

The Jewish Post & Opinion • Indiana Edition

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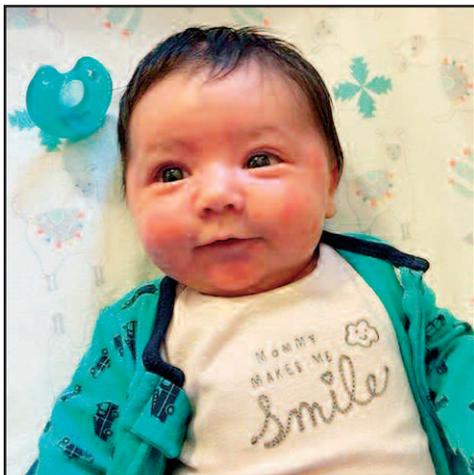
Simcha Announcements

Mazel Tov to...

Verred Ricardo and **Yaakov Ben-Shitrit** (below) were married in Ashdod, Israel on Oct. 31, 2021. Verred is the granddaughter of **Ted** and **Miriam Weiss Cohen**. Ted is the second eldest son of this publication's founder and a graduate of Broad Ripple High School. He served in the Israeli army from 1970-1973. He was the editor of *The Chicago Jewish Post & Opinion* from 1974-78.



Mina and **Sam Shorr** on the birth of their daughter, **Isabelle Anna** (below), on Oct 25, 2021. Her maternal grandparents and great-grandparents are **Rakhel** and **Farid Farahan** and **Habibeh Mottahedeh** and her paternal grandparents and great-grandparents are **Eileen** and **Howard Shorr** and **Rachel Albert** and **Norma Shorr**. Isabelle's older brother is **Benjamin Leon**.



Alex Lande and **Rebecca Mentser** (right) on their engagement on Nov. 24, 2021, at the park in Summerlakes in Carmel, Ind. When he proposed, those present were Rebecca's mother **Sandy Mentser**, her brother **Jonathan Mentser**, Alex's parents **Jerry** and **Beth Lande**, as well as Alex's sister, **Jennifer**, and her husband, **Mike Gross**. The couple plan to be married in November 2022 in Columbus, Ohio, where they live.

Evan Lubline, Hooverwood Living CEO, for being awarded the Young Executive of the Year Award by The Association of Jewish Aging Services (AJAS) in December 2021. This award is given to honor a young executive (administrator, associate or assistant director, housing manager) who has demonstrated significant potential in the field of healthcare management by virtue of his or her cumulative achievements or innovative results in management or administration. This individual has held an administrative position for at least five years, is under 45 years of age, has exhibited leadership through recognized innovative cumulative achievements, and has been involved with AJAS.



Mike and **Sylvia Blain**, formerly of Indianapolis, on welcoming a new great-granddaughter, **Avigayil Sarah** (below with Dad), born on Dec. 15, 2021 to their grandson **Ezra** and **Melissa Blain** of Highland Park, N.J. Her grandparents are **David** and **Susan Blain** of Cherry Hill, N.J. and **Rose Raduziner** of Canton, Mass. Avigayil has a sister, **Elaina**, and a



brother **Moshe**.

Also, Mike and Sylvia's son, **Daniel Blain** (right), was named CEO of the Jewish Community Board of Akron, Ohio.



Phoebe Meier and **Zach Vonnegut-Gabovitch** of Ft. Greene, Brooklyn on the birth of their daughter, **Sadie Beck Vonnegut-Meier** (below with Mom & Dad), on Jan. 13, 2022. Her great-grandparents **Phyllis** and **Ed Gabovitch** and her grandparents **Nonie** and **David Vonnegut-Gabovitch** are very grateful for her safe arrival.



Lindsay Mintz for her monumental work to leave Indianapolis better than she found it. After 15 years she has left her position as Executive Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC). On Jan. 14, 2022, Lindsey received the inaugural Martin Luther King Community Service Award. After her keynote speech as part of the city of the Indianapolis MLK commemoration, Mayor Joseph Hogsett thanked her for her words. This very inspiring speech can be viewed at this link: (indianapolis.granicus.com/player/clip/21666).



