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*Happy Hanukkah*



Art by John Domont

# Joshua Bell honored

Indiana University Jacobs School of Music faculty member Joshua Bell -- today's most celebrated American violinist -- has been honored as the 2010 Instrumentalist of the Year by *Musical America*.

Last week, just days after a concert at the IU Auditorium honoring the memory of Bell's mentor, the legendary pedagogue Josef Gingold, Bell traveled to Washington, D.C., to take part in a day of classical music at the White House, Nov. 4. Wearing jeans and a button-down shirt, Bell worked with young musicians at the White House during First Lady Michelle Obama's new White House Music Series, performing for an audience that included President and First Lady Obama.

A winner of multiple Grammy Awards and Emmy Award nominations, Bell appeared as himself alongside Meryl Streep in the 1999 film *Music of the Heart*. His recently released CD, *At Home with Friends* (Sony Classical), contains duets with Jacobs alumnus Chris Botti, Sting, Josh Groban, Kristin Chenoweth, Regina Spektor, Chris Thile and several other well-known performers.

"The old-school Romantic warmth of his tone and lyrical interpretive style, coupled with a rare catholicity of music interests, have received particular praise," wrote *Musical America* in a news release about this year's honorees.

Bell began studying the violin at the age of 8 at the Jacobs School of Music's Pre-College program under the director of Jacobs Professor Mimi Zweig, and later with Gingold, receiving an artist diploma in Violin Performance from IU in 1989. He began his appointment as a senior lecturer at the Jacobs School in the String Department in 2008-2009. Through two residencies each academic year, he coaches ensembles, works with students individually and in groups and participates in performances,



Courtesy Indiana University

Joshua Bell

among other activities.

*Musical America* was founded by John C. Freund in 1898 as a weekly newspaper covering drama, music and the arts. The prestigious publication's current directory format began in 1960, when the tradition of choosing a musician of the year was instituted. Awards for Instrumentalist, Conductor, Composer and Vocalist of the Year were first given in 1992; Ensemble of the Year was added in 1995.

The awards honor "artistic excellence and achievement in the arts." The 2010 awards will be presented in a special ceremony at Lincoln Center on Dec. 14. Bell will be honored alongside Musician of the Year Riccardo Muti, music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra;

Composer of the Year Louis Andriessen, who is recognized internationally as the most influential composer in Holland; Vocalist of the Year Elina Garanca, a mezzo who will play Carmen at the Met-

ropolitan Opera this year; and Collaborative Pianist of the Year Warren Jones, who has performed with Kathleen Battle, Samuel Ramey and Stephanie Blythe, among others.

Bell performed last weekend, Nov. 13-14, in Indianapolis with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra.

This story was initially published in the *IU Live*, Nov. 11, 2009.

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# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## 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, 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.

Wed., Dec. 2, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Pike Library, 6525 Zionsville Rd. Indianapolis, 275-4480.

Sat., Jan. 16, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00

p.m., Christian Theological Seminary with Peace Learning Center. [www.peacelearning-center.org](http://www.peacelearning-center.org). Martin Luther King Day Festival and Community Event, 1000 W. 42nd St., Indianapolis, 596-9730.

## Flu shot clinic

Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary will host a flu shot clinic on Thurs., Dec. 3, from 4 -6 p.m. ARN new address is 11411 N. Michigan Rd. Call 873-4776 with questions.

## Texas Hold 'Em Tournament

Always fun and a prize payout of \$10,000 (est. based on 120 players). Free door prizes and refreshments. Up to three \$50 rebuys or two rebuys and one add-on. Seating limited to 200. Proceeds support Adult Continuing Education programming and the JCC. Fifty percent of entry fee acknowl-

edged as a charitable contribution. Thurs., Dec. 3, 2009. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. / Tournament starts at 6:30 p.m. \$100 before noon on Aug 26, or \$120 at the door. Three ways to register: [www.jccindy.org](http://www.jccindy.org); call 251-9467, or stop by the JCC membership desk.

## Congregation Shaarey Tefilla 4th Annual Holiday Bazaar!

Dec. 6, 2009 from 11a.m. to 3 p.m. This fun-filled event is open to the public and admission is free! Don't miss the local talents of 30+ area crafters and your favorite vendors! Come and see the variety of items such as jewelry, gift, soaps and unique crafts. Don't miss face painting sponsored by the JCC, and entertainment thought out the day. Indy Hoopers will perform Hoop dancing, Master Mike Marienthal Tae Kwon Do will offer demonstrations, and stick juggling demonstrations will be done by Juggle Fun! Donations are being accepted to Ovar'coming Together, Indi-

ana's ovarian cancer education and support resource agency. Congregation Shaarey Tefilla, 3085 W. 116th St. Carmel, Ind. 46032. For more information, contact Stacey Bunes at 317-726-8975 or Rebecca Holloway at 317-840-6975.

## Music at Congregation Shaarey Tefilla

On Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m., Shaarey Tefilla presents "Music of Mendelssohn: 200th Birthday Celebration" performed by the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra concertmasters Alex Kerr and Zach De Pue, principal violist Michael Strauss with violist Sheldon Person and cellist William Grubb, Butler University faculty member. General admission for the concert is \$12; \$10 for senior citizens and CST members; and \$5 for students. For more information about the concert or ticket reservations, call 317-985-3420.

This concert spotlights violinist Alex Kerr and composer Felix Mendelssohn. Mr. Kerr, in addition to his position as principal guest concertmaster of the ISO, is chair of the violin department at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music.

Felix Mendelssohn was the grandson of the famous Jewish philosopher Moses Mendelssohn, and in 2009 the music world is celebrating the 200th anniversary of the composer's birth. Repertoire for the Dec. 7 program includes two works by Mendelssohn: the Opus 12 String Quartet No. 1 in E-flat major of 1829 and the Opus 87 String Quintet No. 2 in B-flat major of 1845. These are Mendelssohn's first and last chamber music compositions for strings.

## 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 Dec. 9 to discuss the life of Marie Syrkin. Session begins at 11 a.m. For further information call 844-4309 or 257-7142.

## Hanukkah on Ice

Lubavitch of Indiana in-

vites all to Hanukkah on Ice, Sun., Dec. 13, 12:30 to 2:30 at the Carmel Ice Skadium, 1040 3rd Ave., SW. Admission \$4 per person; \$15 per family (includes skate rental and snacks). RSVP to 251-5573 or to [info@lubavitchindiana.com](mailto:info@lubavitchindiana.com).

