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 December 18, 2015  
**50¢**

# The Review

## Hamtramck

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## Quick Hits

John “Hippo” Hynarowicz may be retired from driving a bus for the public schools, but he will never forget the students he drove.

Hippo also has a big heart. He and his fellow Alhambra members from Warren, Caravan 262, once again purchased 115 turkeys, thanks to a super deal from Srodek’s Sausage Co., that were distributed to the families of Hippo’s former students, most of whom had special needs.

On behalf of many folks, thanks guys!

**Holiday hours ...** For the next two weeks The Review a printing schedule will have new deadline. For the Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 issues you will need to get your classified ads in by Monday of each week.

The same goes for submitting any kind of ad or public notice.

Happy Holidays, readers!

## Quote of the week ...

**Who said this, and what is it about?** You can find the quote and the story it belongs to somewhere in the pages of this issue.

**“Religions are about love – not hate.”**

— **HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD** —

## The Joy of Christmas

**From the publisher:  
 The hallmark of Christmas**

**By John Ulaj**

The time is fast approaching where we will usher in the holidays and the new year. I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, as well as a prosperous year ahead.

Often, we celebrate Christmas with an exchange of presents, or by other material means. But afterward, we often still feel a palpable void, an emptiness that indicates that something remains unresolved.

What’s lacking in our lives?

Just the other day I was speaking with a friend, who happens to

be a small business owner, who was feeling very discouraged about life in general. I felt compelled to remind him of all the blessings that God has provided to us: Fine health; our children, wives and friends; prosperity.

I encouraged him to be of good cheer, and to find strength in God’s bounty. I also reminded him that there was a reason he was here: to become a shining light in a dark world. He seemed to marvel at my words, and thanked me for them, saying they had “made his day.”

My point is, we all need to help strengthen one another; there will be days when you may be strong where I am feeling

weak, and this illustrates the importance of being one’s brother’s keeper.

There’s the old saying that “no one is an island” – in fact, these concepts have long been hallmarks of our churches: helping the needy or bereft, be their needs material, spiritual, or some combination of the two.

Without Jesus Christ, the Son of God, there would be no Christmas. He brings that hope of salvation.

We can all-too-easily come to dwell on our past difficulties or failures, or wallow in self-pity. Or, we can chose to reflect on all the wonderful things we are blessed with on a daily basis and rejoice, praising God appropriately for His every “good

and perfect gift.”

Why give thanks during difficult times, you may ask?

The main reason is that it causes us to shift our focus, because we must look up rather than down. Psalms 107: 21-22 affirms this: “Let them give thanks to the Lord for His loving kindness, and for His wonders to the sons of men! Let them also offer sacrifices of thanksgiving, and tell of His works with joyful singing.”

Many of us will experience some sort of difficulties from time to time. We must remain grateful, and focused on the Provider, not

**Continued on page 8**

## Fire safety rating gets an increase

**By Charles Sercombe**

Looking for a break on the cost of home insurance here in Hamtramck?

If so, the city has some helpful news.

The Insurance Service Offices (ISO) recently upgraded the city’s ability to fight fires from a Class 5 to a Class 4.

The ISO rating is used by most insurance companies in determining your homeowner’s insurance premium. Homeowners can use this new rating to challenge their current insurance cost.

A Class 1 rating is the best while a Class 10 rating is the worst.

Fire Chief Paul Wilk credits the better class rating to the increased amount of training by the Fire Department, the Auto-Aide Response Agreement with Detroit, and the hard work and dedication of the city’s firefighters.

City Manager Katrina Powell attributed the work of the Fire Department for the good news.

“Kudos to the Fire Department and to our DPW department that assisted with the analysis. Great job,” she said in an email.

In recent years the number of house fires in the city has dropped dramatically. There are now only about two or three major house fires each year. One of the major factors for that decrease is the city has aggressively demolished vacant homes that are beyond repair.

**Continued on page 2**

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**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year**



# Fire safety rating gets an increase

Continued from front page

Another reason is that Hamtramck housing stock has once again increased in value. In the tax sale held by Wayne County each year, Hamtramck houses are quickly bought up and occupied by either the new owner or renters. That increase in value has translated into keener awareness of fire safety, said Wilk.



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# Muslim community rallies in the name of peace

By Charles Sercombe

Last Friday Hamtramck’s Muslim community sent out a message to the world that Islam is a religion of peace.

About 200 people, mostly men from Hamtramck’s Bengali and Yemeni communities, held a rally in Zussman Park on Friday afternoon. The event was organized by a new group called United and Concerned Citizens of Hamtramck.

