

The Indiana Jewish

Post&Opinion

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*Bar/Bat
Mitzvah
2009*

Caroline and Dillon Cohen stood on the bima together at Congregation Beth-El Zedeck becoming b'nai mitzvah on Feb. 27, 2009. The Cohens: (front) Caroline and Dillon, (back) Joel, Jordan, and Laura. To read more see page IN4.

My bar mitzvah service project

By Jacob Strauss

Hi, my name is Jacob Strauss. I just had a bar mitzvah on June 20, 2009, and I chose to raise money for Gleaner's Food Bank as my mitzvah (service) project. This project was important to me because I wanted to support a local cause. Seeing the homeless people on the downtown streets begging for food and money has affected me, and I wanted to help. I also saw an advertisement in a recent issue of *Reader's Digest* that said, "One-eighth of Americans are struggling with hunger."

My goal was to raise \$500. I ended up raising \$1,048 with the help of family and friends! I also donated a portion of the money I received as bar mitzvah gifts. At my party after Shabbat services

on June 20, we had local bands and singers play for little or no money to help the cause. We had a garage band from the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra called the Fifth Estate, IndyKlez (a local Jewish folk music group), singer-guitarist Marcie Downing, the Ann McWilliams Trio, Laura Barcelo (a Chilean singer-guitarist), and, to close the night, we had the crossover trio "Time for Three," featuring Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra Concertmaster Zach DePue.

Everyone had fun and supported an organization doing great work in central Indiana. By raising and donating this money, I hope I have made a difference in my community.

The Strauss family celebrated the bat mitzvah of their son Jacob on June 20 at Congregation



Shaarey Tefilla. A luncheon for family, friends and congregants followed services in the CST social

hall with a party in the family's backyard that evening. In addition to friends in central Indiana,

nearly 100 relatives and friends traveled from across the country to celebrate with Jacob.

Melissa Sarat, Evangeline (detail)

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Exhibit: Freddie Kelvin: An Inquisitive Eye

July 14–August 28. Enjoy an exhibit by photographer Freddie Kelvin. He and his camera have captured images of international sites, rehearsals at Dance Kaleidoscope and ordinary people on the street. His perspective is sure to intrigue your mind and perhaps inspire you to pick up the camera too. A retired physician, Freddie is also a member of Photoventure Camera Club. Over a short period of time he has received many ribbons in their competitions. His work has been seen at Patrick's in Zionsville and he will exhibit at the Eagle Creek Coffee Company in Fall 2009.

Yiddish Discussion Group

Meet with others on the first Tuesday of each month at the Arthur M. Glick JCC – for an informal get-together in Yiddish. Next meeting Aug. 4, 1–2 p.m. Free. No registration required.

From “G-d’s Mouth” to Our Ears: Understanding Jewish Texts through Ever Evolving Translation

Camp Melton adult course, led by Rabbi Bruce J. Pfeffer. Aug. 5 (7:00 – 8:30 p.m.). Understanding a text can be difficult if you do not know the original language. Can the message of text be changed when it is translated from one language to another? Is there a “correct” way to translate a text? By comparing various translations, we will explore the meaning of the original text as understood throughout the generations. We will study several texts from the Tanakh and Rabbinic literature. Location: Indianapolis BJE at 6711 Hoover Rd. Cost is \$15 / session. Contact Miles Roger at 317-255-3124 to register or for more information.

Coffee and Conversation

Join Indianapolis Jewish Singles on Sunday, Aug. 9 at 1:00 p.m. at Cornerstone Coffee located at 615 E. 54th St. If it's the second Sunday, that means it's time for a chance to catch up with old friends, and meet new ones in a relaxed and casual

setting. It's a monthly event for a good reason. Hope to see you there!

HHAI Back to School BBQ

HHAI families are invited to a Back to School Barbecue, Sun., Aug. 16, 4–6 p.m. at Sablosky Pavilion, JCC. Come visit with teachers, staff and other Hasten Hebrew Academy families. Kosher hot dogs will be served. \$3.00 per person or \$10 per family.

Shaarey Tefilla Sisterhood Community Garage Sale

Stop by on Sun., Aug. 16, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the CST community garage sale. Concessions will be open all afternoon so bring the whole family out. Congregation Shaarey Tefilla, 3085 West 116th St., Carmel.

JCC Business Network

The next JCC Business Network meeting will take place Weds., Aug. 19, 6:30 – 8:30. Please plan to join us and invite your friends. Grow your business and build meaningful relationships. When you come to this meeting, be prepared to tell us about yourself and your business – what we can do for you and what you can do for us. The Business Network is free to JCC members and first timers. Anyone else, it is only \$5. Pay at the door. Please RSVP to Larry at 715-9233 or lrothenberg@jccindy.org.

IHC Shabbat BBQ and Pitch-In

Following the Erev Shabbat service on Aug. 21, IHC will hold a pitch-in Shabbat BBQ cooked by the IHC Brotherhood. Dinner will be outside on the IHC lawn so bring your chairs, dress casual for worship, and enjoy. The IHC 65th Street Klezmerim will provide entertainment. Cost: \$5 for those 13 and older; children under 12 are free. Please bring a nondairy side dish that serves about 8. Please RSVP to the IHC office by Aug. 18. Call Mimi at 255-6647.

