

# The Jewish Post & Opinion

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## Anne Frank sapling planting ceremony at TCM

By JENNIE COHEN

Excitement filled the air in front of The Children's Museum (TCM) on April 14 as noted speakers prepared to plant a sapling from the chestnut tree that stood outside the Secret Annex in Amsterdam where Anne Frank hid with her family and others from 1942–1944. Although saplings from this tree have already been planted all over the countryside in Holland, this was the first one planted in the United States.

All the local television stations and newspapers were on hand to capture this event for their audiences on this warm and sunny but windy morning. This was in stark contrast to the time period in history this event recalled when racial prejudice was rampant.

The purpose of the Anne Frank Peace Park where the sapling was planted is to remind us of what can happen when intolerance and hatred go unchecked. A variety of people of different ages, races, and religions were on hand to show their support of this purpose and to concur how important it is to never cease striving for the time when humanity will no longer need this reminder.

Three of the speakers were Jeffrey Patchen, President and CEO of TCM; Yvonne Simons, Executive Director of The Anne Frank Center USA (see photo p. IN 2); and Rabbi Brett Krichiver of Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation (see excerpts of their speeches on p. IN 3). Other speakers were David Sousa, Public Affairs Manager of Dow AgroSciences; David Gray, Chairman of the Board of TCM; and Philanthropists Dorit and Gerald Paul, funders of the Peace Park. Thanks to the generosity of Dow AgroSciences, TCM was able to provide essential care and feeding for several of the saplings.

When Rabbi Krichiver came to podium, (see Cover Story, page IN 3)



L to R: David Sousa, Public Affairs Manager of Dow AgroSciences; Yvonne Simons, Executive Director of The Anne Frank Center USA; David Gray, Chairman of the Board of The Children's Museum (TCM); Philanthropists Gerald and Dorit Paul, Rabbi Brett Krichiver of Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation; and Jeffrey Patchen, President and CEO of TCM.

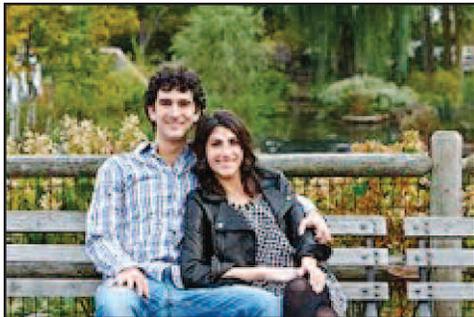


Rabbi Brett Krichiver of Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation extemporaneously noted how appropriate the Super Heroes exhibit banner was for the sapling planting because not all of our Super Heroes wear costumes, sometimes even a teenage girl can be a Super Hero.

# Simcha Announcements

## Mazel Tov to...

Max and Susan Reiswerg of Highland Park, Ill., formerly of Indianapolis, on the announcement of the engagement of their daughter, Jessica Suzanne to Jeffrey Fima Leibovich. Ms. Reiswerg is a graduate of The University of Michigan with a degree in Interior Design from Harrington College of Design. She is currently an Interior Designer working in Chicago for Kim Scodro Interiors. Mr. Leibovich, the son of Leon and Irena Leibovich of



Jeffrey Fima Leibovich and Jessica Suzanne Reiswerg.

Highland Park, Ill., is also a graduate from The University of Michigan with a degree in Sound Engineering. He is currently employed by Vintage King Audio and is also a member of the band, Great Divide. Ms. Reiswerg is the granddaughter of the late Sadie and Ruben Reiswerg, Joanne Fox and the late Joseph Fox of Indianapolis. The couple plan to wed Aug. 17, 2013 in Chicago, where they reside. ✨

Simcha (Eddie) Margolis of Indianapolis and his wife the former Sarah Feldman of Toronto on the birth of their son Aryeh Matanya Margolis on April 6 in Jerusalem. Aryeh's grandparents are Mary Ann and Samuel (z"l) Margolis of Indianapolis and Joseph and Ann Feldman of Toronto. His

maternal great-grandparents are Joseph and Helen Morgan of Toronto. His older brothers are Shmuel Chovav-Tzion, 3, and Yitzchak Chaim Annaniel, 20 months. ✨



Aryeh Matanya Margolis.

