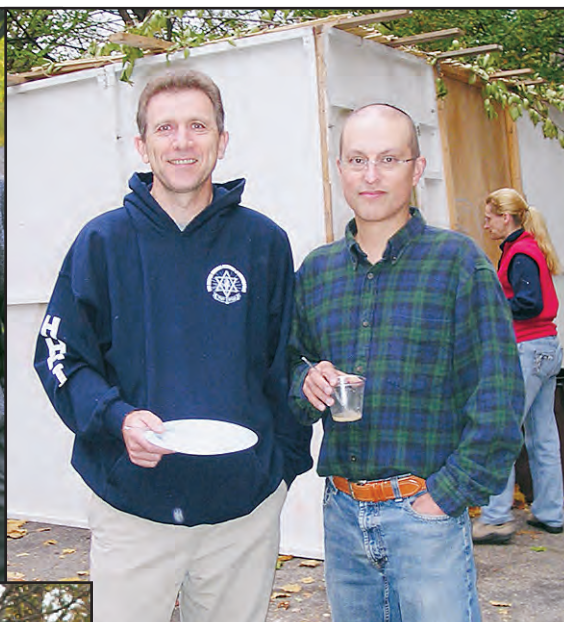


# *The Jewish* **Post & Opinion** • *Indiana Edition*

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## **Celebrating Sukkot at Schusterman Chabad House**





# Editorial

Sunday, Oct. 23 was a full day of activities in Indianapolis with the Indiana Jewish Historical Society (IJHS) annual meeting, the Joshua Nelson concert, and a visit to Hooverwood in between the two. All three events were very meaningful.

The IJHS meeting was held at the Bureau of Jewish Education (BJE) instead of the usual location of Broadmoor Country Club. The reason was to help celebrate the 100th anniversary of the school, the only institution in this country that has survived a century of communal interdenominational Jewish education. Success in pursuing the dream that all Jewish children should be educated together for part of their education is a miracle and testimony to the perseverance of the people of this city.

Two key speakers were Rabbi Paula Winnig, the new director of the BJE and Marilyn Roger who was the first woman president of the board.

The school's founder Rabbi Isaac Neustadt had been visiting from Lithuania to raise money for his yeshiva there. While here in Indianapolis the local Orthodox rabbi died and he was offered the job to replace him. Although it took him 10 years to garner the needed support for the school, it opened Nov. 12, 1911. Over the years much support has come from people and organizations. The board made the big decisions, but the driving force behind the BJE was the auxiliary.

Going forward, the biggest challenge for the BJE is geography as more families are moving farther away from the 46260 zip code. One of the ways they are resolving this issue is with remote classes. Winnig explained that through technology they are able to bring the classes to the students so they can stay at home and still see and interact with the students at the school and the vice versa. We will have photos and more about this meeting in an upcoming issue.

Visiting Hooverwood is always an uplifting experience. If one gets too caught up in one's own daily struggles, a visit to Hooverwood will quickly alleviate those. As I was leaving Hooverwood, I saw Meyer Bronicki sitting by the front door. He told me a matchmaking story.

We have interviewed Bronicki in this publication when two movies about the Beilski brothers were being released. *The Beilski Brothers* from 2007 was shown on the History Channel and the Hollywood movie *Defiance* starring Daniel Craig came out in 2009.

The Beilski's were brothers who organized a group of partisans who hid in the forest

*A great book, said the poet Whitman, must have great readers. Generations of Jews have read the Torah like a love letter, dwelling on each word, uncovering nuances and new meanings, enraptured by its mysteries and elevated by its wisdom. We dance with the Torah on Simchat Torah because it is the Torah, for millennia, that has enabled us to dance. ~ From the Facebook post of Rabbi David Wolpe, Oct. 19*



in Belarus between 1942 and 1944. They provided a safe haven for Jews saving about 1,200 lives during World War II. It was one of the most successful rescue efforts during the Holocaust. Bronicki fought with them as a young man before immigrating to the United States after the war was over.

Bronicki had been asked by a young Jewish woman, a student at DePauw University in Greencastle, Ind., to give a speech at her school about his experiences during the Holocaust. Bronicki said that she was bright, beautiful and also very nice. When he found out she was single, he thought to himself what nice young Jewish man could he introduce her to.

Having worked out at in the gym at the JCC with Dr. Louis Cantor and his wife Linda, he knew of their son of about the same age. He called Linda and asked her if her son was single. As it turned out he was, but by the time you read this, he will not be anymore. The two will have gotten married. Meyer says he will be one of the signers on their *Ketubah*. We hope to have wedding photos in an upcoming issue.

The concert by Joshua Nelson, accompanied by his musicians and 3 back-up singers (one of whom is his brother), was so unique. It was reminiscent of a Shlomo Carlebach concert where the leader was not only a highly talented musician, but also a storyteller who has the ability to involve the entire audience. Nelson has an amazing, strong voice like a cantor which he uses to belt out the words while playing a jazzy piano. With both of these bands, the concerts are so much more than simply good music.

Through the music, the lyrics, and the stories in between the songs, Nelson helped the audience to see our common humanity. With encouraging words, he demonstrated how we can become better people and more tolerant of our differences. Being both African-American and Jewish he has the special ability to

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## The Jewish Post & Opinion

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bridge not only the religion gap between Christians, Jews, and Muslims, but race relations between white and black, and also generational differences. This was evident in the audience made up of people of all ages, races, and religions.

Nelson gave the audience all of himself including coming down from the stage at times. Together with the band, a dance group called the Sacred Dance Institute helped inspire people to sing, dance and clap their hands to the music. The dancers are a Christian group lead by Tiffany Johnson who practice at the JCC Peskovitz Dance Studio. (See photos on page 14.)

I was seated next to a woman who attends Calvary Tabernacle, a Christian church located in Fountain Square in Indianapolis. It was heartwarming when she told me that she wished she knew the Hebrew words so she could better sing along. Needless to say, there is a lot of Jewish goings on here in Indianapolis.

*Jennie Cohen, October 26, 2011* ✨

**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 3). Submit photos and text to: jpostopinion@gmail.com. **Next Deadline: Nov. 14, 2011.** All decisions on publishing, date of placement, size of photo, and length of announcement are at the sole discretion of the publisher.



# Simcha Announcements



## Wedding Announcement

Jennifer Bell, daughter of Brad and Nancy Bell of Indianapolis, and Moshe Hillel, son of Lusi and Mordechai Hillel of New York City were married Sept 25, 2011 in Woodbury, Long Island at Crest Hollow Country Club. Moshe is a podiatrist and Jen works for Birthright Israel Foundation in development and planned giving. They went to Israel for their honeymoon.

~ Mazel Tov! ★



## Birth Announcement

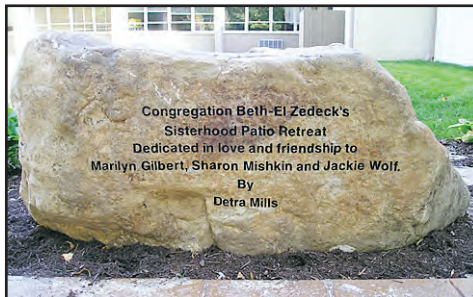
Yitzhak Chaim Annaniel Margolis was born on August 27, 2011 at Shaare Zedek Hospital in Jerusalem. His parents are Simcha (Eddie) Margolis of Indianapolis and the former Sarah Feldman of Toronto. Grandparents are Mary Ann and Samuel (z"l) Margolis of Indianapolis and Joseph and Ann Feldman of Toronto. Maternal great-grandparents are Joseph and Helen Morgan of Toronto. Shown here, he is held by his big brother Shmuel Chovav-Tzion, age 20 months. ~ Mazel Tov! ★



