

*The Indiana Jewish* *Happy Purim!*  
**Post & Opinion**

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*Weddings*  
*2010*

*See page nat 2*



# Silverman & Rosenbaum

Batya Leat Silverman and Michael Lee Rosenbaum were married on Oct. 18, 2009 in Indianapolis. They will make their home in Cincinnati. Rabbi Coby Robinson presided over the wedding ceremony. The bride's parents are Martin and DeAnn Silverman, of Indianapolis. The groom's mother Miriam and step-father Hillel Seitlin live in Los Angeles. His father Menachem and step-mother Sarah live in Brooklyn.

Batya and Michael met on a date set up by a mutual friend. Michael proposed to Batya while they were on a hot air balloon ride. During the balloon ride, the groom also played the guitar and sang Eshet Chayil to the tune of U2's "With or Without You."



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Tony DeSare

## John J Domont

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### John J Domont, my work and ideas...

I began my career as a fine art photographer focused on the decisive moment and the magic of light. I continue to look for images that indicate a sense of universal wonderment and unity.

Experience of unity in nature, brings with it a sense of awe. This supports and guides my work. My heartland landscapes are an attempt to honor the beauty and magic of living in our time and place. I am interested in expressing the harmony of the seen and unseen.

The "Begging Bowl" series is an artistic metaphor for receptivity and acceptance. It is an allegory for the body and the soul, the physical and the non-physical. I paint the begging bowls that come to me in dreams, meditation and reverie. I believe that gratitude and humility are doorways that open to our common humanity.

I paint large-scale works and produce limited edition fine art prints and giclées on canvas. To see my work or to commission a piece, please contact me.

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Indianapolis IN 46225

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# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## Cinema Israel

**Kippur:** Thurs., Feb. 11. This movie is the tale of two friends, Weinraub and Russo, who serve in the IDF as reservists and have to fight together during the Yom Kippur War in 1973. The movie was made with assistance of the IDF. The movie played in the Cannes Festival. (2000) Rating: Unrated. Runtime: 120 min. All Cinema Israel screenings are at 7:00 p.m. at the JCC Laikin Auditorium, 6701 Hoover Rd.

## Calling All Artists!

IHC Sisterhood is sponsoring a fundraising plate painting event on Tues., Feb. 16 and Wed., Feb. 17 to benefit the Interfaith Hospitality Initiative. Interested artists should contact Laurie Freeman at lauriebfreeman@gmail.com as soon as possible.

## JCC Business Network

Next meeting Wed., Feb. 17. For more information, contact Larry Rothenberg at lrothenberg@jccindy.org or at 715-9233.

## JFGI Pomelit

Stella Artois Happy Hour at the Symphony, Hilbert Circle Theatre, 45 Monument Circle, Thurs., Feb. 18. Happy hour begins at 5 p.m.; performance at 6:30. RSVP by Feb. 11 to JFGI at 726-5450.

## Daddy – Daughter Night

Take your daughter on a date to the Daddy – Daughter

Night at the Indianapolis JCC. Feb. 20. 251-9467,

## Shaarey Tefilla Wellness Program

On Sun., Feb. 21, 10:30 – 11:30 at Congregation Shaarey Tefilla, the Men's Club and Sisterhood will be sponsoring the 2nd wellness program, Fitness and Wellness, geared to adults and young adults. The CST Social Hall will be split into two simultaneous sessions, and participants have a choice as to which session they want to attend. No fee to attend.

Bob Brook USAC cycling coach will focus on functional fitness (stretching, strength and cardio). This session will be geared to current fitness, planning, and setting goals for a functional fitness program for yourself.

Tracy Stoner will conduct a Yoga session for all levels, all ages at the same time in the social hall. We'll participate in the simple yet challenging practice of traditional hatha yoga postures designed to release stress and tension as well as strengthen and tone your muscles. This session will help connect mind, body and spirit, leaving you refreshed, balanced, peaceful and having an overall sense of well-being. Please refrain from eating 1 hour prior. Bring water, towel and yoga mat if you have one.

## Kosher Coop Pesach Orders

The next order for the Indy Kosher Coop is the Pesach or-

der. Go to [www.kkosherscoop.com](http://www.kkosherscoop.com) for more information and to place orders. The order deadline is Feb. 23 with delivery March 10.

## IWIN Foundation Pink Pajama Party

Indiana Women in Need Foundation is hosting its sixth Pink Pajama Party on Fri. and Sat., Feb. 26. IWIN is nonprofit organization that assists women and their families enduring treatment for breast cancer. For more information or to register for this event, go to [www.iwin-foundation.org](http://www.iwin-foundation.org).

## JFGI Young Leadership

Sat., Feb. 27. Casual evening of schmoozing and enjoying adult beverages. Location to be announced. For more information, contact Lindsey Geller at 726-9257 or [lgeller@jfgi.org](mailto:lgeller@jfgi.org).

## Super Sunday

Save the date – Sun., March 7, at Jewish Federation for phone-a-thon and more.

## Shlock Rock Concert

Sun., March 7, at the Hashten Hebrew Academy Cultural Arts Center. Doors open 3:00 p.m. for food service and concert begins at 4:00. Advance purchase: \$12 adults/\$10 children. Door Price: \$15 adults/\$12 children. All the proceeds go to HHAI. Please contact Parisa Keisari ([pkeisari@hotmail.com](mailto:pkeisari@hotmail.com) or 295-2480) to find out how you can become a sponsor.