## Laughter and Good-Hearted Living

On Sun., Dec. 13, at 10:30 a.m. the Sisterhood of Shaarey Tefilla invites you for a good laugh.

The benefits of laughter as well as daily practices that encourage openness to laughing and that bring about significant attitudinal healing are the focus of this event. Carol Filkins, a certified laughter leader, will help us experience the benefits of laughter first-hand through laughter exercises. See for yourself how laughter can impact your body, mind and spirit!

Currently Carol Filkins is on faculty of St. Vincent Health's Seton Cove Spirituality Center and is a certified wellness coach for Ceridian Lifeworks. She is the founder of Wellness Endeavors, Inc. and holds a master's degree in Wellness Management from Ball State University and degrees in sociology and business from Anderson University. She has completed postgraduate advanced certification in formative spirituality.

Get ready to have fun (or at least smile!) - even if you have to fake it - because Carol doesn't like spending time with people who look like they've been weaned on a lemon.

Please RSVP to the Shaarey Tefilla office at 317-733-2169.

## Mickey's Corner with Astronaut David Wolf

Just Back from the International Space Station and Live at the JCC. On Tues., Dec. 15, at 7 p.m. Mickey Maurer will interview David Wolf. Not only is Dr. Wolf a fellow Hoosier, he is a graduate of the JCC's Early Childhood Education program and North Central High School. Dr. Wolf has ventured into space on three separate missions, including an extended stay on the Russian

(Continued on IN 9)



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ming and more. **Cost:** \$220 for a full program, including trips, lunch, crafts, and snacks (or \$30 per day). **Location:** Hasten Hebrew Academy, 6602 Hoover Rd., Indianapolis. **Dates:** Dec. 21 – Dec. 30. **Hours:** 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Friday ends at 1:30 p.m. Extended care and transportation. For more information, call: 253-9152.

## Update on Rabbi Eric Bram

You may have heard by now of Eric Bram's illness. Rabbi Bram was the senior rabbi at IHC prior to Rabbi Adland. To keep you up to date on Rabbi Bram, his family created a CaringBridge website. You can follow Eric's progress and show your support. Visit the website at [www.caringbridge.org/visit/ericbram](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/ericbram).

## Candles light a festival of family

By DR. BARRY DOV SCHWARTZ

The small candle flickers madly, feebly trying to spread and prolong its light. All eyes are fixed upon these frail flames, searching for a

fresh vision, a new spark of deeper meaning. "Mai Hanukkah?" What are these days really all about? Other festivals are doubly blessed with pageantry. Other holidays are wonderfully packed with full-time holiness and celebration.

Not so Hanukkah. Eight days – a long stretch of opportunities for ceremony. Yet the chances are squandered. Each day seems to merit mere shreds, scraps of remembrance. A match strikes a box and a candle is quickly lit. The family hastily gathers for blessings and rousing song. With more haste the group abruptly disperses, each to his own pursuits. The lights linger on – lonely – but not for long. So ends the daily ritual.

I stare, I search, I wonder. Where in these tiny candles shall I find a lesson for all time? My wandering eyes stray from the luminous menorah and focus upon the close-knit group which gathers around it. The family clusters together, attracted magnetically both by love and the Hanukkah lights. "Ner echod ish U'veito – one candle for a man and his family." That is quite sufficient. All else is embellishment.

Interestingly, this law, even this terminology, is not found elsewhere. Convenience, closeness, and camaraderie bring relatives together for Sukkot and Pesach. Here the law, not the circumstance, makes necessary the kindling together with kin. Why? I have a feeling here – a subtle sense of touching a truth.

The people of Israel have long been chastised and condemned for their clannishness. Jewish family life confounds the evil and bitter hearts of our foes. So we take no insult from the charge:

(Continued on IN 10)

# GAUCHER DISEASE

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Type 1 Gaucher disease (pronounced Go-Shay) is the most common Jewish genetic disease, and among the least well known. In fact, it is much more common than Tay-Sachs disease. The symptoms of Gaucher disease are progressive and often debilitating. Symptoms can begin at any age.

Fortunately, Gaucher disease is treatable, and the earlier the diagnosis the better, because irreversible problems or premature death can occur if left untreated. If you or your family members are experiencing any of the following symptoms, ask your doctor if a Gaucher blood test is right for you.

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# Aaron-Ruben-Nelson moves to Carmel

By Cindie Harp

It does not matter what Jewish tradition you follow in life. Whether one is Orthodox, Conservative, Reconstructionist, Reform or even unaffiliated, we all go to the same place in the end: Aaron-Ruben-Nelson.

This staple of Indianapolis Jewish life has recently found a new home on Michigan Road. While the move from the building father Max Nelson built in 1966 was bittersweet, President Jenny Williams cannot stop singing the praises of the new facility. There is vastly expanded parking from the old location, as well as spacious hallways and beautiful rooms. The shomer has a specially designated, comfortable space in which to serve, and there are many quieter, more secluded spaces, including a private restroom, for the bereaved fami-

lies who come seeking solace, care and comfort.

The initial opportunity to move locations was seemingly happenstance, when the Walgreens Corporation contacted then-President Max Nelson over a decade ago, as Jenny explained.

"Walgreens had spoken to my dad many times over the last ten years. (The move) was never the right time for them. And there was never a lot of motivation on our side because our old location on 86th was still a premium location. But they do all these studies in Federation, and the synagogues, and

everybody is moving into Carmel, so it became a more feasible reality. Why not prepare



Aaron-Ruben-Nelson's recently completed mortuary at 11411 N. Michigan Rd., has a beautiful inside and outside appearance.

"My dad generously took the money to build the new place out of what he made from the sale of the other location. That shows the level of love and commitment to this community. He could have very easily decided to retire, and close the

business. He instead placed his stake on 40 or 50 more years of this (business). I think that says so much about his love for this community."

No one would presume that the mortuary business is the road to riches, but it may have seemed like that to an 11-year-

(See ARN, page IN 16)

for the future?"

Walgreens was the catalyst for the move to Carmel, but the business of ARN is the labor of love for two generations of the family.