Canoe Trip for Indianapolis Jewish Singles

On Aug. 23, at 11 a.m., the

Indianapolis Jewish Singles group will be meeting for a canoe trip on the Whitewater River with the Cincinnati Jewish Singles group. Meet at the Meijer parking lot, 5325 E. Southport Rd. Car pools leave the parking lot at 11 a.m. sharp. Canoe trip length 2.5 to 4 hours, depending on how high the river is. Cost: \$17.00 plus you might want to pitch in with gas money. Bring your own lunch and drinks. Learn more here: www.meetup.com/Indianapolis-Jewish-Singles/calendar/10864060/.

Discovering the White River

Experience the natural beauty of White River from the water. In cooperation with friends of the White River, JCC adults will paddle from just above the Indianapolis Art Center, past the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, and through Holliday Park on a float of approximately two hours duration. Cost includes transportation, use of livery grade rafts, life jackets and paddles. There will

be a group leader from Friends of the White River serving as guide. Some physical activity is required. A minimum of four adult registrants is required for the trip. Participants must be at least 15 years of age. Transportation provided to and from White River. Trip is Sun., Aug. 30, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. \$30/\$20 JCC members. To register, visit www.JCCIndy.org, or call 251-9467.

Puzzle Master Will Shortz Live at the JCC

Mickey's Corner proudly presents Will Shortz, Indiana native, IU graduate, crossword editor of The New York Times, and NPR... on Wed., Sept. 2 at 7 p.m. at the Arthur M. Glick JCC. Mickey and Will, both puzzle aficionados, will challenge one another and the audience to games of skill and verbal acumen. As always, Mickey will engage his guest in a relaxed, informal conversation that promises to be both entertaining and enlightening. Audience members are invited

to ask questions during the show and will have an opportunity to meet the host and his guest at the end of the show. Tickets: \$5 general public / \$3 JCC member. Registration requested. Tickets first come, first serve.

Coach Bruce Pearl Communitywide Event

On Tues., Sept. 15, University of Tennessee head coach Bruce Pearl will be coming to Conoco Fieldhouse to help kick off the JFGI 2010 Annual Campaign. Save the date and watch your mail for more details!

A Gathering of the Tribe

On Oct. 25–26, the JFGI's Young Leadership will be hosting the Midwest Young Leadership Conference for 21–45-year-olds. There will be speakers, time to schmooze, networking, socializing and a good time by all. The event will be held at the Renaissance Hotel in Carmel. Watch the JFGI website, www.jfghi.org.

Continued on page IN4



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ABOUT THE COVER

Caroline and Dillon b'nai mitzvah

By Laura and Joel Cohen



The Cohens: (front) Caroline and Dillon, b'nai mitzvah Feb. 27, 2009, (back) Joel, Jordan, and Laura.

What an honor it was to go through the process of having our son Jordan become a bar mitzvah two years ago. This time around, it was even more special as both our other children, Caroline and Dillon, stood on the bima together becoming b'nai mitzvah on

Feb. 27, 2009. What a wonderful experience to share as brother and sister and even more special to share as best friends. As parents, it was one of our proudest days.

The weekend was a wonderful testimony to the power of tradition, faith and fam-

ily. The two of us grew up in homes with a strong value of Judaism and looked forward to sharing those practices and traditions with our children.

During the b'nai mitzvah service, our family of five stood together on the bima as we were able to "take in the moment" surrounded by our family. What an amazing feeling, a special day that we will all remember.

Family and friends traveled from near and far to share in our simcha. We began the weekend with a beautiful Friday-night service followed by a traditional Shabbat dinner, candlelighting ceremony and family photos. Saturday services were at Beth-El Zedek followed by lunch at our home for family and out of town friends. An evening party was held

at Broadmoor Country Club. It was all about the kids, all 200 of them as they danced the night away, had character drawings done, took pictures in the photo booth, enjoyed the cupcake buffet and watched a special photo montage of family and friends. It was truly a great day. During the Sunday brunch of bagels and traditional foods, we all took part in a special baby

naming ceremony for our niece.

Life cycles and milestones are what family is all about. Our children were so very fortunate to have had the Torah passed down to them from their grandparents, parents and big brother.

As parents, it was one of our proudest days. As a family, it was one of our proudest moments.

Project SEED Returns!

Experience yeshiva learning first hand. Daven. Learn. Shmooze. August 2 – 6. For more information call Steve Frankel at 726-0585.

Join us for Shacharit/Morning prayers, Mincha/afternoon prayers, and Maariv/evening prayers in the Beis Medrash of

the Rabbi Naftali Riff Yeshiva at Congregation B'nai Torah.

Morning seder/learning begins at 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and includes a shiur/lecture by Rabbi Gettinger. Evening seder/learning followed by a short class is from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Events

Continued from page IN3

jfgi.org, for more information!

Hadassah presents *The Jewish*

American Songbook

The Indianapolis Chapter of Hadassah presents *The Jewish American Songbook*, based on Carmel's new Feinstein Foundation for the Education and Preservation's *The Great American Songbook*. Featuring the music of American-Jewish composers, this program features world-renowned pianist (and Indianapolis native) Richard Glazier. Mr. Glazier will perform "Gershwin – Remembrance and Discovery."

Program will be Sun., Oct. 25 at Meridian Music, Munger Hall, 12725 Old Meridian St., Carmel. Tickets: \$20.00 per person; \$10.00 for students. For tickets and information, contact the Indianapolis Chapter of Hadassah at 317-566-9870.

Correction

In the last issue, we ran a wonderful story about Indianapolis's Intercongregational Men's Softball League. The article should have been attributed to Benjy Ekhaus. We apologize for the inaccuracy.