## The Kelley School's 64th Annual Business Conference

"Remaking America: New Strategies for Exceptional Times" will provide you with

concrete ideas that address some of the most pressing questions all of us face today. The conference will be held at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis, on March 10, 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Speakers include Marshall Goldsmith, MBA'72, renowned executive coach and author of *What Got You Here Won't Get You There*. Further details and online registration are available at <http://kelley.iu.edu/busconf>.

## Casino Night at Shaarey Tefilla

Join Congregation Shaarey Tefilla for their 10th annual Casino Night and Silent Auction, Mar. 13, 7:30 p.m. Bring a friend. Hear the Chips. Have some wine. See the Bling. Early bird special: \$25 until February 20th, so get your order in early! For more information, call 733-2169.

## Remarks by Madeleine Albright

Secretary of state Madeleine Albright (1997-2001) and distinguished American diplomat will speak at Clowes Memorial Hall at Butler University, 7:30 p.m. March 24. Free and open to the public. Madeleine Albright speaks with humor, insight and eloquence about her life and career as a refugee girl who rose to become the world's most powerful woman. Albright sketches a vivid portrait of her years as secretary of state, and offers candid descriptions of foreign leaders she encountered throughout the world. She also discusses America's role in the world, the effect of strife on the global economy, current regional con-

flicts, the future of democracy and the challenge of ensuring security and building peace.

In addition to her service as secretary of state, Albright served as the U.S. representative to the United Nations, was a member of the Cabinet and the National Security Council and is the former president of the Center for National Policy. In addition, she teaches at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and is chairperson to the Women, Faith, and Development Alliance.

## JFGI Young Leadership Wine Tasting

March 25 – Save the Date. More info to come. For more information, contact Lindsey Geller at 726-9257 or [lgeller@jfgi.org](mailto:lgeller@jfgi.org).

## Cinema Israel

*Charlie and a Half.* Thurs., March 25. One of the most famous Israeli movies that became a cult classic! Charlie's life is rather boring. He's a small-time crook from a troubled neighborhood, making his living through fraud and gambling, together with his young friend Miko. It all changes when Charlie meets Gila, a beautiful rich girl from North Tel Aviv. Charlie tries to conquer her heart, much to the chagrin of her parents. But

(See Events, page IN 11)

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# CRITICS CORNER



## A comedy with a message

By Charlie Epstein

The Beef and Boards Dinner Theatre presented a poignant comedy about kindness and bigotry with *The Foreigner*. This was a different kind of comedy with plenty of laughs by Larry Shue, who also wrote the funny play *The Nerd*. It was quirky, which made it so enjoyable. Comments from the audience included, "this really is different, which was what made it so appealing," and "this is so funny even with its bizarre ending."

Heading the cast was resident Beef and Boards funny man Jeff Stockberger who was at his best in a very difficult role, that of *The Foreigner*, Charlie, who supposedly didn't speak nor understand English. His made-up language and contortions in the second act were fantastic. His elastic body seemed made of rubber.

Another funny man in the cast was David Purdy, who tried to teach Charlie the language of Southern Georgia. But the whole cast was delightful with none of them competing for the spotlight, which was impossible to take away from Stockberger. David Schmittou played the hidden villain to the utmost as the smooth-talking

reverend. Ty Stover's timing was impeccable as *The Foreigner's* friend who cooked up the ruse. Kate Braun enthralled the audience with her off-beat role as the owner of the lodge. Sarah Hund played the villain's fiancé with aplomb, and Daniel Scharbrough rounded out the cast as the blustering bigot. This ensemble cast was terrific. They exquisitely meshed their acting skills with the comic dialogue.

Eddie Curry's magnificent direction was imaginative. The breakfast scene in the first act showcased his tremendous talent. However, there were some minor blocking problems (probably not all his fault) where I was sitting. Next up for Eddie is an acting role in the musical *Footloose*. After that comes the glorious musical *Hello Dolly*. Later in the season the wonderful Tony Lawson is scheduled to appear as Lancelot in the musical *Camelot*.

Due to my health I have not been able to attend as many productions as I would have liked to. Since I have improved tremendously I expect to get back to reviewing more frequently. Thank you readers for your concerns.

## Jewtopia

By Barry Litwack

Being single in reality bites. Being single *plus* Jewish and performing the reality on stage is more embarrassing. If you had the chance to see the December performance of *Jewtopia* at Theatre on the Square, you could not help but laugh at the comedy of playwrights Bryan Fogel and Sam Wolfson. The production was directed by John Fullam and assisted by

Andrew Ranck.

The audience is taken on an interesting journey into the Jewish Internet dating site of JDate. Paul Wallace, playing the role of Chris O' Donnell (a non-Jew who wants to meet a Jewish woman), and Christopher Hansen, playing Adam Lipshitz, share the ups and downs of meeting Jewish girls

(See *Jewtopia*, page IN 5)

# Purim Celebrations

**Congregation Beth-El**  
Zedek, 600 W. 70th,  
253-3441

Sat., Feb. 27, 5:30 p.m., Megilla reading; come in costume. Followed by the Purim Carnival, games, food, fun. Hamantaschen oneg sponsored by Sisterhood. Dinner prepared by the men's club available for purchase.