Lindsey (middle) with Indianapolis Mayor Joseph Hogsett (R) and Ava Y. Taylor (L).

Lindsey's work went way beyond the scope of Executive Director of JCRC. She served as co-chair of the City of Indianapolis' Race & Cultural Relations (see Mazel Tov, page IN 6)

Editorial

At a recent family zoom meeting my brother, Rabbi Benzion Cohen, announced that it is the Hebrew month of Adar, a time to be happy. Since this is also a leap year, we have two Adar's and an additional 30 days to be happy. Where I live it is very cold outside, getting dark by 7:00 p.m., and people are still dealing with the pandemic, so I looked for this editorial originally published some years ago. Hopefully it will help remind us of some of the ways we can increase our happiness. Also, because the following was written in 2007, before social media, additional ways are now available to experience humor such as watching it on YouTube.

In October, I attended an experiential "playshop" at the local Jewish Community Center called, "Laughlines, On Transforming Your Life through Laughter." It was led by Diane Nelson Roberts, a therapist and "dedicated laugher."

I recently read a study showing that laughter helps our hearts. The Jan. 5-7 USA Weekend had a special report on longevity. It begins with the famous quote, "Laughter is the best medicine." It went on to say that researchers from the University of Maryland Medical Center found that people with heart disease were less likely to laugh off potentially stressful situations such as a waiter spilling water on them.

Continuing, it says recent research indicates that laughter is also linked to the healthy function of blood vessels. The more chuckles, the more the blood vessels dilate, increasing blood flow and potentially reducing risk of atherosclerosis, hardening of the arteries. Concluding, the article advised: "So this year, make a conscious decision not to take every moment of every day so seriously."

The most interesting part of the laughter "playshop" was how Roberts got her training for it. She was scheduled to be in Southern California for something else and she knew she would have some extra time with nothing to do. In one of her trade magazines, she found an advertisement for a 9-day playshop in Santa Barbara.

When she arrived, the room was set up with 20 chairs in a circle and on each chair was a teddy bear the size of a 2-year-old. After all the participants arrived and were seated, they got their first assignment. Each member of the class had to take his teddy with him wherever he went for the entire duration of the workshop. Roberts got a string of pearls and a hat for her teddy bear and named it Amelia Bearheart.

The first evening out, Roberts made reservations at a nice restaurant. Walking



on the beach on her way to the restaurant, a middle-aged homeless man approached her. She was a little nervous at first, but then he started talking to her about the teddy bear. It looked just like one that he had been given as a child. Talking about his childhood with Roberts brought tears to his eyes. Roberts said she ended up having a very meaningful conversation with the man.

When Roberts arrived at the restaurant, the hostess asked her, "How many in your party?"

"Two," she responded.

"So everyone in your party is already here?" the hostess asked, pointing to the bear.

"Yes," Roberts affirmed.

"Then follow me," the hostess said.

The hostess seated Roberts at a table for two, first pulling out the chair for Amelia Bearheart and then for Roberts.

When the waitress came, she asked Roberts, "How many menus should I bring?"

"Why, two of course!" Roberts replied.

The waitress returned with two glasses of ice water. She placed the first one in front of Ms. Bearheart and the other in front of Roberts.

After she took Roberts order, she asked, "Will you be ordering for her (pointing to the bear)?"

"I will," Roberts replied. And so she fulfilled her class requirements for the first day.

Roberts told our class at the JCC that some of the patrons in the restaurant were looking at her out of the corners of their eyes. Some were chuckling and even made remarks as they passed her table on their way out. For example, "I bet the bigger one is going to try and stick the smaller one with the bill."

What impressed me about this story was how something so simple as a grown woman carrying a stuffed animal brought out not only humor, but also an expanded imagination to the people Roberts encountered. In a conversation after the class, Roberts told me that even though some adults were made uncomfortable when they saw her with the bear, children who were strangers to her had no problem coming up to her and asking her all kinds of questions about it.