### The Jewish Post & Opinion

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L-R: Yvonne Simons, Executive Director of the Anne Frank Center USA and TCM President and CEO Jeffrey Patchen.



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Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
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L-R: Dr. Caryn Vogel with her mother, Holocaust survivor Agnes Vogel, and Jennifer Pace Robinson, vice president of experiential development and family learning at TCM. Behind: Howard Vogel, Caryn's brother.

Above, L to R: Geoff Nuttall, violin; Lesley Robertson, viola; Scott St. John, violin; Christopher Costanza, cello, with Todd Palmer (inset). Group photo by Marco Borggreve. (See article p. IN 5.)

**COVER STORY***(continued from cover)*

he admitted his first comment was not written down. It was about the Super Heroes banner on the outside of the Skywalk to the museum. He said he had not noticed it before because he usually walks into the museum via the Skywalk. One cannot see the banner from inside, but from the outside, it cannot be missed.

He said he had seen the Super Heroes exhibit inside the museum and it is very good. He continued about how appropriate this banner is for this program because not all of our Super Heroes wear costumes like the ones in the exhibit, and sometimes even a teenage girl can be a Super Hero.

A very interesting speaker was John Goodson who portrays Otto Frank, Anne's father and the only survivor of their family. A few times every day in the Anne Frank exhibit inside TCM, he and an actress who portrays Anne, give short monologues. This brings the story to life, making it seem more than a distant history.

After the planting was over, I attended his live performance. Goodson talks with a German accent and comes across as somber, yet uplifting. After the performance, he leaves the "room" and comes back with no accent. He says he is there to answer any questions the audience has about the diary, the family, and Miep Gies who helped hide and bring food to the family. Gies is the woman who found Anne's diary and kept it safe for Otto.

Dr. Caryn Vogel of Indianapolis, daughter of Holocaust survivors Michael Vogel, of blessed memory, and Agnes Vogel, who was also in attendance (see photo p. IN 2), had the following comments about this event.

"Each year there are fewer living Holocaust survivors and each year it seems that the memory of the *Shoah* fades (both for Jews and non Jews). This living tree will serve as a tangible memory of those who died in the Holocaust, but also a tangible reminder of how good can triumph over evil. It is wonderful that The Children's Museum has chosen to highlight the story of Anne Frank as an important educational tool.

"On a personal level, my father, Michael Vogel, worked closely with Jennifer Pace Robinson (Vice President of Experiential Development and Family Learning at TCM) on one of their first Holocaust related exhibits. He and my mother volunteered many hours as docents and school lecturers for that project. They forged a close relationship with Jennifer and other staff at the museum. I am touched that they still remember my parents and honor my father's memory by including us!"

I saw how pleased the Vogels, likewise other Holocaust survivors and their

children, were with this program. It was obvious that many hours of planning and preparation had taken place. This was greatly appreciated not only by this writer, but everyone in attendance.

**Editor's note:** I would like to give a special "Thank you" to Director of Public and Media Relations at TCM, Kimberly Harms, who helped provide so much information for this sapling planting story.

Jennie Cohen, May 1, 2013

**Excerpts of speeches****Jeffrey Patchen:**

Today is a day where what we are about to do truly matters, not just for children and families here in Indiana, but also for children and families throughout the country and across the world who are familiar with the Anne Frank story and who understand that everything we do as a society to perpetuate that story and its lessons are incredibly important and meaningful.

It is a real privilege for the Museum to be a permanent site of one of the Anne Frank Tree saplings and to have had the opportunity over the past three years to serve as host for eight other saplings as they were in quarantine pursuant to Indiana and federal DNR regulations.

In many ways, these saplings have been the Museum's most precious and fragile artifacts over the past three years. Our work... in caring for these fragile saplings and that which we plan in the coming years around telling the Chestnut Tree's story and the meaning it gave to Anne during her time in hiding is truly one of those opportunities where science, art and humanistic elements come together in ways that will change the lives and perspectives of children and families who visit.

I am pleased to introduce Yvonne Simons, Executive Director of the Anne Frank Center, whose foresight in conceiving the Sapling Project truly made all that we celebrate today possible.