**Congregation B'nai Torah,**  
6510 N. Hoover Rd.,  
317-253-5253

Sat., Feb. 27, Purim Carnival and Seudah, Megillah reading - 8:00 p.m. Sun., Feb. 28, Shacharis - 8:30 a.m.; first Megillah reading 9:10 a.m.; second Megillah reading 12 noon; Purim Carnival (organized by NCSY). 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.; gourmet Seudah dinner 5:15 p.m.; an evening of entertainment including music, Purim spiel and comedy acts.

**Congregation Shaarey**  
Tefilla, 3085 W. 116th St.,  
Carmel, 317-733-2169

Sat., Feb. 27, Mincha - 6:45 p.m. Purim Service - 7:15 p.m. Carnival - 8:15 PM - 9:45 p.m. Sun., Feb. 28, Purim Service - 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

**Etz Chaim Sephardic**  
Congregation, 6939 Hoover  
Rd., 317-251-6220

Sat., Feb. 27, 7:15 p.m. - Evening service, 7:30 p.m. - Reading of the Megilah. Costume Parade (Prizes for all children who are dressed up), Hamantaschens dessert table, silent auction of gift baskets (donations of gift baskets will be accepted until Feb. 26).

**Indianapolis**  
Hebrew Congregation,  
6501 N. Meridian St.,  
255-6647

Sat., Feb. 27, *Fiddler on the Roof* as the Purimspiel will be presented at IHC's Megillah reading. The script, created by Rabbi Billy and Cantor Ellen Dreskin uses music from the play of the same

name to tell the Purim story.

**Lubavitch 23rd Annual**  
**Purim Celebration, at the**  
**JCC, 6701 N. Hoover Rd.,**  
**251-5573.**

Sun., Feb. 28, Megilla reading, 4 p.m.; Purim in Persia at

5 p.m., includes Purim masquerade, Purim cuisine dinner, music, shesh besh games. Featuring live performance by internationally acclaimed Rope Warrior. Adults \$10, children under 10 \$5. At the door, adults \$13, children under 10 \$7. For more information or to RSVP, call 251-5573 or email [purim@lubavitchindiana.com](mailto:purim@lubavitchindiana.com).



## 2009-2010 Laureate Series

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# Jewtopia

Continued from page IN 4

and dating them. Adam is set up on four different dates with Chris's help. Adam coaches Chris how to impress a Jewish mother.

And the comedy takes off. Perhaps many of our local Jewish community have seen this production in New York off-Broadway or even in Los Angeles. This is Indianapolis shtick on Mass Ave. With great local talent comprised of Vonda Fuhrmann playing Marcy Cohen and Arlene Lipshitz, Michael J Ferruzza playing Rabbi Shlomo and the grandpa Irving Lipshitz, Dan Flahive playing the father Dennis Lipshitz, Sharon Cruz as Rachel Khan as the potential Gentile match to Adam and Nurse Ortega.

From St. Louis comes Jenny  
(See Jewtopia, page IN 6)

## Engagement



Sylvia and Michael Blain are pleased to announce the engagement of their Israeli grandson Ma'ayan Leshem, son of Rabbi Zvi and Julie Leshem, Efrat, Israel, to Shlomzion Clarfield, daughter of Drs. Mark Clarfield and Ora Paltiel of Jerusalem. A May or June wedding is planned.

## Mazel Tov!



Shmuel Chovav-Tzion Margolis was born on Jan. 15, 2010 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.

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Christopher Hansen, Dan Flahive, Michael J. Ferruzza and Paul Wallace. (Bottom, l to r) Sharon Cruz, Isabella Litwack, Vonda Fuhrmann and Jenny Mermelstein. The show ran from Dec. 4 through Jan. 2 at Theatre on the Square, 627 Massachusetts Ave., in downtown Indianapolis. 317-685-8687

## Jewtopia

*Continued from page IN 5*

Mermelstein, calling herself the "token Jew." She moved here a year ago playing the four roles of those dates and Fire Tushy (that's an Internet name, folks) and my daughter Isabella-Naomi as Jill Lipshitz, the 14-year-old bratt at the Passover table.

For those who did come, over the five weekends and 14 performances, my wife, Alla, and I saw three dress rehearsals and two full performances.

Between our friends who joined us on those two occasions and various other members of IHC, Beth-El Zedeck, Shaarey Tefilla, and Etz Chaim who I could identify, it was obvious who in the crowd was Jewish by the way the Yiddish flew through the air.

Even though this production was well advertised on the

radio and in print, there was an average of 40 people on about five occasions. By the last performance on Jan. 2, it was sold out. Granted TOTS has to compete for an audience, but it's too bad this production didn't generate more from our own community.

Some of the highlights that gathered the biggest laughs were Adam explaining to Chris how to "move about in the restaurant" and ordering from the menu with an all-together new idea. Don't forget to put the salmon on top. Jews love salmon. Nurse Ortega singing her little ditty before Chris's circumcision plus his "mock lobster" routine. Jenny Mermelstein in the four dates. Between Adam's helpless routine of deciding between Hasidic, Sport Jew, Party Jew, or Artsy Jew, you couldn't help but not

(See Jewtopia, page IN 9)

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# Interview with Joe Deninzon

By Cindie Harp

Joe Deninzon was born in St. Petersburg, but he still has roots in Indiana, and he is returning to them Feb. 16 for the Jazz Concert at the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center here in Indianapolis.