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Rereading my notes from the playshop, I notice that several of the ideas for bringing more humor into our lives come from emulating children. Perhaps going back to a playful attitude from childhood is one good way for adults to lighten up. Some of the following suggestions come from those notes.

Read cartoons and funny stories. Listen to a comedian perform. Play with pets and/
(see Editorial, page IN 5)

2022 NCJW Scholarships

The National Council of Jewish Women, Indianapolis Section is now accepting scholarship applications from interested individuals who meet the eligibility requirements.

To request each application and should you have any questions regarding these scholarships, please e-mail ncjwindy@yahoo.com, lamin317@gmail.com or contact the NCJW Scholarship Committee Chair, Lori Moss, 317/691-4400.

Applications must be postmarked by: March 15, 2022. Send all materials to: NCJW Scholarship Committee 6905 Hoover Road Indianapolis, IN 46260

Each application offers a full description, including eligibility requirements for that specific scholarship. Please be advised, candidates must submit complete applications, with materials as requested, as we are unable to process incomplete submissions. The following is a brief overview of each scholarship:

Francis E. Mazur Scholarships:

Awarded to **High School Seniors** planning to attend an accredited Indiana college or university as a full-time student. Students of any religious affiliation may apply.

New American Scholarships:

Awarded to **High School Seniors** who have arrived in the United States within the last four years and plan to attend an accredited Indiana college or university on a part- or full-time basis. Students of any religious affiliation may apply.

Also awarded to **Adults** who have arrived within the last four years and are currently attending an accredited Indiana college or university as a part- or full-time student. Students of any religious affiliation may apply.

Judith B. Lichtenberg Scholarships:

Single Parent Scholarships are awarded to adults who care for dependents and are returning to school for post-high school certificates, associate or bachelor's degrees to better support themselves and their families. Students of any religious affiliation may apply.

Graduate School Scholarships are awarded to Jewish students who have been a past recipient of either a Jewish Student or Mary Fink Scholarship for undergraduate studies.

Jewish Student Scholarships:

Awarded to **High School Seniors** who are Jewish and plan to attend an accredited college or university as a full-time student.

Mary Fink Merit Scholarship:

Awarded to one **High School Seniors** who is Jewish and plans to attend an accredited college or university as a full-time student. ✨

Purim – Then & Now



By MIRIAM ZIMMERMAN, Ed.D.

Vashti and Esther – Two Queens

Purim choices for little girls are limited. My daughter announced: "I don't want to be Esther again. Esther is boring." "Why can't you be Vashti?" I asked innocently. "Vashti, who?" she demanded. A voice from my childhood, that of Tammy Lubin, from Israel, who knew everything, answered. "Vashti's the wicked queen; Ahasuerus' first wife, before the divorce," said Tammy gleefully, wearing a torn dress, a frown painted around her mouth, and dirt smudges on her arms. "Oh, Vashti!" my daughter remembered. "She was mean and wicked." My husband wanted to know why. "I don't know, but she was evil."

Why the bad press? What was Vashti's crime? And why do Jewish feminists want to restore Vashti to her rightful position in Biblical literature?

Vashti's crime is that she refused to be paraded in front of the drunken Ahasuerus and his courtiers. In those days in Persia, men and women entertained separately. While Ahasuerus displayed his gold and property trying to impress his generals at a feast, Vashti was entertaining the wives of these same nobles and generals at her own feast.

When the chamberlain appeared with the order for Vashti to appear before the king to show off her great beauty, Vashti recognized the insult and refused, knowing she could be killed for her refusal. Thus, Vashti's refusal can be seen as an act of bravery grounded in modesty, according to Mary Gendler, a Jewish feminist, writing in *Response* magazine.

Why, then, if we remember Vashti at all, do we remember her as "mean and wicked?"