## Art Donation

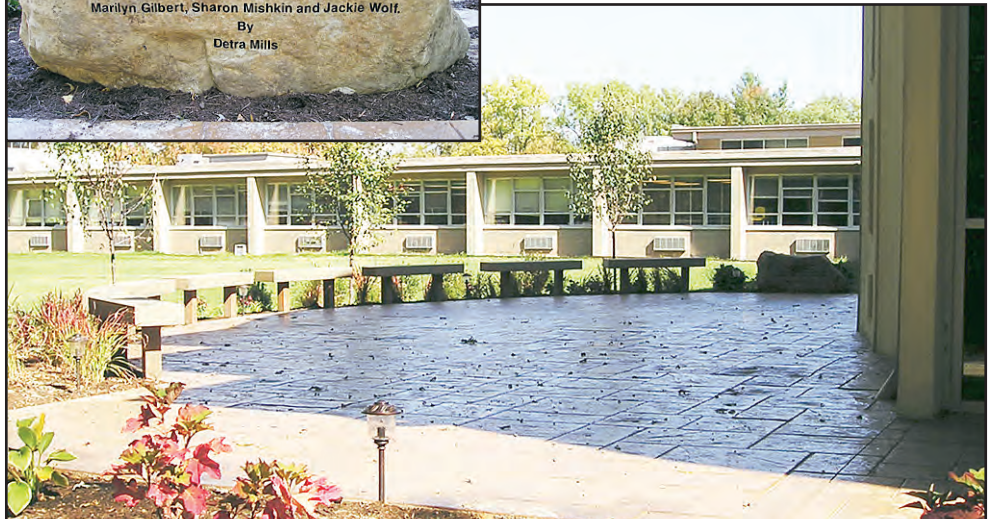
Katherine Soskin (r), artist, photographer, poet and consultant thanks Marc Penner, chief administration of Hooverwood, with a copy of her painting, *Woman's Soul Rising*. This painting was featured on the cover of the Oct. 12 *The Jewish Post & Opinion – National Edition* (see this larger version on our website at: [http://www.jewishpostopinion.com/Jewishpost/NAT\\_10-12-11F.pdf](http://www.jewishpostopinion.com/Jewishpost/NAT_10-12-11F.pdf)). It is a companion piece to her art, *Men's Spirit at the Wall* which she donated to Hooverwood last year at this time.

Soskin has exhibited her art in shows at the Arthur M. Glick JCC, the Carmel library, Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, the 'Atherton' gallery in Carmel and at Agio's restaurant on Mass Ave. in downtown Indianapolis. See more of Soskin's work at [www.ksoskin.tripod.com](http://www.ksoskin.tripod.com). She can be reached by email at: [katherinemsoskin@att.net](mailto:katherinemsoskin@att.net). ★



## Dedication

Dedication for the new Sisterhood Patio Retreat at Congregation Beth-El Zedek, just off its multi-purpose room, took place Oct. 1, 2011. ★





# Community Events

## Trip to Germany, Poland, Czech Republic June 2012

Fishers Junior High teacher and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum fellow and trainer Kelly Watson will lead a trip to Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic in June 2012. The trip is not a school function and is open to interested students from 7th grade on up to adults. The 10-day trip will depart in mid-June and will visit historical sites such as Auschwitz, the Old Town of Prague, and the Warsaw Ghetto Fighters Museum. In addition to Mrs. Watson, the tour will include two other Holocaust historians, a Holocaust survivor and a photojournalist serving as guides. More information can be found at <http://www.eftours.com/>, tour number 1024656. **Reservations need to be confirmed by the end of October.** Interested parties should direct questions to [kwatson@hse.k12.in.us](mailto:kwatson@hse.k12.in.us).

## 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: **Oct. 28, Nov. 25, 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](mailto:karenloftus1956@gmail.com).

## Jews and Christians in Candid Conversation, Part III

Join with others from St. Luke United Methodist Church and Congregation

Beth-El Zedeck for conversation and study of the bible as we explore what Jews and Christians should know about each other and their sacred scriptures. **Wednesdays 7–9 p.m.**

"The Binding of Isaac – What If the Angels Came Too Late?" – **Nov. 2** at Beth-El Zedeck. "Psalms and Healing in Jewish and Christian Tradition" – **Nov. 16** at St. Luke's, 100 W. 86th St. "Reading Isaiah: Jewish and Christian Perspectives" – **Nov. 30** at Beth-El Zedeck.

Free and open to the public. Please R.S.V.P. to the synagogue office at 317-253-3441 or [slevine@bez613.org](mailto:slevine@bez613.org). *This program is made possible by the Alan and Linda Cohen Center for Jewish Learning and Living.*

## 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.

## Cliffs Notes

Cliffs Notes (YLD's Book Club) is reading *The False Friend*, by Myla Goldberg with The Ann Katz Festival of Books & Arts. You can pick up your copy for a special

discounted price at the JCC membership desk. By purchasing your book at the JCC, you will also receive your free ticket to a special private book discussion with the author on **Tues., Nov. 8** at 6 p.m. The program opens to the general public at 7:15 p.m. Hurry and get your book today!

## New Jewish Learning Institute class

The class is: "Fascinating Facts: Exploring the Myths and Mysteries of Judaism" – a fun course in Jewish cultural literacy, full of surprising facts, myths, and mysteries surrounding Jewish tradition and practice.

Led by Rabbi Mendel Schusterman, this class will be held on **Tuesdays, starting Nov. 8.** (See a full description on page 13.)

## JCC Business Network

The next meeting will be on **Nov. 16**, at the JCC, 6701 Hoover Rd. RSVP to Larry Rothenberg [lrothenberg@jccindy.org](mailto:lrothenberg@jccindy.org) or call 317-715-9233.

## Mr. Blair's Open Mic Group

Mr. Blair Karsch and the On Your Level Youth Project will once again host Indianapolis' premiere youth open mic events, which have produced standing-room-only crowds at previous events. This is the largest all-city event with a focus on youth expression through spoken word. There's even room for adult performers as the evening allows. Come one, come all. This event will be an open stage for all ages to perform and practice any form of spoken word entertainment. Poetry, prose, (see Events, page 6)

## What is this Couple Smiling About? The Benefits of Dental Implants!

- Enjoy A Crisp Apple • Bite Into A Juicy Steak • Eat Corn On The Cob With Confidence
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# Anita Diamant – Celebrating women's friendship and human resilience

By SUSAN LERNER

As a girl who dreamed of becoming an actress, Anita Diamant had no idea she would grow up to become a journalist. Raised in a non-observant household, she couldn't envision that in her adult life she would pen books about Jewish life that would break new ground by cataloging and expounding upon the array of rituals possible in modern Judaism. Diamant never thought that mid-career with several nonfiction titles to her credit, she would decide to challenge herself, break genre, and try her hand at novel writing. She couldn't imagine that her first novel, *The Red Tent* would become a bestseller, a mainstay of book clubs everywhere.

Diamant's original idea for her first novel was to write a story about the relationship between Rachel and Leah. Realizing she couldn't pinpoint a storyline – “there had to be more to that relationship than fighting over who gets to sleep with Jacob” – she found herself drawn to the story of Dina. “It struck me that there's a great mystery at the center of Dina's story, as the Bible doesn't give her a voice. That intrigued me.”

Diamant doesn't consider *The Red Tent* a Jewish novel. “The novel is set in pre-Sinai time before there was anything anyone would call Judaism. I consider *The Red Tent* a historical novel more than a biblical novel. These characters populate the sacred mythology of Jews and are the proto-ancestors of the Jewish people.” She added that the novel's popularity extends beyond readers of biblical and historical fiction because readers sense it celebrates the female. “I always look for under-told stories or untold stories, which tend to be women's stories,” said Diamant.

Surprisingly, research for *The Red Tent* didn't involve a lot of Bible study. “I wrote the book before the internet was worth anything – the mid-1990s – so I read a fair amount, but quickly realized I did not want to be a Bible scholar. This became my story, and I focused my research on the stuff my books always include: food, sleeping arrangements, what people wore, and the stuff of the realities of daily life. There were no chickens or tomatoes in the Bible, so a major part of my time was spent researching biblical times in order to avoid anachronisms.” But writing a book that takes place in biblical times also allowed Diamant a certain freedom. “There are not a lot of historical records about biblical women so this allowed me to make up a lot.”

Making stuff up wasn't a part of the construction of Diamant's first books. A journalist marrying a Jew-by-choice, Diamant wanted information on wedding rituals and asked her rabbi for book suggestions. “He told me the books out there were awful, and I should write a book on Jewish weddings myself. So I looked at the books that were available at the time, and they weren't helpful for either me or my groom. They were either written by Orthodox rabbis or they were etiquette books – like matching your napkins and your *kippas*. The realities of my Jewish life as a young American, a feminist, and someone marrying a Jew-by-choice weren't reflected in those books. In writing *The New Jewish Wedding* I interviewed a lot of creative people who were respectfully updating traditions in order to make them more personally meaningful.”

