from 10 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

Peace Learning Center

The 15th annual Martin Luther King Community Festival is free and open to the public. **Jan. 14**, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Christian Theological Seminary, 1000 W. 42nd St. Enjoy performances, music, African drumming, art workshops, family yoga, Hip Hop poetry with Blair Karsch, community groups with volunteer opportunities, vendors, crafts, and free lunch. www.peacelearningcenter.org 317/327-7144.

Jewish lawyers

Jewish lawyers group meets for lunch on the **fourth Wednesday of each month.** No meeting in Dec.; the next meeting is **Jan. 25** 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.

Upcoming BJE Centennial Events

The BJE Centennial Celebration will continue on **Sat., Jan. 28** with the J Bowl Tailgate Party! Go to www.bjeindy.org/jbowl or call 255-3124 for more information.

The BJE Centennial Celebration will continue on **Sat., March 3**, for the Purim Ball with Joan Rivers! Ticket information will be available in January 2012.

6th Annual Indoor Triathlon at the JCC

Sun., Jan. 29, 8 a.m. to noon anyone aged 13 and over is invited to take the JCC challenge of swimming, biking and running 20 minutes in each sport at the Arthur M. Glick JCC. Participants can enter either a competitive or non-competitive category. For first-timers, jumping into the non-competitive category is a great, safe way to try the sport of triathlon.

All entrants receive a packet, t-shirt, goodies from race sponsors, and food and water throughout the event.

Competitive Athletes: \$35 general public / \$30 JCC members (Space is limited in this category – register today!) Cycling portion will take place on CycleOps Power Indoor Cycles and scores will be based on a power: weight ratio. Prizes awarded on a point system.

Non-competitive Athletes: \$30 general public / \$25 JCC members. Participants will receive lap counts for the swim and run portions instead of an official score. The biking segment will take place on indoor cycles and will not be measured. Prizes awarded for overall male and female 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places.

Register online: www.JCCindy.org; by phone: (317) 251-9467; or stop by a membership desk. For more information, call Katherine Matutes, (317) 251-9467, ext. 2238.

JCC Business Network

The next meeting will be on **Feb. 15**, at the JCC, 6701 Hoover Rd. RSVP to Larry Rothenberg lrothenberg@jccindy.org or call 317-715-9233.

JCC Camp Registration and Family Fun Day!

Sun., Feb. 19, beginning at noon. Registration closes at 2 pm. Save 15% on Camp JCC registration and then stay for the party.* Food. Fun. Entertainment. Great camp discounts! *Discount does

not apply to tennis, equestrian or Eric Gordon camps.

C.A.N.D.L.E.S. Holocaust Museum Trip to Auschwitz

Eva Kor, Director of the C.A.N.D.L.E.S. Holocaust Museum in Terre Haute and a survivor of Dr. Mengele's twin experiments, will be leading a trip to Auschwitz in **July**. If you are interested in participating in the trip, you can download the brochure and application at: <http://www.candlesholocaustmuseum.org/data/file/webcontent/file-document-123.pdf>.

The Mothers Circle of Greater Indianapolis

Are you raising Jewish children but you're not Jewish? There's an app for that – a human app! The Mothers Circle of Greater Indianapolis provides FREE education and support for women of other religious backgrounds who are raising Jewish children in the context of an interfaith marriage or committed relationship with a Jewish partner. Contact Patti Freeman Dorson, Facilitator, at themotherscircle@comcast.net or 441.5259. ★



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Rabbi Eytan Cowen: A Jewish mother's dream – Her son is a doctor *and* a rabbi

BY SUSAN LERNER

Although Sephardic Jews expelled from Spain during the Inquisition fled to myriad locations, many took the common, well-traveled routes to Salonica and Syria. For Eytan Cowen, the new rabbi of Etz Chaim Sephardic Congregation, the path that brought him to Indianapolis was anything but common.

Rabbi Cowen, from Toronto, grew up in a traditional Sephardic family. As a young adult with undergraduate degrees from University of Toronto in both Jewish studies and microbiology, he found himself at a crossroads. "Medicine was very intriguing," he said. Rabbi Cowen pursued a degree in medicine, not in the realm of conventional, or allopathic medicine, but in the study of naturopathic medicine – a method of treating illness that employs alternative therapies. "I had an interest in frontier medicine and in



Rabbi Eytan
Cowen

finding different treatments. I think there's a place for all types of medicine, as long as there is proper research to back it. I wanted to see how alternative therapies fit into our present day society." Therapies in the naturopathic physician's arsenal include botanical medicine, homeopathy, Chinese medicine, acupuncture, and nutritional and personal counseling.

In his first year of medical school, Rabbi Cowen's path took a telling detour when he had the opportunity to study in Israel. "That was a bit of a turning point," he said. "I went to study in *Porat Yosef*, a Sephardi *yeshiva* in the Old City of Jerusalem." When his four-month stint at the *yeshiva* ended, he returned to Toronto and resumed his medical studies. He graduated, became part of the medical school's faculty, and opened a private practice in Toronto.

About a year later he was introduced to Sarah, the woman who would become his wife. It wasn't long into their courtship that they discovered that their grandfathers had been best friends in Casablanca. Each fled Morocco in 1948. Rabbi Cowen's grandparents emigrated to Canada, while Sarah's made *aliyah* and moved to Israel. "They lost touch when they left the old country, and had been trying to find each other ever since. It was as if our match was preordained," said Rabbi Cowen.

Both Rabbi Cowen's and Sarah's families have Sephardic roots that run deep. Sarah's family and Rabbi Cowen's mother's family are Moroccans, while his father's family, whose time in Tiberias traces back 400 years, originally hailed from Aleppo, Syria.

During Rabbi Cowen's ten years of practicing medicine in Toronto, he often thought about moving to New York so he could resume his Jewish studies and receive ordination. "I found that in helping people, just as important as the physical concerns are the ones that are spiritual and emotional. I wanted to help people on the spiritual plane." Rabbi Cowen looks back at the time he spent at *Porat Yosef* as an integral part of this path: "The spirituality of that experience left its imprint on me, and provided a large impetus to continue working towards my *smicha* (rabbinical ordination)," he said.

Rabbi Cowen and his family – then Sarah and three children – moved to Brooklyn. Sarah, an accountant, arranged a transfer with her firm and he began studying for a dual ordination from Yeshiva University and Sephardic Rabbinical College. "My goal was to get the best of both worlds," said Rabbi Cowen, crediting Yeshiva University for its professional rabbinical training and Sephardic Rabbinical College for its instruction in the Sephardic way of rendering Jewish legal decisions.

Rabbi Cowen, unlike the stereotype of Sephardic Jews, is light-complected and has reddish hair. "It's funny," he said. "We have this stereotype that the Sephardic Jew has a dark, Mediterranean look, but there are all sorts of Sephardic Jews, whether redheads, dark-complected, pale, blue-eyed or dark-eyed. I tell people I'm undercover," he said with a smile.

Commenting on the challenges that come with being a pulpit rabbi, he said that as in any career, there's a struggle to find balance between work and family. "A rabbi's schedule is very flexible, but also unpredictable. Something can come up anytime, three in the morning or three in the afternoon. Whether it's taking out the garbage or doing homework with the kids, I have to fit in family responsibilities, too."

For Rabbi Cowen, the "plus" in being a rabbi that far outweighs the challenges is the knowledge that he's making a difference. "Whether by teaching, seeing my congregation's faces in the *kahal* on *Shabbat*, or just smiling at someone, I want to make an impact on my community. That means a lot."

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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Israel Bonds dinner

On Sun., Dec. 11 Irwin Levin was honored at the annual State of Israel Bonds dinner held in the Laikin Auditorium of the Arthur M. Glick JCC. Dr. David Orentlicher, General Chairman of the Indiana Campaign and Benton Marks were the event co-chairs. Featured entertainer was Sidney Friedman, America's premier mentalist.

Dr. David Orentlicher had this observation about Levin: "For many years, Irwin Levin has brought outstanding leadership for Israel Bonds to the Indianapolis community. As a past Chair and as a spokesperson more generally, he has inspired many supporters of Israel to strengthen their bond with the country and provide critical economic support for Israel by purchasing Bonds." ★

Top (L-R): Daniel Goldwin, Israel Bonds Executive Director, Richard Mourdock, Midwest Region, Indiana State Treasurer, Dr. David Orentlicher, Israel Bonds' Indiana General Campaign Chair, and Larry Berman, Israel Bonds National Managing Director for Corporate and Institutional Sales – pictured with replicas of the two Israel Bonds the State of Indiana invested in 2011, totaling \$15,000,000.