**Yvonne Simons:**

On behalf of the Anne Frank Center USA, I am very pleased to collaborate with The Children's Museum of Indianapolis (TCM) on the planting of the first of the Anne Frank saplings in the United States.

The Anne Frank Center is a partner organization of the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam. Located in Lower Manhattan 2 blocks north of the 9/11 Memorial and Museum, we occupy a large gallery and educational space. It is our mission to raise awareness on the consequences of intolerance – all kinds of intolerance – through our educational programs and traveling exhibits, which have been viewed by nearly 6 million people in this country.

This week is *Yom HaShoah*, Holocaust Remembrance week, in which we

# Inside this Issue

Anne Frank sapling planting.....	cover
Simcha Announcements.....	2
Community Events .....	4
St. Lawrence Quartet .....	5
HAI-Life dinner honories.....	6
Obituaries .....	6
HHAI Israel trip .....	6

**Simchas Welcome!** Submit photos and text to: [jpostopinion@gmail.com](mailto:jpostopinion@gmail.com). **Next Deadline: June 1, 2013.**

commemorate the murder of 1.5 million children. No children *anywhere* in the world, under *any* circumstance, on *either* side of *any* conflict, should be victimized. What the Children's Museum stands for, together with the Anne Frank Center, is the celebration of children – *ALL* children in this world – because they signify hope and innocence.

Anne Frank saw the tree only from a small window in the attic, and it gave her a sense of hope, beauty and renewal. We hope that in her absence many generations of children will see this Chestnut tree grown into all she wanted it to represent.

Please go to our website [www.annefranktreeusa.com](http://www.annefranktreeusa.com) and become part of this mission by confronting intolerance.

**Rabbi Brett Krichiver:**

Once while walking along a road, Honi saw a man planting a carob tree. He asked him: "How long will it take for this tree to bear fruit?" "Seventy years," replied the man. The sage then asked: "Are you so healthy a man that you expect to live that length of time and eat its fruit?" The man answered: "I found a fruitful world, because my ancestors planted it for me. Likewise I am planting for my children." (Babylonian Talmud Ta'anit 23a)

Trees have a particular significance in the Jewish tradition. In Proverbs we read that our Torah is a Tree of Life to those that hold tight to it and everyone who upholds it is happy. Its ways are ways of pleasantness, and all its paths are peace (after Proverbs 3:17-18).

It takes 70 years for a tree to bear its full fruit, according to the ancient texts. This symbolism is not lost on us today, especially as we consider the lessons learned almost 70 years since the death of Anne Frank. We consider the thoughts she had while peering out the window of her hiding place, when she wrote: "I want to go on living even after my death!" – Anne Frank (April 5, 1944)

We bless this occasion, when we strive to bring new life to the memory of Anne Frank, young victim of the Shoah, the Nazi Holocaust, who teaches us so much from her inextinguishable optimism. ✨

# Community Events

## Orchard In Bloom

**May 3–5**, at Holliday Park, 6363 Spring Mill Road. Show Hours: Fri. & Sat., May 3 & 4: 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun., May 5, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

A partnership between The Orchard School and Indy Parks, the show will take place rain or shine. Find inspiration in the garden displays of top local landscapers. Stroll through the garden markets in search of the perfect accessory for home or garden. Bring the whole family to experience the fun of face painting and craft making. Savor treats and sandwiches from the Garden Café while listening to gardening experts share their secrets for success.

## Jewish Learning Institute Class

Curious Tales of the Talmud: Finding Personal Meaning in the Legends of our Sages. Held on six **Wednesdays** from 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. at the Schusterman Chabad House, 1112 Oakwood Trail in Indianapolis OR from 7–8:30 p.m. at the Arthur M. Glick JCC in Indianapolis. Class began Apr. 24, 2013, but join us for the remaining ones. Instructor: Rabbi Mendel Schusterman. For more information: Call 698-6423 or email [JLI@lubavitchindiana.com](mailto:JLI@lubavitchindiana.com).

## Hadassah Annual Donor Brunch

On **Sun., May 5** at Broadmoor Country Club there will be special entertainment and an outstanding menu, and we will be honoring our Donors and Associates!

