

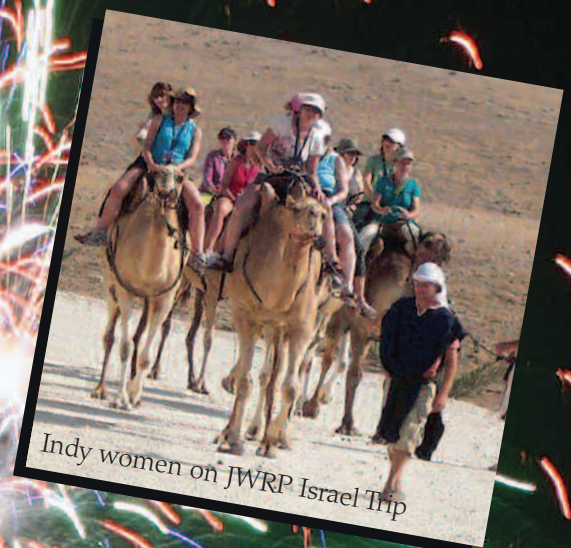
The Jewish **Post & Opinion** *Indiana Edition*

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Happy 4th of July



(see About the Cover, p.3.)

Simcha Announcements

Wedding announcement of Holly Careskey

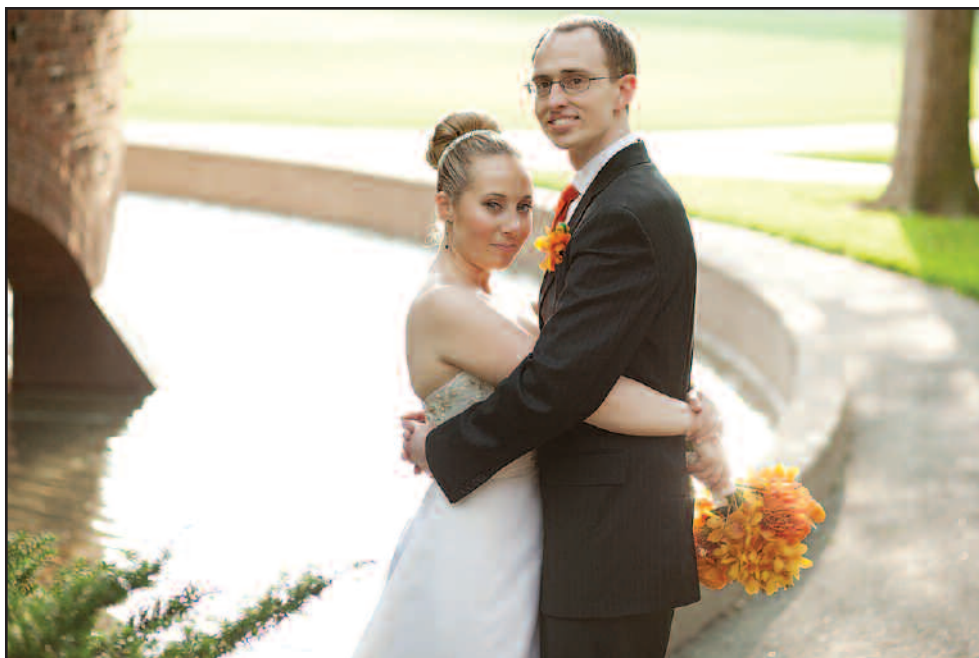
Dr. Josh and Nancy Lee Careskey of Carmel, Ind., and Brewer, Maine are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter, Holly Elizabeth Careskey to Kurt Willes Armbrust, son of Dr. Scott and Nancy Armbrust of Green Bay, Wisc., and Door County, Wisc.

Holly is a 2004 graduate of Brebeuf Preparatory School in Indianapolis and an 2008 honors graduate of Brown University with a bachelor's degree in biochemistry. She is currently a fourth year medical student at Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston where she is a dual degree candidate for a medical (MD) degree and a masters degree (MPH) in public health in 2013.

Kurt is a 2003 graduate of Ashwaubenon High School in Green Bay where he was valedictorian. Kurt is a 2007 honors graduate of Brown University with a degree in chemistry. Kurt is currently a Ph.D. candidate in organic chemistry at MIT in 2013.

Holly is the granddaughter of Mr. Robert and Mrs. Shirley Careskey of Indianapolis and Mrs. Shirley Bailin of Needham, Mass., and the late Samuel Bailin. Kurt is the grandson of Mr. Willis and Mrs. Dolores Armbrust and Mr. Les and Mrs. Norma Rygg all of Omaha, Neb. The groom's great-great-grandfather, Mr. Elmore Y. Sarles was the ninth Governor of North Dakota.

The couple married on May 26, 2012 at the Chapel at MIT in Cambridge, Mass. John Wuestneck, MIT Chaplain officiated. The reception was held at The Langham Hotel in Boston. Holly's sister, Kate Tinsley, Indianapolis served as maid of honor. Bridesmaids included Kailah Lee,



Holly Elizabeth Careskey and Kurt Willes Armbrust marry. Photo credit: Glen Cooper.

Indianapolis, niece of the bride; Dr. Jennifer Steinkeler, Boston, cousin of the bride; Claire Cascio, Indianapolis, friend of the bride; and Eliza Congdon, Wenham, Mass., friend of the bride.

Kurt's brother, Matthew Armbrust, Madison, Wisc., served as his best man. Groomsmen included Holly's brother, Matthew Careskey, Boston; Adrian Dykstra of Minneapolis, cousin of the groom; Dr. Peter Ryg, Washington, DC, friend of the groom; and Casey Bohlen of Boston, friend of the groom. Dr. Andrew Steinkeler, Philadelphia, cousin of the bride and Jake Dykstra, Omaha, Neb., cousin of the groom were ushers. Miss Judy Careskey, Mission Viejo, Calif., Holly's aunt, hosted a Sunday brunch at The Langham Hotel in honor of the newlyweds on May 27, 2012.

Following a honeymoon to The Stowe Mountain Lodge in Vermont, the couple will reside in Cambridge, Mass. ★

BJE honors graduates and president

At the BJE annual meeting on June 4, BJE Past President and Installing Officer Brandon Roger handed over the gavel to new president Mark A. Roger. Mark A. Roger recognized Beth Klapper for her service as BJE President from 2010–2012 (photo below). On the cover is the Dalet graduating class for 2012, held May 20.