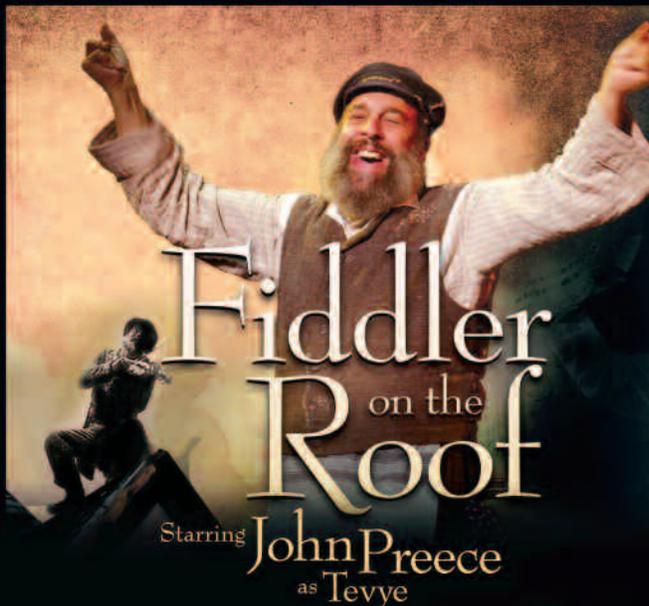


Irwin Levin, Israel Bonds' Honoree at the 2011 Israel Bonds Indianapolis Dinner of State – pictured with, from (L-R), Josh Levin, Iliana Flint, and Lindsay Levin.



Irwin Levin (l) accepts Star of David Award from Doug Rose, former Israel Bonds Indiana Campaign General Chair.

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Chag Sameach

BY RABBI LEW WEISS

Hanukkah 5772 – 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. 20 through 27, we light the *Hanukkah*, 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 3 weeks after *Hanukkah* is Martin Luther King Day. On Jan. 16, 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

(see Weiss, page 11)

Happy Hanukkah!
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Jeweler Sasha Khitlik: Ukraine to Broad Ripple

BY MATTHEW J. SILVER

"What is the matter with you today?" the woman nearly shouts. "Go back to Russia," she exclaims. Her fingers are bedecked with many rings, some gold, some laden with diamonds, several gold necklaces ring her neck, three bracelets on her left arm, two on her right. She's haggling Sasha Khitlik over the price of a bracelet.

"I live in 2011, you live in 2005. Gold is \$1860 an ounce today. Thank you," says Sasha politely, as he puts the bracelet back in the case.

"I need that bracelet," she protests, "I have three on my left arm and only two on my other arm. I feel naked on that arm. I need that bracelet!" He has dealt with this woman for years, buying, selling, and dealing with her near tirades when she doesn't get the deal she wants. Eventually she buys some earrings.

His storefront at 739 Broad Ripple Ave., just east of College in Indianapolis, has display cases overflowing with watches, probably two or three thousand of all descriptions, plus many rings, pendants, earrings and necklaces. He has three Speidel watch band revolving cases on his counters, a holdover from the 1979 transaction that put him in this storefront. Large and small clocks fill the top of the cabinets that line the walls behind the display cases. Little gatherings of watch bands congregate as if in meetings in numerous spots around the shop. His workbench by the front window is teeming with shiny small parts that once formed a watch, earring, necklace, pendant, clock, ring, or other personal, decorative item.

Born and raised in Doentsk, in southern Ukraine, near the Sea of Azov, his father was a shoemaker, making boots for officers in the Soviet Army, a good job for a Jewish man to have during the Soviet era. His hometown was a small city before the revolution named Yuzovka, in honor of a European who founded the coal and steel industries in this eastern Ukrainian city. After the Bolshevik Revolution it was renamed Stalino, but following de-Stalinisation in 1961 it was renamed Donetsk after a nearby river basin.

His cousin was a champion weightlifter in the Soviet Union. Top athletes in the country during and after the Cold War received privileges for themselves and often their families, privileges unheard of to their fellow countrymen – housing, cars, money, etc. Many people struggled for years in the Soviet Union just to make ends meet, which created a flourishing

black market and a system of payoffs and bribes to get what you want.

His cousin has an apartment he's had for years in a very expensive section of Moscow, near where President Leonid Brezhnev once lived. Sasha says in this country he would be a multimillionaire.

"He made a lot of money running a sports camp for athletes from Moscow. He sold the same tickets over and over," said Sasha. "He hid lots of money, and years later during Glasnost the country changed monetary systems, he couldn't find the money to exchange it before the deadline and lost it all," he chuckles.

He recalls his Jewish parents attending underground services at the home of other worshippers when the practice of religion was forbidden. He left school after the ninth grade to go to work when his father was declared missing in action following World War II.

After leaving the Red Army Sasha, now 21, worked on televisions and radios in Donetsk but he was told to learn watchmaking.

"I didn't want to be a watchmaker. Why? Because all the watchmakers were missing legs from the war, like invalids, and I didn't want to be like that," he says. "My mother and my aunt said take the job, and maybe later you find something else. So this Jewish guy taught me watchmaking. He was a good watchmaker."

He trained with him for a little over a year, and then opened his own shop under the stairway in a government building where he stayed for several years and did very well. A friend invited him to work in his shop to make jewelry. At first Sasha resisted.

"I make good money here, why do I want to go over there," he said. He finally joined his friend and discovered he could earn \$100 from spending two hours making one piece of jewelry. "My wife went to college, she was an engineer, she made \$100 in a month," he says. "We were the only jewelry repair in this city of one million."

If someone wanted gold jewelry, they would have to bring in their own gold – ring, earring, or necklace – to have Sasha fashion it into the piece they wanted. The store itself could not legally own gold it could only work with customers' gold. Government agents might show up without notice and demand to search the business or his house.

"I made good money doing that work, and I was able to buy a car," he says.

In the early 1970's he suffered a very serious heart attack and spent nearly two months in the hospital, and was told he would not be able to work again.

"In the old Soviet Union, if you cannot work you are no use to the regime," he says, so he and his wife and young son were allowed to leave six months after applying for a visa. He had to sell all the gold he had secretly accumulated because the metal detectors would find it. He hid paper money in a hole he drilled in the family piano and sealed it; and diamonds he epoxied into a plastic case to conceal them. The Russian border agents took the boxes of silver.

At Rost Jewelers, one of his first jobs in Indianapolis, he was making jewelry and repairing watches, and he made \$40,000 in one month because the regular jeweler got sick and Sasha had to take work home to keep up.

"I was making 50 percent on jewelry repairs and 70 percent on watch repair. I bought a house for us with that money," he smiles.

In 1979 Ann Fish asked him to work one day a week at her jewelry store in Broad Ripple because her watchmaker retired. After three months she decided to quit the business and offered him the space with all the display cases, counters, cabinets and the safe. She sold all the inventory to another dealer, and he began business with the three Speidel watch band revolving cases, and ten Citizen watches he got on credit from the salesman in one of the display cases, nothing else. He went to a jewelry

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Sasha repairing a watch in his shop.

show in Chicago, where he had friends, because he knew the value of jewelry, for one, and certainly the lure of gold.

"I didn't have jewelry, so I buy a little, but I know gold from being a jeweler in Russia, it is always good business," he says. All the other glass display cases and cabinets were bare, a far cry from the fullness of his shop today with every surface covered with wares.

Many of the people coming to his store need watch batteries, which he installs while they wait. Some stop by just to *kibbutz*. Ron McNew says he has been dealing with Sasha for 25 years, buying necklaces, rings, watches, and watch batteries.

"I have batteries people can't find anywhere else," says Sasha. He shows me a packet of tiny lithium batteries that reads

in 12 different languages, "Do not dispose of in fire."

This soft-spoken man, who learned his trade under the strict authoritarian rule of the Soviet system where extortion, bribery, and pay-offs were the norm, has built a 30-year one-of-a-kind business on a foundation of trust and honesty in his dealings with customers who keep returning.

Matthew Silver is a writer/reporter, researcher, and musician living in Indianapolis. ✨



Sasha Khitlick and son Allan displaying just a few of the many watches in his store. The two speak Russian when they are working in the store together.