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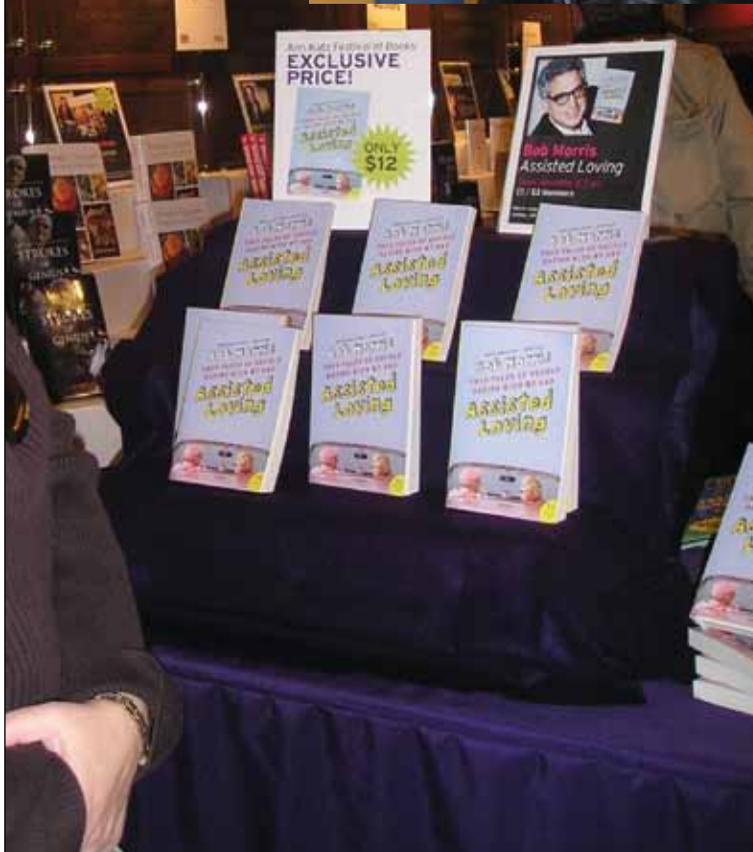
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# Sam Mustaklem signs DVDs of his movie



Photos taken after a viewing of the film Holy Land Hardball in the evening of Sat., Nov. 21, the last event of the 11th annual Ann Katz Festival of Books. Directed by Brett Rapkin and Erik Kesten, and produced by Hoosier Sami Mustaklem, it won the Audience Award for Best Documentary at the 2008 Boston Jewish Film Festival. The 90-minute documentary is an entertaining film not to be missed. Even though its premise is creating a baseball league in Israel, it's mostly about human relationships.

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## OBITUARIES

### Rosalyn Edell Rudy, 61

Rosalyn Edell Rudy of Carmel died Nov. 20, 2009.

Roz worked for Clarian for 35 years and served as the executive assistant to the president of M-Plan for the last 15 years. She was a member of Congregation Beth-El Zedeck, and a dedicated volunteer for the Assistance League.

Roz's true love and passion was for her family. Survivors include her children, Michael (Courtney) Rudy, Michelle (Zachary) Mitchell, Jennifer Rudy; grandchildren, Elliott, Evan and Noah Rudy and Jonah Mitchell; sister, Anne Edell Serota; brother, Donald Edell; and countless friends that participated in her care.

Funeral services were held on Sun., Nov. 22 at Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary. Burial followed in Beth-El Zedeck North Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Brain Tumor Association. Online condolences for the family may be posted at [www.arnmortuary.com](http://www.arnmortuary.com).

### Florence Lichtman, 96

Florence Lichtman, Indianapolis, died on Nov. 21, 2009. Her love for life helped her to rise above the effects of childhood polio and breast cancer at the age of 46. One of her fondest memories was playing piano for President Roosevelt in Warms Springs, Ga. Florence's kind, loving, giving and gentle spirit will continue to be an inspiration to family and friends.

She will be lovingly remembered by children Irv (Linda) and Suzanne Lichtman, two sisters, one brother, four grandsons, five great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. A funeral service was held Nov. 23, 2009 at the Beth Abraham Cemetery in Dayton, Ohio. A memorial service was also held at Hooverwood Nursing Home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Susan G. Komen Foundation or to the American heart Association.

### Sam Dock, 99

Sam Dock, of Louisville, formerly of Indianapolis, died Nov. 22, 2009. He was born in Paris, France, on April 2, 1910, to the late Morris and Esther Dock. He was a member of Congregation Beth-El Zedeck for over 50 years. He is survived by his loving children, Robert Dock and Nancy (James) Strull; sister, Sayde Cohen; nine grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Esther Sacks Dock and son, Morton Dock. A funeral service took place at Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary on Tues., Nov. 24. Burial followed at Beth-El Zedeck South Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Adath Jeshurun Synagogue, 2401 Woodbourne Ave., Louisville, KY 40205 or Yeshiva Ohr Somayach, 244 Route 306, P.O. Box 334, Monsey, NY 10952. Online condolences: [www.arnmortuary.com](http://www.arnmortuary.com).

## Events

*Continued from page IN 3*

Spacecraft Mir, for a total of 158 days in space. For anyone fascinated by outer space, or with dreams of becoming an astronaut, or interested in the amazing stories of perhaps Indiana's most "well-traveled" native, Mickey's discussion and visual presentation with Dr. Wolf is a must! For more information, call the JCC at 251-9467. Tickets \$10 general public / \$5 JCC members. Tickets for sale at the door until sold out.

### JCC Business Network

The next JCC Business Network meeting will take place Wed., Dec. 16, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Please plan to join us and invite your friends. Grow your business and build meaningful relationships. When you come to this meeting, be prepared to tell us about yourself and your business – what we can do for you and what you can do for us. The Business Network is free to JCC members and first timers. Anyone else, it is only \$5. Pay at the door. Please RSVP to Larry at 715-9233 or [Irothenberg@jccindy.org](mailto:Irothenberg@jccindy.org).

## The night before Hanukkah

'Twas the night before Hanukkah, boychicks and maidels  
Not a sound could be heard, not even the dreidels.

The Menorah was set on the chimney, alight  
In the kitchen the Bubba hut gechapt a bite.  
Salami, pastrami, a glessala tay  
And zayerah pickles with bagels, oy vay!  
Gezunt and geschmack, the kinderlech felt  
While dreaming of tagelach and Hanukkah gelt.