## Unattached Jewish Adults

On **Sun., May 5** at 12:30 p.m., meet with old friends and make some new ones at Lulu's Café, 2292 West 86th St., on the north side of 86th St., in the strip mall behind MCL where Kahn's Wine & Spirits is also located. For more information call 317- 405-8084 or email: [jpostopinion@gmail.com](mailto:jpostopinion@gmail.com).

## Second Edition of the Ann Katz Festival of Books and Arts – May 6-9

Several authors were not able to travel to Indianapolis for the Festival last October due to Hurricane Sandy. Hence, we now present the Second Edition of the Ann Katz Festival of Books and Arts.

A former head writer and producer of *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart* **David Javerbaum**, author of the satirical *The Last Testament: A Memoir by GOD*, will be on hand **Mon., May 6** at 7 p.m. Javerbaum will introduce the audience to his irreverent brand of humor by opening the evening, sponsored by NUVO, with his short video,

*God – It Getteth Better*. “Jabber with Javerbaum,” a Q & A with the writer, will follow the presentation. Cost: \$5 JCC members / \$8 general public.

On **Wed., May 8** at 7 p.m., journalist **Alicia Oltuski** will take the audience behind the shroud of the New York diamond district. Author of *Precious Objects: A Story of Diamonds, Family and A Way of Life*, Oltuski is a diamond-district insider. Her non-fiction account of the underworld workings of the district is a story populated with unusual and at times humorous characters, and unveils secrets of this generations-old family trade.

A drawing for a diamond ring valued at \$2,000, courtesy of Aronstam Jewelers, will add some sparkle to the event. Cost: \$5 JCC members / \$8 general public – First raffle ticket is only \$1 with purchase of entry. Additional raffle tickets available for purchase at the event: 1 ticket: \$5, 5 tickets: \$15, 10 tickets: \$25.

On **Thurs., May 9**, at 7 p.m., will be the screening of the award-winning documentary, *Besa: The Promise*, in partnership with **Heartland Truly Moving Pictures**. *Besa* is the untold story of the Muslims in Albania under Nazi occupation – their compassion, heroism and adherence to “besa,” the Muslim code of honor. The film challenges our contemporary thinking about enmity between Jews and Muslims as it recounts the meeting of two sons, one from a Muslim family that sheltered a Jewish family, and the other, the last surviving member of that Jewish family. The extraordinary story that unfolds is not only personal for the two men, but also universal in bridging generations and faiths. The screening will be followed by a discussion with the film's **executive producer, Bill Morgan**. Cost: \$5 JCC members / \$8 general public. A review of the film can be seen on page 2 at [http://jewishpostopinion.com/Jewishpost/NAT\\_11-7-12.pdf](http://jewishpostopinion.com/Jewishpost/NAT_11-7-12.pdf).

## Open Mic Event with Mr. Blair Karsch

**Tues., May 7** from 4–6:00 p.m., Pike Library, 6525 Zionsville Rd. Indianapolis.

This is the last Open Mic event of the school year, open to the entire city but focusing in on school-aged children for performance art. Poetry, song, dance, rap, comedy, and instrumental music are invited. We will have a great PA system and the opportunity for artists to plug in instruments or CDs. Teachers, parents, school administrators, family and friends are welcome for this very special one night showcase of some of Indianapolis' brightest and most heartwarming artists. Any performance art goes, but keep it G-rated because this is open to the public, but a private event not sponsored by the library. Please be sure to show up at 4:00

p.m. and plan on staying until 6 so that the young people have an audience that is focused and paying attention.

## PJ Library Play dates

Welcome to the PJ Library Play dates on Thursdays from 9–11 a.m. at Bureau of Jewish Education. Play dates are free and will be meeting twice a month. Bring your children, ages newborn to 24 months for story time, a special activity with our community Shlichah Marva and snacks. Older siblings are always welcome to attend. We also welcome new families who are interested in learning more about PJ Library. Please RSVP by sending an e-mail to Inna, PJ Library Program Coordinator, at [pjlibrary@JFGI.org](mailto:pjlibrary@JFGI.org). Our next PJ Library Play dates will be on **May 9** and **May 23** (always different activity).