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KIO BBYO names new regional director

Even though most *bar/bat mitzvah* speeches profess that “this day marks the *beginning* of my Jewish journey,” according to researchers and sociologists who study American Jews, the reality is that for the majority of Jewish teens, their *bar/bat mitzvah* actually marks the *end* of their engagement in Jewish life. So what is that “thing” that can keep them on a Jewish path, not just now, but well into the future when factors such as increased social and academic pressures and secular influences have made it more difficult than ever to compete for their limited time and interest? According to The Mayerson Foundation in Cincinnati, one of the region’s largest private funders of projects related to Jewish engagement, that “thing” is BBYO.

“We have always been interested in creating and/or strengthening programs that fill unmet needs in our community, especially as it relates to helping those who are more weakly engaged make connections to other Jewish people and the Jewish community,” remarks Pam Saeks, Director of Jewish Giving for The Mayerson Foundation. “Recently we saw an opportunity to play a catalytic role in this area by partnering with BBYO, the leading pluralistic Jewish youth organization in the world, to help build an even stronger foundation for teen engagement in our own community and in the region,” she continues.

Last week, the partnership between BBYO and The Mayerson Foundation became official with the appointment of Josh Rothstein, the Mayerson Foundation’s Manager of Program Development and Engagement, who will now also serve as the new KIO BBYO Regional Director. As a member of the Mayerson Foundation team, Josh will be supported in this role by



Josh Rothstein, the Mayerson Foundation’s Manager of Program Development and Engagement, who will now also serve as the new KIO BBYO Regional Director.

other seasoned Mayerson Foundation professionals who will bring their strategic planning, marketing, public relations and operations expertise to the table to help further enhance his efforts and take KIO to the next level.

Thanks to the generosity of The Mayerson Foundation, Josh will be able to contribute twice that amount of time that past KIO Regional Directors have been able to devote to the position, which will give him the opportunity to travel to each city more often, and work more closely with both staff and teens to strengthen their chapters. While it's not BBYO's traditional model, this move was seen as an opportunity to significantly elevate the organization's efforts in the region.

"I am humbled and proud to be the new KIO BBYO Regional Director," says Josh Rothstein. "My involvement with BBYO started when I became a volunteer advisor for the boys' AZA chapter in Cincinnati. I was immediately impressed by the great job BBYO does of turning typical teenagers into confident and effective leaders. With the many opportunities this organization gives them to develop and implement programs from the ground up, combined with just the right amount of adult supervision, it's a winning formula that has been working for nearly 90 years. I am thrilled to have the chance to play a small part in helping to shape the next generation of great Jewish leaders," he adds. "I am especially fortunate to be working with such a high quality team of City Directors and advisors to help strengthen the BBYO brand in our region, and look forward to all the great things I know we are going to accomplish together!"

Josh is already hard at work planning KIO's first ever Regional Staff/Advisor Retreat which will take place in Cincinnati in December to help them get to know one another better outside the context of busy regional conventions and to

provide some training, as well as strategic planning and programming support. In addition, Josh is overseeing the teen committee in planning the 2011 Regional Convention, and will be coordinating a Regional Teen Board retreat for early January. He is also committed to creating a more effective and streamlined communication and marketing system to keep the staff, teens, parents and alumni more engaged and in the loop than ever before.

"This is a great opportunity for KIO to become a more cohesive region and involve more Jewish teens in Jewish life. The Mayerson Foundation's vision and leadership makes this possible and BBYO is excited about this new partnership," says Richard Kessler, BBYO's Midwest Area Executive Director.

Josh's experience as the Jewish Outreach and Engagement Coordinator for the Mayerson Foundation has given him experience with connecting Jewish young professionals to one another and to the Jewish community on their own terms. In addition to helping run Access events for Jewish young professionals, ages 21–35 in Cincinnati, a majority of his work has been focused on Young Professional programming at the Mayerson JCC, to help the J enhance and expand their offerings to this important demographic.

Through Josh's efforts in coordinating specialized fitness classes, sports activities and events, Cincinnati's Mayerson JCC has gone from having almost no Jewish young professional presence, to having hundreds of unique visitors and members in this demographic per year. With a sociology degree from Miami University, Josh feels that his job allows him to use his skills to their highest potential and appreciates this unique opportunity he has been given to help Jewish young people connect with one another in meaningful ways!

"BBYO inspires leadership and works with the common Jewish bond that all its participants share in order to create a meaningful experience," explains Aaron Welcher, *Shaliach* (the person in charge of Jewish content and community service projects) for Indianapolis' *Brae Sheath* Chapter. "BBYO gives teens, like me, a chance to impact younger kids and inspire them to become leaders. It allows teens to be leaders in their communities and gives them the opportunity to make the world a better place one step at a time," he explains. "Although BBYO is a youth led organization, we rely heavily on the help of our advisors and directors. Josh Rothstein, the new Regional Director, will be charged with the responsibility of overseeing everything throughout the entire Kentucky-Indiana-Ohio region. In addition to Josh's great communication

skills, he also possesses a wonderful vision for our region," he adds. "He is constantly pushing for our region's leaders to take programs and ideas to the next level so KIO and BBYO receive the attention they deserve. Josh will do a great job with helping our region to be the best it can be!"

As the only non-denominational youth organization in the community, BBYO is uniquely positioned to attract both affiliated and unaffiliated teens, one of the most at-risk populations for falling off the Jewish path early on. In addition to Shabbat dinners, special events and parties, BBYO offers a number of opportunities throughout the year to attend regional and even national and international conventions, summer camp and trips to Israel.

For more information about BBYO, or to learn more about becoming a teen advisor contact Aaron Atlas at the Jewish Community Center of Indianapolis at (317) 251-9467 ext. 2283. ✨

On this date in Jewish history

On December 21, 1867

The Jews of Austria were emancipated.

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

WEISS

(continued from page 7)

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. Approximately 20 years ago he came to Indianapolis as the Jewish chaplain at Methodist Hospital, now Clarian 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. Reprinted from a previous Hanukkah issue of this newspaper. ✨

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Obituaries

September – December

Gloria Bassin Lutz, 81, died on Sept. 1, 2011. She was born Feb. 7, 1930 in Gary, Ind., to the late Benjamin and Etta (Lieberman) Bassin.

Gloria was very generous with her time and money; supporting many worthwhile causes. She was a member of Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, Temple Sisterhood, Jewish Community Center Association of Indianapolis, a member of National Council of Jewish Women, a founding member of New Hope Guild and a long time volunteer for Noble School.

She was the widow of the late Robert M. Lutz, who passed away in 1992. Survivors include her children, Barry (Janet) Lutz, Diane Lutz and Melanie (Oren) Gottlieb; grandchildren, Jennifer and Amanda Lutz and Paige and Rob Gottlieb. She was preceded in death by her brother, Paul Bassin.

Funeral services were held on Sept. 4, 2011 at **Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary**. Burial followed in Indianapolis Hebrew Cemetery North. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, American Heart Association, National MS Society, or to Make a Wish Foundation. ★

Ruth Steinkeler, 90, lifelong resident of Indianapolis died Sept. 9, 2011. She was born Feb. 16, 1921 to Samuel and Sarah (Caplan) Davis. She was a graduate of Shortridge High School and received her bachelor's degree in Dietetics from Indiana University.

During her married life, Ruth worked alongside her late husband, Herman, at their family business, Norwaldo Pharmacy, until their retirement.

Ruth will be remembered as an understated, graceful woman; devoted to her family, her friends and her community. She was an active member of Congregation Beth-El Zedeck; its sisterhood and a loyal member of the daily *minyan*. Ruth was also a life member of Hadassah and National Council of Jewish Women and a member of Women's Organization of the National Association of Retail Druggists.

Ruth will be forever missed by her beloved family; her sons, Dr. Steven (Sandra) Steinkeler, Dr. Sidney (Susan) Steinkeler and Dr. Jeffrey (Dr. Cara) Steinkeler; her grandchildren, Rachel (Jason) Wright, David (Samantha) Steinkeler, Dr. Jill Steinkeler (Dr. Jared Silverstein), Dr. Andrew Steinkeler and Dr. Jennifer Steinkeler and a great granddaughter, Lillian Wright.