Some 20 speakers, many who spoke on the fly, talked about Islam and railed against those who commit terrorist acts in the name of that religion.

“Muslims are the biggest victims of ISIS

and its terrorism. We are just as shocked and horrified as all other peaceful citizens across America,” said Mohammed Kamrul Hassan in a press release issued at the rally. “No religion condones the murder of innocent civilians, barbaric beheading of scholars or desecration of houses of worship. Religions are about love – not hate.”

On the scene were several television news stations and other media outlets. The rally lasted for an hour.

Several of those attending held banners and signs.

“We denounce ISIS and condemn terrorism

against humanity,” said one banner.

Frank Woodman held up a sign saying: “We stand with our Muslim neighbors.”

Mohammed Islam said there has to be a two-pronged approach to terrorism in this country: Not to allow extremism and gun control.

He also added that parents need to watch what their children are looking at on the internet. Those who fall prey to violence, he said, are “misguided.”

Ibrahim Aljahim noted that some of the backlash from non-Muslims in this country is the result of ignorance. There is a perception of some that once


Muslims take control of local governments, there will be Sharia Law.

There were some reports in conservative media outlets that when Hamtramck’s city council became a Muslim majority Sharia Law went into effect.

“There will never be Sharia Law, ever, ever, ever,” he said.

The rise in terrorism, Hassan said later in the meeting, is making some members of the Muslim faith to question where their religion is going.

“The entire Muslim world is at a crossroads,” he said.



## School Bell

### Kosciuszko Middle School News

On Friday December 11, Kosciuszko’s student council held their first annual Multicultural Night: “One Night, One World.”

Juan Rhodes was the show’s master of ceremonies. Anisul Hoque and Amdadur Ahsan led the crowd through a journey of Hamtramck’s history.

Seven students shared positive words in seven different languages. They were: Adej’a Woolfolk (Italian), Eifat Ayrin (Spanish), Saarah Iqbal (Ukranian),

Tahmin Fathmee (Polish), Cobie Patterson-Henderson (French), Mohamed Elhady (Arabic) and Jannatul Chowdhury (Bengali).

The show consisted of eleven different performances. Juan Rhodes rapped while Da’Shaun Morris, Katelynn Kidwell, Dana Slaton and Jannatul Chowdhury sang.

We had several different dances performed by Da’Shaun Morris, Dana Slaton, Sumit Dhar, Rayid Shamakh, Ramzi Mohamed and Maher Aiyash.

In addition, Fayaz Bakkar and Benjamin Grebovic presented original artwork. It was a beautiful evening of sharing different cultures and the Kosciuszko staff was extremely proud of our students’ talent.

Kosciuszko Middle School is proud to announce the students of the month for December: Shazmina Ahmed, Thair Alwajeeh, Fayaz Bakkar, Nadija Basic, Lejla Begulic, Thasina Begum, Mustakim Choudhury, Taufiq Choudhury, Andrew Daka, Mohamed Elhady, Anisul Hoque, La’Chanty Jones, Shakil Koysar, Dae’Juan McWilliams, Melisa Music, Rayid Shamakh, Sharmin Siddiquey and Suria Tarver.

### Hamtramck High School News

• Monday, January 11 at 5 p.m. Hamtramck High School is hosting FAFSA Night – Getting Money for College in the school auditorium. Parents and students will learn how to apply for financial aid and

scholarships for college.

### Holbrook Elementary School News

• Wednesday, January 6 – Muffins for Moms Meeting to be held at 8:30 a.m. All Moms are encouraged to attend.

• Thursday, January 7 – Donuts for Dads to be held at 8:30 a.m. All Dads are encouraged to attend.

• ESL classes will begin the second week of January. Please contact Holbrook School if you are interested in signing up at (313) 872-3203.

• Wednesday, January 13 – PTSA (Parent Teacher School Association) meeting at 8:30 a.m. All parents are welcome to attend.

• Tuesday, January 19 – Parents of Great Students (P.O.G.S.) meeting will be held at 10 a.m.

### Early Childhood Elementary School News

Early Childhood Elementary celebrated pajama and winter stories day on Wednesday, December 9. One of several books read was “The Polar Express.”

The book was written by local Michigan author, Chris Van Allsburg. The book is set partially in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the author’s home town.