“After *The New Jewish Wedding* I had no plans to write another Jewish book, but when I had a baby I found there were no books to consult about putting together a ceremony for a daughter. And my non-Orthodox friends who were having sons had no books that explained, in terms that resonated with them, how to make the circumcision ceremony relevant. I really saw the need for such a book.” And so, *The New Jewish Wedding* was followed by *The New Jewish Baby Book*. “I wrote that book, and all my subsequent guide books, as books of options. I'm not a rabbi, so my agenda was not that you make any particular choice. I wanted to show a menu of Jewish life, a picture of how young American Jews are performing Jewish rituals. My readers may not necessarily be experts, but they are educated and smart. The purpose of these books is to give them the information they need to make their own decisions.”

Diamant's fourth and most recent novel, *Day After Night*, is the story of four young women who are imprisoned in, and ultimately escape from Atlit, an internment camp run by the British at the end of WWII in pre-Israel Palestine. The seed of the novel came about ten-years ago when her teenage daughter traveled with a group from her high school to Israel. They learned about the history of the land from prehistory to modern time, including the founding of the state. Diamant took a tour offered to the student's parents that mirrored their children's itinerary.

“One day we stopped in the middle of nowhere, at Atlit. I'd never heard of it – no one had. We were told the story of the October 1945 escape, and I had a light

bulb moment. I thought, *what a great novel!* The descriptions of the camp and what life there was like are based on the small amount of information I could get. Although there's a historian working full-time on a database at Atlit still trying to collect stories, the accounts are largely missing. The people in the camp were very helpful with the small amount of information remaining. The setting and situation are historically accurate, but characters, the four young women in the novel, Tedi, Leonie, Shayndel and Zora, are completely fictional.”

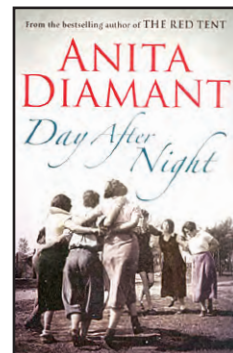
Disciplined, Diamant strives to keep her mornings clear to write. As she gets further into a book, that stretch of time expands and she writes longer into the day. When asked how her writing has changed over the years, she said: “I hope it has gotten better. I certainly hope my most recent book is my best book. I've had the opportunity to revise a couple of my nonfiction books and I know I'm a better writer now. I don't know that people would notice this, but I think my writing is tighter and cleaner. I think I'm more economical as a writer and I value that in writing.”

She's now working on another novel. “It takes place in 1915 in Boston in a community that was very much an immigrant community – Jewish, Italian and Irish. I trace the story of one particular girl and some of her friends in a period of great change for women in America and around the world.” As for her future plans Diamant said, “I think I'll go back to writing nonfiction after I complete this novel. I find nonfiction much easier to write and for that reason it can be more gratifying. Fiction reaches a much bigger audience though, and that's terrific. I still do occasional pieces of journalism. I've enjoyed that and I enjoy getting out and interviewing people.”

Writing has led Diamant in unexpected directions. About ten years ago, at the same time she was writing *The Red Tent*, Diamant was also working on a book about conversion. For research she went to Boston's *mikvah*, the place of ritual immersion, which was open for conversions one morning a week. Diamant accompanied the Conservative or Reform rabbi to conversions in order to learn the trappings of the ceremony – the songs and readings offered.

“I went many times in the course of that year. These Jews-by-choice were making an extraordinary decision, and I felt the welcome we were providing was less than what it should be. The building was run by the Orthodox community, and was not

(see Lerner, page 8)





## Rabbi Audrey Pollack recognized for completion of intensive study program

The Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) proudly recognizes Rabbi Audrey Pollack, of Temple Israel in West Lafayette, Ind., for engaging in rigorous sustained continuing education by participating in the CCAR's intensive Keter Torah program during this past year. Rabbi Pollack's dedication to the Jewish tradition of study, to the profession of the rabbinate and to the needs of our Jewish community enhances our society in immeasurable ways.



Rabbi Audrey Pollack

CCAR's Keter Torah continuing education program recognizes in-depth study in Jewish text and Judaic studies; counseling and practical rabbinics; worship, spirituality and ritual; congregation dynamics and leadership; education and religious action pursued by rabbis in community based organizations and in congregational settings.

"Rabbi Audrey Pollack demonstrated her commitment to her congregation and community and to Jewish life, overall, by devoting the time and intellectual energy to intensive continuing education. Congregation rabbis' lives are filled with multiple demands. Those who add formal programs of learning to their agendas and commitments are exemplary in their dedication to their work and their quest to serve their congregants in the most comprehensive, sensitive way," said Rabbi Steven A. Fox, Chief Executive of the CCAR, the representative organization of nearly 2,000 Reform rabbis, the world's largest group of Jewish clergy.

CCAR's unprecedented rabbinic continuing education program affords rabbis the resources for responding to the challenges and opportunities for the Reform Rabbinate in the 21st century and includes learning in areas from Torah to technology; ancient texts to contemporary issues and more. These may be accessed through teleconference calls and webinars. In addition, some rabbis make the commitment to attend the annual CCAR Convention as well as multi-day in-person intensive seminars offered around the country. In these programs, rabbis are encouraged to think creatively and in a visionary way.

Numerous funders, including rabbi and family foundations, support the CCAR's program of rabbinic study through their

## 100 years of the American Jewish Song Book concert

On Sat., Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. in the Laikin Auditorium at the Arthur M. Glick JCC, Cantors Judy Meyersberg, Janice Roger and Giora Sharon will join together to present a program of music written and performed by American Jews over the past century in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Bureau of Jewish Education (BJE) in Indianapolis.

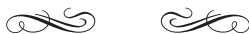
The concert will also feature a "Rabbis' Band" comprised of local rabbis, Brett Krichiver, Ben Sendrow, and Paula Winnig. The 65th Street Klezmerim, Cantorial Soloist Melissa Cohen and the choirs from Congregation Beth-El Zedeck and the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation will share in this celebratory evening.

The music will feature pieces from such well known American Jewish composers as Gershwin, Bernstein, Sondheim and Berlin in addition to liturgical music commonly used in synagogues throughout the past 100 years ranging in style from classical to contemporary. There will be a lot of opportunities for the audience to participate in this varied musical program.

Mr. Yossi Cohen will be honored for his service for over three decades as a teacher at the BJE. Mr. Cohen first came to Indianapolis as a *shaliach*, an "emissary" from the State of Israel Department of Education. He is currently the lead teacher at the BJE and a Hebrew language teacher at North Central High School in Indianapolis. Past directors, Uri Korin and Ora Levant will also be honored for their years of devoted service to the BJE.

Tickets to the concert are available at the BJE for \$18. Nov. 12 is the actual 100th anniversary date of the first classes held at United Talmud Torah, the precursor to today's BJE.

A Gala Dessert Reception will follow the concert. For more information, to purchase tickets or to participate in the Tribute to Mr. Yossi Cohen, please email: [bje100@bjeindy.org](mailto:bje100@bjeindy.org). ★



generous gifts. To arrange a conversation with Rabbi Audrey Pollack, CCAR President Rabbi Jonathan A. Stein, or CCAR Chief Executive Rabbi Steven A. Fox, please contact Itay Engelman of Sommerfield Communications at 212-255-8386 or [itay@sommerfield.com](mailto:itay@sommerfield.com).

*The Central Conference of American Rabbis, founded in 1889, is the oldest and largest rabbinic organization in North America. For more information please visit the CCAR's website at <http://ccarnet.org/>. ★*

## EVENTS

(continued from page 4)

comedy, hip-hop, rap, acoustic music and more are some of the most popular forms. Get there early to have a snack, drink, get a good seat and meet the artists.

**Fri., Nov. 18,** 7–9:00 p.m., Starbucks 2902 W. 86th St., (across from Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory High School); and **Sat., Dec. 3,** 7–9:00 p.m. Brics, "The place to chill in Broad Ripple," On the Monon Trail, 901 East 64th St. ★

### Jewish lawyers

Jewish lawyers group meets for lunch on the **fourth Wednesday of each month**. The next meeting is **Nov. 23** 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](mailto:edl@rubin-levin.net).