Funeral services were held on Sept. 11, 2011 at **Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary**.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial contributions be made to The Daily *Minyan* Fund at Congregation Beth-El Zedeck or the Sisterhood Fund, or to the Congregation directly, 600 West 70th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46260; or to the Alzheimer's Association, www.alz.org. ★

Jack Alboher, 90, died on Sept. 20, 2011. He was a dedicated small business owner, operating several neighborhood markets in downtown Indianapolis and the near north side. He had a ready smile and a good rapport with his customers and friends. Jack was a devoted member of Etz Chaim Congregation. Jack's beloved wife of 65 years, Mildred Goldstein Alboher, died in 2008. He is survived by his loving children, Larry Alboher of Mill Valley, Calif., and Susan Alboher Conley of Redway, Calif.; four grandchildren and six great grandchildren. His daughter, Paula Bard-Forster died last year.

Graveside services were held Sept. 25, in the Etz Chaim Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Etz Chaim Congregation, 6939 North Hoover Road, Indianapolis, IN 46260. ★

Albert W. Pearlman, Aug. 4, 1937 – Oct. 12, 2011, a caring man, was always concerned for others and solved their problems before attending his own needs. He grew up in Lafayette, proud to be the son of Himan and Rozella Pearlman.



Albert attended Lafayette Jeff High School and Indiana University earning a degree in accounting. While at IU, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Mu and was at the time the only non-music major for the Singing Hoosiers.

Albert was a practicing CPA with several firms including Peachin Schwartz and Pearlman. He later changed careers and for the past 18 years was an agent for FC Tucker.

He enjoyed being the lead volunteer for the MDA Telethon, teaching accounting at IVYTech, serving as precinct committeeman for his neighborhood, and being a member of the Carmel Chamber of Commerce.

Albert is survived by his beloved wife, Judith; and devoted sons, Gregory Pearlman (Dover, N.H.), Aaron Pearlman (Fishers, Ind.), David Wells (Carmel, Ind.), and Nathan Wells (San Antonio, Texas). Also surviving is one sister, Janet (Sheldon) Fisher of Denver. He was preceded in death by his brother, Edward Pearlman.

The St. Louis Cardinals, Colts and IU basketball have brought great thrills to Albert but the team that has brought him the most joy were his grandchildren, all nine of them: Delaney, Xenia, Jacob, Quin, Tyler, Ian, Hagan, Kailynn and Lauren.

Loyalty, a very important characteristic to Al, explains why he had gone to the same barber, Jerry, for nearly 50 years. Most importantly, loyalty is how he felt about his religious home at Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation where he ushered at the same door for over 30 years.

Funeral services were held Oct. 14 at **Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary**. Burial will follow in Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation North Cemetery.

Because of Albert's fondness for gardening, in lieu of flowers contributions to the Harvey Gaddie Garden Fund at IHC would be most appreciated. ★

Miriam Miller Tannenbaum, 78, died Nov. 6, 2011. She was born Nov. 24, 1932 to Benjamin and Anna (Winnick) Miller in Brooklyn. Miriam was a devoted wife and mother.



She is survived by her husband of over 60 years, Bernard "Bernie" Tannenbaum; her children, Bruce (Corinne) and Caren (David) Lewton; grandchildren, Andrew, Katherine, Ahleeah, Hanna, James and Tabitha and 16 nieces and nephews. Her son, Alan, preceded her in death.

She was a member of Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, Hooverwood Guild, NORC and volunteered at St. Vincent Hospital for 20 years.

Graveside services were held on Nov. 9, in Indianapolis Hebrew Cemetery North Memorial contributions may be made to a favorite charity. **Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary** handled arrangements. ★

Diana B. Kline Leve, 97, died Nov. 6, 2011. She was born Aug. 28, 1914. She was an active member of Congregation Beth-El Zedeck, Beth-El Sisterhood, National Council of Jewish Women, Hadassah, Jewish Welfare Federation, National Council of Christians and Jews and NAACP.

Diana is survived by her loving children, Carole Leve Tavel, Ronald Leve, Aaron

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Leve, and David Leve; her grandchildren, Robert Tavel, Michael Tavel, Elizabeth Tavel Weinberg and Don Angel and 8 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on Nov. 11 in the chapel at Congregation Beth-El Zedeck. Memorial contributions may be made to a favorite charity or to the Albert and Sarah Reuben Adult Resource Center. Arrangements entrusted to **Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary**. ✨

Simon Kleyman, 89, died on Nov. 22, 2011. He was born in Peresechimo, Moldova on June 27, 1922 to Gregory and Clara (Chubrutskaaya) Kleyman. He held a Master's degree in Management of Agriculture Science. He was a member of Congregation Beth-El Zedeck.

He is survived by his loving family, wife, Betty; daughter, Rita; son, Ardy (Diana); and grandchildren, Eugene and Svetlana. Funeral services were held Nov. 25, 2011 at the **Aaron Ruben Nelson Mortuary** at 11am. Burial followed in Congregation Beth-El Zedeck North Cemetery. ✨

Abram Zhukov, 73, died Nov. 23, 2011. He was born in Goeml, Belarus on Nov. 5, 1938. Abram was a graduate of Goeml University in Byeloruss. He was the master of ceremonies for a performing arts theatre in Goeml, Russia and a producer of stage productions in Byeloruss.

Abram is survived by his wife, Lyubov Makarevich; children, George Zhukov (Marina), Anna Markarevich, Andre Markarevich, and Miriam Zhukov; and three grandchildren, Armastasia, Elizabeth and Michelle.

A funeral service was held Nov. 25, 2011 at the **Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary**. Burial followed in Congregation Beth-El Zedeck North Cemetery. ✨

Paul Csillag, 90, died on Dec. 5, 2011.

Paul was born on May 23, 1921 in Hungary. He and his beloved wife, the late Rose Csillag, both Holocaust survivors, came to Indianapolis with their children in 1956. Paul had three brothers, Alex Star, Joe Csillag (deceased), and Louie Csillag (deceased); and two sisters, Margaret Klopfer (deceased) and Periska Csillag (deceased).

Paul was a long time and dedicated member of B'nai Torah. For many years, Paul was known as the "challah man" in the community. Every week he would make 50 challot from scratch and deliver them to friends and community members.

Paul was a beloved father to his daughters, Pauline (Larry) January and Irene (Andy) Engel, and his son Joe (Roberta) Star; a loving grandfather to Brian (Ashlie)



January; Melissa (Jeff) January; Laura Engel; Jeff Engel; Jason (Julie) Star; and Rachael (Brad) Finkel. His great-grandchildren, Ella and Ethan January, Laney and Vera Star, and Blake and Shana Finkel, brought him much joy.

Funeral services were held Dec. 8, 2011 at the **Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary**. Burial followed in B'nai Torah Cemetery. ✨

Lillian Rosen, 99, died Dec. 5, 2011. She was born in New York on March 12, 1912 to Louis and Bertha Linderman, and grew up in South Bend, Ind. She moved to Little Rock, Arkansas with her first husband, Fred Brown, and worked as a bookkeeper there. Upon moving to Indianapolis in the late 1960s, she worked for Goodman Jewelers for five years as a bookkeeper.

She married Isadore Rosen in 1970, and was a dedicated wife to him until his death in 1993. She was a member of B'nai Torah Congregation and the Hooverwood Guild, where she often volunteered in the gift shops, and she was a life member of Hadassah.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, Fred Brown and Isadore Rosen, and her brother Irving (Pat) Linderman. Lillian is survived by her son, Bernie Brown of Pittsburgh; and her children, Toby (Gene) Tabachnick of Pittsburgh, Susie (Neal) London of Chicago, and Morris (Francie) Rosen of South Bend; ten grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and one brother, Dr. Martin (Mimi) Linderman. She is also survived by several loving nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank the nurses and aides in Hooverwood Nursing Home's unit 1A for their kindness and care.

A funeral service was held Dec. 7th at **Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary**. Burial followed in Congregation Beth-El Zedeck's North Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to B'nai Torah Congregation or Hooverwood Guild. ✨

Mildred Kosene, 91.

The Kosene Family mourns the passing of Mildred (Mimi) Kosene (nee Bluestein). She was born on Aug. 11, 1920 to Fannie and Harry Bluestein.