It was adapted as an Oscar nominated motion picture film in 2004. At the premier of the movie, Van Allsburg stated that Pere Marquette 1225, formerly owned by Michigan State University and now owned by the Steam Railroading Institute in Owosso, Michigan, was the inspiration for the story line.

Van Allsburg stated that he played on the engine as a child when it was on display and was inspired by the number 1225, which to him was 12/25 – Christmas.

Continued on page 9



**Holiday Sale!!!**

Sale runs 12/11 /15 thru 12/24/15  
Shop is closed 12/25 thru 1/5/16

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Tuesday 2 – 6pm  
Wednesday  
Thursday  
Friday  
Saturday 10 - 5pm

# This week at the library...

**Citizenship Classes** – Tuesday, December 22, 5 p.m.; Hamtramck residents can get help in preparing for their citizenship exam. Classes are free. Registration is required.

**Bookflix** – Tuesday, December 22, 4 p.m.; Join us for a reading of the Holiday Classic. “How the Grinch Stole Christmas,”

and a viewing of the movie. (Light refreshments provided)

**Movie Night** – Wednesday, December 23, 6:30 p.m.; Die Hard

**The Library will be closed** – Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25 for the Christmas Holiday.

**Michigan Activity Pass** – The pass will enable Library card holders to obtain a one-time free entry into any Michigan State park or recreation area, and free entry into over 100 participating cultural institutions. Ask at the circulation desk for more details.

For more information about events at the library call (313) 365-7050, or visit our website at <http://hamtramck.lib.mi.us> where you can also access our online catalog.



# Second Front Page

## A Christmas tale for today and tomorrow

By Greg Kowalski

For a while, on a recent Sunday afternoon, we took a look at Christmas Past in Hamtramck. The venue was the Hamtramck Historical Museum where we had cookies, coffee and cocoa to go along with PowerPoint presentation of photos going back to the 1930s of Christmas being celebrated in Hamtramck.

For old-time Hamtramckans, there were a lot of familiar faces and sights. Mayor Al Zak was at the park, Fr. Peter Walkowiak, pastor of St. Florian Church, was shown standing by a crèche in about 1938, and we got to see various photos of Jos. Campau decorated for the holidays.

There even was an assortment of Christmas ads from some of the old great stores including Max's Jewelry, Kresge's dime store and Federal's. For those of us who grew up in Hamtramck, those stores were the places to shop, especially during the Christmas season.

I can still remember walking with my mom and sister up one side of Jos. Campau and down the other.

We'd start with dinner at Nichol's, then hit all the dime stores, and maybe Jeanette's book store to pick up some Christmas cards or the Better Made store to get some incredibly fresh

chips to take home. Or we might stop at Sweetland's for candy. It seemed we could find whatever we needed on Campau.

Things change, of course. Mom is gone. So is Mayor Zak and Fr. Walkowiak, and Jos. Campau isn't nearly what it used to be.

But nobody lives forever, at least not on the earth, and buildings, like people change and eventually die too. Even the Hamtramck Historical Museum is housed in a building has gone through many changes in its long lifetime. It originally housed the Wisper and Schwartz department store nearly 100 years ago. That was Hamtramck's first department store. Talk about history.

Even old-timers don't remember Wisper and Schwartz, although many people do recall the later use of the building as a barber school. A lot of our visitors say they got their hair cut there – for better and for worse. That wasn't the only other use for the building. It also was a dollar store for a time and it sat vacant for a couple of years before it found new life as the museum.

At the presentation, we also showed some scenes that don't change. There was a photo of the "kids' table" at a Christmas dinner

years ago. Anyone who has a large family and small house will recognize that. And there was a photo of a Christmas concert at St. Florian, with a choir singing. That could have been taken nearly a century ago instead of less than a year ago.

Some things are consistent. They give us anchors as we grow older. Links to the past that we hold dear, although it's usually best not to look too closely at those ties since the "gold ol' days" never were all that great.

We know because we are surrounded by the past at the museum. We have a thorough understanding of the good and the bad parts of our history, and one thing we have learned is that it is good to study the past, to know it and understand it. But our eyes are on the front of our heads, not the back. You have to look forward.

We're doing that at the museum in a way that ties into this brief Christmas tale. The museum has brought new life into a building that was essentially dead. Maybe this is a more appropriate theme for an Easter story, about resurrection. But this is a tale of birth too. Of creating something new that can grow and have an influence that will expand over the years ahead and generate more growth in the

community.

And like Christmas, this is a plan built on faith, of determination and optimism that so far has proven to be true every step of the way. We have overcome enormous odds to open this museum, but we never lost faith that we could do it.

