

*The Indiana Jewish*

# Post & Opinion

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**A new exhibit  
by local artist  
Forrest Formsa  
will open on  
Sept. 3 at the JCC**

*See story page IN 2*



On Tues., Sept. 15, University of Tennessee head coach Bruce Pearl will be coming to Conesco Fieldhouse to help kick off the JFGI 2010 Annual Campaign. For more information see Community Events on page IN 3.

## Fun at the Indiana State Fair

Story and photo by Jeff Cohen



**Some “cowboy” was kind enough to let Gracie Cohen ride his prize donkey. Gracie is the daughter of Jeff and Jen Cohen.**

It was a very special year for the Indiana State Fair. Five more days were added so Hoosiers could have even more fun. For the first time ever, the fair took place over three full weekends and 17 days during its run Aug. 7 – 23. “We’d been preparing for this extension for more than two years,” said Andy Klotz, publicity and media relations manager for the State Fair. “We added more entertainment and more special values than ever before as we attempted to make the fair as enjoyable as possible for all Hoosiers.”

In addition to all the great deals, this year’s fair was celebrating the Year of the Tomatoes presented by Red Gold. The tomato-related activities began with the declaration of deep-fried pizza as this year’s signature food.

# ABOUT THE COVER

## Forrest Formsa: Making Light of Abstraction

The JCC of Indianapolis announces an opening: A new exhibit by local artist Forrest Formsa will open on Sept. 3 and run through Oct. 16, at the Arthur M. Glick JCC, 6701 Hoover Rd. Formsa's canvases are infused with brilliant colors. With inspiration coming from landscapes, cityscapes and the play of light on everyday objects, the artist delights in exploring depth, atmosphere and the various opaque and transparent qualities of

oil paints. The exhibit is free and open to the public during regular building hours. A member of both the Hoosier Art Salon and Indiana Plein Air Painters' Association, Forrest is provided opportunities to paint outdoors all over the state. Most recently, Forrest was honored to receive the prestigious 2008 Hoosier Salon "Best Work, First Time Artist" Award.

Opening Reception: Thurs., Sept. 10, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Meet the artist and join us for refreshments.

## Schticking it to the man since 2003

Nice Jewish Girls Gone Bad is a refreshing mix of comedy, music, spoken-word and show-stopping burlesque, featuring the gals who learned to smoke at Hebrew School, got drunk at their bat mitzvahs and would rather have more schtuppa than the chupah. They feature performers seen on Comedy Central, HBO and Late Night TV. These chosen chicks boldly dare to deconstruct years of tradition, expectations and guilt in a fast-paced vaudeville extravaganza. It's ain't yo' mama's Fiddler!

After cruising the U.S. for 6 years, last year Nice Jewish Girls Gone Bad opened at The Zipper Theater in NYC with a brand new show that received rave reviews - 3 stars - *NY Post*, "Backstage" called it "a spontaneous party," and the *Village Voice* said it was "super fun." This rendition of mishagas on wheels was directed by Michael Baron (Signature Theater, Washington, D.C.) and choreographed by Jessi Erian (Urban Bush Women and Adira Amram's The Experience). It's Faster Pussycat in the Borscht Belt, "Bei Mir Bist Du Schoen" gets remixed, Tumbalaika gets a makeover and we all find out what's in Gefilte Fish. It's "Fear Factor" for Jews, although you don't have to be Jewish to love these broads.

Nice Jewish Girls Gone Bad features comedian Cynthia Levin (Comedy Central),



Ophira Eisenberg (Comedy Central) and booty shakin' by Sister Schmaltz and hosted by queen of the quick change, The Goddess Perlman (Last Comic Standing).

Nice Jewish Girls Gone Bad has been spreading their own brand of nuevo schmaltz across the land to sold-out crowds in NYC, D.C., Baltimore, Boston, Philadelphia, Providence, Miami, San Francisco, L.A., Santa Cruz, Pittsburgh, Madison, Detroit, Montreal, Burlington, Provincetown, The Berkshires, The Hamptons, and of course, The Catskills. Audiences can't get enough of these wayward girls!