This was the last of the BJE's 100th anniversary centennial celebrations and the end of a magical year that included a Birthday Barbeque, A Century of the American Jewish Songbook, a J Bowl Tailgate Party, and a Centennial Purim Ball with Joan Rivers. ★



Simchas Welcome! Had a recent joyous occasion in your family or Jewish organization? *The Jewish Post & Opinion – IN Edition* welcomes your announcements for placement in our *Simcha* section. Submit photos and text to: jpostopinion@gmail.com. **Next Deadline: July 25, 2012.** All decisions on publishing, date of placement, size of photo, and length of announcement are at the sole discretion of the publisher.



Debbie (Smulevitz) Fratrik (center) with Indianapolis Colts rookies taken in downtown Indy on Sat. June 16.

Editorial

If you haven't had a chance to see "You are There 1950: *Making a Jewish Home*" at the Indiana Historical Society (IHS) now is a good time to go because the exhibit will be replaced with a new one in September (see page 5). I went and it was well worth the trip downtown.

On Nov. 20, 2011 the IHS opened the exhibit to the Jewish Community which made it seem like a big party. It was fun seeing so many others of all the different denominations there. Besides the exhibit, a special activity of making gefilte fish from scratch took place.

Before entering the exhibit, newspaper articles and photos relating to the time period were on the walls. Some of the newspaper articles were from the 1949 bound volume of this newspaper.

I had never seen anything like what appeared to be a large transparent photograph – a hologram – that was in the entranceway to the exhibit. Already it gave an ambiance to the exhibit before seeing it. The younger children especially enjoyed this aspect.

Everyone had to walk through it to get into the kitchen, a replica of the one Fanny and Benny Kaplan had in their home on Union Street on the southside of Indianapolis. The exhibit was based on a photograph taken on April 5, 1950, a year after their resettlement from a post-World War II displaced persons camp.



Fanny Kaplan

Having known of one another as distant relatives before the war and after having lost most of their families during the Holocaust, Benny and Fanny reconnected and married in Poland after the liberation. They then lived for three years in a German displaced persons camp. Jewish Social Services in Indianapolis financed the family's relocation, including their two young children, to the United States in 1949 and helped them settle in.

I had heard that the original photograph (on this page) of Fanny Kaplan cooking a kosher meal was picked by the IHS staff and they spent several months looking for her daughter Rosie Kaplan who lives in the San Francisco Bay Area. When they finally located her, they found that she still had the dishes that were in the photograph. Getting those dishes for the exhibit was merely one of the reasons that it was so authentic.

It felt very real to me partly because the way the kitchen was furnished with appliances and furniture from the 1950s. Another reason was the way the actors

Chassidic Rabbi

BY RABBI BENZION COHEN

The following is another true story from visiting the sick people in our local hospital. As you know, Israel has a great variety of people from all around the world. However I try hard to greet one and all with the same big smile and a blessing for a complete and speedy recovery. I then ask them to put on *tefillin*. In fact, the smile and blessing are some of the most powerful weapons available in our battle to increase observance of *mitzvahs*.

As soon as I give someone a real smile and blessing I myself have done two more *mitzvahs*. To cheer someone up is an act of kindness, a very important *mitzvah*. It is a wonderful gift that we can give to people, and it doesn't cost us any money! In addition, the one who gets this precious gift from me is now much more willing to hear about doing more *mitzvahs*.

The other day I was in the neurology ward and I met a young man in his 20s. I guessed by his face that he was one of the new immigrants from Russia. I gave him a smile and a blessing, and invited him to put on *tefillin*. At first he refused, but after a second he agreed. He told me that this was the first time in his life that he was putting on *tefillin*.

I wished him a hearty "Mazal Tov!" and announced that today we're celebrating together his Bar Mitzvah. This was indeed a happy occasion and a beautiful celebration. For 100 years Communists had fought against belief in G-d and observance of *mitzvahs*, particularly in Russia. They murdered

(see Benzion, page 7)

who portrayed the family members and volunteers were dressed and the way their hair was styled. The actors answered all of my questions in such detail and the ones portraying the family members answered with a Polish accent, the way the family would have spoken.

When I asked a woman who was portraying a National Council of Jewish Women volunteer if there were any other Kaplan family members who survived, I think she said Benny had a sister who went to Israel but that was the only one. I was teary-eyed when I heard that but the woman assured me that this exhibit was not so much about their tragic past but mostly about their new lives and the outpouring of help they received to start over. For a couple examples, Mr. Kaplan was given a job at Kraft and the family got assistance from a tutor to learn English.

Other interesting interactive exhibits were also available for perusing that day

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About the Cover

Top left photo: From Hadassah's 76th Annual Donor Luncheon. (See models' names, story, and another photo on **page 6**.)

Top right photo: Jewish women from Indianapolis went to Israel on a 10-day mission with the Jewish Women's Renaissance Project (JWRP). They were joined by women from around the world for a highly subsidized trip of a lifetime.

2011 was the first year that Indianapolis sent a group on a JWRP mission. This year women came from Denver, Baltimore, Toronto, El Paso, South Africa, Mexico City, and Costa Rica. (See 2012 group photo, one more from this year's trip, and more info on **page 8**.)

Bottom photo: 2012 BJE Dalet graduating class. (See **page 2** for more.) ★

but I did not get a chance to look at them. One that is still there is from the 1920s, *Prohibition Enforced*, and a new one opened June 5 from 1955, *Ending Polio*. In the future, I hope to spend more time at the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center downtown on the canal.

Jennie Cohen, July 4, 2012 ★

Community Events

The Art of Judaism

BJE Adult Education Summer Series 2012 – **July 18, July 25 and Aug. 8.**

Aleph is for Artistic. Instructor: Shirah Eliashiv. This class will be held Wed., July 18 from 7:00–8:30 p.m. Hebrew letters have been embellished since the Torah was first written. Come and explore the history and beauty of the Hebrew Aleph-Beit. During the class, students will choose a Hebrew letter to draw and decorate in any fashion they desire through a variety of mediums.



Register online at: www.bjeindy.org/Uploads/5/Files/13095aessreg2012.pdf.