Keep that in mind as you look around you.

Hamtramckans tend to cherish their memories. Many times I have heard residents and former residents say this was a great city to grow up in. We played ball in the streets and drove our bicycles between cars, but that was good enough for us.

And Christmas was an extra special time as we all got together.

Hamtramck was one big family, and if you think about it, it still is. There are many people in this town sharing their lives and experiences, building relationships. Whether it's at the local coffee shop, dollar store, a restaurant, mosque or church, we are all Hamtramckans together.

As we go forward into the future our goal is to turn the museum into a community focal point where we can all gather to appreciate everything this city is, all that it was and all it will be for many more Christmases – and other holidays of all nationalities and faiths – to come.



### It's Time to Pray, Please Join Us

We are a Multicultural Parish Family  
Sunday English Mass 9 a.m.  
Sunday School 10 a.m.

Everyone is Welcome to Worship with Us

Dec. 24 - Vigil of the Nativity of our Lord 9 a.m.

Holy Mass., 11:30 p.m. Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long

12 - Midnight Shepherds Mass (Pastorka)

Dec. 25 - Solemnity of Nativity of our Lord 9 a.m.

Holy Mass.

Dec. 26 - Feast of St. Stephen, Proto-Martyr

10 a.m. Holy Mass. (Msza w. w języku polskim)

Dec. 27 - Solemnity of Humble Shepherds

9 a.m. Holy Mass.

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**Christmas Season 2015**

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**Saturday, December 12**  
Sacrament of Reconciliation .....11:00 am

**Saturday, December 12**  
Healing Mass (Anointing the Sick) .....5:30 pm

**Thursday, December 24** • Christmas Eve Family Mass English .....4:00 pm  
Midnight Mass (both Polish and English) .....12:00 midnight  
Preceded by singing of Christmas carols (koledy) at 11:30 pm

**Friday, December 25** • Christmas Day Mass (English) .....8:00 am  
Christmas Day Mass (Polish) .....9:30 am

**Thursday, Dec. 31** - New Year's Eve Mass (English) .....5:30 pm

**Friday, Jan. 1, 2016** - Solemnity of Mary (English) .....8:00 am  
Solemnity of Mary (Polish) .....9:30 am

## Hamtramck Public Schools

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December 24	9:00 a.m. - Vigil of the Nativity of Our Lord Holy Mass 11:30 p.m. - Christmas Carol Sing-a-Long 12 Mid - Shepherds Mass (Pasterka)
December 25th	9:00 a.m. - Solemnity of Nativity of Our Lord Holy Mass
December 26th:	10:00 a.m. Feast of of St. Stephen, Proto Martyr - Holy Mass (Msza Św. w języku polskim)
December 27th:	9:00 a.m. - Solemnity of Humble Shepherds Holy Mass

~ Serving the Hamtramck Community ~

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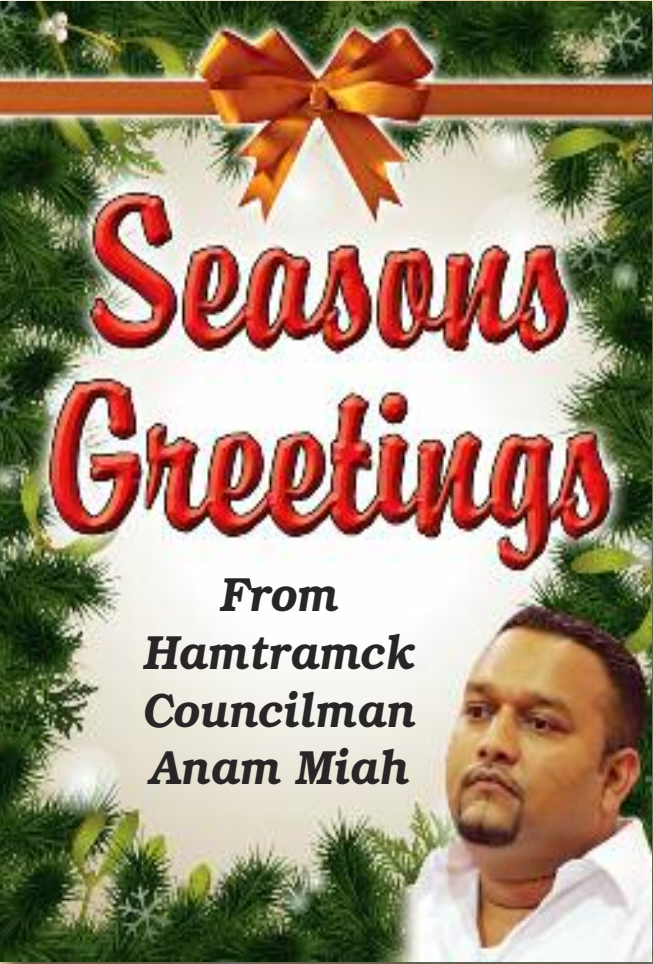


