

# Yum, it's taste time at OCC in Royal Oak

Oakland Community College's Royal Oak campus will be transformed into a culinary salon as the popular "Taste of Royal Oak" returns Sunday, Nov. 14.

Previously held in December, the event has attracted a loyal following, with last year's crowd numbering more than 1,000. Sponsored by Oakland Community College and the Royal Oak Restaurant Association, this year's event will be held from noon to 4 p.m.

The one-price ticket allows patrons to sample culinary treats from each of the 31 participating Royal Oak restaurants. All proceeds from the event benefit the South Oakland Boys and Girls Club, The Sanctuary, The Salva-

tion Army and the OCC Culinary Scholarship program.

Tickets are on sale now at the OCC-Royal Oak Campus Theater Box Office, the Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce and most restaurants in the city. For details call the OCC-Royal Oak Campus Theater Office at 544-6588 or 544-4903.

Tickets may be also charged by phone, using VISA or MasterCard, by calling 546-4438 or 399-9646. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under and must be purchased in advance.

OCC's Royal Oak campus is located at 739 S. Washington. Free parking is available in the campus' north and south lots, as well as in the college parking structure at Lincoln and Washington.

# Thanksgiving is a time for reflection



RABBI IRWIN GRONER

**MORAL PERSPECTIVES**  
Thanksgiving Day is a festival that grew out of the soil of American democracy. It was nurtured by the religious spirit of the Bible as interpreted by the Puritan faith of the Pilgrim.

Thanksgiving is the only spiritual day that was created by American culture.

Of the 102 passengers who landed at Plymouth Rock in 1620, 51 died within the first six months. The survivors lived on the fringe of starvation in a hostile world. These were the people

who gathered to give thanks to the Almighty God for His blessings and to express their humble dependence upon His mercies for their continuing life and for the freedom which they cherished so deeply that no hardship could quench it.

This festival in later generations was to be sacred to all Americans. It was not to be celebrated on Sunday, for Sunday was the Christian Sabbath or on Saturday, because Saturday was the Jewish Sabbath, or on Friday, because this was a day sacred to Moslem Americans. It was to be celebrated on Thursday, which, in its own way, would become sacred to all Americans — one group no more than the other. Thanksgiving, therefore, became the first,

and perhaps the only religious festival created in America.

As Americans, we have such great reason to offer thanks. The freedom that we enjoy continues to be the flame of hope for millions around the world. We look upon our liberty as our natural prerogative. But it is an opportunity and privilege which ought never to be taken for granted.

Freedom is not provided in the greater part of the globe. Every moment we live without the oppressive consciousness of being watched and regimented, a great gift is ours. We are the recipients of a great benevolence which ought to evoke from us constant appreciation.

We pause this Thanksgiving Day to offer gratitude. We cele-

brate the wonderful gifts of family and friends, the pleasure of companionship, the enriching sense that comes from a pause in our work and a break in our hectic lives. For those of us lucky enough to have roofs over our heads and food on our tables, that part of the celebration should not be taken for granted.

We recognize, though, that this is also a day for compassion. If we care about humanity, if we feel a sense of shared humanity with our brothers and sisters, we will pause to reflect on the fate of the many who are hurting now.

Rabbi Irwin Groner is with Congregation Shaarey Zedek in Southfield. If you have a question or comment for him, dial 953-2047, mailbox number 1862.

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