Anti-Semitism was the impetus (along with poor living conditions) for Joe's leaving Russia in 1979, at the age of four. If hope for a better life for his family was why he got to the United States, music gave Joe's family the ability to stay. His father, a violinist, won a job with the Cleveland Orchestra about a month after they arrived in this country.

Joe attended Indiana University in Bloomington for his undergraduate studies. He double-majored in classical violin and jazz studies. Post-graduation, he attended the Manhattan School of Music, where he earned a masters degree in jazz and commercial violin. His trajectory seems inevitable, at least from the perspective of hindsight. Mr. Deninzon does not disagree.

"Coming from a family of musicians, I knew I wanted to be a musician for as long as I can remember. There was a brief time when I flirted with wanting to be a writer, but most of the time, I knew that music was my calling. There was never a doubt in my mind."

Issues of vocation and avocation aside, rich dreams are supported by years of hard work. Joe seems to have found a place where dreams are not all diminished by the workaday reality.

"Growing up, I wanted to be a rock star. I actually originally wanted to play guitar in a band and travel the world. There was a time when practicing the violin was a chore, but I found myself when I discovered you could play all styles of music on the violin and found that it came naturally to me. The rock star fantasy still exists to a degree, but I get to do so many diverse projects in all kinds of genres from day to

day that I'm never bored with my work. I think most kids who grow up aspiring to be musicians imagine a glamorous world of fame and fortune, but the reality is that it's a lot of hard work and very little glamour. I think as you grow up and mature as a musician, you learn that music is its own reward. It's a blessing to make music with your friends and create magic every night. What we aspire to do is tap into a certain energy that is beyond this world. I have found that if you go into music with that attitude, you'll be happy and fulfilled more often than not. If you follow your passion, material rewards will come, but that should not be your initial driving force."

Joe has travelled the world, including two trips back to Russia, once at the age of 14 and again in 2006 with his wife. Both Joe and Russia had changed a great deal. "Thousands of new businesses are opening on Nevsky Prospect in St. Petersburg. You can sense that the country's economy is growing, and capitalism is thriving. Although the average household income is equivalent to \$16,000 per year and most people have a very modest way of life, it's slowly improving... I think Moscow and St. Petersburg are becoming tourist meccas on the level of Paris or New York."

The Indiana roots of the Deninzon family are shared by Joe's wife, Yulia, whom he met at IU. She is also a violinist with the New York Philharmonic. They have a one-year-old son, named Max. Rounding out the musical family is Joe's mother, who is a concert pianist. Still, surrounded by classical musicians, Joe considers himself the "black sheep of the family."

His other "musical family," that of his influences, is more eclectic. These include Frank Zappa for his anything-goes attitude about music. "Going completely against the grain of what is 'commercial' and mixing Varese, Stravinsky, and

jazz with rock'n' roll and creating a massive body of work with a huge following while ignoring the 'rules' of the music industry."

Joe gives a nod to both Miles Davis, for his "innovations in modal jazz, fusion, bebop, and his perpetual forward-thinking, all inclusive musical philosophy," and Bruce Springsteen "for his incredible lyrics and storytelling ability and his unequalled work ethic and showmanship." He also notes his admiration for Steve Vai for his virtuosity and showmanship.

Joe does not forget his classical roots either. Some of his favorites are Beethoven, Stravinsky and Mahler, as well as John Corigliano, whom he thinks is "one of the most gifted and creative composers alive today."

Joe does homage to his predecessors by setting his own

example and giving back, as with his participation cabaret-style concert this month. Discussing his accomplishments, Joe once again displays deep gratitude. "As a musician, I've been able to travel around the world and do some incredible things with many creative and inspiring people. I'm blessed to do what I love for a living and hope to continue playing until the day I die. There have been many great accomplishments, and it's hard to choose one that stands out. I think making music for a living is an accomplishment in itself. Aside from that, I think having my son a year ago is probably my greatest accomplishment."

Part of the gratitude for his current life that Joe displays includes looking forward. "I want to keep building on the musical trajectory I've started with my band, Stratosphereius, and my jazz trio. I recently formed an electric string quartet and have been composing music for the group, which I

want to expand. Someday, I would love to write an electric violin concerto, which will encompass a wide range of musical influences. I also enjoy contributing to other people's projects, whether as an arranger or performer, and want to continue working with artists who inspire me.

"Ultimately, I want to write some great music that people can remember. Also, I want to contribute to the world of the violin, and maybe make people see and hear the instrument a little differently than they have in the past. Despite its long history and extensive repertoire, I think we are just scraping the tip of the iceberg with regards to what the instrument is capable of and what genres of music it can function creatively in. There is a new generation of violinists emerging with a great classical foundation, but also the ability to improvise in jazz, rock, funk, country, electronica, hip hop, and beyond.

(See Deninzon, page IN 8)



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Joe Deninzon Jazz Trio

## Deninzon

Continued from page IN 7

As an educator, I'm seeing an unprecedented versatility in young string players, and it's exciting to see the great creative potential for the future of music."