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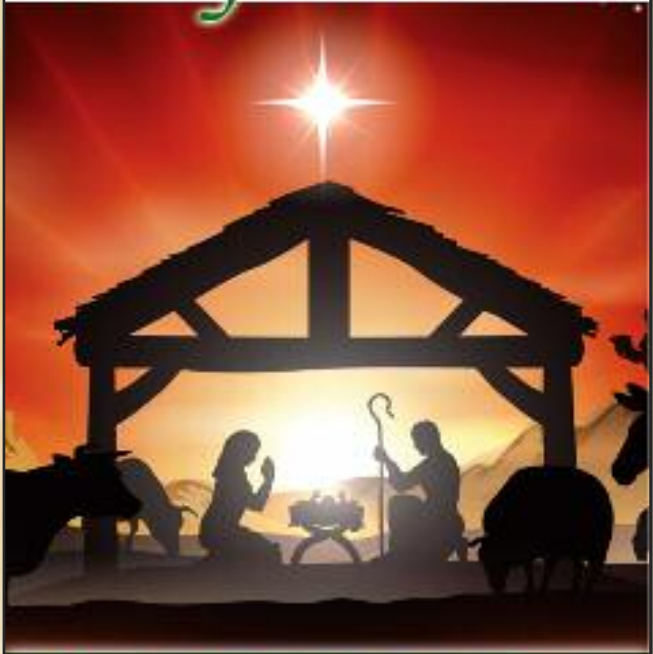
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Greetings

From  
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Councilman  
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from my  
family to  
yours.



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Max Garbarino







From  
Everyone  
at



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and  
Happy New Year*



from Schoolboard  
Member Dennis Lukas



**Merry Christmas  
& Happy New Year  
Wesolych Swiat**



from Schoolboard Member Hedy Shulgon

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and  
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*Gordon, Jackie &  
Daisy*

*To: You  
From: Us*

**Merry Christmas**

from Schoolboard Member Jackie Starr & Family





*Merry  
Christmas  
and Happy  
New Year!*

from Everyone at The Review

**Merry Christmas!**



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Have a safe and happy New Year!**  
— Councilman Ian Perrotta

*Happy  
Holidays*



from  
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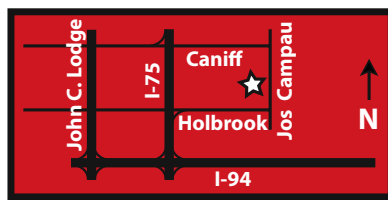


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**Magdalena Srodek  
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## Scenes from The Review's 2015 Christmas party

Review Publisher  
John Ulaj continued his holiday tradition of hosting a party for friends and advertisers.

This year the fun took place at the newly opened Polka Dot bar on Brombach and Yemans.

Food was catered by Polish Village Café.



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The Hamtramck Review

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# Scenes from The Review's 2015 Christmas party





# From the publisher: The hallmark of Christmas

Continued from front page

the provisions. In Ephesians 5:20, Paul reminds his readers that we are to “always (be) giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father.” Paul also counsels the Colossians that, “Whatever we do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”

Sadly, we live in a world today in which some seem bent only on the destruction of civilization. These individuals would do well to focus on the familiar holiday phrase, “Peace on Earth.”



John Ulaj  
Publisher

The first advent occurred in a manger: the birth of Christ, a symbolic gesture of God’s unconditional love for the world. The second advent takes place when Christ (God in the flesh) descends from heaven and redeems human-

ity from self-destruction. Giving thanks for all things in life was once – and shall remain – the hallmark of Christmas. May the hope that was born that first silent, holy night remain in your heart throughout the entire coming year.

A Merry Christmas to all!

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## Coming events

**SATURDAY, Jan. 9, 9-3 p.m.** – Hamtramck’s Re-cycle Center is open at Caniff and McDougall. Drop of your recyclables for free.