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Topic: Kitzur Shulchan
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Join us for ...
a barbeque at the shul on
Sunday, August 2, 5PM

a bowling night at
Woodland Bowl (tba)

a softball game/BYOL
at the JCC on Sunday,
August 9 10:30AM



For more details or to sign up please contact Steve Frankel at 726-0585

BAR\BAT MITZVAH

Max Blain Rosenberg



Max Blain Rosenberg was bar mitzvah at Goldman Union Camp Institute (GUCI) in Zionsville, Ind., on Shabbat, June 27. Max is the son of Miriam Rosenberg and Daniel Blain of Shaker Heights, Ohio, and the grandson of Sylvia and Michael Blain of Indianapolis. In attendance were relatives from Cleveland, Israel, New Jersey, Virginia, Florida, Nashville, Tenn., Indianapolis and New York.



Sally Finkle bat mitzvah took place on Oct.11, 2008. *Photo by Scott Romer Photography.*



Ben Mandresh, son of Sari Mandresh and Dr. Robert Mandresh, was bar mitzvah on May 2, 2009. *Photo by Scott Romer Photography.*



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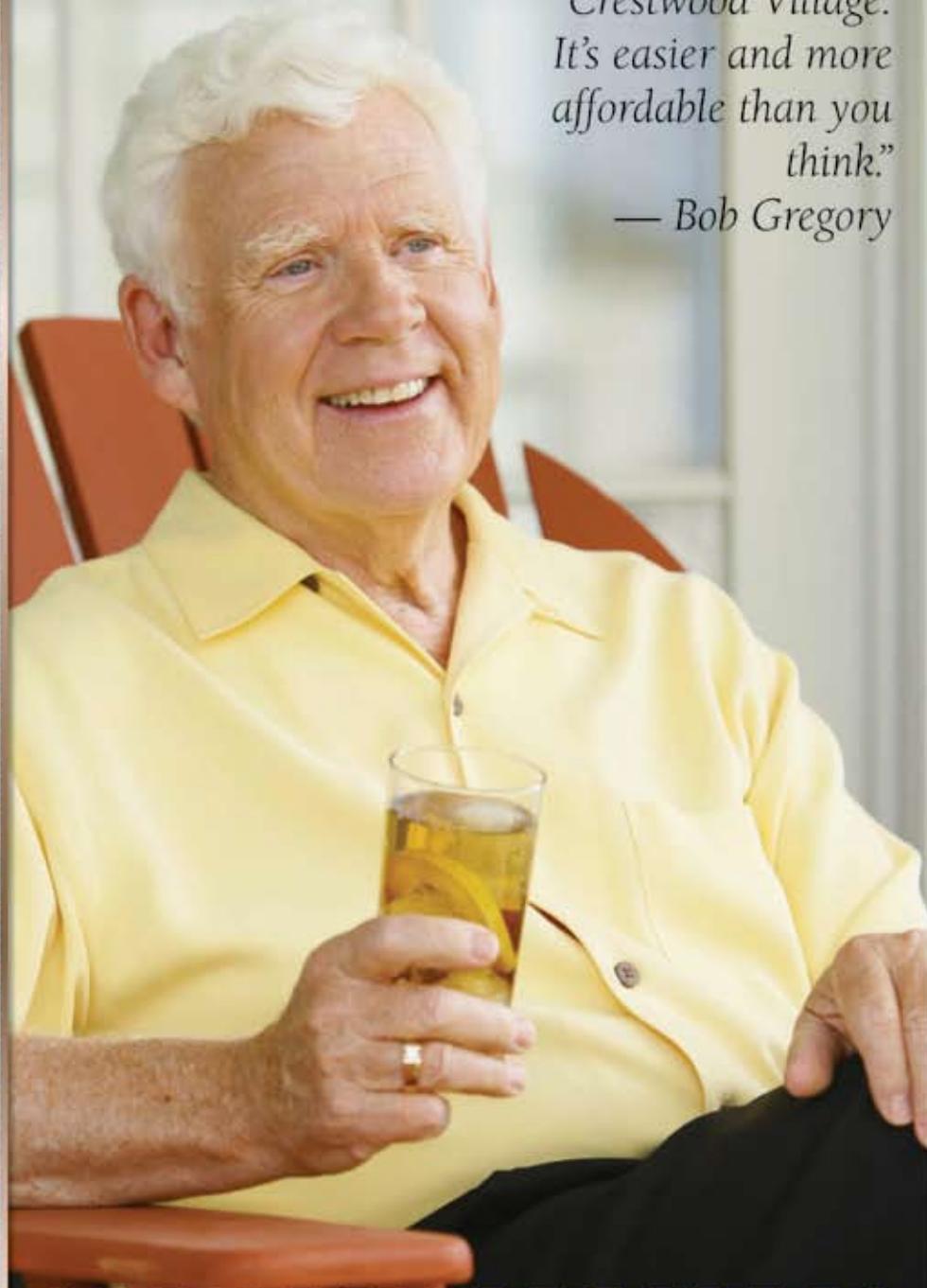


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BAR MITZVAH

Tony Arriaza



Tony Arriaza became bar mitzvah on July 4 at B'nai Torah. Tony tells us his Torah portion was on the two parshas, Chukkas and Balak. Chukkas is about the rules that a Jew must keep, such as the red cow. Some of these rules we know the meaning of, and some we do not. Parsha Balak is a story about a king (Balak) who contracts with an evil prophet to curse the Jewish people. I learned from studying these two parshas that some things are meant to be understood and some not, but even if we do not know the meaning of something we should not judge.