**Indianapolis Show.** Sept 2, Doors ope@n at 8 p.m. Show at 9 p.m. Birdy's, 2131 E. 71st St., 317-254-8971. Tickets: \$12 advance / \$15 at the door.

**Bloomington Show.** Sept. 7, 8 p.m. Bear's Place, 1316 E 3rd St. 812-339-3460. Tickets: \$10.

**South Bend Show.** Sept. 10, 8:30 p.m. Club Noma, 119 N. Michigan St. 574-233-4959. Tickets: \$12 advance / \$15 at the door.

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GERSHWIN *Rhapsody in Blue* • COPLAND "Hoe Down" from *Rodeo*

**8PM DINNER - MONUMENT CIRCLE**  
Call 317.639.4300 for information about dinner packages.

It's a Star Spangled Gala! Join us on Monument Circle for a party featuring Indy's best restaurants, followed by the music of America's most beloved composers. Gabriela Montero performs Gershwin's jazzy and jaunty *Rhapsody in Blue*, and Academy Award winner F. Murray Abraham brings Abraham Lincoln's words to life in Copland's *Lincoln Portrait*.

Can't make this year's gala? Join us on Friday, September 25, for a performance of the same star-studded program.

**BUY TICKETS ONLINE AT INDIANAPOLISSYMPHONY.ORG OR 317.639.4300.**

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## Discovering the White River

Experience the natural beauty of White River from the water. In cooperation with friends of the White River, JCC adults will paddle from just above the Indianapolis Art Center, past the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, and through Holliday Park on a float of approximately two hours duration. Cost includes transportation, use of livery grade rafts, life jackets and paddles. There will be a group leader from Friends of the White River serving as guide. Some physical activity is required. A minimum of four adult registrants is required for the trip. Participants must be at least 15 years of age. Transportation provided to and from White River. Trip is Sun., Aug. 30, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. \$30/\$20 JCC members. To register, visit [www.JCCIndy.org](http://www.JCCIndy.org), or call 251-9467.

## Puzzle Master Will Shortz Live at the JCC

Mickey's Corner proudly presents Will Shortz, Indiana native, IU graduate, crossword editor of *The New York Times*, and NPRA... on Wed., Sept. 2 at 7 p.m. at the Arthur M. Glick JCC. Mickey and Will, both puzzle aficionados, will challenge one another and

the audience to games of skill and verbal acumen. As always, Mickey will engage his guest in a relaxed, informal conversation that promises to be both entertaining and enlightening. Audience members are invited to ask questions during the show and will have an opportunity to meet the host and his guest at the end of the show. Tickets: \$5 general public / \$3 JCC member. Registration requested. Tickets first come, first serve.

## Yiddish Discussion Group

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

## Coffee and Conversation

Join Indianapolis Jewish Singles on Sun., Sept. 11 at 1:00 p.m. at Cornerstone Coffee located at 615 E. 54th St. If it's the second Sunday, that means it's time for a chance to catch up with old friends, and meet new ones in a relaxed and casual setting. It's a monthly event for a good reason. Hope to see you there!

## Beyond Park Place: Board Games from Around the World

Forget *Monopoly* and *Can-*

*dyland*. The world of board games has changed significantly in the past 25 years! This class will introduce you to this wider world of games. Stephen Conway and David Coleson, hosts of *The Spiel* (an online show about games), will teach you to play four games: *Ticket to Ride* (a train game), *Carcassonne* (a Medieval tile-laying game), *Settlers of Catan* (a trading/building game), and *Pandemic* (a cooperative game). Mon., Sept. 14 – Oct. 12, and Wed., Oct. 14. 5 sessions (no class Sept. 28), 6:30–8:30 p.m. at the Arthur M. Glick JCC. Fee: \$45 nonmembers / \$30 members. For more information, visit [www.JCCIndy.org](http://www.JCCIndy.org), or call 251-9467.

