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State of Israel Bonds honors Mike Blain with award

By Ari J. Kaufman

Michael Blain was honored by State of Israel Bonds for a lifetime of service at its annual tribute luncheon, Sun., Nov. 15, at Congregation Shaarey Tefilla in Carmel. The award he received is called The Star of David Award and is in recognition of those who, in the spirit of King David, have demonstrated devotion to the land and people of Israel, true leadership and generosity.

A full house of roughly 160 people were in attendance to hear his stories, watch a video montage (created by Peter Weisz and available on YouTube), and pay respects to this holocaust survivor and local hero. Dr. David Orentlicher, current general chairman, served as emcee. A delicious luncheon was catered by Nancy Landman of Great Cooks and Company.

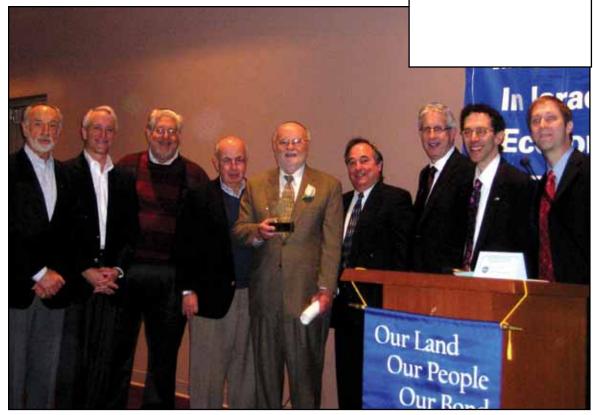
Mr. Blain, who arrived in America 60 years ago next month, was described as a man of "single-minded purpose." Indeed, he joined Israel Bonds in order to "better serve and do something meaningful for our people." And he succeeded, as during his 33 year tenure, Mike's Indianapolis-based office has generated some \$100 million in investment capital for Israel.

After Ron Katz led the National Anthem and Hatikvah, presentations and speeches began. Blain was described as a "hero... not in the G-d like sense" but rather "for his courage" by Irwin Levin, former chair of Israel Bonds. Others such as his son Daniel, who gave an emotional treatise on his father, claimed Blain "contributed more than anyone we know (to Israel)" and was truly "a man who walked the walk."

Over \$1 million dollars was raised on Israel's behalf and in honor of Mike this Sunday afternoon, \$300,000 of which came from the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis. The state of Indiana has given over \$12 million in bonds to Israel – to build rail systems, highways, museums and the new Ben-Gurion airport. It was also often noted how financially solvent Israel Bonds are, especially in time of financial uncertainty.

Blain's remarks, which closed the event, noted his excitement about a Thanksgiving week trip to Israel – "our sacred homeland" – with his family. He reminisced about heading the Indiana-Illinois regional office of Israel Bonds until his 2006 retirement, unselfishly thanking past chairmen of Israel Bonds, namely Hart Hasten, Doug Rose, Benton Marks, Marvin Mitchell, Don Katz and Irwin Levin, all of whom were in attendance to share the day. (Other past chairmen were not present: Bob Borns, Carl Cohen, Ivan Ekhaus, Mark Hasten, Herb Melrose, and Peter Weisz.) Mike's award was presented by Larry Berman, executive director, Chicago Israel Bonds office.

Michael Blain was born in a village in Carpatho-Ruthenia, which was part of the former Czechoslovakia, later part of Hungary and



Mike Blain, holding The Star of David Award is in the center of past chairmen of Israel Bonds (left to right), Hart Hasten, Doug Rose, Benton Marks, Marvin Mitchell, Don Katz and Irwin Levin, current chairman Dr. David Orentlicher and Larry Berman, executive director, Chicago Israel Bonds office who presented the award.

The Star of David Award is in recognition of those who, in the spirit of King David, have demonstrated devotion to the land and people of Israel, true leadership and generosity. (Other past chairmen who were not present: Bob Borns, Carl Cohen, Ivan Ekhaus, Mark Hasten, Herb Melrose, and Peter Weisz.) *More pictures on page IN 7.*

now part of the Ukraine. He left home at age 14, living in Hungary, the former Soviet Union and England, before coming to the United States in 1949.

A Holocaust survivor who saw most of his family wiped out during the Shoah, Mike joined the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He then attended Rochester Institute of Technology, where he not only was founder and first president of Hillel, but met his wife, Sylvia.

After moving to Cleveland in 1957, Mike was president of his B'nai B'rith lodge and its 1971 Man of the Year. He also

served as editor of the *Cleveland Craftsman*, a prizewinning technical magazine; and was named Outstanding Craftsman of the Year in 1970.

Since arriving in Indianapolis nearly four decades ago, Mike has served on the boards of Beth-El Zedeck, B'nai Torah, JFGI, JEA/BJE, JCRC, Lubavitch of Indiana and the Hasten Hebrew Academy, where he had been vice-president and scholarship committee chairman for over 20 years.