The clock on the mantlepiece away was tickin'  
And Bubba was serving a shtickala chicken.  
A tumult arose like a thousand brauches,  
Santa had fallen and broken his tuches.  
I put on my slippers, eins, tsvay, drei,  
While Bubba was now on the herring and rye.  
I grabbed for my bathrobe and buttoned my gotkes  
While Bubba was busy devouring the latkes.

To the window I ran and to my surprise  
A little red yarmulka greeted my eyes.  
Then he got to the door and saw the Menorah,  
"Yiddishe kinder," he said, "Kenehora.  
I thought I was in a goyisha hoise,  
But as long as I'm here, I'll leave a few toys."

With much gesshray, I asked, "Du bist a Yid?"  
"Avada, mein numen is Schloimey Claus, kid."  
"Come into the kitchen, I'll get you a dish,  
A guppell, a shtickala fish."

With smacks of delight, he started his fressen,  
Chopped liver, knaidlach and kreplah gegessen.  
Along with his meal, he had a few schnapps,  
When it came to eating, this boy was the tops.

He asked for some knishes with pepper and salt,  
But they were so hot, he yelled "Oy Gevalt."  
Unbuttoning his haizen, he rose from the tisch,  
And said, "Your Kosher essen is simply delish."  
As he went to the door, he said "I'll see you later,  
I'll be back next Pesach, in time for the Seder."

More rapid than eagles his prancers they came,  
As he whistled and shouted and called them by name:

"Now Izzy, now Morris, now Yitzak, now Sammy,  
Now Irving and Maxie, and Moishe and Man-nie."

He gave a gesshray as he drove out of sight:  
"Gooten Yomtov to all, and to all a good night."  
HAPPY HANUKKAH!!!!

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# Candles

Continued from page IN 4  
it is this closeness we exalt. *Mishpacha* is one of the warmest words in a vocabulary which overflows with warm phrases.

Moderns have little use for cumbersome family ties in their lifestyle. Relationships are preferably casual and free of responsibility. The bounties of the fascinating

future await only those who will courageously jump forward and free themselves of the past. The new world beckons only to those who have forsaken the old.

Such was the philosophy of the Greeks who preached for a departure from tradition. Reality demands a fresh start, a breakaway. Only in the myths could parental pride still be



# IIPAC invites all to Israel Beyond 60

When Israel celebrated its 60th anniversary last year, students at Indiana University celebrated en masse with her. The students of the Indiana Israel Public Affairs Committee (IIPAC) would like to ensure we celebrate far beyond 60 years. IIPAC is a pro-Israel, bipartisan, student organization in Bloomington that seeks to strengthen the U.S.-Israel relationship. IIPAC would like to invite the families of Indianapolis to their Israel Beyond 60 Event on Mon., Dec. 7, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Indiana University Bloomington, Kelley School of Business, Room 223.

Lee Rosenberg, Chicago entrepreneur and venture capitalist, will be speaking about the unique relationship between the U.S. and Israel and current issues in the Middle East. "Rosey," as he is known, is the incoming president of AIPAC, the 100,000-member national grassroots movement

described by *The New York Times* as "the most important organization affecting America's relationship with Israel."

Also speaking will be Israel's Brigadier General Eival Gilady. From 2001 to 2004 Gen. Gilady served as head of the Israeli Defense Forces' Strategic Planning Division, under Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. He was responsible for all areas of politico-military policy recommendations, including the security aspects of the peace process and peace talks. Currently, Gen. Gilady is the CEO of the Portland Trust, a non-profit British foundation established to foster peace and stability in the Middle East through the use of proven economic tools and the mobilization of international resources.

Please join IIPAC and student leaders at IU for a night to honor Israel. For questions, please contact Emily Berman, IIPAC campus liaison, at eberman@indiana.edu.

tolerated and protected.

Notice how Hanukkah speaks of Matiyahu and his sons. Again and again we find Hanukkah closely tied to family. This is the festival of fathers and sons, mothers and daughters.

And so we begin to understand why the family clusters around one candle for one house. Hanukkah commemorates not only the miracle of the oil, but also the marvel of the family which lights it. Hanukkah is the holiday of the family reborn.

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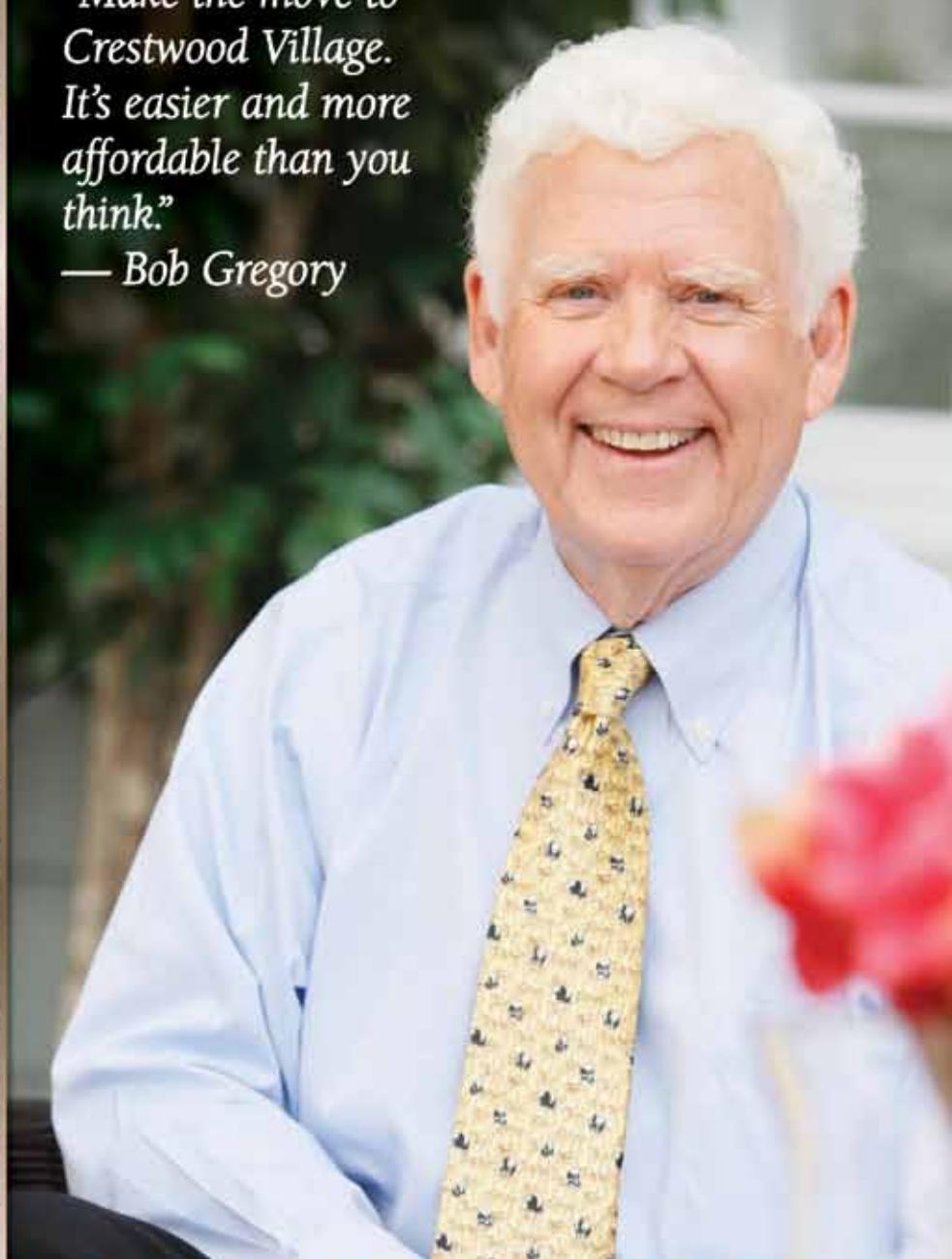
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## Josh Hasten speaks at B'nai Torah