Tony says he was very nervous before going on the Bima and during the ceremony, but he says, "I just decided to put that aside and give my best shot. I was really surprised how well I did because of how nervous I was."

He reports that the most difficult part for him was learning how to read the Torah, and the easiest part was finally relaxing after he came down from the Bima. Tony says he liked all of it but his favorite part was knowing he would

soon be an adult and make my parents proud.

Tony has many people to thank. Rabbi Schusterman helped him learn all of his prayers and how to read the Torah and Haftarah. And many teachers at the Hasten Hebrew Academy helped him prepare since kindergarten.

Tony is not doing a specific mitzvah project but tries to find as many mitzvot opportunities as he can, such as honoring elderly members of his congregation. "I enjoy taking the time to talk to them," Tony says.

Tony is excited that he has become a bar mitzvah, "I think it is really nice because now when I attend the daily minyan, I can be counted as an adult Jew and sometimes I am the tenth man. I am looking forward to more opportunities to do mitzvot."

"My bar mitzvah was special for me and my family because we came here from Costa Rica seven years ago, and on the 4th of July, my family and friends celebrated my bar mitzvah in English, in Hebrew, and in Spanish."

Mazel Tov Tony!

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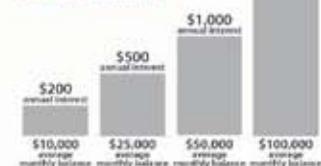
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BAR\BAT MITZVAH



Photos by Scott Romer Photography

Bradley and Nicole Ridge b'nai mitzvah on April 25, 2009 shown with parents, Robin and John Ridge.

Bradley and Nicole Ridge

Twins Bradley and Nicole Ridge stood together on the bima on April 25, 2009 at Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation. These are their words about their bar and bat mitzvah. Nicole and Bradley are the children of Robin and John Ridge, and the grandchildren of Ruth Lazarus and George Edwards of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and Jack, z"l, and Sandy Ridge of North Quincy, Mass. All grandparents were able to attend.

My bar mitzvah

By Bradley Ridge

The torah portion I read was Tazria, from the book of Leviticus. This torah portion was all about G-d informing the Israelites, through Aaron the Priest, along with his sons, about the rules and guidelines for being pure. They also discussed several impurities, such as infections of the skin, and other bodily functions. One of the rituals for becoming pure again included reporting an infection to the priest. Judging by the infection, the person might have to leave the city for a four-day isolation. When they return, there shall be another examina-

tion by the priest. If the infection worsened, it was a leprous infection, and the person was impure. If it had worsened or stayed the same, the person should go through with four-day isolation. Another examination would take place by Aaron the priest, and if the infection had gotten better, once this person had washed their clothes, they would be pure again. The Torah portion also goes into the topic of making a mother and her newborn pure. I learned that the Israelites wanted to show as much respect and loyalty for G-d as possible. One way was to be pure in his vision. People do this now. It would be disrespectful to go into a temple unbathed and dirty. You can learn a lot from any Torah portion.

Before the ceremony I had full intentions of being nervous. I, unfortunately, felt that I could have practiced a little more often before the event, but it went smoothly. The truth is that for any big event in your life, you are going to be nervous. It just happens. But, that feeling you get once you are done is priceless.

The most surprising thing about my bar mitzvah was how

big the synagogue seemed when I was up on the bima, and how much different it was when I was leading the service, compared to when I was observing it.

I had some relatives come from out of town. Pretty much all of my family members were able to make it. Most of my friends live close by, so not many from out of town attended. It was still extremely special to see all of those people there, because that was the last time I might have seen all of the kind-hearted people of my family in one room.

There are definitely cantors and rabbis and Hebrew school teachers who helped me with all of these things. First, I would like to thank Mr. Ford, who first taught my sister and me how to read Hebrew when we lived in Maryland. A large thanks to Cantors Meyersberg and Rogers, too, for their dedication and willingness to help me. Rabbis Adland and Milkow also helped me greatly in understanding my Torah portion.

My sister and I continue to make donations to tzedakah, but also donate money and time

Continued on page IN9



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Ridge

Continued from page IN8

to the Susan G. Komen fund, which funds several breast cancer causes. Our mother was diagnosed with breast cancer just a year ago and survived, and we are very proud of her. To show our pride, and our willingness to help others, we donate to that fund. We have also donated house items to

other facilities in need, such as the soup kitchen.

My least favorite part of the bar mitzvah training had to be the driving to and from practices with the cantors and rabbis. Although it may not seem like I enjoyed them, the practices and lessons were very educational, and helped me become a bar mitzvah. The most difficult part had to be getting up and actually practicing. It was often hard to get started, but once I

did, I enjoyed reading the portion, and learning more and more about my religion. The easiest part is a hard to identify. Becoming a bar mitzvah requires motivation, and you must want it. I guess putting it all together in the rehearsals in the two weeks right before the actual event was somewhat fun and exciting.

I feel good about now having the responsibility to be an adult Jew, following the Jew-

ish laws and rituals. Many kids dislike going to services, but not me. I have no problem with it.

If I had any advice for children who are in the process of becoming bar or bat mitzvah, it would be to stick with it and practice. And when I say practice, I mean read through everything until you feel you could go out there and read it to your congregation right then and there, not just to read it twice, and then set it down. Also, don't get so involved in the party planning that you forget the real point of becoming a bar mitzvah, and don't forget about all the hard work that your parents put into it, to make it even more enjoyable for you. This was a terrific and fantastic event for me, and I hope that future bar and bat mitzvah can share the feelings I felt while going through the process myself.