PJ Library is a program sponsored by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, Alan & Linda Family Foundation, and Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis that sends free Jewish books/CDs every month to children ages 6 months to 8 years old to enrich their journey of Jewish learning.

## IndyCHAI

IndyCHAI is a fun, accepting community of Jewish young professionals who belong or who have reached out to IHC. Upcoming IndyChai event is **Fri., May 10** Shabbat Services and Dinner at IHC.

## Young Leadership Division (YLD) of JFGI Big Summer Kick-Off

On **Sat., May 11** at 7 p.m. at Rick's Boatyard (4050 Dandy Trail), kick off summer with YLD at the VIP Cocktail Deck at Rick's Boatyard overlooking beautiful Eagle Creek.

Be one of the first 50 to register and get a free drink. RSVP at [www.JFGI.org](http://www.JFGI.org).

## Honoring Rabbi Sandy Sasso

On **Fri., May 17** at 7:30 p.m. a celebratory Shabbat service will take place at Congregation Beth-El Zedeck to honor Rabbi Sasso for her 36 years of dedicated leadership to the congregation and the Indianapolis community. A festive oneg reception will follow. RSVP to the synagogue office 253-3441 or [bez613@bez613.org](mailto:bez613@bez613.org).

## Celebrate MOO-VELOUS SHAVUOT!

PJ Library and Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation celebrate MOO-VELOUS SHAVUOT on **Sun., May 19** at 10:30 a.m. at Trader's Point Creamery. This Shavuot the cows of Trader's Point Creamery are excited to show the PJ Library their dairy farm. Learn how the milk and cheese in tasty Shavuot treats are made. Optional ice cream tasting after farm tour. Cost: \$5/person. Special price thanks to an

(see Events, page IN 5)

**EVENTS***(continued from IN 4)*

Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation subsidy. Children under 3 are free with a paying adult. RSVP at [www.JFGI.org](http://www.JFGI.org).

**JCC Business Network**

The next meeting will be on **Wed., May 22** at 6:30 p.m. at the Arthur M Glick JCC, 6701 Hoover Rd. RSVP to Larry Rothenberg [lrothenberg@jccindy.org](mailto:lrothenberg@jccindy.org) or call 317-715-9233. All are welcome. Free to JCC members and first timers. Others – it is only \$5.

**Older Americans Month Celebration**

This year's theme is UNLEASH the POWER of AGE and we are celebrating. Please plan to attend on **May 23** from 5–7 p.m. at Pleasant View Lutheran Church, 801 W. 73rd Street, Indianapolis. Terry Curry, Marion County Prosecutor will be the special guest speaker. Following Prosecutor Curry, Bam Miller will lead a sing-a-long. And then, you will enjoy a light boxed dinner prepared by Bobbie Dougherty, Cater Me Café. Our thank you goes to David Morgan and Senior Home Companions for sponsoring the meal. RSVP is required at 251-8881. Ann E. Allen, MSW, LSW, Coordinator Elder-

## St. Lawrence Quartet with Todd Palmer, for finale to Ensemble Music Society season

On Wed., May 8, The Ensemble Music Society (see ad p. IN 2) welcomes the return of the St. Lawrence Quartet for the closing concert of the Society's 69th season. The quartet will perform the Quartet in F Minor by Haydn and then be joined by clarinetist Todd Palmer for Mozart's Clarinet Quintet in A, K. 581 and Osvaldo Golijov's *Dreams and Prayers of Isaac the Blind* for quartet and klezmer clarinets.

The St. Lawrence String Quartet (SLSQ) has established itself among the world-class chamber ensembles of its generation. Its mission: bring every piece of music to the audience in vivid color, with pronounced communication and teamwork, and great respect to the composer. Since winning both the Banff International String Quartet Competition and Young Concert Artists International



Friendly Communities, 6905 Hoover Rd, Indianapolis, 317-259-6817, [aallen@jfgi.org](mailto:aallen@jfgi.org) ★

Auditions in 1992, the quartet has delighted audiences with its spontaneous, passionate, and dynamic performances. Alex Ross of *The New Yorker* magazine writes, "the St. Lawrence are remarkable not simply for the quality of their music making, exalted as it is, but for the joy they take in the act of connection."