Josh Hasten spoke at B'nai Torah for a Shabbaton Nov. 13-14. He spoke on three topics: (a) Combating anti-Israel media bias, (b) Aliyah – How with organizations like Nefesh B'Nefesh Aliyah has become much easier than when he made Aliyah, and (c) Life in Sderot.

Hasten's focus relating to combating anti-Israeli bias in the media was that it is very easy to say that Israel has a PR problem while sitting back and doing nothing. He encouraged his audience to take action, whether it is writing a letter to the editor or an op-ed, or contacting a local official to clarify Israel's positions on a specific issue. Everything has the potential of helping. But just sit-



Josh Hasten

ting back and hoping for the best does not help.

Regarding aliyah, Hasten spoke about how aliyah used to be a bureaucratic headache but how much easier it has become. Also, Israel is the only country in the world, where Jews live as

a majority (in addition to the fact that Israel now contains the majority of the world's Jews) and how life is based on the Jewish calendar. For example, one never has to worry about missing work for holidays and such. These are things not to be taken for granted. He also talked about the Israeli "sabro" and how Israelis might appear tough on the outside, but when you really need help, fellow Israelis are there for you.

When speaking about Sderot, Hasten described life under fire and shared his own personal story of what it's like running from rockets. He also explained how three-quarters of the children in Sderot are suffering from some form of mental trauma. As part of his talk, he showed an attack caught on tape in which a teen was wounded severely. Another video showed how 3-4-year-old kids in gan (kindergarten) know what to do when the alarm goes off (Tzeva Adom).

Josh Hasten is a native of Indianapolis who made aliyah to Israel 8 years ago. He was recently honored by Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America (CAMERA) as "Letter Writer of the Year." He runs his own media consulting firm in Israel and has been one of the leaders in confronting media bias against Israel.

## HHAI hosts conference on Reggio Emilia approach



Conference participants listen closely to special guest speakers.

On Wednesday evening, Oct. 28, over 40 early childhood educators gathered at the Hasten Hebrew Academy Cultural Arts Center for a conference on the Reggio Emilia approach to early childhood education. The Reggio Emilia approach to teaching young children puts the natural development of children as well as the close relationships that they share with their environment at the center of its philosophy.

Early Childhood programs that have successfully adapted to this educational philosophy

share that they are attracted to Reggio because of the way it views and respects the child. Two special guests spoke that evening, one from a Reggio school in Chicago and one from a local Reggio school. Participants came from four local Jewish preschools as well as from the Greenfield Hebrew Academy in Atlanta, Ga., who were in Indianapolis to attend a special Reggio exhibit. The Hasten Hebrew Academy was proud to host this special opportunity for professional development.

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## JFGI YLD Hanukkah Party

Christmas getting you down? Join the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis' Young Leadership Division for Maccabee Madness!

Maccabee Madness is a Hanukkah party on Dec. 12 at Beth-El Zedeck. There will be a latke bar featuring latkes and many different toppings as well as an open bar, dreidel games, desserts and music. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and a No Limit Texas Dreidel games will start at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 in advance (until Dec. 10) and \$15 at the door. Don't miss out on this fun opportunity to get in the holiday spirit with your fellow Jews!

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to banish the darkness of hate and lies

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# ARN

Continued from page IN 6

old boy growing up on the Southside. That was the age at which Max wrote an essay for school about wanting to be a funeral director. Max's parents had immigrated to Indianapolis, his father from Maldiva, his mother from Ukraine. College was not a readily-available option for Max and his siblings, all of whom worked in the family market from a young age.

Max saw a man who was a local mortician, saw that he was well-dressed, drove a nice car and held a position of respect in the neighborhood. Max's father helped secure an afterschool job at the mortuary. "It was that simple," Jenny shrugs. "His knowledge of his possibilities was based on what he saw around him, and this gentleman was well-spoken and came into their market. Money had been a struggle for my dad's family, and this man looked like he had a position of prestige. So that is what

my dad decided to do. It was as significant, and as insignificant, as that."

Certainly it was not only significant for the Jewish community, but it was profound. Until 1910, the Jews of Indianapolis had no local organization for their funeral and burial needs. That was the year the Lineith Hasidic Organization was chartered by the State of Indiana. Even then, it was a loose cooperative that served the small Jewish community. In 1935, Meyer Aaron and Irving Ruben began establishing Jewish funeral homes in the Midwest. They set up the Aaron-Ruben Funeral home at 1943 N. Meridian St.

For reasons lost to history, Messrs. Aaron and Ruben abandoned their plan to build their chain of Jewish funeral homes across the Midwest. By the time they got to Indianapolis, their partnership had deteriorated. Irving Ruben was the only one to come to Indianapolis, and he hired Max Nelson in 1952. Max bought the company

in 1963 and built its former location at 1328 W. 86th St. What is currently the heart of the Northside and arguably, the Jewish community, was then a farm, surrounded by other farms. Very soon, it will be a Walgreens.