## Coach Bruce Pearl Communitywide Event

On Tues., Sept. 15, University of Tennessee head coach Bruce Pearl will be coming to Conesco Fieldhouse to help kick off the JFGI 2010 Annual Campaign. Seating is limited. Dressy casual attire, Dietary laws observed, Please respond by Sept 1. 317-726-5450

5:30 p.m. Advanced Gifts Dinner with Bruce Pearl: Conesco Fieldhouse - Pepsi Square, \$75 per person inclusive of all events. This event is open to all donors who make a \$10,000 minimum family gift to the 2010 Annual Campaign or a \$5,000 Lion of Judah Gift.

6:30 p.m. Bruce Pearl: Desert reception and community

event. Locker Room Restaurant and Conesco Fieldhouse Practice Court, \$25 per person. Program begins at 7:30 p.m. This event is open to all donors who make a minimum gift of \$100 per person or \$200 per family to the 2010 Annual Campaign. 8:30 p.m. Up Close with Bruce; Beer, Banter & Basketball: Locker Room Restaurant. Additional \$10 per person

## Jewcentricity: How the Jews Get Praised, Blamed and Used to Explain Nearly Everything

*August 26, 2009 IN 3*  
Join Adam Garfinkle, editor of *The American Interest*, a public policy quarterly, and former speechwriter for secretaries of state Colin Powell and Condeleza Rice, as he examines the phenomenon of "Jewcentricity." Learn how this view impacts our world and especially the Middle East. Wed., Sept. 16, 7–8:30 p.m. at the Arthur M. Glick JCC. Free, preregistration is requested. For more information, visit [www.JCCIndy.org](http://www.JCCIndy.org) or call 251-9467.



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# OBITUARIES

## Joyce F. Kersner, 55



Joyce Kersner, of Indianapolis, died Sat., Aug. 8, 2009. She was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. She is survived by her loving Father; Gerald Selsky. Joyce graduated Magna Cum Laude from Brooklyn College in 1975. She received a masters in speech pathology from the University of Maryland in 1979. She was an executive district manager for Nexus Athletic Clubs from 1981-1988, managing their health and fitness clubs. She also worked as a speech language pathologist at Union Hospital in Terre Haute, Ind., as administrator, managing their program from 1988-1999. She then worked at Regency Place of Castleton as a speech language pathologist from 1999 to the present.

She attended Congregation Beth-El Zedeck and was a member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

She is survived by Professor John M. Glen, with whom she was involved in a committed loving relationship. Joyce is

also survived by her sister Gail (Arnold) Willen, of Charlotte, N.C.; niece Lorin Willen of Wilmington, N.C.; two nephews, Kevin (Christian) Willen and Joshua Willen of Washington, D.C.; and her many friends. In addition to the above, she is also survived by her beloved old English sheep dog, Jaguar Cameron Jackson. Funeral services for Joyce were held Tues., Aug. 11 at Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary, 1328 W. 86th St. Memorial Contributions may be made to the Mel and Bren Simon Cancer Center at Indiana University Medical Center in support of esophageal cancer research: P.O. Box 660245, Indianapolis, IN 46266-0245. Online condolences may be sent to [www.arnmortuary.com](http://www.arnmortuary.com).

## Sarah Michelle Cohen, 18



Sarah Michelle Cohen died Aug. 13, 2009, at Riley Chil-

dren's Hospital in Indianapolis after a long battle with Ewing's Sarcoma.

Sarah lived in Carmel with her parents, James S. and Barbara A. Cohen, and her brother, Benjamin E. Cohen. Sarah was an avid and award-winning horseback rider before her illness. Sarah loved beading and built a successful jewelry business during her fight against cancer. She was a strong supporter of and a frequent speaker at Carmel High School and Butler University Dance Marathons. Through these events, Sarah helped raise thousands of dollars to support Riley Children's Hospital, a cause near and dear to Sarah's heart.

Sarah attended both University and Carmel High Schools, where she earned the respect and admiration of teachers and students alike. Despite her debilitating illness, Sarah earned an honorary diploma as a member of the Carmel High School class of 2009.

During her six and a half year battle with cancer, Sarah remained outgoing and built many strong and lasting relationships, always more concerned about the problems of others than her own. Through her work with dance marathon, Riley Hospital, and her beading, she touched and inspired the lives of many.