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Quintet for Clarinet and Strings, K. 581, was written in 1789 for the clarinetist Anton Stadler. It was Mozart's only completed clarinet quintet, and is one of the earliest and best-known works written especially for the instrument. It remains exceptionally popular today due to its lyrical melodies.

Osvaldo Golijov, 52, is a world-renowned composer of cutting-edge classical music, which he often infuses with themes from his Jewish Argentinean upbringing. In our increasingly interconnected world, the multi-cultural music of Golijov speaks in a voice that is powerful yet touching, contemporary yet timeless.

Golijov wrote of *Dreams and Prayers of Isaac the Blind*, "About 800 years ago, Isaac the Blind, the great Kabbalist rabbi of Provence, dictated a manuscript in which he asserted that all things and events in the universe are the product of combinations of the Hebrew alphabet's letters. His conviction still resonates today: don't we have scientists who believe that the clue to our life and fate is hidden in other codes?"

Golijov came to the United States in 1986 to do his doctoral work with George Crumb at the University of Pennsylvania, and spent summers at Tanglewood on fellowship studying with Lukas Foss and Oliver Knussen. In 1990, he won Tanglewood's Fromm Commission, which resulted in *Yiddishbbuk*, premiered by the St. Lawrence String Quartet at Tanglewood's Festival of Contemporary Music in July 1992 and winner the following year of the prestigious Kennedy Center Friedheim Award.

Golijov came to wide public notice in 2000 with the "Passion According to Saint Mark", commissioned in remembrance of the 250th anniversary of Johann Sebastian Bach's death by German conductor Helmut Rilling and the International Bach Academy of Stuttgart.

Golijov's works, with their syntheses of European, American and Latin secular cultures and their deep spirituality drawn from both Judaism and Christianity, have brought him international notoriety and, in 2003, a coveted MacArthur Foundation "Genius Award."

Golijov has worked in close collaboration with the St. Lawrence Quartet on chamber music since the 1990s. ★

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## 42nd HAI-Life Awards Dinner to honor Benton and Sandi Marks

Dinner to be held June 2

**Benton** and **Sandi Marks**, parents of Hasten Hebrew Academy graduate Rachel (class of 1999), board members, past president and Education Committee member will be honored at this year's HAI-Life Awards Dinner. Benton and Sandi are pillars of the Indianapolis Jewish and greater community. Benton has been an HHAI board member since 1997, chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee, and President of the Board. Sandi is a board member, member of the Education Committee and educational consultant as needed.



In other areas of the Indianapolis Jewish community, Benton has served on the board of the Bureau of Jewish Education and has been its president, has been a three-time chair of Indianapolis Israel Bonds, a five-time chair of the campaign of the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis and has served as its president! He is currently vice-president of his synagogue, Congregation B'nai Torah. Sandi is a member of Hadassah, National Council of Jewish Women, AMIT Women, and her synagogue's sisterhood.

Also being honored at this very special

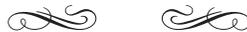
## Obituaries

**Allen Phillip Marks, 66**, of Gaithersburg, Maryland died on April 12, 2013. He was the son of Shirley Marks of Indianapolis. He was a graduate of Indiana University and the University of Michigan. He was a hospital administrator in Atlanta before moving to Gaithersburg. He was also a teacher at American University in Washington, D.C. Besides his mother Shirley, he is survived by his wife Debra and daughter Erin. His father Harold predeceased him. He was buried in Gaithersburg on April 14.

**Helen Siegel, 86**, died April 14, 2013. She was born in Jacksonville, Fla., to Alfred and Sylvia Wasserman on Jan. 6, 1927. Helen received her Nursing degree from Sinai Hospital in 1947. She worked for doctors in Daytona Beach, Fla., and Atlanta.