He has been a leather craftsman, printer, writer, editor, lecturer, teacher and volun-

teer. Mike is a recipient of numerous awards, including the Sagamore of the Wabash (Indiana's highest award, 1999); the Hasten Hebrew Academy's prestigious HAI-Life Award (1995); the Jewish Federation's Frank Newman award for outstanding professional (2003); and the State of Israel Guardian of Peace/Shomer Shalom award (1999).

To view a clip of the video created by Peter Weisz of Mike Blain go to YouTube at www. youtube.com/watch?v=xcp-15D2pu0 or at www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ih7inKnymtQ.



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BOOK FAIR



Bonnie Maurer signing her latest chapbook of poetry titled, *Reconfigured*. Her previous chapbooks include: *Ms. Lily Jane Babbitt Before the Ten O'clock Bus from Memphis Ran Over Her, Old 37: The Mason Cows*, and *Bloodletting: A Ritual Poem for Womens' Voices*.



Lisa Grunberger, author of *Yiddish Yoga*, showing a tree pose with 10-yr-old Isaac Condon. He is the son of her friend Matt Condon. Matt is a Professor of Comparative Religions at IUPUI. Lisa attended Divinity School with Matt at the University of Chicago. Isaac attends the Hasten Hebrew Academy and he's nine years old. *See story on page NAT 2*

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Indianapolis Hadassah Lunch and Learn

The Indianapolis Chapter of Hadassah will sponsor its Lunch and Learn study program of famous American Jewish Women this fall. Join them at Shapiro's in Carmel on Nov. 18 to discuss the life of Emma Lazarus; and on Dec. 9 to discuss the life of Marie Syrkin. All sessions begin at 11 a.m. For further information call 844-4309 or 257-7142.

Caregiver Support Group

If you are caring for a family member or friend on a regular basis, you might be interested in participating in this informal group. Facilitated by Judy Sosin, MSW, JCC associate executive director, this is a safe place to share emotions and experiences, seek and give advice, and exchange practical information with others. You will see that your situation is not unique, that you are not alone in your feelings and experiences and you may find other people who have struggled with the same problems as you and have found answers. Third Thursday of each month beginning Nov. 18, 3:30-4:30 p.m., No registration required. No fee. For more information, go to www.JCCindy.org.

A Man of Achievement

The Anti-Defamation League will honor Governor Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr. at its meeting on Mon., Nov. 23. Abraham H. Foxman, ADL national director, will serve as the event's keynote speaker, presenting Governor Daniels with the Man of Achievement Award. The award dinner will take place at the Hyatt Regency in Indianapolis, 5: 30 p.m. Tickets are \$400. Reservations can be made by calling Meghan at the Chicago office at 1-800-255-9492.

Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

The Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service is **Wed.**, **Nov. 25** at 7:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church located at 86th Street and College Ave. Participating congregations include Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, Meridian Street Methodist, Northminster Presbyterian, St. Luke's Methodist, Second Presbyterian, Nur Allah Mosque, St. Paul's Episcopal, First Congregational, and First Baptist. An offering will be taken for the Interfaith Hunger Initiative. No reservations required.

Open Mic with Blair Karsh

Mr. Blair Karsch and the On Your Level Youth Project will once again host Indianapolis's 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, comedy, hiphop, 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.

Wed., Dec. 2, 4:30–6:30 p.m., Pike Library, 6525 Zionsville

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Sat., Jan. 16, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Christian Theological Seminary with Peace Learning Center. www.peacelearning-center.org. Martin Luther King Day Festival and Community Event, 1000 W. 42nd St., Indianapolis, 596-9730.

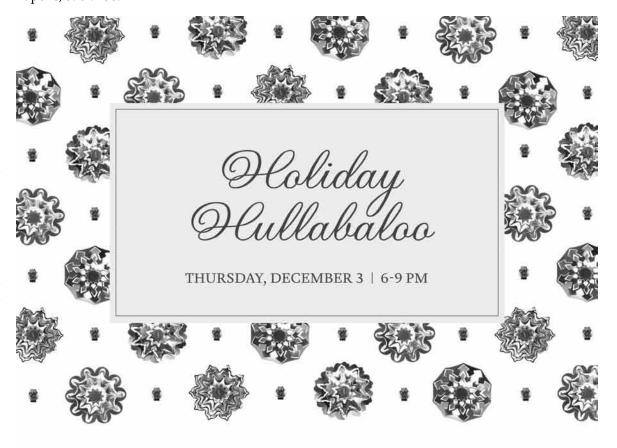
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stop by the JCC membership

(Continued on NAT 2)



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Benjamin Dorson chosen for 2009–2010 StandWithUs Emerson Fellowship at IU

Indiana University sophomore Ben Dorson has been designated a StandWithUs "Emerson Fellow," a unique campus initiative entering its third year from StandWithUs, the nonprofit, international Israel education organization.