Indiana Hoosier Jewish Legends 2022

The Indiana Jewish Historical Society (IJHS) is excited and ready to accept your nominations for their seventh year honoring our Indiana Hoosier Jewish Legends. Please think of the many legends in your community that have made a significant and lasting impact to our heritage, whether they are living or deceased. Then please take the time to fill out the application and send it to them. The application has changed a little so be sure to read it carefully. For further information or to download it from their website go to www.ijhs.org or contact Gale Halperin at galedirect@aol.com. The application deadline is April 1, 2022. ✨



The answer, according to Gendler, is in the legends the rabbis created about Vashti.

The rabbis decided that Vashti's refusal was not on moral grounds because G-d sent the angel Gabriel to disfigure her countenance. Signs of leprosy and marks of other diseases made her refusal a physical necessity. These interpretations are based on the short Biblical passage that mentions Vashti: "But the Queen Vashti refused to come at the King's commandment by the chamberlains." Esther 1:12. A beautiful, assertive woman is seen by the rabbis as wanton and evil, one who must be punished by G-d.

Exit Vashti, enter Esther and the more familiar part of the *Purim* story. Esther is chosen by a process that resembles a beauty contest. According to the rabbis, Esther is modest, graceful, charming, unassuming, pure in mind, devout. She keeps *kosher* at court, despite a great difficulty, and makes no demands, even though she is queen. No wonder the rabbis made her the heroine.

Esther has to be goaded by Mordecai, her cousin, to petition the king to save the (see *Purim*, page IN 10)

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IU McKinney School of Law Hosts Inaugural Law vs. Antisemitism Conference

More than 50 legal academics, practicing lawyers, activists, historians, political scientists, and Jewish community leaders will come together for the inaugural Law vs. Antisemitism Conference (mckinney-law.iu.edu/events/current.html?eid=854) on March 14-15 at the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law.

Panels and presentations will address issues ranging from the treatment of Jews and antisemitism in the legal profession, hate speech laws, religion and state, civil rights law, Holocaust reparations litigation, zoning laws, visual representations of Jewish identity, and critical race theory. A lunchtime movie chat will focus on the 1947 film *Gentleman's Agreement*.

Robert Katz, (news.iu.edu/iu-experts/profile/m/1033/katz-robert) professor of law and John S. Grimes Fellow at IU McKinney School of Law, and Diane Klein, visiting professor of law at Southern University Law Center, are convening the inaugural event. They are co-founders of the Law vs. Antisemitism Project (lawvsantisemitism.org) to promote legal research and education on the relationship between law and antisemitism.



Robert Katz

"Antisemitism is seemingly eternal," Professor Katz says. "It is both the world's oldest hatred and freshest news. Yet, Antisemitism is more than a hatred and a practice, it is a legal phenomenon."

Recent events make the conference especially timely. In January, news headlines included a hostage-taking at a synagogue in Colleyville, Texas, and an attempt to ban the Holocaust-themed graphic novel *Maus* from schools in Tennessee. Last November, far-right organizers of a deadly 2017 rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, were tried in federal court and found liable for damages.

"Right now, we are seeing legal institutions and law enforcement being used to combat antisemitism, to defend Jewish victims and organizations from antisemitic violence and discrimination and to hold the perpetrators accountable," Professor Klein says.

"We are also seeing, right now, law and public officials perpetuating ignorance about the Holocaust and antisemitism," she says. "These events are in the headlines now, and they all stand at the intersection of antisemitism and the law."



Diane Klein

Yet, there are no courses, no casebooks, and no sustained academic attention to the interaction of the law and Jews and Judaism in America in a law school setting. There are many Jewish studies departments around the country that study antisemitism from a wide range of perspectives – social, cultural, religious, and political – but nothing comparable exists in the law school setting, according to professors Katz and Klein.

Additionally, American law schools offer no courses on antisemitism and the law, nor do they train future lawyers how to recognize antisemitism and use law to combat it, the professors say.