She was a loving and extraordinary daughter, sister, wife, mother, mother in law, and grandmother, was widely admired, for her devotion to her family and their well being. Her ladylike poise, character and trustful demeanor made her a valued friend to many people, always to be counted upon for advice and her ability to respect their confidences. Her gift of artistic talent brought her great personal pleasure. She possessed a sense of style in an understated way, always believing that "less is more". Mimi was an



advocate of tolerance and an acceptance of all people regardless of their race or faith.

Conservative by nature, she was a great balance to her entrepreneurial husband J. Jack Kosene. She met Jack while he was stationed at Fort Benjamin Harrison during World War II. They were married in 1942 and celebrated 55 years of marriage. He preceded her in death in 1999. They had 3 sons Gerald, David and Mark. Indianapolis was not only her place of birth but her primary residence her entire life. She and Jack spent their winter months in retirement in Boca Raton, Fla.

Mimi was a graduate of Shortridge High School's class of 1938. She was a charter board member of the Indianapolis Art League, now known as the Indianapolis Art Center. She was a supporter of Miracle Place, a life long member of Beth El Zedeck Synagogue, a past member of the Beth El Zedeck Sisterhood and the Indianapolis Chapter of Hadassah, the Jewish Community Center Association, and Broadmoor Country Club.

In addition to her husband, Jack, she was predeceased by her sister, Ida, and is survived by her children, Gerald, David, (Rossie), and Mark Kosene; grandchildren, Alex, Michael, Georgia, Kali, Clark, Jake, and Iris Kosene; and her niece, nephews, and many cousins.

A funeral service was held Dec. 9, 2011 at Congregation Beth-El Zedeck. Burial followed in Congregation Beth-El Zedeck's North Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Miracle Place, Beth El Zedeck Synagogue Beautification Fund, and the Indianapolis Art Center Phyllis Cohen Fund. Arrangements entrusted to **Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary**. ✨

Miriam Miller Landman, 84, died peacefully and gracefully on Dec. 6, 2011. She was born in Indianapolis on Nov. 10, 1927. Miriam graduated from Shortridge High School and subsequently attended Purdue University and The New Bauhaus/Institute of Design in Chicago.

Miriam was an early advocate for Head Start of Indianapolis, a member of Dialogue Today, Hadassah, National Council of Jewish Women, and was committed to civil rights and social justice. A long time patron of the arts, she enjoyed travelling with her husband and family.

Miriam was predeceased by her husband Bernard Landman, Jr., and her two sisters Norma Miller and Sylvia Morris. Miriam is survived by her children Harriet Ann (Hank), Nina, Nancy, Elizabeth and Bernard III, grandchildren Emily, Eric and Nicholas, and brother in law, Fred Morris.

A brief graveside service was held on Dec. 9 at the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation's North Cemetery. Funeral

(see **Obituaries**, page 14)

OBITUARIES

(continued from page 13)

arrangements were handled by **Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary**. In lieu of flowers, donations may be directed to Beit T'Shuvah in Los Angeles, or the St. Vincent's Indianapolis Hospice. ✨

Steven Aaron Sandy, 36, died Dec. 10, 2011. He was a graduate North Central High School, University of Chicago and of Washington University Law School. Steven was a member of the Indiana Bar Association, an Eagle Scout and a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity and the Homeless Initiative. He was an attorney with Stephen J. Hyatt and Associate Attorney at Law. Steven will be deeply missed by those who loved and cherished him. He is survived by his parents, Robert and Elaine Sandy; his sister, Rachel O'Connell and her husband, Samuel O'Connell, his girlfriend, Courtney Acevez; maternal grandmother, Anne Begel; paternal grandmother, Elizabeth Sandy, his nephew, Solomon Joseph O'Connell and his aunts, uncle and cousins. Funeral services were held at **Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary**, 11411 North Michigan Road on Dec. 14. Burial followed in Indianapolis Hebrew Cemetery North. Memorial contributions may be made to Boy Scouts of America, the American Heart Association, IHC or to a favorite charity. Friends may place an online condolence by visiting [arnmortuary.com](http://www.arnmortuary.com). ✨

Frank H. Newman, 98, long time Executive Vice President of the Jewish Federation of greater Indianapolis and later the JCF Endowment fund, died on Dec. 10, 2011 at Hooverwood. His tenure as Federation executive was filled with numerous accomplishments including the building of the Jewish Community Campus where he proudly spent the last few months of his long life.



Born in Chicago on July 19, 1913, Newman graduated from George Williams College with a degree in Group Work Education and received a Master of Social Work from the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis. Newman's Jewish Community service began in Yonkers, N.Y., and then moved to St. Louis, where he was on the staff of their Jewish Community Center. He went on to become the Federation director in Gary, Ind., for eight years.

In Gary he was one of the founders of the National Association of Social Workers Chapter in that area and was budget

chairman for the United Fund of Gary. Following Gary he served on the administrative staffs of the Chicago and the New York metropolitan areas. He came to Indianapolis from Newark, N.J., where he was with the Jewish Federation and served as consultant on fund raising and health and welfare planning to 45 communities over an 11-state area and Canada. He came to Indianapolis in December of 1959.

Frank Newman was a World War II veteran serving as a Sergeant in the Medical Corp in Europe and the United States. Read more about his accomplishments in Indianapolis at www.arnmortuary.com.

Frank Newman is survived by his wife of 65 years, Dorothy Selig Newman, his son Robert (Jan) of Hillsborough Calif., and two daughters, Terry Bernstein (Richard) of St. Louis, and Nancy Reiter of Indianapolis. Grandchildren include Lauren Bernstein, David Bernstein, Julie Bernstein, Jessica Reiter, and Katie Reiter.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Frank H. Newman Charitable Fund c/o the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis. Services were held on Dec. 12, 2011 at the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation with burial at the Indianapolis Hebrew Cemetery North. Arrangements entrusted to **Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary**. ✨

Dr. Peter H. Cahn, 79, died on Dec. 18. He was born in Witten, Germany on March 28, 1932, the son of Dr. Hugo M. Cahn and Greta Wolf Cahn, and the stepson of Ruth Glaser Cahn. His birth mother, Greta Cahn, died on the 3rd day of his life. When he was five his father married Ruth Cahn, and thanks to his father's foresight and pessimism, the three of them were able to leave Germany in February, 1938, before World War II. He lived in Indianapolis from the age of six on.



Peter was a graduate of Shortridge High School and received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Indiana University in Bloomington with honors, which included Phi Beta Kappa and the I.U. Medical School with honors in Alpha Omega Alpha.

After completing his internship at Philadelphia General Hospital he served as a Flight Surgeon in the United States Air Force.

He met his future wife, Susan Leitz, at Ohio State University where he completed a residency in Ophthalmology. He and his young family moved to Indianapolis where he was in private practice from 1963 until 1999. He taught residents and medical students at Indiana University's Department of Ophthalmology beginning

in 1964 and eventually became a Clinical Professor in 1977.

While phasing out of private practice he became Acting Chief of Ophthalmology at the Roudebush Veterans Medical Center and attending Staff Physician at Wishard Hospital Department of Ophthalmology. He retired from the I.U. Faculty in 2004.

He was a member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and served on the Commission of Professional Affairs of the Indianapolis Medical Society. He was a past member of the Board of Directors of the National Society to Prevent Blindness and a past president of the Indiana Society to Prevent Blindness.

Upon his retirement from medical practice he became an active member of the Retired Executive Service Corps and mentored junior and senior high school students at Broad Ripple High School for 10 years, accompanying students to various businesses and colleges to help them determine their future career paths in life.

He served as a member of the Boards of Directors of the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation (IHC), JFGI, and JCRC among other community service organizations. He also enjoyed being a supporter of the Indianapolis Arts community. He enjoyed being a good snow skier and a deficient tennis player.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 51 years, Susan L. Cahn, and his three sons, Jordan M. Cahn (Elizabeth) of Purchase, NY; Andrew M. Cahn (Ana) of Santa Monica, Calif.; and Drs. Seth (Victoria) Cahn of Indianapolis and four adored grandchildren, Cara and Anna Cahn of Purchase, NY and twins Sophia and Aaron Cahn of Indianapolis.

Funeral services will be held Wed., Dec. 21 at 2:30 p.m. at IHC, with burial to follow in IHC North Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to IHC, Indiana University Department of Ophthalmology, Simon Cancer Center or to the donors' choice. Arrangements have been entrusted to **Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary**. ✨

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Hanukkah meditations

BY JENNIE COHEN

Shortly after my last editorial where I mention a priest who left only five possessions when he died, I got the following message, "Travel light, live light, spread the light, be the light." No, it wasn't in a fortune cookie. It was on a small piece of paper stapled to the string at the end of a tea bag. I find these short quotes to be uplifting and wise.