My bat mitzvah

By Nicole Ridge

My Torah portion was M'tzora from the Book of Leviticus. It was about an eruptive plague on a house and discharge. From studying it, I learned that the priest dealt with anything impure in that

time.

I anticipated being very nervous on the bima. It went great but every now and then I would have to take deep breaths and remind myself to relax.

The most surprising thing about my bat mitzvah was how many people were there. I was also surprised when my dad cried while giving his speech.

I had many out of town relatives and friends that came to see me at my bat mitzvah.

There were both cantors and rabbis that helped me a lot to learn my haftorah and prayers. Cantor Meyersberg worked with me on prayers and haftorah mostly. She is the one who taught me how to read it fluently and understand it. Cantor Rogers taught me how to chant my prayers. Rabbi Adland helped me with a little bit of everything. Rabbi Milkow helped me with my Torah portion summary, D'var torah, and thank you.

For my mitzvah project, I made donations to the Susan G. Komen fund. By doing this I helped a lot of other people who are going through the same thing my mom did.

My favorite part of my bat mitzvah training was the very end. My least favorite part was all of the time it consumed. It was most definitely worth it on the big day though.

I think the most difficult part was when my mom got breast cancer. I kept on training for it, but then it got postponed because my mom was sick, and I had to start all over. It was also difficult learning how to read Hebrew. The easiest part was the celebration.

I feel very mature and confident about being responsible to follow the adult Jewish laws and rituals.

Mazel Tov Nicole!



CRITICS CORNER



Two shows to see

By Charlie Epstein

The Actors Theatre of Indiana is bringing back *Forbidden Broadway* by popular demand to the Mansion at Oak Hill in Carmel on Wednesdays and some Thursdays. The show features Judy Fitzgerald, Jeff Stockberger, Don Farrel and Cynthia Collins in a laugh-filled presentation of clever and risqué lyrics from over 20 Broadway shows. My favorite

was a rendition from West Side Story when two young ladies sing "I am Rita, not Chita" and "I am Chita not Rita." Actually all four performers were hilarious in many different roles. They imitated such luminaries as Liza Minelli, Julie Andrews and Carol Channing. This great dinner show will last through Aug. 27. For further information contact Jennifer Zehr at

843-9850 or on the web at www.actorstheatreofindiana.org.

The other show to see is at Beef and Boards Dinner Theatre. *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* is a very entertaining dance spectacular starting Aug. 26 and running through Oct. 4. This musical is directed by Doug Stark with choreography by Ron Morgan. This show stars super performer Tony Lawson with his fiancé Krista Severeid sharing the starring roles. Audiences will recognize Beef and Boards favorites in the cast, such as Eddie Curry, Doug King, Kenny Shepard, Peter Scharbrough, and Kate Goetzinger. For further information, contact the Beef and Boards Dinner Theatre box office at 872-9664 or on the web at www.beefandboards.com.



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BAR MITZVAH



Benjamin and David Gould, sons of Ken and Susan Gould, b'nai mitzvah on October 18, 2008. Photo by Scott Romer Photography.



Mendy Grossbaum, son of Rabbi Avrohom and Nini Grossbaum of Lubavitch of Indiana, was bar mitzvah on Jan. 11, 2009. Photo by Scott Romer Photography.

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Tennis anyone?

By Jeffrey B. Cohen



WHAT A RACKET—Gracie Cohen, daughter of Jeff and Jen Cohen, wishing she could be part of the Indianapolis Tennis Championships. And one day, she may be.

◀ Israel's Dudi Sela, who helped his country to a Davis Cup quarter-final upset of Russia this month in Tel Aviv, is shown here playing in the Indianapolis Tennis Championships.

◀ Noah Glazier, age 12; Ali Lebovitz, age 13; Sydney Glazier, age 10; and Danielle Lebovitz, age 11 posing at the Indianapolis Tennis Championships.



Top three photos by Jeff Cohen

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No doubt the Indianapolis Tennis Championships will be voted "Tournament of the Year" for a record-breaking 12th time by players on the ATP tour.

Thanks to the tournament's organizers, corporate sponsors, volunteer base, and the thousands of fans who continue to come back year after year, the ITC has consistently staged world-class tennis for the past 17 years. The tournament is presented by Lilly.

Michael Morrison, division co-chair for media relations, said, "The Indianapolis Tennis Championships (is) one of the most favored tournaments by the players on the ATP tour."

This year's draw saw Israel's Dudi Sela seeded second. The Jewish player is currently ranked 29th in the world. Sela made it through to the tournament round of 16 before losing in singles and in doubles.

Indianapolis is the first tournament of the U.S. Open Series' summer season, and once again featured some of the biggest names in the game.

Organizers pride themselves on having a family-friendly event. This year's tournament



Dudi Sela

included themed days including Family Fun Day, Tennis at the Market, Wii Wednesday, and College Night.

The six-week summer season links 10 North American tournaments to the U.S. Open. Now in its sixth year, the series showcases the world's best talent – men and women – as they compete for more than \$30 million in a "regular season" that leads up to a season-ending event at the U.S. Open.

With play beginning in July and continuing every week into mid-September, there's lots to love about tennis all summer long.

Jeff Cohen is a regular contributor to the P&O. He lives in Indianapolis with his wife, Jen, and their two children, Gracie and Izzy. Jeff's passions are his kids, tennis, and photojournalism.