### Adopt-a-Family Community-Wide Hanukkah Mitzvah Day

Our 7th Annual Adopt-A-Family Program helping local Jewish families takes place at the home of Matt Burnett on **Sun., Dec. 4** at 9:30 a.m. This program is a winner of The Melvin Simon Tikkun Olam Award for Program Excellence! Visit our [www.jfgi.org](http://www.jfgi.org) for more information.

### "Music@Shaarey Tefilla" concert series

"Music@Shaarey Tefilla" welcomes all in central Indiana to experience music up close and casual. Under the artistic direction of Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra (ISO) Principal Violist Michael Strauss, the series presents a broad range of musical styles and collaborative musicians. A defining aspect of the series is to focus attention on the work of Jewish composers and performers. The next concert is on **Mon., Dec. 5** at 7:30 p.m.

The Dec. 5 concert presents string combinations in duo, trio and quartet settings. Violinist Alex Kerr (whose high profile appointments include Principal Guest Concertmaster of ISO, Concertmaster of Dallas Symphony Orchestra, and Violin Professor at Indiana University) will join violinist Laurie Carney (of the American String Quartet), violist Michael Strauss, and cellist William Grubb (Professor at Butler University and University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music). The program includes two quartets, Shostakovich's *Op. 108* and Beethoven's *Op. 18, No. 4*, along with three short works by Teresienstadt composers Hans Krasa (of Czechoslovakia) and Zikmund Schul (of Germany). Krasa became head of the concentration camp's musical activities sanctioned by the Nazi's in command who

(see Events, page 15)

## Interview with Bee Season author Myla Goldberg

By SUSAN LERNER

There's a quality about Myla Goldberg – an unjaded sense of curiosity and wonder. This, along with her unguarded demeanor and fast-paced, clever way of speaking, all lend an impression of individualism. Goldberg doesn't feel the need to conform, and knows her own mind. "From the time I was in second grade I was telling my parents that when I grew up I wanted to be a writer." Influenced early on by Dr. Seuss, Roald Dahl, Vonnegut and Stephen King, she grew up wanting to emulate their page-turning type of storytelling. "Stories were hugely influential for me when I was a kid, just this marvelous escape."

Goldberg got the idea for her first novel, the award winning *Bee Season*, by reading an essay about spelling bees in a literary magazine. "It focused on the kids who lose, rather than the winner. That sparked the little light bulb in my head. I thought, 'When it comes right down to it we are all losers. I can relate to that.'"

*Bee Season* is the story of nine-year-old Eliza Naumann and was adapted into a movie in 2005. Eliza wins her school's spelling bee and her father, a cantor and Jewish scholar, comes to believe there is a mystical power associated with spelling. He begins to spend an inordinate amount of time tutoring Eliza for the next bee while neglecting the rest of his family and in response his wife and son veer off course. Fallout ensues.

As research, Goldberg attended the national spelling bee. "What grabbed me are the kids. Everything they were thinking and feeling was written on their faces in large print. They all wanted the same thing. The auditorium had an amazingly intense atmosphere."

About two weeks after attending the spelling bee Goldberg remembered Abraham Abulafia, a Kabbalist she had learned about in a class on Jewish mysticism. Abulafia believed that in order to achieve transcendence one had to spell words perfectly and chant them a certain way. "While taking the class I never thought much about Abulafia, but he stuck in my back-brain," said Goldberg. "After attending the bee I saw this connection between spelling bees and Abulafia's brand of Jewish mysticism. These were two concepts with different intents, removed by centuries that ended up advocating the similar practices."

*Wickett's Remedy*, Goldberg's second novel was sparked by an interest in the

1918 influenza epidemic. "I read an article in the Times that listed this as one of the ten worst epidemics of all time. I thought, 'How could I have not heard of this?' It seemed our culture as a whole had forgotten this epidemic, and that led to my fascination with mass amnesia. I wondered how it is that we remember some events, and forget others."

The seed of Goldberg's third, and most recent novel, *The False Friend*, came from her remembering, 15 years after the fact, that when she was 11, she had thrown a pair of scissors at her best friend. "I was curious about the fact that I had forgotten this for so long, and also that my vision of myself as a girl was that I was a victim. It was interesting to explore the idea that one can be the bully and also being a person who is bullied – be on both sides of it. I was also drawn to the idea that we are what we remember. What we remember about the past informs who we are today and the decisions we make. But what if the stuff we're remembering isn't actually true? Our identities are built upon such flimsy material. That's frightening and fascinating."

Goldberg lives with her husband and two young daughters in Brooklyn where

she juggles family, teaching and writing. "When I have a writing day I treat it like a full-time job. I'm at my computer by nine in the morning. I write until the kids come home from school." As for managing her hectic schedule of teaching, writing and touring to promote *The False Friend*, Goldberg said, "Luckily, I have an incredibly supportive partner. He's an artist too, a cartoonist. We both understand what the other's career requires so we divide everything 50-50. Also, I'm really organized – strict and disciplined when it comes to scheduling."

Goldberg talked about writing, "Everyone begins with this big, grand, sparkly idea. It's really hard to try to translate an inchoate notion – more like pictures and concepts – into words on a page that stay faithful to the original vision." Ever-optimistic, she added: "I believe the back-brain, the subconscious, is always working. If I have any sort of faith in this world, it's the faith in the power of the human imagination, the power of creativity."

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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## Indiana Speaker Brian Bosma to receive Public Service Award at Agudath Israel Dinner

On Nov. 6, hundreds of Jewish community activists and leaders from across the Midwest will gather in Chicago to pay tribute to the Speaker of the Indiana House of Representatives, Brian C. Bosma. Speaker Bosma has received many awards during his long and distinguished political career, but the upcoming Midwest dinner of Agudath Israel of America is a unique opportunity for the Jewish community to thank Bosma for his outstanding contributions to Indiana residents.

Speaker Bosma is no stranger to the Jewish community. In his 25 years as a public official, Representative Bosma has been an outspoken supporter of Israel, family values, and school choice.

The son of an army officer who liberated Nazi camps in WWII, Bosma co-authored a resolution earlier this year in support of Israel. Rabbi Yisrael Gettinger of Congregation B'nai Torah, who testified in favor of that resolution, praised Speaker Bosma's commitment to traditional values. "At a time when traditional Jewish values are under attack, Mr. Bosma has been a friend and true supporter of our community."

The main focus of the Public Service Award presentation will be Bosma's long-standing support for school choice. "I can think of no legislative leader more deserving this year," says Robert Enlow, President and CEO of the Indianapolis-based Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice. "Speaker Bosma's long-term commitment to school choice and steadfast leadership to enact the School Scholarship Act has significantly and positively changed the entire educational landscape in Indiana. Thanks to his work, thousands of children will have the opportunity to receive a motivating and challenging education that prepares them to succeed at college and in life."

The School Scholarship Act provides scholarships for low-income students to attend a public or private school of their choice. The bill also doubled the cap of the school scholarship tax credit program and provided a \$1,000 tax deduction for nonpublic school educational expenses. Rep. Bosma also played a crucial role in the original tax credit program enacted in 2009. That program awards tax credits to donors who contribute to qualified

LERNER

(continued from page 5)

designed for conversions. There was no room for celebration. I really thought we should be able to do better. At that time I was reading about creative rabbis who were using the *mikvah* as a way of marking endings, for nontraditional reasons such as after chemotherapy, divorce, or sexual abuse. I also knew of rabbis who went to the *mikvah* after being ordained as a way to mark this momentous transition in their lives."

Diamant was spurred to create a new *mikvah*, *Mayyim Hayyim* in her home city of



scholarship organizations which then distribute scholarships to low-income students. These programs have helped families across Indiana afford Jewish and other schools.

Rep. Bosma summed up the rationale behind his education reform efforts. "Parents, regardless of income or zip code, deserve to decide what type of school best serves their child's needs."

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.

Agudath Israel has played an increasingly active role in Indiana under the leadership of its regional director, Rabbi A. D. Motzen. He has made dozens of trips to the Statehouse to offer an Orthodox Jewish perspective on contemporary issues of public concern, and he is part of a coalition of state and national groups promoting school choice. Rabbi Motzen sits on the board of the Indiana Non-Public Education Association and on State Superintendent Tony Bennett's Nonpublic School Advisory Committee.