Class will be held at the Bureau of Jewish Education, Inc. Smulyan-Stolkin Education Center, 6711 Hoover Rd., Indianapolis. Phone: 317-255-3124. Cost: \$10 per class or \$25 for the series of three.

YLD Summer Pool Party and Havdalah

On **Sat., July 21**, dive into summer! Join us for havdalah, food, drinks and good conversation by the pool at the home of John and Diane Abrams. This event is \$5/person, which includes all food and drinks. Bring school supplies for local Jewish families and be entered into a raffle! For more information and to register, visit our website: www.jfgi.org/page.aspx?id=255498.

Win a Free Ticket to Israel

On **Sun., July 22** at 7 p.m. at the JCC join our Western Galilee Partnership Drum Circle with the Bongo Boys. **Our beat + Their beat = One beat.** The Israel Partnership Steering Committee Meeting will be held here in Indianapolis from **July 20–24**. On July 22 we will have an evening program open to the community featuring the Bongo Boys, a local drumming group, and Partnershuk, a sort of informational fair about Partnership With Israel with lots of booths and tables. During the day on the 22, we will also have a Partnership 101 session open to the public to tell you everything you ever wanted to know about our Partnership With Israel, but were afraid to ask. That begins at 10:00 a.m. in the Laikin Auditorium.

Jewish Lawyers

Jewish Lawyers Group meets for lunch on the **fourth Wednesday of each month**. The next meeting is **July 25** at Shapiro's downtown at 12:15 p.m. Presently, the group's leaders are Irwin Levin, Zeff Weiss and Elliot Levin.

For more information contact Elliot at edl@rubin-levin.net.

JCC Business Network

The next meeting will be on **Wed., July 25** at 6:30 p.m. at the Arthur M Glick JCC, 6701 Hoover Rd. RSVP to Larry Rothenberg lrothenberg@jccindy.org or call 317-715-9233.

Sheep, Shawls, and Shatnez

Instructor: Rabbi Paula Winnig. This class will be held **Wed., July 25** from 7:00–8:30 p.m. The class will focus on the process of turning wool into fiber for everyday clothing and prayer shawls from Biblical times to today. Students will experience a hands-on demonstration of creating fiber and explore the biblical sources for Jewish fiber arts.

Register online at: www.bjeindy.org/Uploads/5/Files/13095aessreg2012.pdf.

Class will be held at the BJE, 6711 Hoover Road. Phone: 317-255-3124 Cost: \$10 per class or \$25 for the series of three.

Arnie & his Soul Brothers and Jimmy's Four Sounds

On **Sat., July 28** at 7 p.m. at the Arthur M. Glick JCC. Cost is \$20 or \$15 for members.

Let the good times roll! Starting in the 50s, these two Indiana groups tore it up with their rock 'em 'n sock 'em dance music, toe-tapping doo-wop and dreamy jazz. Both bands have successful records to their credit. Now Arnie & his Soul Brothers and Jimmy's Four Sounds are back on stage for an evening of fun and music. Coming off their highly successful performance at the Superbowl Village, they are ready to show you a good time.

The Sacred Dance Institute: FLOW: The Reprise

On **Sun., Aug. 5** at 3 p.m. at the Arthur M. Glick JCC. Cost is \$8 or \$5 for members.

Experience moving vignettes articulating the human experience with the Higher Power as the Sacred Dance Institute presents a reflection of humanity's journey danced through the dimensions of Spirit, Mind, Soul and Body. Truly a delightful afternoon of spirited dance! Light refreshments will be provided after the performance.

A Taste of Trope

Instructor: Cantor Judy Meyersberg. This class will be held **Wed., Aug. 8** from 7:00–8:30 p.m. Torah has been "read" for millennia, but trope was developed only 1200 years ago. From its birthplace in Tiberias, we will study how this aurally activated written tradition became the myriad of styles we experience today throughout the world. Join us to learn, "read", and compare.

Woman's Press Club of Indiana announces top awards

Marion Garmel was named Communicator of Achievement and Julie Slaymaker won the Kate Milner Rabb Award at the annual Awards Banquet of the Woman's Press Club of Indiana May 19 at the Fort Harrison Conference Center in Indianapolis.

Garmel retired as the theater critic of the *Indianapolis Star* in 2002, following a 41-year career in arts journalism, mostly at the *Indianapolis News* before it was merged into the *Indianapolis Star*. For nine years in the 1960s she



Marion Garmel

worked for the *National Observer*, a Dow Jones weekly family newspaper with offices in a suburb of Washington, DC.

Communicator of Achievement is the highest award given by the National Federation of Press Women, and Garmel

Register online at: www.bjeindy.org/Uploads/5/Files/13095aessreg2012.pdf.

Class will be held at the BJE, 6711 Hoover Rd. Phone: 317-255-3124 Cost: \$10 per class or \$25 for the series of three.

Top of Form Interfaith Iftar dinner

On **Aug. 12** join Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Second Presbyterian, and Congregation Beth El Zedeck in sponsoring the fourth annual Iftar dinner for our Muslim neighbors. For Muslims, the Iftar dinner breaks the daily fast during the month of Ramadan.

A health and art fair

Sun., Jan. 13, 2013 – a health & art fair titled "*L'Chaim: Arts and Wellness for Better Living*" will be held at Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation.

Jewish Bereavement Group

The Albert & Sara Reuben Senior and Community Resource Center began a bereavement group in partnership with Community Home Health Services, a part of the Community Health Network. This bereavement group, which has a Jewish perspective and is facilitated by Rabbi Bruce Pfeffer, is open to all. For information regarding meeting times please contact Julie Sondhelm at 317-259-6822 x6. ★

competed with COAs of other NFPW affiliates at the national convention Sept. 20–22 in Scottsdale, Ariz. She is currently WPCI secretary and keeps the membership informed with periodic e-letters.

The Kate Milner Rabb Award is the highest award given by Woman's Press Club of Indiana. It is for achievement in journalism and exceptional service to the organization. Slaymaker was cited for spearheading the campaign to have Kate Milner Rabb, a former WPCI president (1929–1931), inducted into the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame this April. Slaymaker, a free-lance magazine writer and former broadcaster, is immediate past president of WPCI. Slaymaker's work has appeared in *Indianapolis Monthly*, *Super Lawyers*, *Indy Child*, and *Indianapolis Woman*, among many other publications.