Helen was a member of Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, Hooverwood Guild, the Dalmatian Club of America, Chicagoland Dalmatian Club, Central Indiana Kennel Club, and a founding member of the Dalmatian Club of Greater Indianapolis.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Leonard Siegel; and stepson, Michael E. Siegel. A graveside service was held on April 16 in Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation North Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Dalmatian Club of America Foundation or Hooverwood Nursing Home. Arrangements entrusted to **Aaron Ruben Nelson Mortuary**. ✨



dinner, will be this year's eighth grade graduating class: **Eitan Alkaslassy, Rebecca Bruns, Chava Bunes, Aryeh Cohen, Aaron Garrett, Maya Geller-Montague, Benjamin Glazier, Maya Harris, Jonah Katz, Breanna Kelsoe, Aviv Linkov, Michaela McKasson, Zee Pakula, Yonaton Rose, Tal Rothenberg**, (see Marks, page IN 7)

## 2013 HHAI 8th grade Israel trip

April 7 - 22

By the boys:



While we are only a few days into our trip, Israel has been a great experience or as they say in the slang vernacular here *sababa* [awesome]! When we traveled up north to Kibbutz Misgav Haam and saw the panoramic view of the incredibly close Lebanese and Syrian borders, we heard a passionate plea from a retired Midwestern *oleh* (person who made *aliyah* [moved to Israel]). He fought in all of Israel's wars since 1967 and he implored us to realize that Israel is our home whether we live here or not; we are connected to this land spiritually and emotionally as well as historically. Which got us thinking and reflecting upon all the ways we have felt connected and bonded so far on our trip...

Being boys, we were enthralled with the notion that we have experienced eight different modes of transportation since we left Indy from puddle-jumper and jumbo planes to donkeys, rafts, kayaks, boats, jeeps and of course our tour bus. The jeeping experience was amazing as we connected with the flora and fauna of the Golan Heights speeding dangerously down back roads and careening down those steep hills. (Not sure Mrs. Gettinger in the front seat thought it was as cool as we did!) Building our own rafts from bamboo, barrels and tying knots to secure them in place for our stint on the Kinneret was thrilling as well and steering our own donkeys in the Mishnaic village of Kfar Kedem. (We even have authentic donkey driver licenses.) This was another cool team transportation experience.

Of course, we have bonded with the Israeli cuisine and have loved the fresh squeezed orange juice and our favorite homemade *pittot* and lamb kabobs at Kfar Kedem. We are still looking for our first *shwarma* meal but can't wait for the *falafel* lunch at our sister school Rambam in Acco where we will meet with Holocaust survivor and author Naomi Morgenstern and do a shared book study activity on the book *Bat Kazoo Ratzenu*. Both schools read this in the other's native language through our Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis partnership program.

Feeling connected to the country physically and naturally has been a focus this week with hiking, boating and jeeping and we credit our amazing guide Gidi, with his contagious smile and lovely

(see Israel Trip, page IN 7)



**Aaron Ruben Nelson**

*The Jewish Funeral Home of Greater Indianapolis*

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**ISRAEL TRIP**

*(continued from IN 6)*

South African accent, with this awesome connection to the land itself. Most importantly, Tzafat with its unique candle factory, blue *techelet* and the inspiring holiness of the *Kabbalist Ari shul* where we *davened mincha* connected most of us spiritually to Israel although some are waiting for Jerusalem to be that special bond! In Israel we feel proud to be Jewish... we wear our *kippot* (cool IU or Michigan ones) and fit right in as we have a strong sense of belonging to this Jewish land! Not sure we want to come home...

**By the girls:**

Our past few days in Israel have moved us to reflect on ourselves, our Jewish heritage, and our place in Israel. The quick transition from *Yom Hazikaron* to *Yom Ha'atzmaut* was very eye opening. In a matter of minutes, we went from mourning for fallen soldiers, their families and Holocaust victims, to celebrating in the streets for the current modern independent state of Israel. We visited major religious and historic landmarks in Israel, like the Western Wall, Massada and Yad Vashem all of which caused us to reflect on our personal Jewish identity and connection to its eternity.

Names have been a unique motif in our experiences. On Monday, *Yom Hazikaron* (Remembrance Day), we made a trip to Yad Vashem. This is a Holocaust museum in Jerusalem that focuses on the personal stories of those who perished in or survived the Holocaust; the name Yad Vashem taken from the verse in Isaiah establishing an eternal name and legacy. We were especially touched by a memorial in its outdoor area called *Yad Veyeled* for the 1.5 million children who perished. This portion of the tour was particularly heart-wrenching, since most of the children mentioned were younger than us, or our age. It reflected on not only the children that themselves were



*HHAJ 8th graders and teachers/chaperones and guides visit the Western Wall.*



*The group reenacts life at the time of the Mishna at Kfar Kedem.*

murdered, but the generations of Jews that would have come from them. The names of the children continuously play in the exhibit as one walks in the pitch dark room lit with candles reflected onto mirrors to depict many points of tiny light. In beautiful contrast, we celebrated our classmate Nicholle Sanders receiving her Hebrew name Noa on Masada as an affirmation of her Jewish identity!