A Jazz Cabaret-Style concert featuring the Joe Deninzon Jazz Trio with drummer Lucianna Padmore will be presented Tues., Feb. 16, at 7:30 p.m. at the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, Lilly Hall, 450 W. Ohio, Indianapo-

lis. Artists Joe Deninzon, violin; Robert Bowen, bass; Stephen Benson, guitar; Lucianna Padmore, drums will perform as part of a tour celebrating the release of their debut CD, *Exuberance*. \$22 Adults; \$17 Senior Citizens/Indiana Historical Society Member; \$10 Students. For more information, call 317.637.4574 or visit [www.violin.org](http://www.violin.org). Presented in partnership with the Indiana Historical Society.

Cindie Harp lives in Indianapolis. She can be reached at [cindie-harp@gmail.com](mailto:cindie-harp@gmail.com).



## The BJE – More than just a Hebrew school

### Director Ora Leivant steps down in June

By Cindie Harp

Your children probably know her a lot better than you do.

And that is too bad, because Ora Leivant is wrapping up a 19-year career at the Bureau of Jewish Education, and she has seen it all.

Before you panic, I don't mean she has seen you personally. Well, maybe. Like a figure from another American culture, she may know if you've been bad or good. (How's that Hebrew School attendance been?)

The *Jewish Post & Opinion* recently asked Ora what she has seen during the past 19 years in Jewish Indianapolis.

Ora and her husband, Daniel, arrived in Indianapolis in 1991, he for his job at IU in Bloomington, and Ora's as director of Jewish Education at



Ora Leivant director of Jewish Education at the BJE.


the BJE. She has lived in Israel, France and Holland, but teaching in any country has brought its own rewards for Ora.

"Teaching in general, and teaching youngsters in particular, is a challenging, exciting, and rewarding job. Teaching people is changing them, in particular at a younger age, opening new horizons for

them, and sending them to a richer and more satisfying future. I have always loved the interactions with my students, young and old. There is a bond with your students that builds over time when you teach. Teaching is guiding and leading. You must put your whole heart in it or you can't do it.

(See Leivant, page IN 9)


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Jen Cohen, wife of principal and owner Jeff Cohen, and friend Meghan Clark at their opening celebration party on Jan. 21.

Encore Sotheby's International recently announced the founding members, principals, and staff of their local Indianapolis office. The office is located at 9510 N. Meridian. Mazel Tov to Jeff Cohen, Mark Zukerman, Margaret Litz, Bradely Litz, Heather Carpenter, Jeff Carroll, Deborah Dorman, Rebecca Glazier, Heather Jaffe, Becky Newman, Jason O'Neil, Jay O'Neil, Ryan O'Neil, Tom Wright, Tracy Wright, Lindsay Cook, Kathryn Laux, and Christine Renfro.



# Leivant

Continued from page IN 8

Some of my best memories are from my experience as a teacher."

In 1997, Ora became the BJE's executive director. Neither job in Indianapolis has afforded her the opportunity of teaching children, however. "I miss the direct interaction with the students, their input, watching them acquire and change, struggle and win, seeing them proud of what they have learned and earned, and learning so much from them in return."

Of course, the Jewish community has changed, both culturally and geographically, in 19 years. How much has the BJE changed in that time?

Ora tells us: Plenty. The BJE became more of a central agency... We now have a professional Judaica library, with an online catalogue. In 2000, we created the position of program director, to initiate and develop community programs, adult education and family programs. The Melton Mini School that we brought into Indianapolis has enriched the community with the 65 adults that graduated from it. A gift that we received in 2000 allowed us to offer to the community Holocaust resources in the library and workshops for teachers. So far, over 16 workshops were offered to public school teachers with a total number of more than 600 teachers attending...

The schools, too, have undergone profound changes. The Hebrew school population has increased by about 40%. Our schedule has been adapted to changes in the community population, and its growing geographic distribution. Hebrew school students now attend twice a week, compared to three in past years, and both the Hebrew School and Early Childhood Program are running a much more flexible schedule, and are far more accommodating to families than they were ever in the past. Social changes have created new needs, as working mothers are unable to taxi their kids as they used to. Children too have busier schedules involving a vari-

ety of extracurricular activities (so) the BJE purchased two school buses in 1999 to provide transportation from schools in order to accommodate families.

The pedagogical style of Hebrew School has also been adapted to the times, as some students attend irregularly and spend less time learning, they are focused more narrowly on the bar/bat mitzvah and services. The Hebrew School has strived to individualize instruction, and to accommodate special needs. The preschool needed to make changes as well, as free public kindergarten caused all private schools to lose kindergartners.

In the post-Harry Potter world, a little fantasy seems in order. If Ora had a magic wand, what would she make happen for the BJE? "We need to put both the instructional and the community programs at the BJE on a permanently sound footing. It would be great to have an endowment to secure and further develop, for the long run, all our educational community programs and projects. It would be equally important to have the resources needed to make Hebrew School affordable and available to every Jewish family."