Professors Katz and Klein founded Law vs. Antisemitism Project to remedy the legal academy's failure to address the legal aspects of antisemitism. They are writing a casebook titled *Jews, Antisemitism, and the Law*, which they hope will be adopted in law schools nationwide for teaching an upper-division elective course on this subject, or to supplement other courses.

"This is the gap we are aiming to fill," Katz says.

Law vs. Antisemitism Conference Speakers

- Harvard University Professor Derek Penslar will deliver the opening address, (see Antisemitism, page IN 7)

EDITORIAL

(continued from page IN 3)

or little children. Play childhood games such a cards and board games and/or go to the park and swing on a swing, slide on a slide, or play in the sand box. Sing and dance. Give yourself permission to laugh. Play with balls and props. Be around others who like to joke and are funny. Write your own "humor mantra" – a word or phrase that reminds you of something funny.

A few months ago, I saw a news article on Laughter Yoga, which is a sidesplitting new fitness fad that's part traditional yoga, part improv and all silliness. The following quote is by Jeffrey Briar who founded the Laughter Yoga Institute in Laguna Beach:

"Most people think they have to feel good first in order to laugh. But you can start from nothing, even start feeling unhappy and just laugh as a form of exercise, and happy feelings follow...If you are laughing with a group of other people, fake laughter very quickly becomes real." This forced laughter that ends up real was also a daily exercise in the playshop Roberts attended.

Jennie Cohen, Feb. 14, 2007

Chag Purim Sameach!

Jennie Cohen, February 23, 2022 ✨



Law vs. Antisemitism

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MAZEL TOV

(continued from page IN 2)

Leadership Network, as an officer of the Board of the Kennedy King Memorial Initiative, and as Board Chair of the Center for Interfaith Cooperation; as a founding member of the Indiana Multifaith Network and the Greater Indianapolis Multifaith Alliance; and she was on community advisory committees for the Indiana Historical Society, Newfields, and the Central Indiana Community Foundation's Opportunity, Equity & Inclusion Advisory Council. Nationally, Lindsey served as an officer of the JCRC Directors Association for seven years, the last two as chair, and represents JCRC Directors on the board of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs.

The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee will be fortunate to have her as Director of Community Engagement, where she will lead the Federation's community relations, Israel engagement, programming, and marketing/communications. Additionally Lindsey's daughter, **Maxine Elana Mintz**, and her nephew, **Samuel Barton Grant**, became *B'nai Mitzvah* at Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation on Feb. 19, 2022. A big shout out to the entire Barton, Mintz and Grant families.

Editor's Note. *This writer remembers talking to her just before she took her position at the JCRC. She had said with trepidation, "I've got big shoes to fill." Of course she did. She was replacing Marcia Goldstone who had held that position for more than 30 years. Fast forward 15 years to now where she has more than filled her predecessor's shoes and she leaves the next person to hold the position with even bigger shoes to fill.* J.C

Rabbi Aaron Spiegel for being named as its Interim Executive Director of The Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC). Aaron comes to JCRC with 30+ years of experience in the nonprofit, congregational leadership, grantmaking, and technology worlds. He will lead the day-to-day work of JCRC as it looks for a permanent replacement for long-tenured Executive Director **Lindsey Mintz**. For information contact Aaron Spiegel at aspiegel@indyjcrc.org, 317-426-3725.



Rabbi Levi Yitzchok and Sheina Bracha Cunin, of Chabad Jewish Center in Bloomington, Ind., on the birth of their daughter, **Mushka Leba** (right), on Jan. 22, 2022. Her maternal grandparents are **Rabbi Yehoshua** and **Z'lata Baila Chincholker** of Bloomington and her

paternal grandparents are **Rabbi Mendel** and **Rivkah Shayndel Cunin** of Los Angeles. Mushka's older sister is **Esther**.

Danny and Kate Rothenberg on the birth of their son, **Khai Alexander Rothenberg** (below). He is the grandson of **Pam** and **Lev Rothenberg** – all of Indianapolis. He was born Jan. 31, 2022 weighing 7 lbs and 15.4 oz and 21.5 inches in length.