"The legislative success of the recent education reform initiatives required the combined effort of advocacy groups, grassroots support, and many elected officials. Speaker Bosma has been a leading and consistent voice on this issue for decades and deserves our gratitude," says Rabbi Motzen. "We hope that those who can't attend the dinner in person will participate in the tribute journal and express their appreciation for everything that Speaker Bosma has accomplished in this and other areas."★

Boston. "It was a fairness issue as much as anything else, and a notion that this ritual should be beautiful, and should belong to the whole community. I live in the liberal Jewish community. Liberal Jews have embraced other forms of ritual, transforming it in their own way and it seemed to me it was time to transform this one."

"Mayyim Hayyim is a multi-purpose building. We have an art gallery and stage in the education center. We're committed to the arts at Mayyim Hayyim – they're not incidental, they're central. One of the things we've done is use the stage there to tell the story of Mayyim Hayyim. People have composed music for these plays, which tell the story of what happens at the mikvah and why it's important. We use equity actors and professional lighting. It's not didactic, it's an experience of the arts. Stealing from the best, the shows are called *Mikvah Monologues*."

Another artistic challenge Diamant has taken on is lyric writing. She was listening to a CD of songs composed by one of her friends, Bert Seager. "The melodies were beautiful, and I asked him if I could try to write some lyrics for him and he agreed. Lyric writing is constrained by the line, but there's also a freedom. You can be repetitive. You can be *shmaltzy*. You can say I love you – a lot. And there's the element of rhyme, which is something I don't use most of the time. It's a lovely challenge, like a different language. The music really carries the words. It's a neat collaboration. I loved it. I would do it again in a minute if I had the chance and I hope to do it again some day."

Diamant's work has and continues to leave a lasting impact, both in our knowledge and imaginations. "Despite that my parents were not observant, being Jewish was very much my identity – it felt cultural, it felt culinary and political too." All of Diamant's books, both the how-to books and novels, carry the spirit of inclusion – either informing those who are marginal, and not yet fully in the fold, or shining the light on never-been-told stories of women.

When asked about where this impulse towards inclusion comes from Diamant replied, "I've never thought of that before. I like that formulation. The nonfiction books to me are attempts to open doors to people. The common thread of the four novels I've written is the celebration of women's friendship, and of human resilience. I think that's a democratic – small D – impulse that reflects both an American and a Jewish ethos and philosophy."

*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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Sat, Oct 22, 7 pm  
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**Joshua Nelson, "The Prince of Kosher Gospel"**  
**\$20 public / \$15 Adult JCC members**  
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Become united in song and spirit with our community through the uplifting and cross-cultural gospel music of Joshua Nelson. Together with back-up singers and live musical accompaniment, this "Prince of Kosher Gospel" will have you singing along and dancing in the aisles!

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Tues, Oct 25, 7 pm  
**Marilyn Berger**  
Berger, author of *This is a Soul: An American Doctor's Remarkable Mission in Ethiopia*, relays the remarkable story of one doctor devoted to caring for victims of famine, genocide and war.

Media Sponsor WFYI Indianapolis. Sponsored by the Bureau of Jewish Education and the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis.



Oct 26-Dec 30 | **FREE**  
Reception: Thurs, Oct 27 5:30 pm  
**Herron School of Art and Design**  
Books with hair? Allow Karen Baldner to guide you through an intensive and hands-on immersion into the world of book arts and discover that books themselves can be art.



Sat, Oct 29, 7 pm  
**Indianapolis Premiere Screening: Nora's Will**  
Nora's manipulative plans and meticulous intentions before taking her own life make for a comedic film that is pure entertainment.

Sponsor: Fifth Third Bank

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visit [www.JCCindy.org](http://www.JCCindy.org)  
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stop by a JCC membership desk

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Mon, Oct 31, 7 pm  
**Lee Kravitz**  
Lee Kravitz is busy. In *Unfinished Business: One Man's Extraordinary Year of Trying to Do the Right Thing*, he catches up on a list of unfinished business—the could've, should've and would've that plague us all.

Co-sponsors: Wendy and Phil Larman



Tue, Nov 1, Noon | **FREE**  
**Storytime with Bubbe and Zayde**  
An intergenerational story hour for our kids, their grandparents and parents.

Sponsored by US Kids Magazines- Turtle, Humpty Dumpty and Jack & Jill. Co-sponsored by Albert & Sara Reuben Senior and Community Resource Center and PJ Library of Greater Indianapolis.



Wed, Nov 2, 7 pm  
**Ghita Schwarz**  
*Displaced Persons: A Novel* explores the stories behind the survivors of the concentration camps. Follow four Polish women as they re-establish their identities and reconstruct their lives.



Sun, Nov 6, 9 am-4 pm  
**Feeding the Community Body: A Day of Wellness**  
Join yogi and author Meta Chaya Hirsch for a two-hour yoga workshop. Stop by our mini farmers market for some local eats. Participate, learn and share in a wide range of workshops and activities taking place all day at the JCC.

Partner: Second Helpings



Tues, Nov 8, 7:15 pm  
**Myla Goldberg**  
In her new book, *The False Friend*, young protagonist Celia Durst is not quite as innocent as she seems. Join Myla in a private discussion about the novel before the actual event when you purchase the book at the JCC.

Sponsored by Congregation Beth-El Zedeck. Co-sponsored by Shaarey Tefilla Sisterhood, Hadassah, Indiana Humanities and Novel Conversations.



Wed, Nov 9, 7 pm | **FREE**  
**SuEllen Fried**  
Author and anti-bullying advocate SuEllen Fried will lead a workshop for adult, pre-teens and teens in the Laikin auditorium at the JCC. Her book, *Banishing Bullying Behavior*, offers tools to solve this problem.

Special thanks to our partner Bully Safe USA. Co-sponsored by Indianapolis Section of the National Council of Jewish Women, The Villages, Prevent Child Abuse and The Mothers Circle.



Sun, Nov 13, 10 am | **FREE**  
at Congregation Beth-El Zedeck  
**Anita Diamant**  
Author of *The Red Tent*, Anita Diamant speaks on ways the strengths and vulnerabilities of the female body shape a women's experience and identity, freedom and spirituality.

Presented by the Alan and Linda Cohen Center for Jewish Learning and Living at Congregation Beth-El Zedeck in partnership with The Writers' Center of Indiana, IUPUI, The Women's Studies Program of the IU School of Liberal Arts and the Ann Katz Festival of Books and Arts at the JCC.



Mon, Nov 14, 7 pm  
**Charles Fishman**  
Without preaching, Charles Fishman, author of *The Big Thirst: The Secret Life and Turbulent Future of Water*, asks us to re-evaluate our relationship with water. Though the "golden age of water" may be over, he insists we are not in a crisis...yet.

Co-sponsored by the Center for Urban Ecology at Butler University and Hoosier Environmental Council. Special thanks to our partner Friends of the White River.



Tues, Nov 15, 7 pm  
**Indianapolis Premiere Screening: The Little Traitor**  
Months before Israel becomes a state, tensions rise between the British occupiers and Jewish rebels. This engaging movie of friendship and loyalty tells the story of one boy and a British sergeant, his unlikely friend.

Sponsor: Fifth Third Bank



Wed, Nov 16, 6 pm  
**Tom Fields-Meyer**  
Following Ezra: *What One Father Learned about Gumby, Otters, Autism and Love from his Extraordinary Son* is a heartwarming story about acceptance and patient parenting.

Special thanks to our partner the Autism Society of Indiana.



Sat, Nov 19, 7 pm  
**3 Screenings: Heartland Truly Moving Pictures**  
The JCC and Heartland are collaborating once again for another entertaining and thought-provoking evening of film and discussion.