Shaarey Tefilla B'nai Mitzvah Program

The Architecture of the Synagogue

The Bimah – The raised area upon which Jewish worship is conducted. In the Conservative synagogue, any Jewish male or female over the age of 13 may lead a service. A lay chanter is known as the “*shaliach tzibbur*”, while a professional cantor is called the “*hazzan*”. For many prayer readings, the leader chants the opening and closing lines of the selection, while the congregation reads the entire selection silently. Many readings have folk chants that derive from Eastern European melodies.

The Ark (Aron HaKodesh) – The Ark is carved into a niche in the eastern wall of the synagogue as Jewish worshippers face towards Jerusalem in prayer. The ark contains the Torah scrolls, the most sacred ritual object of Judaism. Whenever the Ark is opened, the congregation stands out of respect for the Torah scrolls.

The Ner Tamid (Eternal Light) – The light, which is usually suspended in front of the Ark, represents G-d's presence in the sanctuary. The Eternal Light derives from the lamp that was perpetually lit in the Temple in Jerusalem.

The Shulhan (Reader's Table) – The Torah scroll is read from the reader's table.

Synagogue Etiquette

Shalom! Welcome to Con-

gregation Shaarey Tefilla. As a member of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, Shaarey Tefilla observes the religious practices of the Conservative movement.

All male worshippers and visitors are requested to wear the kippah, the skullcap. Jewish males over the age of 13 wear the tallit, the prayer shawl, at all morning services.

All married female worshippers and visitors are requested to wear some head covering.

Please refrain from writing, cell phone use, photography and tape- or video-recording on the Shabbat. Smoking is prohibited at Shaarey Tefilla at all times.

Please respect the dignity of the service and refrain from engaging in unnecessary conversation. Worshippers are asked to remain seated until services are completed.

As the purpose of prayer is the praise of G-d, applause is not appropriate in the synagogue during a worship service.

General Synagogue Information

The Siddur – The Hebrew term for prayer book means an arranged selection of prayers. Congregation Shaarey Tefilla uses Siddur Sim Shalom, the official prayer book of Conservative Judaism. Hebrew, like all Semitic languages, is written from right to left. The Eng-

lish translation is found on the left side of the page.

The Tallit – Males over the age of thirteen wear the prayer shawl. Recently, many women have chosen to wear a *tallit* as well. The *tallit* symbolizes the Jewish commitment to the *mitzvot*, the commandments of Judaism. The *tallit* has four fringes, which in turn, each have eight strands and five knots upon each strand. This duty is derived from Numbers 15.

The Kippah – Jewish males traditionally wore a skullcap as a symbol of reverence for G-d. The *kippah* (Hebrew) or *yardmulke* (Yiddish) may be made of any material or any color. Married Jewish women wear a head covering as a sign of modesty. Today, some Jewish women wear a *kippah* to express their spirituality.

The Shabbat Morning Service

Psukei D'zimra – Introductory Service – The service begins with a series of prayers of thanksgiving for the renewal of the day. These blessings are followed by recitations of Psalms. The selections set the mood for the core of the *Shabbat* service.

Shacharit – Morning Service – The service begins with a formal call to worship, the *Barechu*, for which the congregation rises. The *shacharit* prayers acknowledge G-d's role in creation, revelation, and redemption. The core of *Shacharit* is the *Shema* and the *Amidah*.

The Shema - Deuteronomy 6:4-9 is the statement of faith of Judaism. “Hear O Israel, the Lord our G-d, the Lord is One. These words are the essence of Jewish belief. The *Shema* is recited upon rising in the morning and retiring in the evening. Jewish martyrs throughout the ages have recited the words of the Shema when they have sacrificed their lives for their beliefs. Men and women recite the Shema prior to their death.

The Amidah – The Standing – Silent prayers form the heart of Jewish worship. On week-

days, the *Amidah* is comprised of requests to G-d. However, on the day of rest, *Shabbat*, the *Amidah* celebrates the joy and the beauty of the gift of *Shabbat* rest. The prayer leader repeats the *Amidah* after the silent reading.

Haftarah – A selection from the prophetic literature of the Bible is chanted. This reading is known as the *haftarah* – the concluding teaching. The theme of the prophetic reading parallels the selection from the Torah. The bar/bat mitzvah chants the *haftarah* from a vocalized text with the musical chants. Our bar/bat mitzvah shares a personal understanding of the scriptural selections that have been read.

Musaf – Additional Service – An additional service is chanted in memory of a second or additional sacrificial gift which was brought to the Temple in Jerusalem on Shabbat and festivals. This gift and today's service are both known as the *Musaf*. The heart of the *Musaf* service is the *Musaf Amidah* which is recited standing. Once the *Musaf* service is completed, the *Shabbat* service concludes with several hymns.

Kiddush – The holiness of *Shabbat* (Sabbath) is acknowledged through the chanting of the *Kiddush* or Sanctification prayer prior to beginning the *Shabbat* meal. Wine symbolizes the joy and the beauty of *Shabbat*. Most congregations and families have a special *Kiddush* goblet for this ceremony. Originally, the *Kiddush* was a home ceremony recited at the dinner table. However, during the Middle Ages it became incorporated into the synagogue service.

Motzi - The breaking of bread marks the beginning of a formal meal. G-d's gift of food is acknowledged through this blessing. Two special loaves of bread – the *challot* – are used at the *Shabbat* table. The two loaves signify the double portion of manna, the food that sustained the Children of Israel

as they wandered in the wilderness for forty years.