About the Woman's Press Club of Indiana

Founded in 1913, the Woman's Press Club of Indiana is a nonprofit organization of media professionals in communication. It is a charter member and a current affiliate of the National Federation of Press Women. WPCI welcomes into its membership male and female professional communicators and communications students. A gala 100th anniversary celebration is planned for 2013. ★

Hoosiers host Hazon Cross-USA cyclists

Riding in support of Sustainable Food System

SEATTLE – June 10, 2012 – How many cross-country bike tours begin with the sound of the *shofar*? At least one – and the blast could be heard loud and clear on Sunday morning as more than three dozen Jewish cyclists (including 11 who will each be riding 3,600 miles) gathered in Seattle for the launch of a ten-week journey across the United States.

The Cross-USA Ride is a 10-week journey across America. Hazon members are riding to promote sustainable food systems across the country and to raise money to support Hazon's efforts in working to create healthier and more sustainable communities. Hazon riders educate themselves and communities along the route about local food, national and local food policy initiatives, and food production. Hazon's ride will end in Washington, DC where the members of Hazon hope to present the Department of Agriculture with a petition signed by people across America supporting sustainable food policies.

The Hazon Cross-USA Bike Ride will stay in Lafayette, Indianapolis, and Muncie along their trip. They will be in Indianapolis on Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2012 after stopping in Lebanon for lunch and Zionsville for a snack. They will also travel to the Trading Post for the Fiber Arts, an alpaca farm in Pendleton on their way to Muncie. In Indianapolis, the riders will be treated to a BBQ Cookout and entertainment at the Bureau of Jewish Education. They will lodge at the BJE overnight and head on their ride to Muncie in the morning. The Hazon riders will surely experience a warm, Hoosier welcome.

The Hazon Cross-USA Ride is not your typical cross-country bike ride. It is being organized by Hazon, one of the leading faith-based environmental organizations in the country and the driving force behind the growth of the Jewish Food Movement. "The Jewish community has always cared about social justice – and we've always loved food," explains Nigel Savage, Hazon's founder and E.D. "In the summer in which the Farm Bill is being considered by Congress, people need to know how strongly many people in the Jewish community feel about supporting sustainable food systems."

(see Cyclists, page 11)

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Hadassah Donor Luncheon "best in years"

On Sun., May 6 Indianapolis Chapter of Hadassah presented its 76th Annual Donor Affair. This year Hadassah celebrated 100 years of healing, educating, nurturing advocating and building in Israel and communities worldwide. Brunch at Broadmoor Country Club, "A Century of Celebration" recognized generous contributors of different levels: Donors, Builders, Founders, Keepers of the Gate, and Associates in the Indianapolis Chapter. In October the dedication of the Sarah Wetsman Davidson Hospital Tower (Hadassah Hospital) in Jerusalem will be a reality, embodying Hadassah's commitment to the future.

The entertainment for the Donor Affair was a fashion show put on by Lilly's Boutique of Zionsville with models from Hadassah membership. The models featured in the show were Jackie Barrett, Marilyn Bercovitz, Wilma Borinstein, Lynn Davis, Sharon Doner, Jen Hodes, Phyllis Kaplan, Judy Koor, Andrea Leopold, and Brenda Schrager. According to Shirley Aprison, "It was the best Donor Affair we've had in years. It was fun and the fashion models were gorgeous and delightful." Chairman of the Donor was Brenda Freedman. For information on Hadassah, please contact Helaine Herman or Phyllis Russell. ★

Models in Cover photo, L-R: Lynn Davis, Phyllis Kaplan, Brenda Schrager, Wilma Borinstein, Sharon Doner, Judy Koor, Jennifer Hodes, and Andrea Leopold.



L-R: Lois Berkowitz and Rhoda Israelov peruse the samples presented by Lilly's Boutique of Zionsville at the Hadassah Donor Luncheon on May 6.

IU Kokomo chancellor recognized as top Israeli academic in the world working outside Israel

KOKOMO, IND., June 6, 2012 – Indiana University Kokomo Chancellor Michael Harris' dedication to scholarly work and his successful leadership in higher education have earned him recognition by one of Israel's leading newspapers as the top Israeli in academics worldwide working outside Israel.



"The Most Successful Israelis in the World – A Special Project: Made In Israel," published April 27 by Maariv, the second-largest newspaper in Israel, cited Harris as an exceptional leader in academics and listed him among 10 honorees serving as sources of "Israeli pride, the international edition." Other honorees were recognized for their achievements in the fields of music, high tech, culinary, computers, nightlife, television, medicine, physics, and real estate.

"Michael's strong and strategic stewardship of Indiana University's Kokomo campus, which continues to experience dramatic growth in enrollment, academic offerings and community engagement, along with his notable scholarly achievements, make him a most deserving recipient of this outstanding honor," IU President Michael A. McRobbie said. "By way of his dynamic personality, enthusiasm and experience in a number of leadership positions, Michael is helping to strengthen IU Kokomo's role as a major player in revitalizing the region it serves and significantly improving the quality of life for all who live and work in north central Indiana."

According to the newspaper report, Harris and his fellow honorees "hold the most desirable positions in their fields. They're responsible for innovations, advancements and resources."

The report adds that Harris "is probably the first and only Israeli today that leads an American university or campus in his position as chancellor of IU Kokomo, which is part of the prestigious Indiana University."

"There are many successful Israeli academics in the U.S., so to be recognized is overwhelming," said Harris, 56, who was born in South Africa and raised on a commune in Israel.

Harris retired at the rank of major as an

intelligence officer from the Israeli Defense Forces. He has lived in the U.S. since the late 1980s.

"I don't have strong enough words to describe how incredibly humbled I feel, especially being in the company of the others who were selected," Harris said.

Maariv acknowledged a number of Harris' accomplishments, including 40 published articles and five books (one in the past year), and an educational background that spans the globe. He received a Ph.D. in public policy from IU, a master's degree from Tel Aviv University and an undergraduate degree in economics and business administration from Bar-Ilan University. Additionally, he is a graduate of two of the Harvard Graduate School of Education's leadership programs (IEM and MDP).

Harris became chancellor of IU Kokomo in July 2010, and he is currently working to ensure the campus plays an important role in the future success of north central Indiana. To this end, he has set forth strategic goals based on three themes: academic excellence and student success; building relationships and making friends; and regional transformation.