This message is appropriate for any time of the year, but especially during Hanukkah with shorter days and longer nights. Also during this time of year, so much focus is on material things. The other messages we receive from manufacturers and retailers make us think that we cannot be happy unless we have every new gadget, appliance, technical device, automobile, jewelry and piece of clothing that comes into style.

To bring the spiritual back into the picture, I am reprinting most of my column written three years ago at this time.

Because in my part of the world it is very cold and dark, I decided to create the following eight meditations for *Hanukkah*. These can be done before the candles are lit, after the blessings and songs are sung when the candles are burning or even after they go out.

First night: Imagine bringing the light from the one candle to any place in your body where there may be a health concern or simply little aches and pains. Let the warm sensation from the light relax the tight muscles around the pain. Feel the area improving from the healing glow of the light and all stiffness and soreness is releasing.

Second night: Feel free to repeat the first night meditation knowing that the light is double in strength. Now think of any emotional pain you are feeling. Are you missing a close friend or relative who had been celebrating Hanukkah with you every year? Were you expecting a raise or simply a holiday bonus but did not get it? Let the light from the candles whirl in your mind, dissolving all of the sadness and bitterness replacing it with the thought that something good is just around the corner.

Third night: One can repeat night one or any of the previous night's meditations on any of the upcoming nights as needed, knowing that the light will be even brighter than it was the first time around. Now that you are feeling stronger, think about any concerns with your family or close friends. Is one of them in harm's way? Grieving a loss? Not getting along with a spouse? Shine the light all around them bringing with it a sense of love and peace.

Fourth night: Are there challenges in your neighborhood, your synagogue or the city where you live? Some congregants want to allow women on the bimah and others do not. Some Jews want a menorah in a public place and others oppose it. Let the light swirl around the dark places where differences of opinion are. Imagine it shining brightly over the situation bringing new ideas to encourage a solution or compromise.

Fifth night: As the lights continue getting brighter, think about the state where you live. Are there challenges in your state? Some citizens want prayers before the legislative sessions and other want separation of church and state. Let the bright light swirl around those citizens with opposing points of view and help them to see both sides of the situation and resolve to make an effort to understand each other. Maybe a solution will eventually come from that.

Sixth night: The bright lights from the candles are filling up the room. Are there challenges in your country? Let's see. No shortage here: the economy, the stock market, the bailouts, adjusting to the new administration, gays and lesbians struggling for equal rights, racial prejudices, to name a few. Let the bright lights shine over these very difficult topics

(see Cohen, page 18)

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Great Jerusalem Hoosier Reunion (clockwise from top left): 1) Cyrelle Simon and Yehudit Epstein (Yael Avigail Ben Lev and Naomi Homnick in photo), 2) Rabbi Gray (center), 3) Nora Goldstein (right), 4) Rabbi Benzion Cohen, 5) People listening to a speech by Cyrelle Simon's son, 6) Shlomo Bornstein (right), son of Helen Goldstein, pictured with (left to right) Hart Hatzen and Harry Goldstein.

Great Jerusalem Hoosier Reunion

BY MICHAEL BLAIN

To coincide with our most recent visit to Israel, our friend Cyrelle Simon who made *aliyah* from Lafayette, Ind., organized a Hoosier Reunion which she hosted in her Jerusalem home. Some 60 former and present Hoosiers, both visiting Israel at that time and those who made *aliyah*, showed up for the reunion. Those visiting Israel included former B'nai Torah Rabbi Ronald and Rachel Gray, Simona and Hart Hasten, Esther and Joe Epstein, David Goldstein, Sylvia and Mike Blain, and Cyrelle's four children: Hillel and Rashi, both Rabbis in London, and daughters Ronit and Shira.

Long-time and new *Olim* living in Israel included Judy and Eddy Epstein (Eddy was the founding principal of the Hebrew Academy and recently made *aliyah* from Hong Kong); former B'nai Torah Chazan Ira and Fran Schnall; the Friedmans: Dorothy, Simmy, Allan, Neal, Ron, and their wives; Nora and Harry Goldstein and daughters Lisa and Susie; Rabbi Zvi (Blain) Leshem, Rabbi Shlomo Borinstein, Ann Weinstein, Benzion Cohen, Ron Wides, Raphael Holzer, and others from South Bend, Fort Wayne and Bloomington. (see photos on p. 16 and more on the Facebook group Hoosiers in Israel at www.facebook.com/groups/239212727771053#!/groups/239212727771053)

Very busy Cyrelle Simon finds time to send out a monthly *Letter from Jerusalem* to her friends around the world. Below is her letter describing the reunion:

Letter from Jerusalem

A Triumph! Several days after *Simchat Torah*, over 55 former Hoosiers gathered in my home for a reunion. The warmth, the emotion, the positive vibes, the welcoming atmosphere created a very successful event. Some comments afterward were, "The most fun we had in ages." "I spoke to so many people that there was no time for any in depth conversation." "The warm pleasant surroundings, the joy of seeing so many former friends, the happy emotion that prevailed made us eager to plan for next year's get together." As my daughter-in-law, Ruthie said, "There was a lot of buzz in that room"

About six months ago in my *Ulpan*, I met Judy Epstein whose husband Ed had been the founding principal of Indy's Hasten Hebrew Academy. She still kept in close touch with many of the committee who helped establish the school in the early 1970s. I suggested that we make plans for a Hoosier-Israeli reunion. By each of us

contacting several people we knew and with essential help from Mike and Sylvia Blain, and from Ruthie Holzer of South Bend, previously from Indy, we were able to create a data base of 74 names. (Mike was Israel Bonds Executive Director and knew most Jews in Indiana. He and Sylvia were very active in the Indy community.)

We included several families who have children here and visit at frequent intervals. We sent out several emails throughout the months and we were thoroughly elated by the eager response. From Israel came people from Alon Shvut, Efrat, Beer Sheva, Kfar Chabad, Beit Shemesh, Jerusalem and other locales. We had people who were new immigrants, here only several months, as well as others who have been in Israel as long as 40 years. The majority of the participants hailed from Indy and South Bend but there were some from Lafayette, Fort Wayne, Bloomington and other places.

The timing was planned, at first since, although my children live abroad, I didn't want them to forget their Hoosier

roots, and I knew they expected to be here for Ed's *Yahrtzeit* which we commemorated the day before the reunion. However, very fortuitously a number of prominent Indy families were visiting here at the same time including Esther and Joe Epstein, Rabbi Ronald and Rachel Gray, Hart and Simona Hasten, the Blains and several others. My co-chair, Judy Epstein prepared name tags and checked email addresses as people entered. Wally Klatch, Yael Manis and my son, Hillel took pictures.

My daughter Shira welcomed guests outside the building, my son Rashi gave some welcoming remarks during the evening, and my daughter Ronit stayed by the door greeting attendees as they entered and departed. I prepared a tape of background music "On the Wabash" and "Home in Indiana". Cantor Ira Schnall played some attractive piano music and Rabbi Gray gave some very delightful and welcome remarks. A really good time was had by all.

With Warm Regards, Cyrelle ✨

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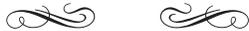


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COHEN

(continued from page 15)

and bring with it the needed patience and compassion to work through them.

Seventh night: Even brighter lights are just in time for the planet's woes. What about the challenges facing the world that we all share together? Again no shortages: the environment including safe drinking water and global warming, wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, ongoing conflict in the Middle East. Let's all shed some light on these ordeals and see what becomes visible when the darkness is dispersed. Maybe some fresh insights will come.

Eighth night: Tonight the lights are very bright! We have experienced how the warmth and glow of the lights have been a source of comfort and joy during this dark time. This is how it was when God was creating the world and it was very dark. Then God said, "Let there be light!" That same powerful light is available to us now in this dark, cold season and in this difficult time to help us heal ourselves and heal our world.

Happy Hanukkah!

Jennie Cohen has continued her father's work as the publisher and editor of the Jewish Post & Opinion since 2002. ✨

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'Twas the night before Chanukah

SUBMITTED BY ARNOLD PARRIS

'Twas the night before Chanukah.
Oy! What a shock!
Somebody outside
was picking our lock!