**WEDNESDAY, Feb. 17, 7 p.m.** – The Hamtramck Midtown Block Club will not meet during December 2015 and January 2016. In 2016, the block club will meet Wednesday, February 17, at 7 p.m. in St. Florian’s Convent, 2626 Florian; please use the side entrance. Share information with your friends and neighbors and listen to guest speakers. Light refreshments will be served. Please invite others to join us.

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# Odds & Ends

**Giving ...** The good folks at Holy Cross Parish collected 120 toys, many of them coming from Mom & Pop’s Toy Shop on Jos. Campau, and donated them to Friendship House.

That donation will go a long way in making many kids have a happy Christmas.

Now that is truly the spirit of the season.

**Light up ...** We didn’t have much space in

this week’s issue, but we would be remiss if we didn’t mention what a great get-together many enjoyed last Thursday at Zussman Park.

The city held a seasonal lighting ceremony

there, and about 100 folks gathered to celebrate the new renovations at the park.

The city has done a great job in breathing new life in this park.

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12/18

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Rwanda's civil war offers  
a lesson in forgiveness

By Merima Skapur  
Special to The Review

Recently, Archdeacon Justin of the Rwandan Anglican Church spoke to Hamtramck High School students about the healing, forgiveness, and reconciliation his country experienced following the genocide in 1994.

The stories he shared, many being his own experiences, were too awful to perceive.

Rwanda, a very small country in the heart of Africa, suffered from mass murder totaling over one million casualties in only a 90-day span. The fight began amongst the two ethnic groups called the Hutu and the Tutsi.

The Tutsi were known for owning plenty of cows, which gave them the rank of being the highest caste. The Hutu were known as

the middle caste farmers. Great tension had grown between the two groups and that is when the horrendous war erupted.

As Pastor Justin said: "Genocide was horrible."

A bundle of the three most threatening dangers — starvation, dehydration, and agony — overpowered these people. Pastor Justin said that if you were to see what occurred in Rwanda at the time, you wouldn't believe for a second that this country could become whole again because it is beyond our human understanding.

Everyone thought that Rwanda, a war-torn shattered country, would not be able to return to its existence. But it did and successfully so.

The government brought back order into the country by setting laws to lead peo-

ple's lives. However, the establishment of laws wasn't as effective in the beginning of the recovery process.

Many people were left emotionally and physically scarred for life from the genocide. Many loved ones were killed. It wasn't an easy task to reside in the same society with the person who killed a family member.

However, with the collaboration between the churches and the government, people were able to gradually grant forgiveness to the sinners. This is exactly how every person in Rwanda was able to heal. With the power of forgiveness came peace within each and every soul in Rwanda.

Merima Skapur is a student at Hamtramck High School.



mas Day.

The children learned about the story, and the author and everyone had a good time while sharing hot chocolate, wearing pajamas to school and learning.

The students at the Early Childhood Elementary had the honor to learn the history, music, dance and storytelling of the Ho-Chunk tribe of Native Americans.

The Ho-Chunk tribe, sometimes called Winnebago, are a Siouan-speaking tribe of Native Americans, native to the present day states of Wisconsin, Minnesota, and parts of Iowa and Illinois.

The students enjoyed stories about their traditions, joined in the dance, listened to music and went away with appreciation of

the Ho-Chunk tribe. Today, the two separate federally recognized related native tribes are the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin and Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska.

All Schools

- Saturday, December 19- January 3 – No school for students. Winter Break.
- Monday, January 4 – School Resumes.
- Monday, January 18 – No school. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

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*Merry Christmas*

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<div>  <p><b>\$10 OFF</b>  <b>Your purchase of \$30 or more</b>  <small>Excludes Lottery and money orders. Coupon valid Dec. 18 to Dec. 24. Limit one time use during valid coupon dates. We have the right to reserve the quantity of coupons honored.</small></p> </div>	 <p><b>All Varieties Lay's Family Size or Jay's Potato Chips</b>              9-11 oz. (excludes light, baked &amp; Kettle)  <b>2/\$4</b></p>	 <p><b>All Varieties Stroh's Ice Cream</b>              1.5 qt.  <b>2/\$5</b></p>	 <p><b>Absopure Spring Water</b>              24 pk., 16.9 oz. bottles  <b>\$1.99</b>  <small>Limit 5 with Add'l \$5 purchase. Lesser quantities \$2.50.</small></p>	 <p><b>12 ct. double roll, Cottonelle Clean Care Bath Tissue</b>              12 ct. double roll or Pick a Size, 6 roll pk.  <b>Brawny Paper Towels</b>  <b>\$4.99</b></p>	



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