Naomi Farahan (below) for being accepted into a prestigious legal summer fellowship in Media Freedom & Information Access Clinic at Yale Law School.



Rabbi Hal Schevitz for his upcoming return to Congregation Beth-El Zedeck



(BEZ) on July 1, 2022 to become their Associate Rabbi. Since he was last at BEZ in 2016, he has been serving Congregation Or Atid in Richmond, Va. He and his wife, **Jena**, are the parents of two daughters, **Naomi** and **Arielle**.



Ron Gubitz, Executive Director of the Tulane Hillel in New Orleans, Louisiana, son of **Jeff** and **Charlene Schwartz Gubitz**, on being one of 15 honored to be in the Wexner Field Fellows Class 6, which was originally created in 2013. In this three-year intensive program, Field Fellows will be exposed to different approaches to leadership and tools for addressing pressing issues in the Jewish community. And to Ron's sister, **Rabbi Jen Gubitz**, Founder of Modern JewISH Couples and Educator at Temple Shalom of Newton, Mass., for being selected as one of 15 rabbis from around the country for the third cohort of the Rukin Rabbinic Fellowship with 18Doors! A two-year fellowship, fellows participate in small group coaching sessions and professional development programs. They facilitate workshops and programs for interfaith couples and parents of young children. They are also given preferred listing in 18Doors' Officiation Referral Service and receive an annual stipend. The application process is competitive – in the past three years, they have had 2-3 applicants for every spot.



Marion Garmel (below) on being re-elected president of the Indianapolis Chapter of Hadassah for 2022. She was born and grew up in El Paso, Texas, in the 1940s and '50s. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism from the



(see Mazel Tov, page IN 7)

MAZEL TOV*(continued from page IN 6)*

University of Texas at Austin in 1958 and worked for the National Student Association and World Assembly of Youth in Philadelphia and Paris until 1961, when she moved to Washington, DC. and met and married her husband, **Raymond Garmel**, a political program planner. They moved to Indianapolis in 1970. She had a 35 year career in arts journalism first with the DC based *National Observer* and then with the *Indianapolis News and Star*. She has been a member of the Indianapolis Chapter of Hadassah since 1974 and serves as its Records Administrator and E-Letter Editor, as well as being President in 2019. This photo is of her receiving an award from the Ronen Chamber Ensemble for her dedicated service to them.

Arnold C. Hanish on being honored by University of Cincinnati with a Distinguished Service Award from their College of Business on March 3, 2022. A 1970 graduate, Hanish is retired from Eli Lilly & Company where he was Vice President & Chief Accounting Officer. The Cincinnati Business Achievement Awards, presented by the University of Cincinnati Carl H. Lindner College of Business Alumni Council, is the region's longest-standing event that recognizes achievement in business as well as service to communities, both locally and globally.



Hanish, a Cincinnati native, living in Carmel, Ind. for over 40 years, is very excited about being this year's recipient of this prestigious service award. He has served on the Dean of the College of Businesses Advisory council for many years. In addition, he has mentored several students and has spoken to numerous classes at the University over the years on Business Ethics, leadership, and career progression. Additionally, he has an endowed scholarship for Minority Accounting students.

Marc Swatez, the new CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis. "I am so grateful for the warm welcome I have received and I look forward to meeting and working with many more in the community," said Swatez. On March 23 at 7 p.m., on Zoom Marc will sit down with former Federation Officer and current Board member **Irwin Levin** to talk about hot topics in the Jewish community today. Registrater at <https://bit.ly/meetmarc22>. ✨

**ANTISEMITISM***(continued from page IN 5)*

"What is Antisemitism? Comparing the IHRA, Nexus, and Jerusalem Declaration Definitions."

- The Hon. Randall Shepard, former chief justice of the Indiana Supreme Court, will discuss how state law and constitutions can be used to fight antisemitism.

- Two leading historians of the Jewish experience, Professor James Loeffler of the University of Virginia and Professor Lila Corwin Berman of Temple University, will provide context to the recent federal civil trial arising from the deadly "Unite the Right" rally and other intersections of law, antisemitism, and American history.