And there at the door
stood a *zayda* in blue-
and he wore on his *kupp*
a blue *yarmulka*, too!

His *punim* was *shain* –
everybody would love it!
'Round his neck hung a chain
with a gold *mogen dovid*!

He wore silken *tsitzes*
beneath his wool vest,
and a small flag of Israel
was draped on his chest!

He said: "I'm no burglar,
so please don't be nervous.
I'm the spirit of Chanukah,
here at our service!"

"*Menchen* all call me
'Reb' Shalom Shapiro!
Without me, this *yom-tov*
might need a new 'hero!'"

"I visit all *yidlach*,
and bring - *kinna horra* -
good fortune as bright
as a glowing menorah!"

"Ich shlepp lots of blessings
and Chanukah *gelt*,
and joys that are *takka*
the best in *der velt*!"

"If you know nice *menchen*,
I'll visit them quick,
and I'll bring them *gezunt*
and a houseful of *gluck*!"

So we sent him to your house,
and shook hands and parted.
He shouted, "*Shalom!*"
out the doorway he darted!

He ran to a wagon
with horses ahead.
He fed them some bagels,
and here's what he said:

"Let's go, Moish and Mendel!
make quick, Moe and Yussle!
Please give a rush, Malkah!
hey, Hymie, please hustle!"

Then they raced like the wind!
And they galloped so *shnell*,
all his clothing blew off,
and his *gatkes* as well!

Soon he was so *kalt*
that his *tushie* turned bluish!
He moaned and he hollered
in English and Jewish!

So, don't act embarrassed,
and please don't be rude
when that frostbitten *zayda*
arrives in the nude!

Quick! Wrap him in blankets!
Don't beat 'round the bush!
And tie a hot water bag
on his cold *tush*!

Quick! Feed him some chicken soup
heiss as can be!
And give him some *shnapps*
and a *glez'l* hot tea!

'Cause he brings you a houseful
of Chanukah wishes
as warm and *geshmock*
as plate of hot *knishes*!

And he brings them from our house
so friendly and bright,
so your house will keep glowing
with Chanukah light.

Plus joy sweet as *tsukker*,
and peace and good-cheer
and everything *fraylach*
each day of the year!

And none in your family
will be a *shlemazel*,
for life will bring each of you
simchas and mazel!

And all through the future
your hopes will come true,
and *himmel* will bless
your *mishpocha* and you!!! ✨

Indiana focus at Agudath Israel midwest banquet

On Sun., Nov. 6, more than 400 people gathered in Chicago for the annual dinner of Agudath Israel of Illinois and the Midwest Region. A sizeable delegation from Indiana attended the event to show support for the Speaker of the Indiana House of Representatives, Brian Bosma, who received the 2011 Public Service Award. The dinner also honored Rabbi and Mrs. David Langsner, Rabbi Mordecai Yaroslawitz of St. Louis, and young leadership awardees, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Glenner.

Dr. Elliot Bartky, president of the Jewish American Affairs Committee of Indiana (JAACI) attended the dinner along with several JAACI members and Rabbi Yisrael Gettinger of Congregation B'nai Torah. "This was an extraordinary event where Jewish leaders came together to honor Speaker Bosma for his leadership promoting values and policies important to our community," said Dr. Bartky.

In his introductory remarks, Agudath Israel's regional director, Rabbi A.D. Motzen, praised Speaker Bosma as a *mensch* who has been an outspoken leader on education reform for more than 25 years. "Thanks to his leadership, Hoosier families, regardless of income or zip code, will now have the ability to choose the best and most appropriate school for their child. Indiana's success serves as an inspiration to the entire Midwest."

In his acceptance speech, Speaker Bosma quoted his father, who served as an officer in the US army during WWII and liberated Nazi camps. Rather than consider himself a hero, the senior Mr. Bosma felt that his service to his country was simply "doing his duty". Speaker Bosma pledged to continue doing his duty, but urged the attendees to do their duty as well. He spoke about the need for groups such as Agudath Israel and JAACI to express their unique viewpoints to elected officials.

Agudath Israel of America, founded in 1922, is a broadly-based Orthodox Jewish movement with chapters in major communities throughout the United States. It sponsors a broad range of projects in the fields of religion, education, children's welfare, and social action and operates a network of summer camps, including two in Indiana. Agudath Israel also serves as a liaison between government and the entire spectrum of Orthodox Jewish educational institutions and has played an increasingly active role in Indiana's education reform initiatives. ✡

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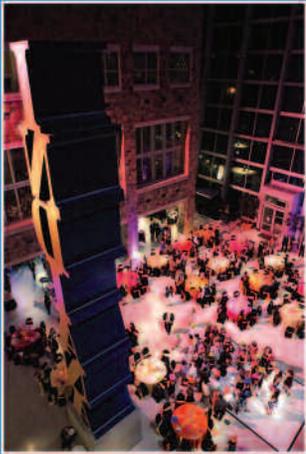
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L-R (above): Rabbi Yehiel Kalish (National Director of Government Affairs, Agudath Israel of America), Rabbi A. D. Motzen (Regional Director, Agudath Israel of America), Speaker Brian Bosma, and Mordecai Tessler, (Chairman of the Board Agudath Israel of America Midwest Region). Photo credit: Yated Ne'eman.

Agudath Israel midwest banquet attendees from Indianapolis (L-R): Dr. Elliot Bartky, Rabbi Michael Hasten, Speaker Brian Bosma, Rabbi Yisroel Gettinger, Dr. Rick Bentley, Maryo Pasarel, and Benton Marks. Photo credit: Y. Rine.



IN STATE MUSEUM

(continued from page 18)

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For more information on hosting your event at the museum go to indianamuseum.org/facility_rental or call Bryna O'Neill, event planner, at 317.234.1022. ✨



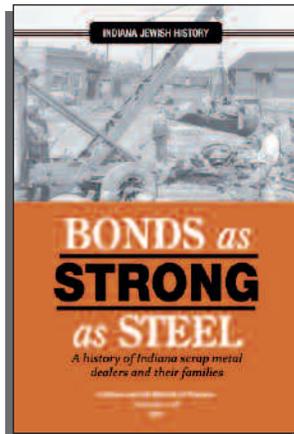
Indiana Jewish Historical Society Annual Meeting



Rabbi Paula Winnig, the new director of the Bureau of Jewish Education was the keynote speaker at the annual Indiana Jewish Historical Society meeting held at the BJE on Sun., Oct 23. Her speech about the 100th anniversary of the BJE was very interesting.

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Bit of Wit

Latke oil

BY PEARL JOFFE

I recently attended a holiday party at a "mixed marriage" couple's home. He "yes," she, "no." The wife greeted me with a big smile. In the living room I saw a huge colorful Christmas tree. I gaped at its opulence. It was laden with picturesque dolls, shiny balls and blinking lights. At the very top of the pink shining tree was a non-Star of David.

Friends were milling throughout the heavily decorated rooms chatting while sipping laced eggnog.

The hostess beckoned me with an arched forefinger to follow her. In a corner of the kitchen stood an old upright piano. She said, "Look."

What I saw were garlands everywhere, a multitude of Christmas cards taped over the fireplace along with red-hanging stockings. I paused.

"Don't you see," she said, "on the piano?" And there it was.

On top of what looked like a stack of old magazines was a two-inch toy menorah.

"I put that up there," she beamed, "to please my husband."

I apologized. "It's so small I didn't notice."

"As I understand it," she said, "unlike Christmas, yours is a minor holiday."

Which brings me to the issue at hand. I firmly believe that it is not a minor holiday but rather a major one, as big as, or even bigger than that humongous day in December.

According to a learned one of our faith, had it not been for the Maccabees, pagan worship would have still been in existence and there would have been no Christmas. In early Puritan-dominated America, the Christmas celebration was forbidden altogether. If that is the case, let us see what we can do to elevate our winter holiday from foil-wrapped chocolates (albeit eight days of gifts) to monumental excitement in the form of the following:

Before anything else, we need a definitive spelling for our holiday, known now as *Hanukkah*, *Chanukah*, *Hanukah*, etc. (Even Hallmark doesn't know how and spells it any which way.) The Christians know how to spell their holiday!

So what I respectfully suggest is having Jewish representatives from all around the world meet in Basle, Switzerland, to configure this major dilemma.