The story of Aaron-Ruben-Nelson is also the story of Indianapolis Jewry. The population has not really increased since Jenny's grandparents arrived in the 1800s. Yet, this 10,000 strong group of people have followed the typical urban route of northward growth, staying cohesive within themselves as well as being stalwart members of the city itself.

At the end of the proverbial day, though, it is a very personal business, and the reasons to maintain its traditions are just as personal.

Is it hard to shepherd people through such an emotional part of their life journey in a community in which she grew up?

"Now that I am 42, it doesn't feel that way any longer. There were certainly people, older



The original location of the Aaron-Ruben Funeral home in Indianapolis, built in 1935.

people, who would say, 'I only want to speak to your father.' I took it personally at first, I was insulted. But then, as you get older, your life gets busy and you start realizing that is how older people are, and you become older yourself. I can see how it is easy to feel that way. It was strange at first working with the clergy, having grown

up with them. But, I grew up at IHC, and the rabbi I grew up with there (Rabbi Jon Stein, who left the city in 1994) left, and then, all the rabbis after that knew me as a funeral director, not as a kid. There was a lot of joking around in the beginning when I started, but in a lot of ways, it was seamless. And it has really always been fine."

Did Jenny always know she wanted to be in the "family biz?"

(See ARN, page IN 22)

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# IHS reopens Basile History Market, Stardust Terrace Café

With the physical modifications to the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center completed, the Indiana Historical Society reopened the Basile History Market and Stardust Terrace Café earlier this month on Nov. 2, 2009. The History Center is located at 450 W. Ohio St. in downtown Indianapolis.

While the History Center will not completely reopen until March 2010, when the IHS will launch the Indiana Experience, parts of the building are reopening this fall with a new look. Returning visitors will be welcomed into a spacious lobby area with a new welcome desk/box office at the center of the space, which was made possible by filling in the area that served as a mezzanine for the café on the lower level.

The architectural changes made to the theater mezzanine have in turn created a new location for the Basile History

Market, located across from the theater. Featuring a large selection of Indiana art, jewelry, literature, music and other products inspired by the Hoosier State's history, the History Market's operating hours until March 2010 will be Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The new "roof" for the Stardust Terrace Café, created by the flooring addition, offered the opportunity to reinvent that space, which will resemble a Victorian streetscape. Hoaglin To Go will continue to operate the café, reopening with an expanded menu of daily specials and entrée selections, as well as its signature sandwiches, soups, snacks and desserts. Additional space for dining or private rentals is also made available through the remodeled multipurpose room adjacent to café seating. Hours of operation for the café for the fall and winter months will be Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Frank and Katrina Basile Theater has already hosted several Indianapolis performing arts organizations this month. Sound-proof doors and walls were installed at the Canal level egress to the theater to mitigate sound bleed from the Stardust Terrace Café. A new enclosed coat room has been added in Lacy Gallery, just west of the theater.

The Indiana Experience, the reason for the interior renovation project, will make the History Center even more of a destination by bringing the people of the state a uniquely Indiana experience – one that connects them with their rich Hoosier heritage in new and exciting ways.

For more information on IHS programs, offerings or progress on the Indiana Experience, call 317-232-1882 or visit [www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org).

Since 1830, the Indiana Historical Society has been Indiana's Storyteller, connecting people to the past by collecting, preserving, interpreting and disseminating the state's history. A private, nonprofit membership organization, IHS maintains the nation's premier research library and archives on the history of Indiana and the Old Northwest. IHS also provides support and assistance to local museums and historical groups, publishes books and periodicals; sponsors teacher workshops; and provides youth, adult and family programming.

# Meditations enlighten during Hanukkah

By RABBI NANCY FLAM and RABBI SIMKHA WEINTRAUB

Hanukkah, the festival of lights, celebrates the rededication of the Temple after its ritual defilement by the Syrian-Greeks and the successful resistance of the Jewish people to assimilation. The holiday bolsters a sense of national pride in our unbroken heritage as well as an openness to miracles inspired by the story of the single cruse of oil that lasted for eight full days.

In addition to the historical and national meanings of the holiday, one may find both universal and personal significance. The original Hanukkah celebrated a rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem, the structure that represented God's dwelling with the Jewish people.

Our tradition teaches that our bodies, too, are temples, each one housing the spirit of God within. Hanukkah can serve as a time when we recognize the sacredness of our bodies, make attempts to cleanse them, and rededicate them to the service of God and humankind.

Hanukkah comes at a dark time in the calendar, close to the winter solstice with its shortest day and longest night. At a point in the month when the moon is in hiding, it is, literally, the darkest time of the year. Our response, then, is to light candles against the dark in an effort to bring light back

into the world.

Because of its place in the calendar, Hanukkah provides an opportunity to meditate upon the metaphorical meaning of light and darkness in our individual inner lives. Light has long been associated with God and the realms of spirituality; darkness, by contrast, appears when our sense of God, meaning, and purpose is eclipsed.

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**For those who are struggling with illness or other serious life challenges, meditating upon the light can provide comfort, inspiration, and perspective.**

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For those who are struggling with illness or other serious life challenges, meditating upon the light can provide comfort, inspiration, and perspective. For this reason we offer eight *kavvanot* (meditations) about light to enhance the candle lighting ritual.

We suggest that each night of Hanukkah we light the candles in support of Jews around the world – and those within our own communities – who are living with illness and are in need of spiritual strength. Let our prayers, *zedakah*, and deeds of loving kindness spark hope and strength in us and our fellow Jews.

(These *kavvanot* are to be used on the eight nights of Hanukkah. You may choose to dedicate each night in support of a different population of Jews living with illness [i.e., children, women, men, the elderly, those with chronic illness, Jewish genetic disease, mental illness, or chemical dependencies] or to focus all eight nights on a particular group or individual.)

(See Meditations page IN 21)

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## There are Jews in southern Indiana

The 2009 edition of *Indiana Jewish History* from the Indiana Jewish Historical Society is now available. The featured article is "There Are Jews in Southern Indiana: The Bloomington Story" by Katie Himm and Lana Ruegamer Eisenberg.