We visited Har Hertzal, where we heard many stories about brave soldiers who fell for the Jewish state. It was especially meaningful and realistic when our guide took us to the graves of his fellow soldiers and told us of their unfortunate demises. We all went to the graves of the 1948 soldiers whose loved ones had passed away or are too old to visit them. We lit candles for those who connected to us for one reason or another. This stroll through the cemetery was enlightening about how many people have given their lives willingly for us to be able to live and dwell in Israel in peace. *Yom Ha'atzmaut* broke us away from the sorrows of *Yom Hazikaron*. At night, there was a huge party in the streets with shops, music, dancing, and

food. The crowd was very diverse, but everyone came together to celebrate their home, Israel. We even reconnected with our old friends (former classmates) Achinoam Arieli and Omer Erlich.

In conclusion, we are so appreciative for this opportunity to visit the land of our forefathers, and would like to thank our gracious donors, the Jewish Federation, our parents and teachers who put together this amazing packed schedule for us. We look forward to meeting everyone back in Indiana, but meanwhile are having the time of our lives.

*More about this trip will be posted on the HHAJ website and Facebook page in the coming weeks.* ✨



**MARKS**

*(continued from IN 6)*

**Nicholle Sanders, Sam Schwartz, and Arik Tieke** (see photos above).

Many of these students have been at the HHAJ since their Early Childhood days. Others have joined us more recently. We are proud of all their accomplishments. ✨

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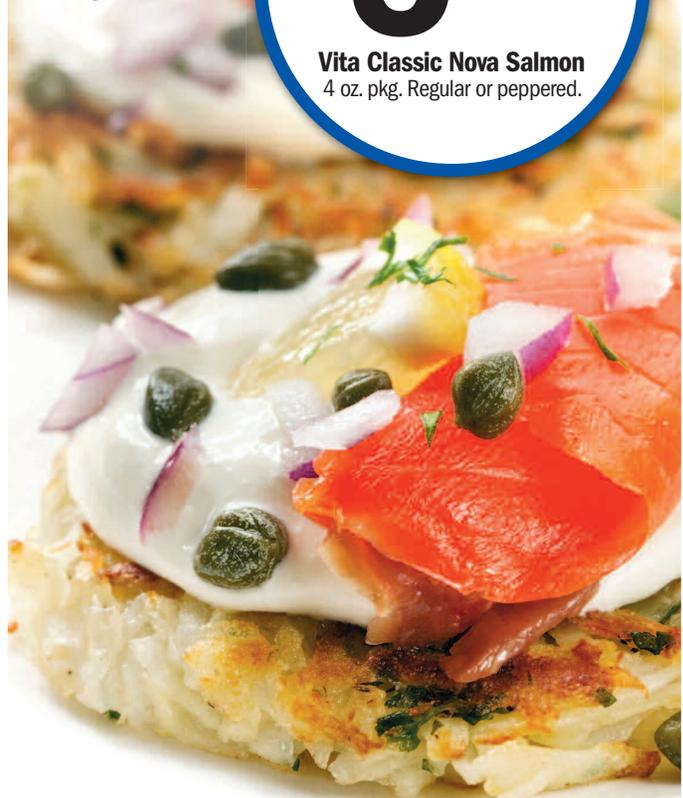
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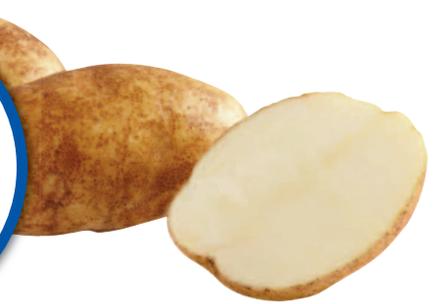


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