Why Basle and not Jerusalem?

Is not Basle where Dr. Theodor Herzl convened the first Jewish Congress to try to establish a Jewish homeland?

They now meet in Jerusalem, but their mission is now a *fait accompli*. Our problem: we have not failed, yet.

Religious scholars have had more than enough time to figure out the name quandary (and have failed miserably) so we need to assemble to straighten out the mess. Perhaps a rocket scientist or two should be in attendance. They could even serve *latkes*.

My other lofty vision is decorative infusions. In other words, we are never going to compete with pyrotechnics in over-the-top Christmas trees with a puny menorah. Our menorahs (for instance) have to rise across the whole front of 100

foot tall houses where live flames will shoot out reaching toward the stars. We will need enough latke oil (colored blue, of course) burning in the candles to last eight days. I expect our Jewish rocket scientists to figure that one out, too.

I am getting so excited musing about the future prominence which will be accorded our precious holiday. Until these major feats are accomplished, may I wish you all a "Happy 'Hahnucah'!"

And next year in Jerusalem!

Pearl Joffe lives in Indianapolis and has written for various publications including the Saturday Evening Post, the Register, and the Indianapolis Times. ✨

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Jewish Counselor

BY RABBI STEVEN M. LEAPMAN

Reflections on secular seasons in a Jewish life

Some Jewish children (and adults too!) bewail being “deprived” in a predominantly Christian society; they phrase such suffering in terms of what they believe they lack. They miss out on Christmas, endure mockery eating *matzah* while others munch pizza, or learn a language for life cycle ceremonies ancient 2000 years ago.

I try to help via what cognitive therapy terms a “reframe.” I respect their feelings but suggest being Jewish also gets you eight nights of *Chanukah*. *Sukkot* is also eight days followed by *Simchat Torah* (usually pretty fun!) and while bread isn’t eaten at Passover, there are lots of family and friends getting together. Shabbat comes 52 times yearly, and the fact that we might choose to ignore Shabbat even in the most liberal fashion is no one’s fault but our own, not that of gentile society. Then, throw in a weekly *Havdalah*, which is as family-focused as you choose to make it.

So far, my count gives special Jewish times per year at 128 and rising. Being Jewish has an “extra” not often recalled. If you live in secular time but have a Jewish life, you get two birthdays. (That makes 130!) Mine are in January and Tevet! Perspective is fascinating and empowering!

As American Jews, we dwell in two worlds. Let’s apply lessons from how both civilizations arrange time. As 2012 arrives, Americans of all faiths celebrate a new year which holds major elections, but every annual cycle carries opportunities and options regardless politics and presidents.

Another reframe: as the calendar returns us to another year’s initiation,

what did we learn or apply from recently having celebrated an annual start as understood by Judaism? We re-examine, re-discover, and apply Jewish wisdom for life in secular society. Both 2012 and 5722 will make demands, ask this or that, contain disappointments, acclaim triumphs.

As two clocks tick we reflect on different aspects of who we are; Jewish/American, child/parent, spouse/friend, mentor/mentored. Then there are those roles long since enacted, lingering in memory. Ponder what it meant to become the person you are today. What activities carried your involvement and imprint, occupied your time or energies? Though now completed or resolved, these moments were tributaries of today’s individuality and identity. To forget them is to ignore parts of our lives. If we neglect how we arrived at our here-and-now, how shall we proceed?

For this reason, a secular New Year’s arrival calls attention to another *Rosh Hashanah* recitation, one erroneously apportioned to a single individual. Find the shelves where Holy Day prayer books rest and seriously review “*Hineni*.” Though shared by a rabbi or cantor to take responsibility for yesteryear’s mistakes, is this confessional role only for those ordained or invested as teachers and leaders? Imagine the healing power of “*Hineni*.”

What if proclaiming our humility was part of the package for all and any who took roles of leadership and authority? Who would escape a need to pronounce the prayer? At all phases of life, each person asserts himself, accepts duties she may not have sought, asserts power or privilege, prerogative or pettiness is scripted by circumstance or situation. Our lives are not displayed within congregations alone, but before families and over meals, workplace and fitness center, bedrooms and bars, playgrounds and pews.

My clients teach me that the kaleidoscope of roles each souls plays may be overwhelming and exhausting. For every instance of misconduct or malice, there’s all the more reason to seek compassion and context, to weigh and measure our changing roles and challenging responsibilities. We make

mistakes as we improve! Improvement is not for yearly *Yom Kippur* only.

Judaism holds another custom, “*yom kippur katan*,” shared many but not all months, wherein atonement is made for a previous month’s insufficiencies. What if, at a somewhat even pace throughout a year, we examined our lives and roles, parts we played and efforts we undertook, honestly yet compassionately accounting for the impact of our efforts? How soothing for the 50-year-old to kindly frame incidents and accidents in her late teens which shaped a life and career? How redemptive for a grandfather to contact and embrace the grandchild he was six decades earlier? It is wonderful to watch a 16-year-old nurture a six-year-old; now consider what motivates such adolescent empathy!

This is not to approve of a past infidelity, sanction unethical business or professional lapses, or encourage betrayal of confidence or slews of unkind verbiage so reflexively loosened upon or about others! No, right is still a standard and goal. But if we will not forgive the excesses of a period in life when we understood less, when comprehension was somehow incapacitated, how cold shall our hearts grow, how bitter our inner lives, how shallow and banal our virtues?

The *siddur* teaches Life is renewed daily; such renovation includes flesh and blood, from a rabbi delivering the eulogy to the bereaved congregant lost in pain and memory, from a middle school bully to the victim she mercifully chooses to leave alone one day at recess. We can reverse wrongs and relate to ourselves, hence others, by being in deeply conscious contact with cracks and crevices that somehow hold together and hold us up as we make our way through our decades. Whether a New Year enters or continues, be it at *Kislev* or December, the time to be kinder is now.

The past is not a tool for indictment and accusation but a teacher and healer, whose instructions once seen and placed in our hearts make for the “happiness” sought – whether in realms secular or officially deemed sacred. We proclaim *Shema* to affirm Divine Singularity – let those created in The Holy Image work towards the unification of all that we were, all that we are, and all that we might yet be and become! Happy New Year!

Rabbi Steven M. Leapman, LMHC, LCAC is licensed as a clinical addictions and mental health counselor in the State of Indiana. He is a former US Navy / USMC chaplain who currently serves a staff therapist at Samaritan Counseling Center in South Bend, Ind. He is interested in pastoral and general counseling, bereavement and loss, interfaith relations, and creative writing. ✨

Greetings

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Theater Review

REVIEWED BY CHARLIE EPSTEIN

Amadeus, an ambitious production

The Booth Tarkington Civic Theatre gave a bold presentation of the play, *Amadeus*. *Amadeus* is thought to be a fictional account of the relationship between composers, Salieri and Mozart. Mozart was Salieri's rival. The resentment of Salieri to Mozart's musical talent turned into an intense hatred of Mozart's genius. Peter Shaffer's play is overly long, but the Civic's production did not seem so. In a conversation with the director, Robert Sorbera, he jokingly referred to the play as a "three hour Salieri monologue."

John Michael Goodson was superb as Salieri. Talking to the audience for much of the show is a difficult task. At times he started his monologues too high and loud. Thus he had no place to go. Goodson carried the show wonderfully.

As Mozart, Jeremy Allen Brimm gave an energetic and delightful performance. Adam O. Crowe was authoritative as Count Orsini-Rosenberg. Alan Whaley was royal and funny as the emperor. Mikayla Anne Reed was a fiery, Constanze, Mozart's wife. Members of this talented cast had to speak many languages, but did it with ease.

The technical side to this ambitious production was very difficult. The set and lighting design by Ryan Koharchik was excellent. The costuming by Jean Engstrom was lavish. Robert Sorbera expertly blended the technical with the acting to make a very successful result.

Epstein, from Indianapolis has been theater, movie and the performing arts critic for The Jewish Post & Opinion – Indiana Edition for more than 35 years. Read more of his work on his blog at: <http://charliethecritic.blogspot.com/2011/04/charlies-background.html>. This one was posted Nov. 5, 2011. ☆



L-R: John Michael Goodson as Salieri and Jeremy Allen Brimm as Mozart in The Booth Tarkington Civic Theatre's production of *Amadeus*. Photo credits: Julie Curry.

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