Many great feats have been accomplished without said

wand. "I am very pleased with scores of achievements over the last 19 years. One is the development of Holocaust education at the BJE, in terms of resources and teacher workshops. Another is the Melton Mini School for adult education. Last, but not least, we have promoted the quality of education in the face of incessant challenges and difficulties, both at the Hebrew School, which had to become more accommodating to families and more individualized, and at the Early Childhood School."

Before Ora retires to spend more time with friends and family, she wants the greater community to know that "we (BJE) are not just a Hebrew School. We offer a lot more to the community, including family programs, teacher training, adult education, including Hebrew language, and a library with great resources in Judaica."

Cindie Harp lives in Indianapolis. She can be reached at cindieharp@gmail.com.

# Jewtopia

Continued from page IN 6

feel sorry for this nightmare of pleasing a Jewish woman. With rabbi coming to life in the Succoth, Adam and Chris (trying to fool everybody to believe his name is Avi), the craziness of telling the rabbi "to lower his price of membership" was a hoot.

The Passover Seder scene was a complete riot of not any Jewish mother, just Arlene interrupting Dennis in the middle of the Seder. And last but not least, my daughter Isabella – who is actually a "good girl"

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– making "A's as a freshman at University High School. Plus she's been performing since the age of 8 at the Civic Theatre in nine productions (two of which were adult performances)... Izzy, as she's called, played a convincing bratty, obnoxious, sarcastic, (flip the bird) 14-year-old teenager. She got great laughs on all her lines. Pray there's a nice Jewish boy waiting for her by the time she's 23. Baruch HaShem.

I hope they do this performance again next year in December ...or in Jerusalem.

Barry Litwack and his family live in Indianapolis.

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# OBITUARIES

## Lowell S. Pollen, 75

Lowell S. Pollen, CPL, 3rd Marine Div. 75, died Wed., Jan. 13, 2010. He started the Milwaukee Speed Skating Club in 1946. He loved sports, baseball (catcher), and football. He loved schmoozing with people. He served three years in the USMC and was with the occupational force in Mt. Fuji, Japan. Lowell was a salesman for over 50 years in the Home Improvement Business. He is survived by Rebecca Uhl; sons, Jeffrey, Joseph (Tammy) Pollen; grandchildren, April and Ely Bailey, David Pollen; sister, Roberta (Al) Wolfsohn. Graveside services and interment were held at 11:00 a.m., Fri., Jan. 15, 2010 at Crown Hill Cemetery. Officiant: Cantor Giora Sharon, Congregation Beth El Zedeck. Online condolences may be made at [www.crownhill.org](http://www.crownhill.org). The family wishes to thank the V.A. hospital doctors and staff for their heroic efforts.

## Morris Katz

Morris Katz, lifetime resident of Indianapolis, died Jan. 18, 2010.

As a young man he served his country as a lieutenant in the 83rd Infantry, Troop Carrier Command, in the South Pacific for five years during World War II. He was a true patriot. He would affectionate-



Morris Katz

ly call a friend "A Truly Great American." In reality, *he* was "A Truly Great American." He put his country before himself throughout his entire life. He loved being an American and continually reminded everyone he knew how lucky we were to live in this great country. For all of his hard work during his lifetime, he was awarded The Sagamore of the Wabash from the state of Indiana and was recognized by the state of Kentucky as a "Kentucky Colonel."

He had an outstanding career in business – He and his brothers ran Katz Bag Company where he served as chairman of the board for many years. Most importantly, Mor-

ris thought that no career was complete without giving back to charity, community and temple. He did volunteer work on behalf of Jewish and other general causes on the local, national and international scenes. He was a member of the World Jewish Congress and helped to establish APAC. He served on their Executive Committee for many years. He understood that a life needed to be significant to others as well as to oneself.

Morris directed the "Materials for Palestine" during Israel's War of Independence.

When his mother died of cancer, he wanted to help others with this dreaded disease. He began donating his time and money and became president of the Indianapolis Executive Council for the City of Hope and was a member of its National Board of Directors. He received the Samuel Gutter Award for work with The City of Hope. He understood the power of fund raising to make good things happen in the world.

He cared about all people and was a benefactor to Ameri-cares – an organization that supplies third-world nations in need of help. He supplied material for temporary shelters, primarily for countries suffering from natural disasters.

Morris loved politics and worked in various capacities for the Democratic Party throughout his life including his work on the Executive Committee for the Democratic National Committee.

In recognition for his work on helping to bring peace in the Middle East, he was present as a guest of President Carter at the White House when Israel's Prime Minister Begin and Egypt's President Sadat signed the historic Camp David Accords. From 1976–1980 he worked on the Foreign Affairs Advisory Committee for the Mid-East.

He participated in the establishment of the State of Israel and worked with Gov. Paul V. McNutt to lobby the U.N. to vote for the formation of the State of Israel. He received the Jerusalem Medal for his dedication to the welfare of his fel-

low man in 1986.

Morris also loved the entertainment business and produced Broadway shows with Milton Berle in the 1950s and 60s. He served as general chairman for the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra Pension Fund for the benefit of the musicians of the orchestra. He brought Milton Berle and Jack Benny to participate in these fund raising events.

In 1992 and throughout the Bayh and O'Bannon administrations, he served on the Indiana Film Commission as well as the Work Force Development Board.

Morris was always on someone's "go to" list if they needed something important done. When he believed in a cause, he was incredibly tenacious. It was not easy to say no to him when he was engaged in a project.