Bloomington's Jewish history began in the 1850s when three Kahn brothers from Lorraine arrived as peddlers from Cincinnati. This history traces the slow transformation of a south-central Indiana town from a place with a handful of Jewish residents to a flourishing Jewish community. Based on extensive use of archival materials, government records, oral histories, and family histories and abundantly illustrated. Copies of the 2009 edition of *Indiana Jewish History* are available for \$10 each, which includes shipping costs.



Lana Eisenberg, one of the authors of "There Are Jews in Southern Indiana."

To order, contact the IJHS office at 260-459-6862 or [indiana\\_jhs@verizon.net](mailto:indiana_jhs@verizon.net). It's a perfect Hanukkah gift for anyone who has visit or attended Indiana University in Bloomington.

## Meditations

Continued from page IN 20

### 1st Night

"Blessed are You, Adonai our God, who makes light and creates darkness, who creates wholeness and fashions all things." (The Siddur: Morning Blessings)

### 2nd Night

"It is You who light my lamp: Adonai, my God, lights up my darkness." (Psalm 18:29)

### 3rd Night

"The act of kindling represents the spiritual enkindling of the human being; surely it is this route of growth and spiritual transformation that is the true reward to be received above." (Rabbi Judah Loew of Prague, quoted in *The Lamp of God: A Jewish Book of Light*, Freema Gottlieb)

### 4th Night

"Everybody has a special light burning for him/her in the higher world, totally different from the light of every other person. When two friends meet in this world, their lights above unite for a moment, and out of the union of the two lights, an angel is born." (*The Lamp of God: A Jewish Book of Light*, Freema Gottlieb)

### 5th Night

"We see that a candle, a wick and oil give forth light through diminishing. Likewise, the man/woman who limits his/her material wants to a minimum gives out spiritual light. (The Gerer Rebbe, quoted in *The Hasidic Anthology*, Louis Newman, translator)

### 6th Night

"The spirit of the human being is God's lamp." (Proverbs 20:27)

### 7th Night

"Do not rejoice over me, O my enemy! Though I have fallen,

## Mama Mia! Enthralls

MATTHEW J. SILVER

Opening night of *Mama Mia* at Clowes Hall hit the ground running with an entertaining, thunderous romp, and did not let up until the final encore roared across the stage to an audience absolutely delighted. It's one of those high-energy, romantic musicals that etches in your mind, in part because the music continues to hang in the air, on the radio, in the grocery, in elevators, and it smacks of the bubbling musicals of the 1950s. But this delightful storyline could only be told in modern times: Ali, the daughter of Sophie, a single mom, is about to wed, and recently discovered her mother had flash-in-the-pan get-downs with three different men, separately, on a Greek isle one summer 20 years ago that resulted in her birth.

Wanting to have her father walk her down the isle, and unbeknownst to her mother who runs an inn on the isle where

the wedding is to be held, she invites all three "dads" to the wedding. Mom is predictably shocked as each suddenly appear, and have their individual re-callings with her of their romance.

As the wedding day approaches, her groom, Sky, a dashing prince charming, friends of mother and friends of daughter gather and tell all, as each of the possible fathers offer to walk Ali down the aisle. But it becomes evident that beau #2, Sam, and Sophie have some unfinished business. Beau #1 does not want a wife, and beau #3 is now gay. Finally, as the crowd gathers for the young couple's wedding, they decide they are too young and need to see the world instead. Sam says, "We're all here for a wedding!!" He proposes to Sophie, they rekindle with a union what began 20 years ago, and the upshot is Ali "finds"

her father. Case closed.

The story is based on songs by ABBA, the 1970s Swedish rock group, with its energizing tunes – "Dancing Queen," "I Do I Do I Do I Do I Do," "Take a Chance on Me," and of course the title song, that are the most memorable. Liana Hunt's lead as Sophie Sheridan revealed a voice better than Meryl Streep's in the movie version; the female friends of Sophie and those of Ali were also exceptional performers.

Originally unveiled in London in 1999, *Mama Mia!* came here via Broadway Across America. I give it all thumbs and fingers up for the superb acting, the bright choreography, the joyful and powerful music, all very nicely combined into a tantalizing dish of saucy, zesty "boy [re] meets girl" entertainment.

Basically, it's a story for the Tennis Club people, which at one time or another we probably all aspire to be – people of leisure. Nothing wrong with that. Good show.

I rise; Though I sit in darkness, Adonai is my light." (Micah 7:8)

### 8th Night

"The miracle of Hanukkah pierces to the essential tiny point of light within that is never obliterated. Externals may change, but inside the potential is always for the highest – a point to which one can always return, the eternal light within." (*The Lamp of God: A Jewish Book of Light*, Freema Gottlieb)

Rabbi Flam is codirector of programs at the Institute for Jewish Spirituality, [www.ijsonline.org](http://www.ijsonline.org). Rabbi Simkha Y. Weintraub, a certified social worker, is rabbinic director at the National Center for Jewish Healing/Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services in New York.

## South Indiana

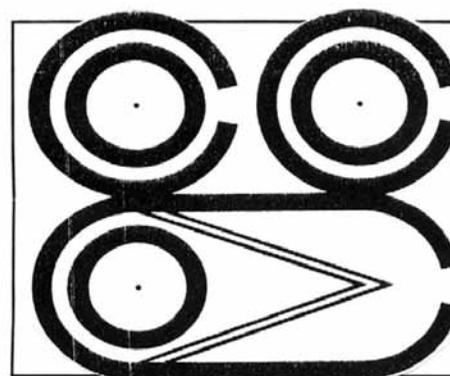
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# ARN

Continued from page IN 16

Once again, life has been less about grand visions and more about family and love. "It wasn't that I always wanted to do this. I had always worked here, from high school on. I was the only one of my siblings who worked here. I was the oldest, and we lived in the apartments behind the 86th St. location until I was almost 6. My brother was busy with tennis, and my sister is 6 years younger than I, and she was not interested in working here, either. But I spent a lot of time when I was younger walking over (from the apartment) and having lunch with my dad at work. It was always something that was very familiar to me, specifically, as the oldest.

"I studied psychology in college, so I was attuned to that type of work. I didn't necessarily think that was what I was going to come back here and do. It just kind of all fell into place. I started realizing there wasn't going to be anyone to carry on, and to me, it was...You see when people

speak to my dad, how he has touched their lives. I thought that was so wonderful that somebody had made his own way, who picked something because of the simple way that he found [his profession] and was so great at it. I just didn't want [the business] to be sold. I thought that sounded really sad, to sell it."