- A panel discussion on "Fighting Antisemitism: The View from Indiana and the Midwest" includes speakers Miriam Dant, board president of the Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council; Rabbi Brett Krichiver of the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation; former FBI Special Agent Grant Mendenhall, community security director for the Indianapolis Jewish Community Center; Dr. Dennis Sasso, senior rabbi of Congregation Beth-El Zedeck; and Trent Spoolstra, associate regional director of Jewish Community Engagement & Young

Leadership Development, Anti-Defamation League Midwest.

- A panel discussion on "Post-Holocaust Litigation and Reparations" will include Richard Shevitz, partner at Cohen & Malad, discussing Holocaust reparations claims he has litigated.

The conference will feature more than a dozen other panels and presentations, including historical perspectives on Jews and the legal profession, international boycotts of Israel, hate speech and its regulation under the First Amendment, visual representations of Jewish identity and critical race theory (CRT), Jews and antisemitism.

Sponsors include the Indiana State Bar Association, the Indianapolis Bar Association, the IUPUI Division of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, and the IUPUI Jewish Faculty and Staff Council. Additional support is provided by Cohen & Malad LLP, Hoover Hull Turner LLP, Ice Miller LLP, the Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council, Katz Korin Cunningham PC, Kosene & Kosene Development Co., Mitchell Dick McNelis LLC, Shapiro's Delicatessen, and the Academic Engagement Network (AEN).

Registration (mckinneylaw.iu.edu/events/current.html?eid=854) is required for this event. ✨

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Why Do We Masquerade for Purim?



BY SYBIL KAPLAN

What is the origin of wearing costumes and masquerading on *Purim*? One theory relates to the fact that the Jews in the *Purim* story live in the galut (dispersion of Jews outside of Israel). Haman says to the king: "There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of thy kingdom and their laws are diverse from those of every people, neither they keep the king's laws." One might say, these Jews in Shushan are the minority in a Christian country who disguise themselves or mask their identity by trying to dress like the majority and blend in.

It has been written that in Jerusalem, in the 7th to 8th centuries, poor people dressed up as Mordechai and Haman and went from house to house frightening children and asking for money.

Probably the closest explanation as to why we wear costumes is because Esther masqueraded as a non-Jew and dressed up as a queen. Esther also hid her assertiveness and her strength until she had no other choice. Since Esther hid her Jewish identity, one source has said wearing costumes is to imitate the costume parties of the court mentioned in the story.

Another source says, traditional Jews believe that G-d is hidden behind all the events of the *Megillah*. Although there is no mention of G-d in the Book of Esther, we believe he had a hand in the saving of the people. In a sense he was masked or disguised and rabbis referred to G-d's role as *hester panim*, or "hiding of the Face", which is also said to be a play on the words *Megillat Hester*, rather than the Hebrew name for the Book of Esther, *Megillat Esther*.

On the other hand, Jewish philosophers and scriptural commentators believe that G-d's name is omitted to emphasize the very point that G-d remained hidden throughout the story, but was nonetheless present and played a large role in its outcome. *Megillat Esther* may show that although G-d may not be conspicuously present at times, he nevertheless plays (and has played) an important role in everyone's lives and in the future of the Jewish nation. In remembrance of how G-d remained hidden throughout the Purim miracle, Jews dress up on *Purim* and many hide their faces.

Another explanation is in the 8th chapter, verse 17: "And many from among the peoples of the land became Jews for



the fear of the Jews was fallen upon them." Gentiles converted or perhaps pretended or disguised themselves as Jews for fear of the same fate befalling them.

We do know for sure that the Book of Esther and the *Talmud* never discuss *Purim* costumes.