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# Obituaries

July – Aug. (More Aug.–Oct. in the next issue)

**Keith David Susskind**, 53, was born Sept. 14, 1957, in Fairmont, W. Va., to Carl and Roberta (Raphelson) Susskind. Keith was a graduate of Indiana University and a graduate gemologist. He is survived by his loving wife, Susan Glimcher Susskind; his beloved children and step children, Emily, Carrie and Melanie Susskind and Andrew (Erin), Adam, Josh and Jenna Samuels; his mother, Roberta Susskind; brother, Mark (Laura); and sister, Cindie (Malcolm) Susskind. A graveside service was held on July 24 in Beth-El Zedeck North Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to American Cancer Society or Congregation Beth-El Zedeck. Arrangements entrusted to **Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary**. ☆

**Edward Sigalow** 77, of Greenwood, died July 24, 2011. He was born to Morris and Beatrice (Richfertig) Sigalow on Dec. 3, 1933 in Brooklyn, NY. Mr. Sigalow was a veteran of the US Air Force. He worked in the printing industry for over 40 years. His wife, Helen Meyervitch Sigalow preceded him in death in 1997.

Survivors include his son, Robert (Julie) Sigalow of Greenwood, Ind.; His daughter, Barbara (Edward) Greenberg of San Antonio; 2 grandchildren, Michael and Amy Greenberg and a great grandchild, Hunter Greenberg. Graveside services were held on July 31 in Indianapolis Hebrew South Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the ALZHEIMERS Association [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org) Mildred Sachs, 93, died peacefully in Phoenix where she has resided with her daughter Robbie for the past ten years. Mildred was the daughter of Isadore and Esther (Goldband) Cohen. Mildred was formerly a member of Beth El Zedeck Congregation; Beth El Sisterhood; Kodima Club; and Hadassah.

Mildred was preceded in death by her husband, Nate Sachs and brother, Robert Cohen. Survivors include Roberta Sachs; Edward (Leagh) Sachs; grandchildren, Robby, Jessie, David, and Daniel; nieces, nephews, and cousins. Graveside services will be held at Beth El Zedeck North on Aug 8. Arrangements entrusted to **Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary**. ☆

**William H. Rosenstein**, 72, died July 29, 2011. The son of Burton and Elsie Rosenstein, William was born Aug. 23, 1938 in Whiting, Ind. An orthodontist who helped countless people, he retired in 2008. He enjoyed tennis, golf, and watching the Chicago Cubs. Survivors include sons,

Jeremy and Jay; daughter, Jodi Friedman (Michael) of Carmel, Ind.; and sister, Ellen Brin. Arrangements entrusted to **Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary**. ☆

**Bruce George Silberberg**, 61, died July 31, 2011. He was born in New York City on Oct. 31, 1949 to Nat and Gertrude (Klein) Silberberg. He had lived in Indianapolis since 1975. Bruce worked for Borders Books at Castleton Square for 17 years and was an avid bird watcher. He is survived by his son, Colin Davis Silberberg; ex-wife, Cheryl Fesmire; brother, Martin (Ruth Melnick) Silberberg; and nephew, Daniel Silberberg. Services were private. Memorial contributions may be made to a charity of the donor's choice. Arrangements entrusted to **A.R.N. Cremation Services**. ☆

**Susan Jean Strauss**, 69, of Naples, Fla., passed away peacefully at her seasonal home in Indianapolis on August 9 surrounded by her loved ones. Sue was born July 26, 1942 in Indianapolis to Harold J. and Dorothy F. (Mc Quiston) Kauffman. She graduated from Beech Grove High School and went on to graduate from Ivy Tech as an LPN. For many years Sue followed her calling of serving, giving and caring for others, at St. Vincent's Hospital of Indianapolis. In 1995 Sue moved to Naples where she resided with her husband Jerome to continue her passion of helping others.

Sue is survived by her husband Jerome, daughter Martha Lynn (Strauss) Switzman and sons Jared and David; and her grandchildren Liza, Ben, Lacy, and Madison; and brother Mike Kauffman. A Memorial Service was held at **Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary**, on August 17. A second Memorial Service was held on October 11 in the library of the Silver Clubhouse, Silver Lakes RV & Golf Resort, Naples, Fla. The family suggests that persons wishing to do so, forego sending flowers and instead contribute to a Memorial to the local cancer or hospice charity of their choice. ☆

**Raymond Asher Goodman**, 95, died on Aug. 16, 2011, at his home in Indianapolis, after a short illness. He was born on April 28, 1916, in Indianapolis to Jacob and Bessie (née Palman), recent immigrants from Moldova. He graduated from Shortridge High School in 1933, and from the University of Michigan in 1937.

Mr. Goodman entered his father's jewelry manufacturing business, Goodman & Co., in Indianapolis in 1937. He was a travelling salesman for the first five years and then, after World War II, established and ran the retail part of the business, Goodman Jewelers, until the late 1990's.

In January 1942, he became a naval officer at the Northwestern University Midshipmen's School. For his wartime service, Mr. Goodman received the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star. In 1953, Raymond married Marjorie Hornstein; she predeceased him after 44 years of very happy marriage. Raymond was predeceased by his brothers, Buster and Morris Goodman; and his sisters, Ester, Mayme and Sarah Goodman.

He is survived by his daughter, Judith; sons, Robert (Rose-Marie) and John (Sarah Kunz), and his grandchildren, Anna Fuchs, Cecil, Caroline and Lillian Goodman, and Julia and Ian Goodman. Contributions in Raymond's memory may be made to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), 300 E. Fall Creek Pkwy N. Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46205.

A funeral service was held August 19 in the Peace Chapel at Crown Hill Cemetery. Arrangements entrusted to **Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary**. ☆

**Arthur Lee Anderson**, 76, of Kokomo died Aug. 21, 2011. He was born in Chicago on June 18, 1935 to Albert Arthur and Merle (Davis) Anderson. He received his BS and MSEE from the University of Illinois and later a Business Masters from Purdue University. He was inducted into (see Obituaries, page 13)



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## Theater Review

REVIEWED BY CHARLIE EPSTEIN

### The Drowsy Chaperone

First of all, *The Drowsy Chaperone* is not a tribute to old time musicals, but a masterful spoof of the 1920's musical shows with such preposterous plots. Through the character of Man in a Chair, *The Drowsy Chaperone* is explored for its truisms and fallacies. When he puts the recording of "The Drowsy Chaperone" on his phonograph the stage goes back in time and comes alive. For example, when a Chinese production number is just thrown into the show just for good measure, The Man relates it is wrong, Asian is not for the occasion. And then there is a song about a monkey which just seems thrown in, but its clever lyrics make it palatable.

The role of Mrs. Tottendale was originated on Broadway by Georgia Engel, well known for her role on the *Mary Tyler Moore Show* on TV. When Engel left the show she was replaced by other former television stars of the 1960's and 70's Cindy Williams and Hoosier Jo Anne Worley.

This show is filled with zany characters that blow your mind like the Mutt and Jeff cooks who are really gangsters. And just like in those old musicals plots there are many mistaken identities and outlandish decisions. The title of the show comes from one of its characters, a chaperone for a bride to be. She also happens to drink a lot which puts her job to protect the bride in extreme jeopardy. Obviously she fails,

because her drinking makes her blotto and drowsy.

Now for the production credits: The complicated goings on are held together with the magical glue provided by the Man in the Chair, who also narrates and talks to the audience. This role is superbly played by Paul Hansen. The gangsters are nuttily played by Vincent Accetturo and Craig Underwood. Kitty is played by Karen Frye whose role surprisingly resembles that of Lina Lamont in *Singin' in the Rain*. Nathanael Welch excellently plays Robert Martin, the handsome conceited groom. His tap dancing routine with Anthony Snitker as the best man is wonderful. Mrs Tottendale played by Vickie Cornelius Phipps, Janet Van DeGraaf played by Julia Bonnett, and the title role played by Nathalie Cruz all added to the hilarity. Nathalie's husband Ian Cruz plays the over romantic Aldolpho. There are so many in this talented huge cast that deserve mentioning but the audience's favorite supporting actor of the night I was there was Mark Fishback who played the butler with the unusual name Underling.

The show was directed and marvelously choreographed by Ron Morgan who hit the difficult stylization of the 1920 musical right on the head. The elaborate costumes were created by Jean Engstrom. The brilliant lighting design was by Ryan Koharchik. This exciting production has so many entertainment values that crew credits are also difficult to mention. It would be like mentioning the whole program of cast and crew. So many contributed to the thorough enjoyment of the evening.