She is survived by her parents, James and Barbara Cohen; her brother, Benjamin Cohen; her grandparents, Robert and Sylvia Barger; her aunt, Debra Hallberg; and her uncles, John Barger and David Cohen.

Her funeral was held on Sun., Aug. 16 at the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, 6501 N. Meridian St. Burial followed

at Indianapolis Hebrew Cemetery North. Sarah wanted her funeral to be a celebration of life. She requested that those attending her funeral not wear black, but wear colorful clothing.

One of Sarah's final wishes was to help Butler University's Dance Marathon in any way she could. BUDM raises money for Riley Hospital for Children and has become very special to her family. Contributions should be made out to: Supporting Riley Children Inc., in the check's memo line: BUDM, and mail to Ben Cohen, 746 W. 43rd St., Indianapolis, IN 46208. Online condolences may be sent to [www.arnmortuary.com](http://www.arnmortuary.com).

Sarah's family would like to especially thank all of the Riley Hospital staff who cared for Sarah during her illness. They became a second family to Sarah, and she loved them dearly.

Sarah's life burned like a bright candle, radiating joy, love and inspiration to all who knew her.

## David L. Marcus, 40

David L. Marcus, of Indianapolis, died on Aug. 15, 2009. He is survived by his loving parents, Robert and Darlene Marcus; sister, Shainey (Jesse) McFarland; brother, John Marcus; grandfather, Francis Thatcher; and grandmothers, Dolly Noiman and Molly Marcus. Services were held Wed., Aug. 19 at Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary, 1328 W. 86th St. Burial followed at Ezras Achim Cemetery. Online condolences can be made at [www.arnmortuary.com](http://www.arnmortuary.com).

## Pearl Agriss, 93

Pearl Agriss, of Indianapolis, died on Aug. 17, 2009. Pearl was born on June 15, 1916, in Newark, N.J., to the late David and Yetta Agriss.

Pearl worked as a fundraiser for the Industrial Home for the Blind in their headquarters in Brooklyn, N.Y., as a case aide for the Dept. of Social Services in Suffolk County, N.Y., and as a community relations counselor and fundraiser at the Suffix Psychiatric Hospital.

She was a member of the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, past president of Oakdale County, N.Y., charter member and 4th president of B'nai Brith, first president of B'nai Brith Women in Riverdale, N.Y., founding and charter member of the Women's Division of New York City Chapter of United Cerebral Palsy. She helped initiate the first national telethon in America and was on the Board of Directors of the Art Collectors Foundation.

She is survived by her two sons, William and Alan Rosin; and one grandson. Services were held at Indianapolis Hebrew North Cemetery on Thurs., Aug. 20. Arrangements: Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary. Online condolences can be made at [www.arnmortuary.com](http://www.arnmortuary.com).

## JCC Fall Film Series: "Time Capsule:1969"

All movies: Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Arthur M. Glick JCC

### Sept. 1: *Have Sword, Will Travel* (1969)

Director: Cheh Chang. Rated PG (110 min). Two fighters transporting a valuable shipment encounter a mysterious man.

### Sept. 22: *Red Lion* (1969)

Director: Kihachi Okamoto. Rated PG (117 min). A bumbling horse-tender returns to his village impersonating a military officer and actually becomes a leader of the people.

### Oct. 6: *Goyokin* (1969)

Director: Hideo Gosha. (See JCC Film page IN 7)

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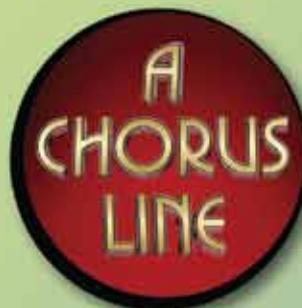
Nov. 20 – 22  
Murat Theatre



Dec. 29 – Jan. 3  
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March 9 – 14  
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April 20 – 25  
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May 4 – 9  
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June 9 – July 3  
Murat Theatre



# The 35th visit to Israel

By Sylvia and Michael Blain

On our last visit to Israel we celebrated the bat mitzvah of our granddaughter Shira, the daughter of our son David and Susan of Cherry Hill, N.J. In attendance were her parents; her siblings Ezra, Jenny, and Rachel; and her uncle, Rabbi Zvi Leshem and his family from Efrat.