In less than two years under his leadership, the campus has seen major growth in student enrollment, implemented 15 new degree programs, increased significantly its online course offerings, dramatically increased fundraising, began a competitive athletic program and a successful bid to NAIA membership, and completed a variety of infrastructure projects. These accomplishments, Harris says, build upon the vision for IU's regional campuses as set forth by IU President McRobbie.

Other outstanding Israelis recognized in the special report are:

Music: Miri Ben-Ari, a prominent violinist.

High Tech: David "Dadi" Perlmutter, executive vice president and general manager of Intel Corp.'s Mobility.

Culinary: Moshik Roth, a world-renowned chef who holds two Michelin stars.

Computers: Safra Catz, president and CFO of Oracle.

Nightlife: Guy Gerber, an electronic DJ/producer and musician.

Television: Aviv Nevo, a venture capitalist and major shareholder in Time Warner.

Medicine: Dr. Gideon Koren, pediatrician, clinical pharmacologist and toxicologist.

Physics: Dr. Amnon Yariv, the Martin and Eileen Summerfield Professor of applied physics and professor of electrical engineering at Caltech.

Real Estate: Chaim Katzman, chairman of Gazit-Globe Ltd. ★



Critics Corner

REVIEWED BY CHARLIE EPSTEIN

The wonderful Wizard of Oz visits B&B

No matter what great show you have seen at the Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre, like *Chicago*, *Seven Brides For Seven Brothers*, *Singin' In The Rain*, and *It's A Wonderful Life*, to name a few, their current presentation of *The Wizard of Oz* easily joins them. This Beef & Boards version of *The Wizard of Oz* is superior to any other.

It is possible you would think you might become bored due to the familiarization of the story and music, but that positively is NOT the case. There is never a dull moment. Even with the familiarity you still cannot anticipate what comes next. Enormous credit is due every member of the cast and crew.

The glorious cast is full of tremendous talent. I have no idea where to start. Of course the main quartet (Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin Man and the Cowardly Lion) hold this tremendous show together. Lisa Bark is terrific as Dorothy, who sings "Somewhere Over The Rainbow". Doug King is perfect as the Scarecrow. His nimbleness is a beauty to behold. The Tin Man is Jeff Stockberger, whose professionalism certainly adds to the production. The Cowardly Lion is brilliantly portrayed by Jayson Elliott, who sometimes gets big laughs imitating Bert Lahr's comedic character from the movie. I wish he would have done more Bert Lahr. He is hugely entertaining, especially his laugh.

Trisha Shepherd as the Good Witch Glinda is superb. Aside from her television talent, she has a glorious voice and tremendous acting ability. She looks like a million bucks in her costume. Her first entrance flying over the audience is spectacular. Lynn Perkins is also eye popping as the Wicked Witch, especially when she melts. Her evil laugh can be heard down on the Circle. Deb Wims and Darrin Murrell are very effective as Dorothy's aunt and uncle. Even the little munchkins are impressive as well as the crows, the soldiers, and the apple trees. Everyone contributes to a wonderful show.

The title role along with Professor Marvel is portrayed by the delightful Eddie Curry. Incidentally, his dog Gracie plays Toto, the dog. Eddie is so smooth on stage.

BENZION

(continued from page 3)

thousands of rabbis and religious leaders, closed yeshivas and synagogues, and



Clockwise from the front: Lisa Bark as Dorothy, Doug King as the Scarecrow, Jeff Stockberger as the Tin Man, and Jayson Elliott as the Cowardly Lion in Beef & Boards' production of *The Wizard of Oz*.

He can play any role with aplomb. His expert direction along the excellent choreography by Ron Morgan makes for a super evening. Other crew members that deserve mentioning are Michael Layton for his set design, Ryan Koharchik for his lighting and especially Jill Kelly for her costuming. This terrific show runs through July 15. In my opinion every performance should be sold out.

Epstein, from Indianapolis has been theater, movie and the performing arts critic for The Jewish Post & Opinion – Indiana Edition for more than 35 years. Read more of his work on his blog at: <http://charliehe critic.blogspot.com>. This one was posted on June 4, 2012. ★

forced all children to learn in Communist schools. Communism is now pretty much dead, but tremendous damage was done. Millions of Jews, including my new friend, grew up with very little Jewish education, and no *Bar Mitzvah*.

I helped him say the blessing and wrap the tefillin on his arm. When I put the tefillin on his head, he winced in pain. I asked him what was the matter. He told me that a big cinder block fell on his head, cracked his skull, and only by a great miracle he is still alive. Wow! The next best thing to seeing a miracle is to talk to someone who has just experienced a miracle. The lesson to us was clear. Sometimes we take life for granted. If we come close to losing it, or we are saved by a miracle, it becomes much more precious and meaningful.

Two years ago I survived a serious accident. I remember afterwards resolving to be nicer to people and not waste any more precious time getting upset or angry. I told my new friend that we are given life in order to learn Torah and do mitzvahs. He agreed with all of his heart. This is the essence of becoming Bar Mitzvah. This Bar Mitzvah was 15 years late, but it was the real thing. I was really inspired myself.

When we look at the world, there are many negative things happening – terror, crime, selfishness, hatred. But a closer look reveals that *Moshiach* is coming. False gods, including Communism, are being destroyed. The majority of the nations are now cooperating to bring peace and make the world a better and healthier place to live. And more and more people are coming to believe in the one G-d and do His mitzvahs. And every mitzvah brings more good into the world, and brings *Moshiach* that much closer.

I hope that this story inspires you too, especially to learn the words of Torah and do a lot of mitzvahs.

Rabbi Cohen lives in K'far Chabad, Israel. He can be reached by email at bzcohen@orange.net.il. Reprinted from a previous edition of this newspaper. ★



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Israel – Far from being an apartheid state

BY RABBI BENJAMIN SENDROW



Pulitzer Prize winning novelist Alice Walker recently wrote a letter to the Israeli publisher Yediot Books that began with the following paragraph:

Thank you so much for wishing to publish my novel The Color Purple. It isn't possible for me to permit this at this time for the following reason: As you may know, last Fall in South Africa the Russell Tribunal on Palestine met and determined that Israel is guilty of apartheid and persecution of the Palestinian people, both inside Israel and also in the Occupied Territories. The testimony we heard, both from Israelis and Palestinians (I was a jurist) was devastating. I grew up under American apartheid and this was far worse. Indeed, many South Africans who attended, including Desmond Tutu, felt the Israeli version of these crimes is worse even than what they suffered under the white supremacist regimes that dominated South Africa for so long.