The Torah Service

The focus of the *Shabbat* service is the *Keriat HaTorah* which is the reading from the Torah scroll which is parchment upon which the Five Books of Moses are written by a scribe in the original Hebrew. Individuals are honored with opening the Ark and carrying the Torah through the congregation. Worshippers show their love for the teachings of the Torah by kissing the scroll with their *tallit* (prayer shawl) or prayer book as it passes by. Afterwards, the Torah scroll is placed on the reader's desk. The Torah is divided into weekly readings known as *parashot* (portions). Each *parasha* (singular form of *parashot*) is known as the *parashat hashavua* (portion of the week). The Biblical Hebrew found in the Torah scroll is only consonantal; no vowels are represented in the text. Additionally, there is no punctuation to indicate the end of verses or sentences. The text is chanted through a series of traditional musical notations which also are not transcribed in the scroll itself. Therefore, the Torah reader must diligently study and prepare the reading prior to the *Shabbat* service to ensure the correct pronunciation and chanting of the *parasha*.

Congregants may follow the Torah reading in the large red book known as the *Humash*, which is the first five books of the Bible. At the conclusion of the Torah reading, a selection from the prophets of Israel is chanted which is called the *Haftarah*. Congregation Shaarey Tefilla uses the *Etz Chaim Humash*, the official *Humash* of Conservative Judaism.

The Torah selection for the *Shabbat* service is divided into seven smaller readings, known as *aliyot*. The word derives

Continued on page IN14

The Bar Mitzvah Tradition

Jewish children reach their religious majority upon their 13th birthday according to the Hebrew calendar and become known as a bar mitzvah (male) or bat mitzvah (female). These words mean “subject to the commandments” and imply that the person reaching this age is an adult according to Jewish law.

To mark this turning point, it is customary to provide them with an opportunity to publicly fulfill a mitzvah (a religious duty) not heretofore extended. This usually takes the form of being called up to the reading of the Torah to recite the appropriate benedictions. Different communities have different customs as to what the young person is called upon to do. They range from the honor of an aliyah (being called up to the Torah) to conducting part or even the entire service.

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Shaarey Tefilla

Continued from page IN13
from the Hebrew for "ascent" as it is considered to be an uplifting honor to be called to the Torah. Each of the seven honorees recites blessings before and after their readings are chanted from the Torah. Those who are honored during the Torah service are told, "yishar kochacha" – May G-d grant you strength.

The final *aliyah* to the Torah is known as the *maftir aliyah*. Usually it is a repetition of the concluding verses of the previous *aliyah*. This *aliyah* is reserved for the person who is going to recite the *haftarah*, which today is the bar/bat mitzvah. At the conclusion of the *maftir aliyah*, the rabbi offers a special prayer for the bar/bat mitzvah to mark the importance of the first time that the young person has been called to the Torah. Afterwards, the congregation stands as the Torah is lifted and tied. The bar/bat mitzvah continues the service with the chanting of the *haftarah* which is preceded and followed by the recitation of blessings.

Pedal for Peace



Do you enjoy biking either recreationally or for exercise? Come and join the Beth-El Zedeck team as they Pedal for Peace on Oct. 17 from 4 to 10 p.m. at the Major Taylor Velodrome! This 6-hour team bike relay promises to be a worthwhile, memorable, and fun event for bikers of all experience levels.

All proceeds from this year's Pedal for Peace will go to Mar Elias Academic Institution. Mar Elias, located in Northern Israel, seeks to be a world-class university of peace in the Middle East. This school educates Muslims, Jews, Christians, and Druze together in an environment that builds understanding and mutual respect.

For more information including fees and how to register, please contact Shari Levine at bez613@bez613.org.

OBITUARIES

Deb Bercovitz Stewart, 52



Deb Bercovitz Stewart, of Indianapolis, died peacefully on July 15, 2009 surrounded by her loving family after a very courageous battle with leukemia. Deb was born on July 8, 1957, in Indianapolis to Marvin and the late Diane Bercovitz. She graduated in 1975 from North Central High School and went on to attend Ball State University. She is survived by her beloved husband, Terry Stewart; son, Brian Usinger; step-son, Drew (Jessica) Stewart; brother, Dr. Alan (Janine) Bercovitz; father, Marvin (Joan) Bercovitz; and nieces and nephew, Elizabeth, Amy and Nathan Bercovitz. Services took place on Sun., July 19, 2009 at Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary, on West 86th St. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Leukemia Society of America. Online condolences may be sent to www.arnmortuary.com.

Toby Dorman of Sarasota

Toby Dorman, of Sarasota, Fla., formerly of Indianapolis, died on July 16, 2009 at Menorah Manor in St. Petersburg, Fla. Mrs. Dorman was the last surviving child of the late Jennie and Charles Levinsky of Brooklyn, N.Y., and was the widow of Benjamin "Hap" Dorman, a lifelong Indianapolis resident and one of seven children of Ida and Jacob Dorman.

Mrs. Dorman is survived by two children, Ilene (Gary) Klein, Clearwater, Fla., and Jay (Jackie) Dorman, Carmel, Ind.; four grandchildren, Scott (Valerie) Dorman, Sara (Marshall) Kapell, Megan Dorman, Jeffrey Klein; and one great

grandchild, Jonah Benjamin Dorman.