While Jenny was contemplating applying for graduate school, she got engaged, and realized she wanted to come back to Indianapolis – she took her undergraduate degree at the University of Arizona – and carry on the labor of love her father had began in 1952.

The profession does take a lot of dedication. While it is no longer a business of one, as it was when Max bought the business, a funeral director is always on call, to some extent.

Has growing up in a mortuary business, and now being a mortician herself, changed Jenny's perspective on the inevitability of the end of life?

"I think it makes me more religious, not because of some belief of afterlife, but because I see the importance of struc-

ture and ritual in people's lives. I see how that's a comfort to people, and so I think it keeps me rooted in our religious beliefs, because I really believe of all the religions I've studied, and all the faiths of the families we've served, the Jewish tradition is so helpful



Max Nelson built Aaron-Ruben-Nelson in 1966 on W. 86th St.

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Like most businesses in the 21st century, Aaron-Ruben-



Nelson has had a website for over three years. Amongst the service offerings, a "green" funeral is offered. That is a very recent component. Sort of.

"Jewish funerals in and of themselves, are green. Why not open other people's minds to that? There are still people who find Jews to be so different and so strange to them. We thought that is another way of showing people that we are not that different and

opening up the communication lines, as well as breaking down some stereotypes. Someone who doesn't know anyone Jewish may think, 'Oh, Jewish people probably spend a fortune on funerals.' Jews don't spend a fortune on funerals. They (the funerals) are very simple. So again, it is just a way to open a dialogue to show people what we are about."

Jenny has been doing the training for Brooke's Place, which is for kids who have lost loved ones, especially parents.

"All the volunteers who serve Brooke's Place come to the funeral home for a tour. Initially, when I started doing it, I would talk very little about Jewish practices. I thought,

(See ARN, page IN 23)

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# ABOUT THE NATIONAL COVER

## The Shema By Irene Konig

"This work still amazes me, even though I created it several years ago. I was thinking about the Shema, how it calls us, and how its first word is "listen" or "hear." It is calling out to all of us, all of the people of Israel, wherever we are in the world. The words are "Hear, O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is One."

"I began with a shell, an ocean shell. I know all of us, at one point or another have held a shell up to our ears to "hear the ocean." The shell represented the hearing, and it symbolized the depths of the ocean.

"Next I began with some interesting paper that I had found, and started cutting out shapes from it. It was a marbled type of rich paper and I began by cutting out rounded boulder shaped pieces, reflecting that eons ago that was what existed, among other natural shaped objects. When I placed them together, it was a pleasing sight to me, representing a primordial time, a time before man came to be. There was a suggestion of a vastness of space, time and space beyond human comprehension.

"When I placed the shell on the paper with the boulder-shaped pieces, and began to make the first print, I saw that the thickness of the shell actually caused shadows to become part of the print, and this in turn made the boulders

look three dimensional. All of this really excited me, because it added to the look of time, space, and a realm that we can only guess at, before our time.

"The Shema, the central prayer of Judaism, is recited not only in synagogues, but often in homes as well."

Konig has created many works with Jewish themes, including works that have a tallit image as a background. The Jewish-themed works range from calligraphy and design prints for weddings to comforting works for those in mourning, inspirational quotes, excerpts from the Song of Songs, other Psalms, quotations from some of the greats in Jewish history, home and personal blessings, and many, many more.

In addition to this large collection of Jewish inspired art, Konig has also created many other art pieces, which encompass a wide range of feelings, thoughts, and experiences, all heartfelt. All master prints are made up by hand, and then prints are made from this master print. All in all, there are close to 300 prints, all available in modest prices, all made on request, and all matted for gifting, or for the individual, and enclosed in a crystal-clear envelope. Categories on the website, [www.artoflife.us](http://www.artoflife.us), serve to help in the search for the perfect piece. Konig will be glad to work with you to find what

would be the best print, and gift certificates are available, if needed, in case you can't decide.

Konig likes to use interesting materials and incorporate them into the master print. She has used leaves and berries, ribbons, fabric, flowers of all kinds, jewelry, masks and other assorted objects. Often she puts into calligraphy her own words, expressing a sentiment that she could not find elsewhere as a quotation. Her works adorn many homes in the central Texas area and in other parts of the country. In addition, she has donated some of her artwork to the Jewish Community Center in Havana, Cuba, and to a hospital in Israel, Shaare Zedek.

Konig holds a bachelor's degree in fine arts from the City College of New York, as well as a master's degree in psychology from the New School for Social Research in New York. Just a little over half of her life has been spent in Austin, Texas, where she currently resides. Her other years were spent in New York. She is the mother of two young adult daughters.

Irene Konig may be contacted at [pleasure-to-behold@Juno.com](mailto:pleasure-to-behold@Juno.com) or at 512-835-2165.

## ARN

*Continued from page IN 22*

'Oh, these people will never really know a Jewish family.' Then over the years, I started realizing that all I was doing was limiting what other people know about us. I was afraid they would think that was all I knew (Jewish funerals). I wanted to be broader than that. Then I realized this was a great educational opportunity. I could show them how smart our rituals are and how they make sense. We are not a strange people with strange beliefs."

My last question for Jennifer Williams is the one I think most people want to know: Has she ever gotten the giggles during a funeral?

First of all, she does not go to most services. "The rabbis are given the task to evoke emotion when they are talking about the loved one. So I don't listen. Because that would be an easy way to burn yourself out. And I'm an emotional person. I don't think you can be in this business if

you aren't. When I have to go in to a service to hear if they are finishing or not, I always cry."

So back to the question of giggling...

"I have gotten the giggles before, actually. There was a minister who was here and he kept repeating himself. I don't know if he had a problem, but he would do part of the eulogy, then start over again. We got the giggles then, because we didn't know what to do. I don't even know how it resolved itself, but it ended. That kind of thing doesn't really happen to me anymore. But my brother and I used to get the giggles during High Holiday Services. All the time. That was the worst. My parents would get so angry. I don't get them like that anymore!"

Would that we could all say the same.

Aaron-Ruben-Nelson is now located at 11411 N. Michigan Rd., in Zionsville. Their website is [arnmortuary.com](http://arnmortuary.com).

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

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# National News



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*About the cover artist on page IN 23.*