Allow me to pose a question. It is clear that the poster child of apartheid in my lifetime was South Africa. During South African apartheid (1948–1994), why did no one accuse Israel of being an apartheid state? Because it was not true then, any more than it is true today.

South African apartheid was an official policy declaring blacks second class citizens. They could not vote, hold political office, were forced to live in certain areas, could not marry whites, etc. Not a single one of these applies to Arabs living in Israel. Not one. One can easily find an online image of an official poster saying that blacks would be fined, imprisoned, or whipped for a series of offenses including owning land, attending a birthday party if there were too many other blacks present, or failing to move out of their homes within 24 hours of taking a job in another town, no matter how long they had lived in their hometowns. If a black did the same work for the same number of hours as a white and got paid the same amount as the white, the black could be fined, imprisoned, or whipped. This is real life apartheid, and to accuse Israel of apartheid is nothing short of libel.

Israel's 1.5 million Arab citizens, and they are full citizens, make up about 20% of the population of Israel. They have equal rights. They can vote, own land, and serve in the Knesset. I recently gave a sermon in my synagogue in Carmel about how an Arab judge sentenced a former Israeli President to jail on a rape charge,

Indy Jewish Experience

The Jewish Women's Renaissance Project (JWRP) was established in 2008 with the purpose to empower Jewish women to change the world. Its mission is to create a Jewish women's movement that inspires a renaissance of positive values that transforms women, their families, and their communities. The JWRP says the trips are "like a birthright for women." (Birthright sends Jewish young adults ages 18–26 on a fully subsidized trip to Israel).

For more information on how you can be a part of the 2013 trip, contact Judith Friedman: Judith.friedman@yahoo.com. ★

Below L-R, Front row: Sheryl Profeta, Susan Falender, Joanna Kenyon, Lori Weinberg Katz, and Miriam Morrison Nelson; Middle row: Kristen Graves Cohen, Ellyn Walerstein, Colleen Shere, Jill Zuckerberg Butler, Judith Margolis Friedman, and Katherine Lipshutz Frankel; Back row: Ilana Elon Mordoh, Karen Abraham Schankerman, Anne Wolf Berggren, Melanie Fogle Ohlsen, Lori Palatnik, Rebecca Pfeiffer, and Margo Fox.



(R) Joanna Kenyon & Judith Friedman prepare for a camel ride.

and the fact that it was an Arab judge who did so was a complete non-issue in Israel, as it should have been a non-issue.

Far from being an apartheid state, the fact is that Arab citizens of Israel are the freest Arabs in the Middle East, far more free than in any Arab country. Why? Because Israel is a liberal, pluralistic democracy, the only one in the region.

What about Arabs living in the West Bank and Gaza? They are not under the control of the government of Israel. The Palestinian Authority governs the West Bank, and Hamas governs Gaza. The only time these Arabs have to deal with Israeli policy is exactly when Mexicans have to deal with United States policy: when they want to cross the border to enter the country. Are Arabs subjected to long lines at checkpoints? Of course! Israel still has to weed out the terrorists who, to this day, are pledged to the destruction of Israel. Making sure terrorists are not permitted into Israel hardly qualifies as apartheid.

Given this unequivocal evidence, why is

the charge made that Israel is an apartheid state? Because as an apartheid state, South Africa did not deserve to exist. Alice Walker would like to persuade you that Israel has no right to exist.

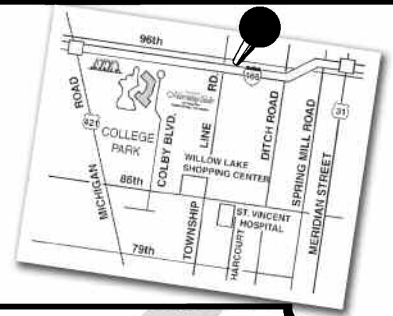
There is a final point to be made. Those who throw the label of apartheid at Israel do not merely attempt to harm the reputation of Israel. By calling Israel an apartheid state, they effectively castrate the term. It's like calling an unwanted kiss on the cheek rape. It powerfully diminishes the horror that the word should evoke. As a Pulitzer Prizing winning novelist, Alice Walker should have more respect for the power of language, which she currently uses irresponsibly, to her own discredit and to the harm of the only country in the Middle East who treats women, gays, and indeed any minority population the way she would say she wants them to be treated. This is the country she accuses of apartheid? She should be ashamed.

Rabbi Sendrow is rabbi of Congregation Shaarey Tefilla in Carmel, Ind. Get Jewish thoughts, current events, and more by following him on Twitter at: www.Twitter.com/CSTRabbi. ★

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Obituaries

Thelma "Tanya" Weiss Delott, 89, died on June 10, 2012 at Hooverwood Nursing Home. Tanya and her husband, Oscar, were married for 63 years when he died in 2005. They shared a true and deep love for one another.

Surviving Tanya are her daughter, Cynthia Edwards, her son, Steven (Joan) Delott; 5 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. Her son Marshall and daughter Gerri preceded her in death.



Tanya was a long time member of Congregation Beth-El Zedeck, Hadassah, Hooverwood Guild, City of Hope and BEZ Sisterhood and will be greatly missed by those that knew and loved her. The family will forever be grateful for the care and support given to Tanya during her stay at Hooverwood by Keita and the other staff.

Graveside services were held on June 12 at Beth-El Zedeck North Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Hooverwood Nursing Home, 7001 Hoover Road, Indianapolis, 46260. Arrangements entrusted to **Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary**. ★

Edythe Kronick Gilbert, 88, died June 14, 2012. She was born in Sioux City, Iowa to Samuel and Lena Kronick. She worked for State Farm Insurance for 26 years as an adjuster, where she broke ground as one of the first female auto adjusters. Edythe and her husband, the late Joe Gilbert, were long time members of Congregation Beth-El Zedeck.