We celebrated Pesach and baked matzos in Efrat at the home of our son, Rabbi Zvi. We participated in Birkat Ha-Chamah, the 28-year cycle of the ceremony of blessing the sun; experienced the very moving Yom Hashoa observance when the whole country came to a two-minute standstill. The entire family volunteered in a soup kitchen (as we do every year), helping to prepare and serve about 500 hot lunches to the needy in Jerusalem.

We visited our grandson

Zion in Yevul in the Negev where we literally saw the desert bloom. Three years ago, nothing but sand; two years ago the hot houses were up, and our grandson was planting pomegranate trees; last year the infrastructure (roads, water, electricity) was in place; beautiful organic red peppers (for export), tomatoes, carrots, potatoes and other vegetables were being harvested. This year, houses are going up in what is going to be a brand-new town where a few years ago there was only sand.

Our grandson Ma'ayan took us on a tour to Wadi Fooken, a nature preserve in area B, close to the green line, under joint Israeli and Palestinian control. Ma'ayan, a nature guide, introduced us to his Palestinian friends, Maher and Yaser, friendly farmers in the area.

Soon after arriving home,



Sylvia Blain, granddaughter Shira, and Michael Blain at Shira's bat mitzvah celebration.

our granddaughter Jenny announced her engagement to Josh Pittleman. Jenny, also from Cherry Hill, made aliyah last year; Josh is from Milwaukee. Both are studying in Jerusalem. The wedding is planned for October in Jerusalem where the couple plans to reside.

The authors, Sylvia and Michael Blain, are members of the Indianapolis chapter of Parents of North American Israelis (PNAI). They can be reached at [blains@aol.com](mailto:blains@aol.com). Reprinted with permission from The Bridge July/August/September 2009 issue.

# Nothing happens in Indiana?

By Rabbi Sholom Shuchat

My colleague and I were "given" the state of Indiana as our Merkos Shlichus location for summer 2009. When we arrived here, we were notified by some locals that "Nothing Happens in Indiana," and we might have a hard time finding Jews, but we decided to try and do the best, and let G-d do the rest.

We started by getting a master list of Jews living outside the metropolitan areas, which has 1,400 names in 70 cities. After a few calls we managed to find Jews and we set up meetings in various places. I must say that Indiana is a pretty nice state, we saw corn, and corn, and some more corn, and once in a while some soybeans... But overall it's a pretty nice farming state. And this leads me to the title: While I was in a gas station, I was looking at the souvenir section and saw a magnet that says "Whatever happens here stays here... But nothing happens in Indiana" with a drawing of a cow sleeping on the grass...

We have had some great experiences, such as meeting a Jew in some little town who didn't really know anything about Judaism, but his office was full with Chabad literature that he gets by mail from a Chabad client in New York. We met a Jewish family who has been in the recycling business in Indiana for a couple generations already. We realized that the kids magazine *The Moshiah Times* is liked by adults also (the editor - who happens to be my uncle - claims that, but now I have proof). We also met a Jew who is originally from the East Coast and the only thing he really misses from Judaism is the kosher deli in Baltimore...

The highlight of our trip was on this past Tues., Aug. 18, when we went to Fort Wayne, and I gave a *shiur* (lesson) in the local congregation as a guest rabbi. At the end of the *shiur* we had a discussion about Judaism in Fort Wayne and what each one has done to promote Judaism in his job. One of the attendants of the *shiur* related the following story:



*I walk around with my kipa and tzitzit showing at all times, promoting my Jewish pride. Some time ago there was a local outdoor Jewish event and I went there as a member of the community. I arrived some time before the event started and was standing next to a table with a few friends. Suddenly, a tall pickup truck pulled up and after an older person with a walker was helped down, I see him staring at me. He came straight toward me on his walker and held my tzitzit. I didn't know what to do. It was the first time such a thing happened to me and I was pretty dumbfounded as to how this would unfold.*