The annual Fellowship selects and trains students from campuses across the United States and Canada to run events that teach about Israel. Thirty-eight student leaders from 38 campuses have been hired for the 2009–10 school year. It is funded by philanthropists Rita and Steve Emerson.

Dorson, a journalism major, intends to "promote the cultural complexities of the State of Israel and the multicultural relationships that exist beyond the well-publicized conflict." Dorson is a 2008 graduate of North Central High School. He is the

son of Patti Freeman Dorson and Roland Dorson, and attends Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation.

A movie screening, information session about Israel's "green" policies and a panel discussion will all take place throughout the year in conjunction with Hoosiers for Israel and Hillel. In September, Dorson's group sponsored a welcome-back freshman event with a Gag Tournament, catered by Falafels restaurant.

The students began by attending an August conference in Los Angeles geared toward training them as StandWithUs Emerson Fellows. Through workshops and lectures by SWU campus staff, they learned skills and facts to help them clarify Israel's image and combat anti-Israel rhetoric and stereotypes. They learned coalition building, event planning and

received media training.

Throughout the year, the Fellows will build relationships with their campus groups and individuals to create informative, balanced and educational events. They will report back to SWU campus staff to evaluate program effectiveness and network among themselves to ensure consistency.

SWU Emerson Fellows receive a stipend. They are eligible to join the StandWithUs Taglit Birthright Israel trip, or be chosen to intern at the StandWithUs office in Israel in the summer of 2010.

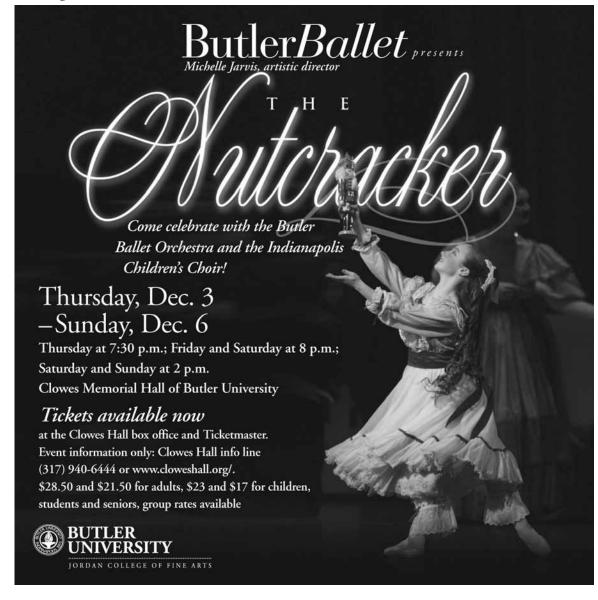
"We are thrilled to enter the third year of the Fellowship," offers Ron Kutas, SWU Emerson Fellowship director. "Based on past years' results, we refined and strengthened the program to make it even more effective on campuses. We selected highly motivated and talented students and look forward to collaborating with them throughout the year."

Kutas continues, "similar to previous years, we chose campuses with particular anti-Israel sentiment, and the Fellows are our eyes and ears on the ground. They can best articulate their needs and work with SWU to formulate an optimal response." More than 120 candidates applied for and were interviewed for this year's Fellowship. "We decided on the strongest ones based on proven leadership abilities, passion and the regional and campus climate."

Thirty-eight students from U.S. and Canadian campuses participated in the first and second SWU Emerson Fellowship for the 2007–2009

semester years. They brought speakers to their campuses, screened films, organized programs and responded to anti-Israel events and rhetoric.

StandWithUs, an international, nonprofit Israel education organization, hosts speakers and conferences, offers website resources and creates brochures and materials about Israel that are distributed globally. Based in Los Angeles, the organization has offices across the U.S. and in Israel and the UK. StandWithUs was founded in 2001 in response to the public's need and desire for more information about the Arab-Israeli conflict. StandWithUs-Campus helps college students challenge anti-Israel bias.





Chanukah Campaign Kick-Off Dinner

he Chanukah Campaign Kick-Off Dinner was Lheld on Sun., Nov. 8. Dr. Avivah Zornberg addressed attendees about the story of Ruth: Becoming Ruth: "And I am a stranger." Over 80 people attended the event, which also included remarks from Dr. Jack Cotlar, parent of three Hasten Hebrew Academy graduates and former HAI-Life Award winner.



Photos (top right to bottom left): Rick Bentley, Mark Shere and Elliott Bartky; Kathy Frankel and Marci Landis; Mike Blain and Jennifer Berday; Miriam Gettinger and Dr. Avivah Zornberg, Benton and Sandi Marks; Sharon Merin and Maya Shmoel.