She leaves to cherish her memory: sons Andrew (Denise) and Steven (Margaret) Gilbert and grandchildren Adam Gilbert, Brandon Gilbert and Carah (Paul) Kennedy. The family would like to thank the many caregivers, nurses and doctors who supported her with love and compassion.

Graveside services were held June 18 in Beth-El Zedeck North Cemetery.



Why Faith Matters

BY RABBI DAVID WOLPE

Shabbat is the pause preceding new beginnings. It symbolizes ever renewing creation. What has been does not have to determine what will be. We rest and gather our energies for a new week revitalized by God's promise that we can begin again. *Shabbat Shalom. ~ 6-29-12*

What is the central comfort of the presence of God? You are not alone: In joyous times, in frightening times, in sadness, or in celebration. There are no guarantees that life will be smooth, friends will be kind, tests will be clear, or enemies will be vanquished. There is only this promise – you are not alone. *~ 6-20-12*

From Facebook posts of Rabbi Wolpe. Wolpe is the senior rabbi of Temple Sinai in L.A., and author of Why Faith Matters. ★



Memorial contributions may be made to JFGI-Jacobs Home. Arrangements entrusted to **Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary**. ★

David Plotkin, 84, died June 19, 2012. He was born in Belarus on August 5, 1927 to Israel and Maria Plotkin. David graduated from Soviet Naval Academy in 1946 and was a construction engineer for the Soviet Navy for 30 years. David is survived by two daughters and three grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife.

Graveside services were held June 24 in the Indianapolis Hebrew Cemetery North. Arrangements entrusted to **Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary**. ★

Ida Tulkop, 91, died on June 20, 2012. She was born in Chirchik, Uzbekistan to Faina and Abraam on July 13, 1920. Ida attended Congregation Beth-El Zedeck. She is survived by her sons, Lev (Bella) Tulkop of Indianapolis and Gemadiy Kotelnikov of Indianapolis; daughter, Roza (Michael) Shlit of Indianapolis; seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Ida was preceded in death by her son, Vladimir Kotelnikov of Israel.

Graveside services were held June 22 in Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation North Cemetery. ★

Stanley Joseph Cohen, 76, of Avon died June 19, 2012. He was born in Albany, New York on Aug. 15, 1935 to William and Lillian Cohen. He served his country in the United States Air Force. Stanley also worked as an inspector of main line pro-

SIZE MATTERS

(continued from page 12)

sessions will be together, and there will be parallel breakout groups for rabbis as well as lay leaders of these smaller congregations.

"Our experience shows that kehillot have the best chance of success when rabbis and lay leaders are aligned. This joint conference represents an opportunity for not only sharing ideas and best practices, but also strengthening partnerships that will benefit congregations for years to come," added Rabbi Charles Savenor, USCJ Director of Kehilla Enrichment.

Rabbi Benjamin Sendrow of Congregation Shaarey Tefilla (CST) in Carmel, Ind., had these remarks about the conference: "One would likely expect a conference like this to focus on the challenges of being a smaller congregation in today's world. Some sessions did have that focus, but the main thing that emerged from them for Matt Burton (CST president) and me was that Shaarey Tefilla is in an enviable position in contrast to many other congregations.

"However, the conference hardly emphasized the challenges of small congregations. The emphasis was on the strengths of smaller congregations, the things that smaller congregations offer that are difficult or impossible in big synagogues. Even as we work to grow Shaarey Tefilla, we're always cognizant of the importance of keeping the intimate, haimische family feeling that everyone who visits us finds so moving. We believe our size offers advantages that put Shaarey Tefilla in a unique and very positive position among our local synagogues."

Matt Burton also commented: "The focus of the conference was to educate USCJ member synagogues about building the partnership between a Board and their rabbi as well as keeping a synagogue focused on its primary goals and mission. I found the conference to be very informative and useful in terms of meeting Board presidents from other congregations around the country." ★



duction for Xerox Corporation in Rochester for 29 years. He was a member of the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation.

He is survived by his wife, Beth Etta Roth Cohen; and daughter, Stefanie Marlene (Greg) Davis.

A graveside service was held June 24 in the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation North Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Diabetes Association. Arrangements entrusted to **Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary**. ★



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The Victor Center – screening and prevention of Jewish genetic diseases

Simple blood test can identify carriers of 19 preventable disorders

In the not-too-distant past, prospective parents had no way of knowing whether they were carriers of a genetic disease that could threaten the health and life of their children – until it was too late and a child became sick. For Jewish individuals of Central and Eastern European descent – from such countries as Poland, Russia, Germany, Austria and Lithuania – the potential danger is particularly great. It is now known that one in four Ashkenazi Jews is a carrier for at least one of 19 different genetic diseases, many of which can strike in childhood, have no cure, and in many instances, can lead to an early death.

Today, with advances in the field of genetics, scientists have identified the gene mutations that cause these inherited diseases, enabling individuals who are screened before each pregnancy to know whether their children will be at risk.

Making screening widely available to potential carriers is the mission of The Victor Center for the Prevention of Jewish Genetic Diseases, an organization dedicated to preventing Jewish genetic diseases through high-quality and accessible education, screening, and counseling.

A simple blood test is all that is necessary for screening for the entire Jewish genetic disease panel. While the high cost of screening has presented a financial barrier to some at-risk adults, recently the Victor Center has brought the cost of screening down significantly for all insured individuals. To date, over 3,000 individuals have been screened through the Victor Centers.

What all these genetic diseases have in common is that the carriers themselves are healthy and have no prior family history of the disease. That is because the diseases are inherited in an autosomal recessive manner, meaning a child can be born with a disease if both parents are carriers for the same disease and each passes down the gene mutation to the child. These diseases range from the more familiar Tay-Sachs disease to lesser-known diseases such as Walker-Warburg Syndrome and NemaLine Myopathy.

The Victor Center was founded by Lois Victor, who herself lost two children to a Jewish genetic disease and was determined to help spare other families

the same heartbreak. Just as a grass-roots community campaign for Tay-Sachs disease has successfully reduced the incidence of that disease by 90 percent in the Ashkenazi Jewish population through public education and screening, Ms. Victor's goal was to advocate screening for all the Jewish genetic diseases, raising public awareness that a simple blood test could prevent a family tragedy.