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-back-ground.html>. ★



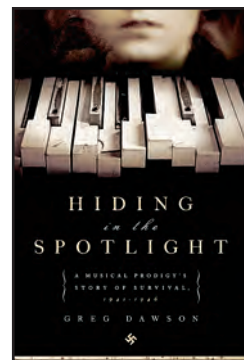
Left to right: Jeremy Allen Brimm, Julia Bonnett, Vince Acetturo, Craig Underwood, Mark Whetstone, John Kern, Tom Beeler.

### Hiding in the Spotlight at The Jewish Theater of Bloomington

The Jewish Theater of Bloomington (JTB) presents *Hiding in the Spotlight* a choreographed staged reading of a work in progress. It will be held Wed., Nov. 9, Sat., Nov. 12, 7:30 p.m. and Sun., Nov. 13, 2:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 2120 N. Fee Lane, Bloomington, Ind.

JTB, founded in 2005, ends its 2011 season with a new play adapted from Greg Dawson's gripping book of the same name. Based on his mother's memory of her experiences and his own research, the play dramatizes the harrowing story of two Ukrainian Jewish girls' escape from the Holocaust and their struggle to evade detection while giving musical performances as non-Jews in Nazi-occupied Russia and in Germany.

This stage version of *Hiding in the Spotlight* was written by Candy Dawson and is directed by Darrell Ann Stone, who, along with founder Audrey Heller, is co-artistic director of JTB. The play reveals the terror



and resourcefulness of two youngsters, a 14-year-old piano prodigy who had been performing on Soviet radio since early childhood and her musical 12-year-old sister, who escaped from the death march that killed all the other Jews in their city. Eventually they survived by playing for Nazi soldiers, often at slave labor camps. After the war the sisters immigrated to the United States, where they were among the first refugees to study at Juilliard, and where Zhanna Arshanskaya Dawson later joined the piano faculty at Indiana University.

The JTB production will be a choreographed, staged reading of a work-in-progress, with a talk-back after the Wednesday performance. A creative community project, the performers range in age from 10 to seniors and reflect an impressive array of local talent and experience, including a young pianist who performs Chopin's Fantasy Impromptu, Zhanna's signature piece. The real Zhanna will make an appearance in the final scene at each performance.

*Hiding in the Spotlight* is supported by grants from Indiana University Themester 2011 on War and Peace, the Pearl Schwartz (see Jewish Theater, page 15)



**OBITUARIES**

(continued from page 11)

the Illini Media Hall of fame at the University of Illinois.

Anderson worked for General Motors for 23 years. Later, he became a consulting engineer. His major clients were Functional Devices and MFRI.

He was an active member of Temple B'nai Israel, serving as president and treasurer. His involvement with the Boy Scouts spanned 60 years. He was most recently with Troop 506. He also mentored the Kokomo High School Technokats First Robotics Team.

He is survived by his wife, Bette Simon Anderson; son, Alan (Carol) Anderson of Kokomo; daughters, Janice (Arnie) Levitan of Skokie and Sandra (Craig) Gruber of Indianapolis; five grandchildren, Corey, Jacob, Sarah, Hannah and Ari; and brother, James (Amy) Anderson.

Services were held at **Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary** on Aug. 24. Burial followed in the Indianapolis Hebrew Cemetery North. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Temple B'nai Israel of Kokomo, Ind. ★

**Robert "Bobby" Rosenfeld**, 79, of Atlanta, died Sept. 28, 2011. Survivors include his wife, Terri Rosenfeld; sister, Vivian (Bob) Greene; children, Stephen (Monica) Rosenfeld, Joel (Jennifer) Rosenfeld and Julie (Cary) Krinsky; stepchildren, Jana (Seth) Lynn, Darren (Riva) Wolkow, Michael (Nicole) Wolkow, Ari Arusha, Rachel (Andy) Krantz, and Rebecca (Don) Krantz. All told, Bobby had 24 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

Bobby was born in Atlanta and went to Boys High. He earned a Civil Engineering degree from Georgia Tech and went on to be President of Rosenfeld Steel Company. He is a veteran of the United States Army. He has been a tireless worker for both Beth Jacob and Shearith Israel Synagogues for over 40 years. He was a volunteer for many organizations particularly in the area of education.

He loved to play tennis and did so until his recent illness. He was an avid reader especially of biographies, and enjoyed watching movies and socializing with family and close friends.

Sign online guestbook at [www.edressler.com](http://www.edressler.com). In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Jewish Federation, Jewish Family and Career Services, Torah Day School, or AIPAC. A graveside service was held Sun., Oct. 2, 2011 at 2:30 p.m. at Crest Lawn Cemetery with Rabbi Hillel Norry officiating. Arrangements by **Dressler's Jewish Funeral Care**, Atlanta 770-451-4999. ★

## New Jewish Learning Institute class

Lubavitch of Indiana is offering a fun course in Jewish cultural literacy, full of surprising facts, myths, and mysteries surrounding Jewish tradition and practice. The class is titled "Fascinating Facts: Exploring the Myths and Mysteries of Judaism" – addressing such questions as: Does Judaism believe in guardian angels? Why do Jews use matchmakers? Who wrote the handwriting on the wall? The instructor is Rabbi Mendel Schusterman.

The class will be held on Tuesdays, starting Nov. 8, from 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. at the Schusterman Chabad House, 1112 Oakwood Trail in Indianapolis or from 7–8:30 p.m. at Lubavitch of Indiana, 6609 Hazelwood Ave in Indianapolis. Fee: \$79 textbook included, couples price \$130. (Limited scholarships available.) Sign up a friend who has never participated in a JLI course and receive half off for yourself. For more information call 317-698-6423 or email [jli@lubavitchindiana.com](mailto:jli@lubavitchindiana.com).

### Course Overview:

#### *Know Something About the Bible?*

Is "an eye for an eye" meant to be taken literally? Was the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge an apple? Did the Jews

actually cross the Red Sea? We leap beyond a Hebrew School comprehension of the Bible, as we explore the deeper significance of its stories and their profound lessons for life.

#### *From Womb to Tomb*

Why celebrate a *bar* or *bat mitzvah*? What's with breaking glass under the wedding canopy? Peppered with astounding insights along the way, we'll journey from birth through burial, infusing meaning and relevance into the customs and traditions of the Jewish life cycle.

#### *Angels, Blessings, and Evil Eyes*

What is the evil eye? How does it work? Are we accompanied by guardian angels? Do they have wings? Join us as we enter the hidden world of the occult and investigate the fascinating interaction between matter and spirit.

#### *Foods and Feasts*

Ever wondered what it is about Jews and food? What makes food kosher? Why is pork considered the quintessential non-kosher chow? With tasty surprises along the way, we'll learn a thing or two about Jewish diet in this mouth-watering, eye-opening session.

#### *It's All Hebrew to Me*

From *abracadabra* to *kippa* and *Yom Kippur*, this lesson dives beyond (see Jewish Class, page 15)

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## Jewish Agency for Israel appoints new Midwest Director of Aliyah



CHICAGO, SEPT. 26, 2011 – Sophie Fellman Rafalovitz has been appointed the Jewish Agency's new Midwest Director of *Aliyah*, taking over for Shirah Ozery, who has returned to Israel after serving in the position for the past four years.



Sophie Fellman Rafalovitz

An immigrant to Israel herself, Sophie made *aliyah* with her family as a child from Guatemala City. She grew up in the *Masorti* movement and served in the IDF as a drill sergeant through the *Nahal* program. Sophie earned her BA in Occupational Therapy from Hebrew University. She was one of the founding workers of NOAM-MAROM Olami, helping to establish *Masorti* youth and students groups in Latin America and in Europe. From 2001–2005 she served as the United Synagogue Youth Shlichah on the west coast. Since then, she has worked in Israel's Ministry of Education as an occupational therapist for children with special needs, guiding educational teams and families. At the same time, she served as the National Youth Commission chair and on the executive boards of the *Masorti* movement and *Marom Olami*.

Sophie began her *shlichut* (emissary position) on behalf of the Jewish Agency in Chicago this past August and is accompanied by her husband and three children. In her position, Sophie will be serving the Chicago community as well as 16 other states in facilitating *aliyah*. The amount of *olim* from the region has gone up quite a bit in the past few years. In 2007, there were only 254 *olim* that went through the Jewish Agency's Midwest office. The following year, in 2008, almost 300 people made *aliyah* from the region. In 2009, the numbers increased to around 350 people. In 2010, over 400 people made *aliyah* through the Chicago office.