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Chai adornment in high spheres in 1990 and includes Magen Davids as well as mezzuzot

Inspired by his love for Israel, French jeweler Jean aka Yonatan is the only artist of Judaica to have designed a Jewish symbol that elegantly weds the two Hebrew letters for life and luck with the universal symbol of love. Landing safely after a 16-day stint in Space, Yonatan's signature Chai-Heart traveled aboard the shuttle Endeavour this past summer. The luckbearing pendant accompanied the U.S. crew to the International Space Station, where the largest ever, in-orbit gathering of astronauts was recorded as an outerspace first.

The artist's fluidly styled Chai-Heart pendant along with its NASA-issued certificate belong to Jackie Wolf, stepmother of Endeavour astronaut David A. Wolf. A veteran mission spe-

cialist, during his Rosh Hashanah space walk, David chatted with his hometown congregation of Beth-El Zedeck in Indianapolis. The first person to vote from space, Wolf is one of four American Jews to have rocketed to the high spheres since the inception of the U.S. space program in the late 1960s.

Judaic art maven Jackie Wolf is also the longtime buyer for BEZ's Gallery of Judaica where the Yonatan collection's suite of Chai-Hearts and trio of Chai-Spheres are featured. Layered with meaning and handcrafted in youthful sterling silver or classic gold, the signed, heirloom-quality pieces are mitzvah favorites. The 175-piece body of work began its journey with a chai-themed wedding band commissioned

in 1990 and includes Magen and hamsot. The Gallery of Judaica's beautiful selection of ornamental and ceremonial Judaica is invitingly presented at 600 W. 70th Street, 317-475-1705; and online at www.bezgallery.org.

An honorary kibbutznik and award-winning jewelry designer, Hebrew-fluent Yonatan mastered his craft in Paris and in Switzerland before settling in Philadelphia.

Beth-El Zedeck's Gallery of

Sharon Mishkin and Jackie Wolf, co-managers of the Gallery of Judaica for the Sisterhood of Congregation Beth-El Zedeck, have recently begun to display a number of new Hanukkah items. The Gallery now has in inventory over 150 menorot, ranging in price from \$5 to \$650. Finding the perfect



piece of jewelry for a loved one is easy with over 500 pieces of jewelry from which to choose. Many are artists' individual designs - handcrafted by the artist. The Gallery also has an extensive collection of dreidels - many unique, designed by Jewish artists, and in limited editions. With dreidel prices Sunday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

ranging from \$18 to \$250, truly there is something for everyone, including the dreidel collector on your list. The Gallery also has a wide range of gift ideas from music boxes to aprons and placemats. Gallery hours are Tuesday -Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and

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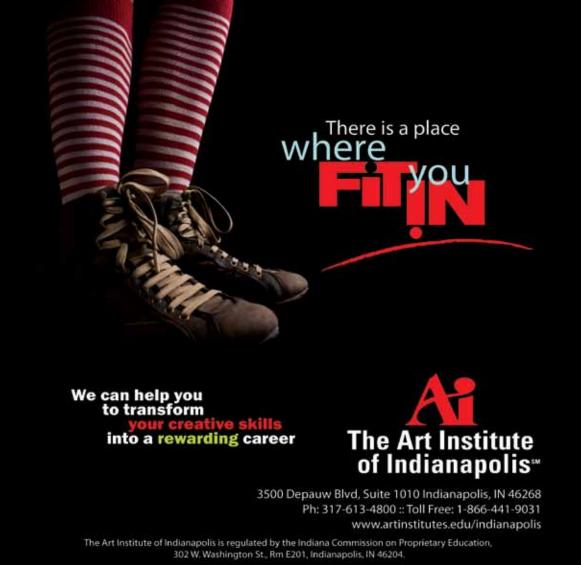
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Friends came out to celebrate Mike and Sylvia Blain

Only a few of those in attendance are pictured here. Top row left to right: Josh Hasten and his father Hart Hasten, Joe Ofengender and Mike Meyers, Shelby Goldstein, field representative for the Chicago Israel Bonds office, Dr. David Orentlicher, current Israel Bonds chairman, Mike and Sylvia Blain, Mike Blain delivering his acceptance speech. Second row l-r: Sally and Jack Cotlar, Mike and Sylvia Blain, Bebe Weinstein, Mike Blain, Sylvia Blain, N. Bill Weinstein. Third row l-r: Shirley Kurlander, Dr. Ed Gabovitch, Marilyn Schankerman, Richard and Ellen Shevitz. Seated below Ellen Shevitz is Barry Pakula, president of B'nai Torah. Bottom row: Marshall and Anita Yovits.







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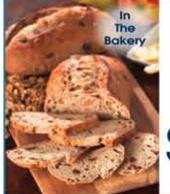






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holiday dinners

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