Ms. Victor established the first center in 2002 at Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia. To expand the program's reach, a second location was established in 2005 at Tufts New England Medical Center Floating Hospital for Children in Boston, and a third Victor Center was launched in 2007 in partnership with the University Of Miami Miller School Of Medicine. An additional community-wide partnership offering genetic counseling, education and screening was created in Atlanta with funding from The Marcus Foundation.

Through interfaith marriages and adoption, people who may or may not identify as Jewish or who are not aware of their ancestry, may have unknowingly inherited "Jewish" genes and may also be carriers of the 19 Jewish genetic diseases. Anyone with one Jewish grandparent should be screened.

According to Adele Schneider, MD, Medical Director of the Victor Center, "Every hereditary trait in a child – from eye color to height – is influenced by the genes that are passed from parent to child. The altered genes that cause Jewish genetic diseases are recessive, meaning that if a child receives the gene mutation from just one parent, he or she will be a carrier, just like the parent – but receiving the mutated gene for the same disease

CYCLISTS

(continued from page 5)

Founded in 2000, Hazon aims to touch people's lives directly – building and strengthening institutions that create healthier, richer, and more sustainable Jewish communities. Hazon sponsors transformative experiences, such as the Hazon Cross-USA Ride, an annual Food Conference, and an expanding CSA Program, which supports 60 Jewish CSAs across the US, Canada, and Israel. On the whole, Hazon strives to challenge Jews and others to think more broadly and deeply about their food choices and lead healthy, sustainable lives.

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Rabbi Paula Winnig or her intern, Olivia Snyder, at the Bureau of Jewish Education at 317-255-3124 or osnyder@bjeindy.org. Also more information can be found at the following website: www.hazon.org/programs/cross-usa-ride. ★

On this date in Jewish history

On July 4, 1918

The Jewish sisters Ann Landers and Abigail van Buren, advice columnists, were born.

~ From *The Jewish Book of Days* published by Hugh Lauter Levin Associates, Inc., New York.

from both parents means the child will be born with the disease," explains Dr. Schneider. "If both parents are carriers, there is a 25 percent chance with each pregnancy for this to occur."

Additional information on the Victor Center's services is available at www.victorcenters.org, or calling 877-401-1093 or e-mailing info@victorcenters.org. For further information on the prevention of Jewish genetic diseases, individuals can also visit www.jewishgeneticsanswers.org. ★

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Conference for small Conservative congregations and rabbis

The second annual "Size Matters" conference for small Conservative *kehillot* (congregations), synagogues with less than 250 membership units, was held at Beth Hillel Congregation B'nai Emunah in Wilmette, Ill., from June 4–6.

For the first time approximately 40 rabbis and lay leaders representing 11 different states came together to discuss strategies for small congregations to excel given the unique qualities that distinguish them from larger congregations.

Keynote speaker was Bob Leventhal, who serves as Leadership Specialist for the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ). Leventhal has recently begun working full time for the United Synagogue after serving as a Senior Consultant for the Alban Institute for 10 years.

The first "Size Matters" conference began last year and was only for Conservative rabbis who serve congregations with less than 250 member units, many of which are outside of major Jewish metropolitan

areas. The original conference was organized by Rabbi Ben Kramer of Munster, Ind.; Rabbi David Krishef of Grand Rapids, Mich.; and Rabbi Michael Friedland of South Bend, Ind., as a response to the unique needs of Conservative rabbis in these smaller communities.

"Conservative rabbis in smaller and more isolated communities require a particular specialization that is sometimes overlooked by the movement as a whole. These congregations have few if any other Jewish professionals on staff other than

the rabbi. And because these congregations are small and close-knit, the rabbi has to see him or herself not only as rabbi to the community but a member as well," explained Friedland who has served his congregation in South Bend for 16 years.

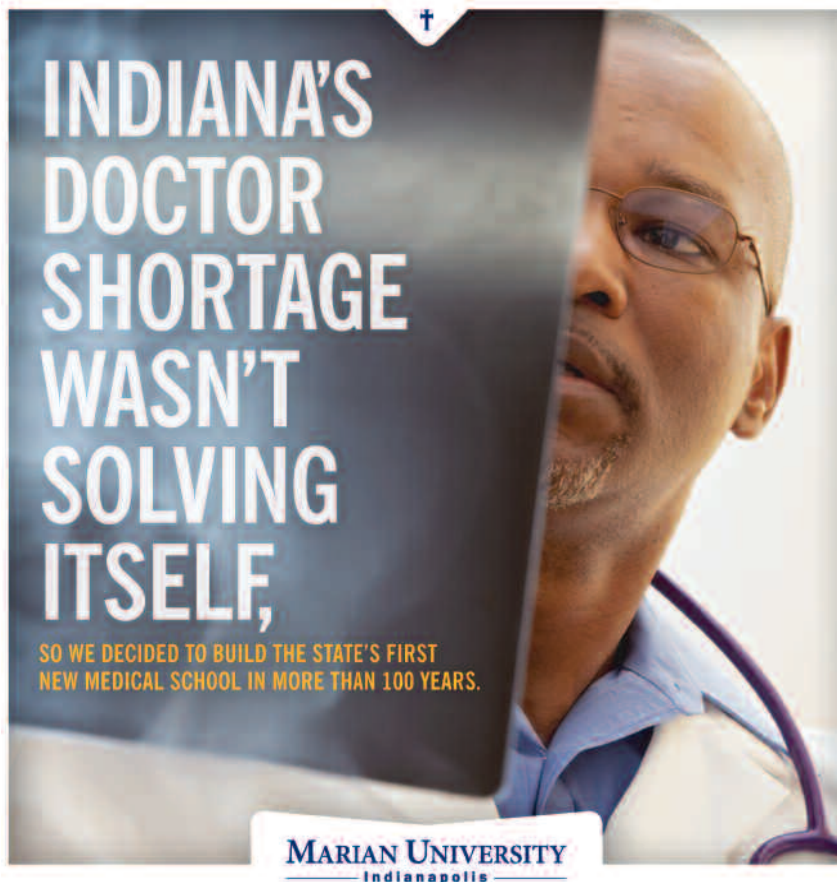
In an effort to increase collaboration between different arms of the Conservative movement, this year United Synagogue is partnering with the rabbinic organizers and has opened the conference to lay leaders from around North America. The keynote

(see *Size Matters*, page 10)

The Jewish Post & Opinion

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