On a more personal and humorous side, he was an incredible story teller. His stories related many of the things he accomplished in his life and the significant times in which he lived. He loved talking about the progress that we have made, from horse and carriage to hybrid automobiles. He did not quite know how to work all of the modern technology, but he loved having it at his fingertips. He will be missed not only by those who knew him but also by those who benefited from his humanitarian spirit.

Morris is survived by his wife, Fran Jacoby; sister, Kit Tavel; children, Deborah Katz Dorman (P.A.) Nilhagen, Jill Katz (Scott) Miller, Susan Gilman, Robin (Dan) O'Neill, Jonathan (Beth) Jacoby; grandchildren, Melissa (Bradley) Wittenbaum, Evan Dorman, Ryan (Lee) Dorman, Molly Madfis, Jake Madfis, Jennifer (Rick) Lapins, Meredith (Paul) Glassman, Gus & Hank Jacoby, Brittany & Emily O'Neill; and great-grandchildren, Alexander, Jacob, Sarah and Andrew Wittenbaum; Rafael and Helio Dorman; Daniel and Alexander Lapins; Ellie Mathias and Faigy Glassman.

Funeral services were held Thurs., Jan. 21 at Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary, 11411 N. Michigan Rd. Burial fol-

lowed at Beth-El Zedeck North Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to City of Hope, In Memory of Morris Katz, Attn: Central Processing, 1500 E. Duarte Rd., Duarte, CA 91010; or the Alzheimer's Association, 50 E. 91st St., Ste. 100, Indianapolis 46209. Online condolences: [www.arnmortuary.com](http://www.arnmortuary.com).

## Mary Passo Campbell, 86

Mary Passo Campbell, of Indianapolis, died Jan. 27, 2010. She is survived by her beloved husband, Norman Campbell; and loving siblings, Sally Morris, Celia Yosha, Esther Zukerman, Becky Zoll and Al Passo. A funeral service was held Fri., Jan. 29 at Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary, 11411 N. Michigan Rd. Burial took place Mon., Feb. 1 at the Estates of Serenity Cemetery, Marion, Ind. Memorial contributions may be sent to Etz Chaim Sephardic Congregation.

## Bradley C. Goble, 47



Bradley C. Goble, of Brenham, Texas, formerly of Indianapolis, died Jan. 23, 2010. Brad was born August 12, 1962 in Columbia City, Ind. He graduated in 1981 from Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School, where he was on the varsity wrestling and football teams. He went on to earn a B.S. in Public Affairs from Indiana University in 1986 and an A.A.S. in Funeral Service with distinction from Commonwealth (See Obituaries, page IN 11)

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# Obituaries

*Continued from page IN 10*

Institute of Funeral Service, Houston in 2001.

He was a company commander on active duty and honorably discharged as a captain from the U.S. Air Force.

He worked as a funeral director in Brenham, Texas, and in Kerrville, Texas.

He was a member of Kappa Delta Rho at IU, Buddy Wright Post #48 of the American Legion in Brenham, Texas, Master Mason in Graham Lodge #20, A.F. and A.M. in Brenham, Rising Star Lodge #429, A.F. and A.M. in Center Point, Texas, life member of the Air Force Assn., and Jewish Community of the Hill Country.

Brad was a generous and loving person and will be greatly missed. Survivors include his father, Willis R. (Mary) Goble, Sr.; mother, Libby Nelson Goble; brothers, Willis Goble, Jr., Brent (Patti) Goble, Ford (Heidi) Goble; sister, Rochelle (Dana) Feaster; nephews and niece, David, Daniel, Phillip, Rachel, and Brent Jr.; aunts and uncles, Pauline (Norman) Newman, Elliott (Estelle) Nelson, Max (Donna) Nelson, Mary Lois Larson; and devoted friend, Nancy Goodwin. He was preceded in death by brother, Gregory Goble.

A funeral service was held Thurs., Jan. 28 at Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary, 11411 N. Michigan Rd. Burial followed at Indianapolis Hebrew Cemetery North. Memorial contributions may be made to Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School or the Humane Society of Indianapolis. Online condolences: [www.arnmortuary.com](http://www.arnmortuary.com).

Morris "Rocky" Rocklin, 97

Morris Rocklin, husband of the late Ida Mitchell Rocklin, member of Congregation Beth-El Zedeck, died at Hooverwood Nursing Home on Jan. 26, 2010. Rocky had no children of his own but was a caring, giving adoptive father, uncle and friend to a host of people who adored this kind, loving, generous man. In the

Jewish tradition, he was a true mensch. He leaves two local nieces, Marilyn Dunbar and Marilyn Peachin; nieces, Rhoda Drazner, Arlene Anshell and nephew, Marshall Fishman of Chicago; plus numerous great- and great-great-nieces and nephews. Private graveside services were held in Chicago. Donations may be made to Beth-El Zedeck minyan. Arrangements: Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary. Online condolences: [www.arnmortuary.com](http://www.arnmortuary.com).

## Philip (Phil) Marder, 61

Philip Marder died Sat., Jan. 30, 2010 after a 14-month battle with brain cancer.

