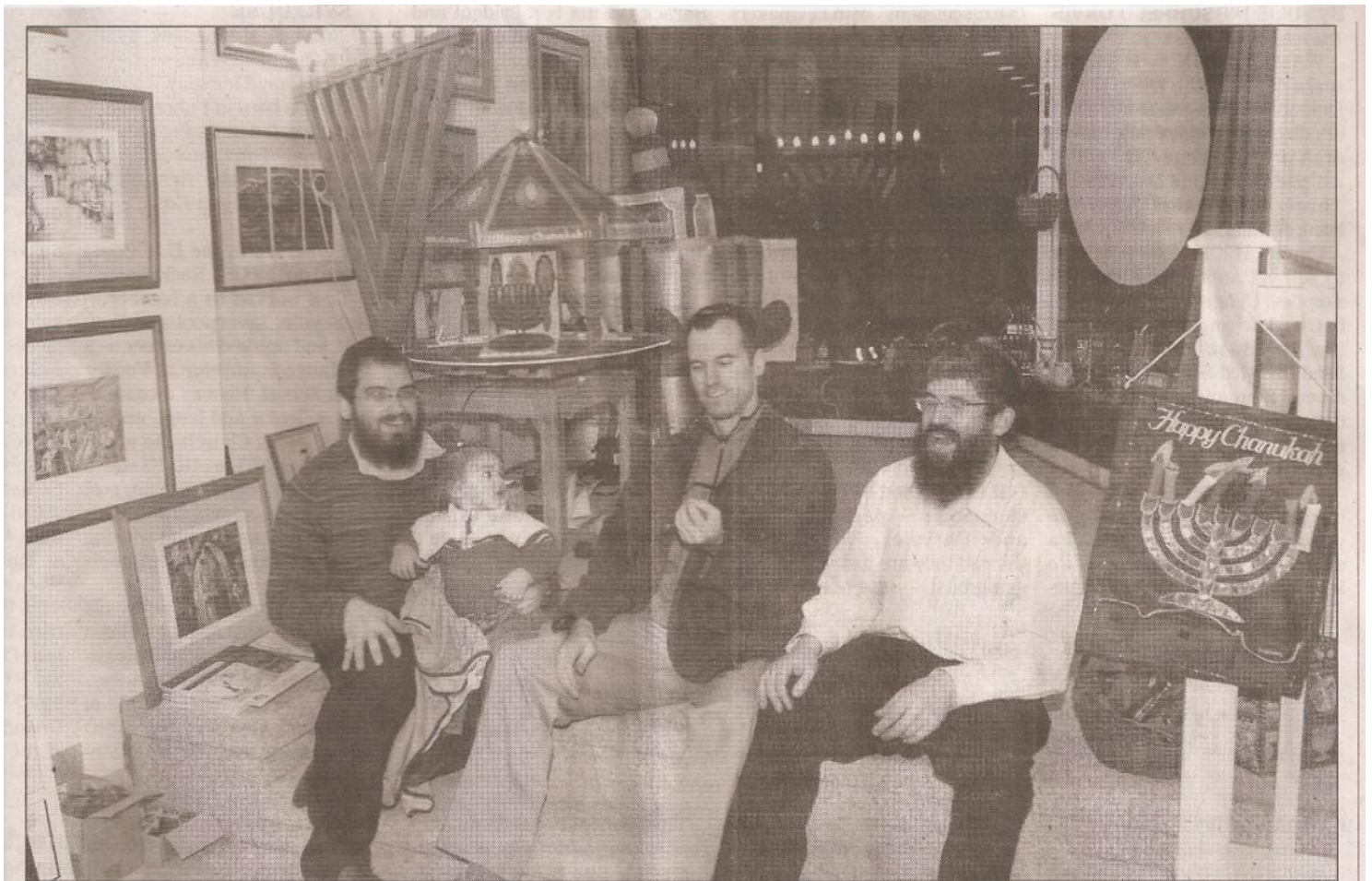


LOCAL

► Rabbi Abba Rubin opened the Saratoga Chabad downtown last month and so far has received about 100 people who came to “spread the light throughout Hanukkah.”
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Rabbi Abba Rubin, right, shares a laugh with brother Shmuel, left, nephew Yitzchak and friend Zaccary Danison, center, in the Saratoga Chabad storefront on Broadway Thursday.

Picture and Story (see below) on Page 3A

Bringing peace through light

Area rabbi spreads Hanukkah's message with Broadway storefront

By ANDREW J. BERNSTEIN

The Saratogian

SARATOGA SPRINGS — Hanukkah, the Jewish festival of lights, is about more than candles and potato pancakes. It's about spreading peace, and one area rabbi is working to bring that message to Broadway.

"The way we can fight evil is to bring more light into the world," said Rabbi Abba Rubin, as he worked to open the Saratoga Chabad's storefront in the Algonquin building Thursday afternoon. "Here is a place where people can come to share light, to do a *mitzvah* (good deed)."

Hanukkah is a traditional celebration that occurs in early winter. The holiday remembers the miracle of a day's supply of oil that burned for eight days. The miracle gave the Jews returning to a demolished temple in Jerusalem time to prepare more oil to keep the temple's eternal flame burning.

"The whole holiday is that you're supposed to bring the miracle to the street by putting the lights in a window," said Abba.

To help spread the holiday's message, Saratoga Chabad maintains a storefront on Broadway each winter.

The store hosted a crowd on Thursday during the Victorian Streetwalk, serving *latkes* — traditional potato pancakes — and donut holes, another traditional Hanukkah food.

The space is set up with vari-

If You Go ...

WHAT: Saratoga Chabad

WHERE: The Algonquin Building, 510 Broadway. Saratoga Chabad has an additional location at 130 Circular St.

ous crafts for children and adults to make dradels, a kind of toy top, decorate hats, and play Hanukkah-themed games. The not-for-profit space is designed for anyone to enjoy.

"We're here to spread the light throughout Hanukkah," Abba said.

The store opened in late November, and Abba said about 100 people had visited so far. He expected about 1,800 people to visit throughout the holiday season.

Hanukkah begins Dec. 21 at sundown and ends Dec. 28.

Abba said the holiday also represents a coming-together for Jews, as the family-oriented holiday is celebrated the same way around the world.

"Everyone lights the menorah, everyone eats the same foods," Abba said. Other Jewish holidays, including Passover, which hold greater religious significance, sometimes have different traditions.

In addition to crafts for children, all provided for free, the space on Broadway is also being



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Rabbi Abba Rubin, right, and friend Robbie Michalofsky cook *latkes* for visitors during the Victorian Streetwalk Thursday.

used to collect food for a Kosher food pantry, and Abba said volunteers have already delivered 400 boxes of Kosher food to pantries around the Capital District.

Abba said he feels that most people know what Hanukkah is, both Jews and members of other religions alike, so while the store's purpose is to educate, it is also about sharing the holiday spirit.

"People can come to share the

warm feeling of Judaica," he said.

Saratoga Chabad has another location at 130 Circular St. The Broadway storefront is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays. The store is open at other times by appointment.

For more information, call 526-0773, or visit www.saratogachabad.com.