As part of the expanded responsibilities of her position, Sophie will also be working with *Garin Tzabar*. *Garin*, a Hebrew word for "core" or "seed", is a term used in Israel for a group of soldiers who choose to experience their army service together as a social unit of mutual support and camaraderie. The members of *Garin Tzabar*, a group formed for Diaspora

## "Prince of Kosher Gospel" inspires at the JCC



Joshua Nelson, the "Prince of Kosher Gospel," brought people – and cultures – together in joyous song Sun., Oct. 23 in the Laikin Auditorium of the Arthur M. Glick JCC. Kosher gospel is the marriage of Jewish religious lyrics and meanings with the soulful sounds of American gospel music. Learn more about him and his unique blend of cultural music at [www.joshuanelson.com](http://www.joshuanelson.com).

Jews and children of Israelis who choose to move to Israel and serve in the IDF, are adopted by the Israel Scouts and placed in a hosting *kibbutz* that quickly becomes their home away from home throughout

the duration of their army service. Twelve 18–23 year olds left the Midwest region in August 2011 in the framework of *Garin Tzabar*.

(see Jewish Agency, page 15)



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## Jewish Counselor

By RABBI STEVEN M. LEAPMAN

### Noah's next month – Notes from family therapy sessions

Dear Diary,

This week I saw a challenging family. My observations move sorely from head and heart to keyboard as I'm moved by their enmeshment, yet remiss to confront what I see so blatantly on my computer screen. Yet, having given myself permission to be candid, I proceed. I dare not become skilled at self-deception.

It is intriguing how Noah's story arrives with *Cheshvan*. We overlook how calendars provide context. *Tishri* came and terminated 5771 despite its unfinished business. 5772 poured into our lives with public exclamations that may not have matched a personal sense of how the last twelve months evolved.

Soon we're bombarded with *Yom Kippur's* spotlight on how we err and continue to do so. After awhile in our psyches we move to *Sukkot*, outdoors to seek humility and connect, not with The Creator as we did while repenting. Now we greet The Creation via annual rites just as our world enters its yearly cycle of entropy before winter's sleep. I emphasize "sleep" not "death."

But in *Tishri* we aren't far from eternity. *Yom Kippur* and *Sukkot* recite *yizkor*. I'm not sure we do this to honor the dead or if by enshrining them, gain emotional freedom and distance to resolve our burdens instead of resurrecting the past's pains. They gave us life to have lives not only glory in memory itself. This is nostalgia, but not necessarily healthy, despite its sincerity.

*Tishri* is frenetically attention-seeking! Just as we retrieve souls from Sin's clutches, we rejoice in Scriptural retelling. *Simchat Torah* frames private and public domains as we tell and transmit teachings, not just as epochs arise and pass, but as Atonement's personal lessons struggle to take root each year.

*Cheshvan* brings no major holidays, hence less noisiness...an oversight by those who arranged the calendar? Rather than ruminate on what we can't know, focus on what is taught. We must avoid a heresy of confusing History with Holiness. We begin anew. Noah and family teach this lesson.

#### EVENTS

(continued from page 6)

realized the propaganda value of cultural activity at their "model" concentration camp.

General admission tickets at the door are \$18 (\$15 for CST members; and \$5 for students). For more information or tickets, contact the office administrator at 317-733-2169. Concerts take place at Congregation Shaarey Tefilla at 3085 W. 116th St. in Carmel, Ind.

#### Welcome to Fabulous Jegas!

Join us for the Event of the Year Benefitting the 2012 Jewish Federation Annual Campaign on **Sat., Dec. 17** at 8:00 p.m. in the Laikin Auditorium of the

Read the incidents: an absent mother whose name is neither known nor spoken of by spouse or children – maybe after Lot's wife they traded humility for anonymity and silenced her, cooperating in a conspiracy with which even our written Torah complied as in our heritage awkwardness and anxiety woefully accompany women who are capable and valiant. Sad! Then there's a sibling rivalry Noah endorses by blessing two yet cursing one who was honest over family conflict. What about Noah's first crop, not grain but grapes, which he consumed copiously! Once all this passed through Genesis' early days the Tower of Babel is built. Yes, the construction crew speaks one language, but what legacy was imparted despite linguistic harmony?

*Cheshvan* denotes communal time, a breath of fresh air, allotting hours for quiet reflection after zealous energies rouse a year. The past month's enthusiasms are fine, but there must be a time of calm, space reserved for the value and virtue of apparent nothingness. Still, despite all of what is announced and anchored in the fluid context of community and covenant, Noah's tale reminds us to duly, dutifully turn and return to the dynamics resolving our characters and nurturing our families. The inconsistencies we avoid, the answers we neglect, may not enter Scripture or history books, but are the stock and trade of what counselors would address and amend. – Signed, one sensitive to his faith and called by his craft. 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. ★

Arthur M. Glick JCC. Step into Fabulous Jegas and enjoy Blackjack, Roulette, Wheel of Fortune, Craps and more! Get 50 free chips upon entrance. Luscious hors d'oeuvres, Vegas-style entertainment and amazing prizes! A Minimum gift of \$36 to the 2012 Federation Annual Campaign is required. To RSVP and for more info, visit our [www.jfgi.org](http://www.jfgi.org). ★

#### JEWISH THEATER

(continued from page 12)

Memorial Endowment of IU's Borns Jewish Studies Program, the Institute for the Study of Contemporary Anti-Semitism, and the Jacobs School of Music. Adult tickets are \$15 and can be picked up in advance at the BCT Box Office. For free tickets for students with ID e-mail [hellera@indiana.edu](mailto:hellera@indiana.edu). ★

#### JEWISH CLASS

(continued from page 13)

semantics into the depths of Hebrew etymology. We'll uncover insights into seemingly arbitrary Hebrew names, and discover words that offer perspective into the heart of key Jewish concepts.

#### Myths, Misconceptions, and Urban Legends

Sometimes the truth can be stranger than fiction. Do Jews believe in Satan? Can a Jew convert out of the faith? Peering into a world of untold mystery, we'll explore common Jewish myths rooted in non-Jewish beliefs, everything from the bizarre to the downright outrageous. ★

#### JEWISH AGENCY

(continued from page 14)

"As an *olah*, a parent and an educator, I try to pass on the love for Israel and zionism that I feel. The opportunity I now have to assist future *olim* and bring Israel to many parts of the community means a great deal to me and signifies the completion of a cycle," said Sophie. "I feel lucky to have been posted in Chicago. A community that is so proud of its *olim* is not to be taken for granted! The commitment and excitement of the people I have met so far can lead to endless possibilities of engaging with Israel – and considering the option of living there is only one of them."

Established in 1929, the Jewish Agency was instrumental in the founding of the State of Israel and now works to ensure the future of a connected, committed, global Jewish People with a strong Israel at its center. ★





Above: "Family reunion" on the set of the Indiana History Society exhibit *You Are There 1950: Making a Jewish Home*. Seated (L-R): Joshua Kaplan (Rosie's nephew) and Rosie Kaplan (real-life daughter of Benny and Fanny Kaplan portrayed in the exhibit); Back row (L-R): Harvey Goldenberg (Rosie's husband), Alex Kaplan (Rosie's nephew), "Fanny Kaplan" (portrayed by Kim McCann), Jason Beisel and Sharon (Goldenberg) Beisel (Harvey's cousins), and Tom and Rita O'Neill (Rita was Rosie's college roommate who introduced her to Harvey).



Above: Rosie Kaplan (front right), the real-life daughter of Berek "Benny" and Frania "Fanny" Kaplan (portrayed in the exhibit), poses with her "father" (portrayed by Danny Russell) as her "mother" (portrayed by Kim McCann) speaks with guests in the background in the Indiana Historical Society's *You Are There 1950: Making a Jewish Home*.

Left: The entire Kaplan family received assistance in learning English after their arrival in Indianapolis. In this photo (L-R), Benny (portrayed by Danny Russell) and Fanny (portrayed by Kim McCann) work with translator/tutor Charlotte Epstein (portrayed by Lani Lerner).

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