Phil was born in the Bronx, New York City on April 2, 1948. He was the son of Oscar (Sol) and Mary Epstein Marder, who predeceased him. He lived two years in the Bronx before moving with his family to a new home in Maywood, NJ, where he grew up with his sister, Hilda Marder.

He graduated from Bogota (NJ) High School in 1966 and then was admitted to The Ohio State University in Columbus, OH. Phil did extremely well at Ohio State, graduating cum laude, and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. More importantly, Phil met his loving wife of 39+ years (Patricia (Patty) Lee Rohde) at Ohio State; she survives him. While at Ohio State, Phil became an avid Ohio State football fan, which he maintained throughout his adult life. Phil continued his studies at Ohio State and obtained a masters degree in microbiology.

In 1973 he began his career as a research scientist at Eli Lilly and Company in Indianapolis. Phil and Patty were blessed with the birth of three children in Indianapolis: Sarah in 1975, David in 1977, and Nathan in 1979, who also survive him. Through his 39 years at Lilly, he climbed through the ranks to become a Research Advisor. Phil was internationally recognized as the leader in use of the precise analytical cell measurement tool called flow cytometry for the development new

pharmaceuticals.

Phil's other interests included playing golf and racquetball. He also was an avid fan of the Indianapolis Colts and attended their Super Bowl win in Miami during February of 2007.

A funeral service was held Wed., Feb. 3, at Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary, 11411 N. Michigan Rd. Burial took place at Indianapolis Hebrew Cemetery North. In lieu of flowers, please consider giving a donation to the "Voices Against Brain Cancer" charity at: <http://www.voicesagainstbraincancer.org/>. Online condolences: [www.arnmortuary.com](http://www.arnmortuary.com).

## Claire F. Plaskoff, 80

Claire F. Plaskoff died on Feb. 1, 2010, in Indianapolis. She was born Oct. 14, 1929, in Yonkers, N.Y. to the late Isidor and Regina Friedmann.

Claire moved to Florida where she devoted her energy to an advertising career. There, she met and married educator, Reuben Plaskoff and then moved to Malibu, Calif. Claire dedicated herself to raising her three sons and to work in advertising. She retired with her twin sister to an active life in Boca Raton, Fla., where she enjoyed traveling, movies, and spending time with friends and family.

She was preceded in death by her father, Isidor; mother, Regina; brothers, Theodore and Arthur; sister, Elaine; and husband, Reuben. She is survived by her sister, Natalie Gars; three sons, Matt (Karry) Plaskoff, Josh (Robyn) Plaskoff, and Bart (Cynthia) Plaskoff; and seven grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on Feb. 5 at Mt. Sinai Memorial Park, Hollywood Hills, Calif. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to: Plaskoff Audio Visual Fund, c/o Kehillat Israel, 16019 Sunset Blvd., Pacific Palisades, CA 90272 or to the ALS Association. Arrangements: Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary.

# A tribute to Morris Katz

With the passing of Morris Katz, we lost a prominent and colorful local and national community leader.

The obituary mentions that Morrie was the recipient of the Jerusalem Medal. This medal was actually presented to him by State of Israel Bonds – and there is a story behind this.

Every year at Israel Bond dinners, we honor a locally prominent person ("PP"). In 1986 we selected a PP who readily agreed to be our honoree. He immediately indicated that everything will have to be done his way. He wanted, for example, Henry Kissinger as the speaker. We told him that Israel Bonds did not have funds to engage highly paid speakers. "No problem," said the PP, adding that he would raise the funds and promptly booked Kissinger. When it came to the catering, he said "no way can it be kosher, if it's kosher I am out, I will not force my friends to eat Kosher..."

That summer I visited Israel and spent my time hoping that by the time I got back to Indianapolis our guest of honor would no longer object to a kosher dinner. No such luck. I, as executive director, along with my Board and our National office insisted on a kosher dinner and, as a result, our prospect withdrew. On top of all that, our general chairman, who was a friend of our prospect, also resigned.

I was desperate. I met with Hart Hasten for advice. We came up with the idea of asking Morrie Katz to be our honoree that year. He readily agreed. In addition, Don Katz, Morrie's nephew, agreed to be our general chairman. In place of Kissinger, Hart was able to secure Morris Abram, a nationally recognized Jewish leader and former chair of the Conference of Presidents, to be our speaker.

The dinner turned out to be a great success, one of the best in terms of attendance and Bond sales – and that's when Morrie was awarded the Jerusalem Medal.

(See Hart Hasten's book, *I Shall Not Die*, pages 295–296).

Michael Blain

# Events

*Continued from page IN 3*

Charlie has his tricks and Israeli shticks to fool everyone. Will he succeed? (1974) Rated: Suitable for all ages. Runtime: 105 min. All Cinema Israel screenings are at 7:00 p.m. at the JCC Laikin Auditorium, 6701 Hoover Rd.

## Cinema Israel

*Metallic Blues*. Thurs., April 22. Shmuel and Sisso are car dealers who tell the story of the second generation of Holocaust survivors. On their journey to Germany they try to sell classic Lincoln cars and have to face their joint past, put their friendship to a test and mostly learn about their identity through the Israeli German connection. (2005) Rating: Unrated. Runtime: 90 min. All Cinema Israel screenings are at 7:00 p.m. at the JCC Laikin Auditorium, 6701 Hoover Rd.

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