*A minute later he started to cry telling me, "It has been over 60 years since the last time I saw tzitzit! Since I left Europe I haven't seen tzitzit. You remind me of my father, of blessed memory."*

*He then kissed my tzitzit and let go of them. I then realized how much of an effect a small mitzvah can have. Since then I have been telling everyone this story to point out that when a Jew proudly shows his Judaism he can have a life-changing effect on a person, an effect that cannot be measured.*

The next day we met with Jewish staff at Purdue University and discussed various activities and programs to bring the large Jewish student population closer to its heritage.

Rabbi Shuchat is part of a worldwide program sometimes referred to as "the Lubavitch Summer Peace Corps." He is traveling in Indiana with Rabbi Menachem Raskin this summer. He can be reached at [RabbiShuchat@gmail.com](mailto:RabbiShuchat@gmail.com).

## Correction

In our interview with Rabbi Ben Kramer in our last issue, the final question of the interview contained material that was not a part of Rabbi Kramer's response.

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## JCC Film

Continued from page IN 4

Rated PG (124 min). An out-cast samurai returns to his old ways when his former gang puts a woman in danger.

### Oct. 20: *Spirits of the Dead* (1969)

Director: Vadim, Malle, Fellini. Rated R (121 min). Three short films based on the works of Edgar Allan Poe: "Metzengerstein" directed by Roger Vadim, "William Wilson" directed by Louis Malle, and "Toby Dammit" directed by Federico Fellini.

### Nov. 3: *Yellow Submarine* (1969)

Director: George Dunning. Rated G (85 min). The Beatles accompany Captain Fred in his Yellow Submarine.

### Nov. 24: *Stolen Kisses* (1969)

Director: François Truffaut. Rated R (90 min). A soldier tries to reunite with his girlfriend while taking on a series of odd jobs.

### Dec. 1: *My Night At Maud's* (1969)

Director: Eric Rohmer. Rated PG (105 min). A devout Catholic moves to a provincial town and vows to marry Françoise. A chance encounter results in his spending the night with Maud.

### Dec. 15: *Fellini-Satyricon* (1969)

Director: Federico Fellini. Rated R (128 min). Encolpio loses his favorite slave boy to a friend, survives an earthquake and rescues a demi-god.

## DRAGONS OF KOMODO

Presented by  citizens energy group

ON THE PROWL MAY 23 – LABOR DAY

### SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

**DRAGONS OF KOMODO** presented by Citizens Energy Group – Hurry in to see them before Labor Day

**BUTTERFLIES** at White River Gardens – Ending Labor Day

**RILEY FITNESS ADVENTURE** presented by Riley Hospital for Children – The adventure ends Labor Day

**SEPTEMBER 12** – Back to School Concert with Radio Disney at noon, featuring Savannah

**SEPTEMBER 20** – HISPANIC HERITAGE FIESTA – Noon to 5pm

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\*\$100 deposit or 10,000 rewards points available for new personal checking account customers only (no existing Flagstar checking account). To qualify, open a new personal checking account with a minimum deposit of \$50 and set up an automatic, recurring direct deposit of income of at least \$250 per month, excluding interest deposits. Direct deposit must be established within the first 60 days of account opening. \$100 bonus or 10,000 rewards points will be deposited into your account within 30 days after the first recurring direct deposit takes place. All accounts must remain open and active for a minimum of six months. If checking account is closed within the first six months, Flagstar reserves the right to reclaim the \$100 deposit or rewards points. The New Wave and Next Step Checking accounts do not qualify for rewards points. Next Step Checking accounts do not qualify for \$100 deposit offer. See your Flagstar representative for more details. Flagstar will issue a 1099 for the \$100. Offer not good in conjunction with any other coupons or checking account offers. Some restrictions apply. Limit one \$100 deposit or 10,000 reward point offer per customer per account. Offer subject to change or cancellation at any time without notice. \*\*Customer must be enrolled in Flagstar's Loyalty Program to qualify for free ATMs nationwide.

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