Mrs. Dorman was a mother and a homemaker. She was also employed during her entire adult life retiring in 2006. Her employment included working as a secretary and bookkeeper at Bell Telephone, Seasons Foods, and Ben Dorman Used Trucks and Truck Parts. She also worked as a salesperson at LS Ayres, Steinmart, Burdines, and Macy's, where she often received recognition for outstanding customer service.

She was a lifelong member of Hadassah and a former member of Congregation Beth-El Zedeck.

Services were held Sun., July 19, at Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary, and interment followed at Beth-El Zedeck South Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate contributions to the Kobernick House, Sarasota, Fla., or Menorah Manor, St. Petersburg, Fla. Arrangements entrusted to Aaron-Ruben-Nelson. Online condolences can be made at www.arnmortuary.com

David Friedlander, 40

A beloved son, brother, nephew and uncle, Carmel native David Friedlander died Mon., July 20 in Mill Spring,



N.C., where he had been living for the past year. A multisport athlete, David died doing one of the things he loved most, playing basketball.

The son of the Honorable Ezra Friedlander and Dale Friedlander, and stepson of Linda Friedlander. David had been a co-owner of Penguin Water Systems and Java Express Coffee Co., in Indianapolis. He is remembered as a bright, articulate and gentle young man with a kind heart,

compassion for others and passionate dedication to his family.

"Whatever David did, he put his whole heart into it," Dale Friedlander said.

David was a 1987 graduate of Carmel High School, where he excelled in basketball and soccer. A member of Carmel's 1986 state championship soccer team, David was selected to the Indiana all-state team and went on to play soccer at the University of Wisconsin.

Sports always played a big role in David's life. His mother remembers him looking through the newspaper sports section as a preschooler, and he loyally cheered on the Indianapolis Colts and Indiana Pacers and Indiana University basketball team.

David also was a lifelong learner and voracious reader who could engage in discussions on virtually any topic. "He was always up for a good debate," his father said. "He was so well-read on so many topics." In addition to the University of Wisconsin, David also attended Miami of Ohio and Boston University.

Most important to David was family, and he especially doted on his nieces and nephew. In addition to his parents, surviving David are his sister, Amy Hoffman, of Los Angeles, and half-sister, Devin Hunt, of Atlanta, Ga. Amy and her husband, Todd, are parents to David's nieces, Avery and Sophie; Devin and her husband, Chris, are parents to David's nephew, Elijah.

Also surviving is David's grandmother, Natalie Smulyan. He was preceded in death by grandparents, Sam Smulyan, Anne and Julius Friedlander, and uncle David R. Friedlander. He also was close to his uncles Jim and Jeff Smulyan, aunt Heather Smulyan, great uncle Harold Stolkin, and cousins Cari, Brad and Samantha Smulyan.

"David was the all-American boy," said Jeff Smulyan. "He was absolutely brilliant, a tremendous athlete, devoted to his family, and as kind and likeable as anybody

you've ever met."

Funeral services were held at Congregation Beth-El Zedeck on Fri., July 24. Burial followed at Beth-El North Cemetery.

Those wishing to remember David may make memorial contributions to the CooperRiis Scholarship Fund in memory of David Friedlander, 101 Healing Farm La.,

Mill Spring, NC 28756. or at www.Cooperrriis.org. Contributions also may be made to the David Friedlander Scholarship at Indiana University, I.U. Foundation, Showalter House, PO Box 500, Bloomington, IN 47402. Arrangements: Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary. Online condolences may be sent to www.arnmortuary.com.

SCOTT ROMER PHOTOGRAPHY

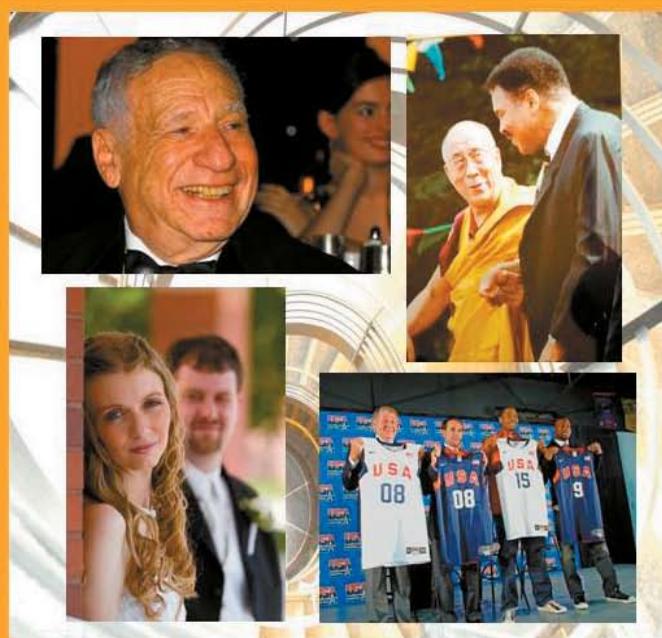
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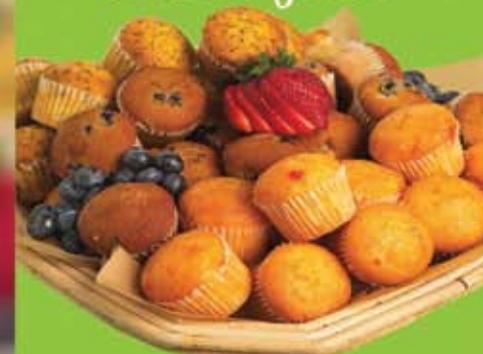
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