One source says the costumes and masks actually originated at the end of the 15th century among Italian Jews derived from the Roman carnivals; from there, this custom spread to Europe and to all countries where Jews lived, except perhaps the Orient. The first *halachic* discussion among Jewish authors to mention this custom in a responsa is Judah ben Eliezer ha-Levi Minz, a Venetian codifier of the 15th century (known as the "Mahari Minz"). He died in Padua, Italy in 1508. In his Responsa no. 17, quoted by Moses Isserles, the 16th century rabbi and Talmudist (in his book, *Orach Chayim* 696:8), he expresses the opinion that, since the purpose of the masquerade is only merrymaking, it should not be considered a transgression of the Biblical law regarding dress, but he does not provide the origin of wearing *Purim* costumes. Furthermore, he permitted men and women to wear clothing of the opposite gender, even though this violates the biblical prohibition of cross-dressing (Deuteronomy 22:5). Some have speculated that it commemorates when Mordecai was dressed in regal clothing and escorted by Haman (Esther 6:11), a clear turning point in the plot of the story.

One source contends the custom could have originated in the Medieval period in Germany and was an imitation of Christian carnivals which took place around the same season.

Although some authorities issued prohibitions against this custom, the people did not heed them, and the more lenient view prevailed. Jews of the Middle East, however, did not start this custom until the 19th century.

Whatever its origins, dressing in costumes has come to the 21st century and is today enjoyed by adults as well as children for *Purim*. Have fun being someone else – if only for a day.

Chag Purim Sameah!

One Year After



BY RABBI DENNIS C. SASSO

On this first anniversary of January 6, we are especially reminded of the power of speech.

We are living through times when respectful discourse is belittled and rational debate shunned. This anniversary of the assault on our democracy calls on all of us to assume responsibility for the sacredness of words, especially the words of the documents that bind us together as Americans: the Declaration of Independence; the Constitution; the Bill of Rights; oaths and pledges of citizenship, honor, respect, truth, justice, and peace.

Over 2500 years ago, the prophet Jeremiah lamented that "Mother Rachel" wept for her children. Today, Lady Liberty weeps and yearns to be comforted. Let us bring comfort to Lady Liberty. Let us not allow discord and violence, deception and hurt, distrust and abusive language to become America's legacy. Let us cure the virus and heal the soul of our nation.

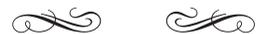
The ancient sages remind us: "It is not your responsibility to complete the work; but neither are you free to desist from it." Unafraid of the unfinished task, let us assume it willingly, purposefully, lovingly. Democracy is an unfinished task; it is not just an inheritance from the past. It is the vision, the words, and the labor we gift to the future.

Carl Schulz (1829-1906), a Union army general during the American Civil War, said: "My country, right or wrong; if right, to be kept right; and if wrong, to be set right."

And on the battlefield of Gettysburg, where Americans had violently turned against Americans, President Abraham Lincoln prayed (November 19, 1863): "...We here highly resolve...that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom – and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth."

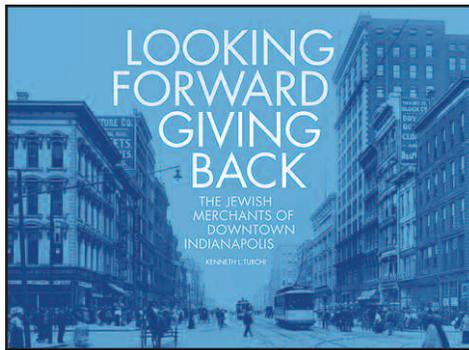
Let this be our pledge on this January 6, 2022.

Rabbi Dennis Sasso has been senior rabbi at Congregation Beth-El Zedeck in Indianapolis for 44 years. (Reprinted from The Times of Israel, Jan. 6, 2022.) ✨



Sybil Kaplan is a journalist, author, compiler/editor of 9 kosher cookbooks and food writer for North American Jewish publications, who lives in Jerusalem where she leads weekly walks of the Jewish food market, Machaneh Yehudah, in English. ✨

IHS's Newest Book and Exhibit Show a Glimpse of 150 Years of Jewish Merchants in Indianapolis



In the latest release from the Indiana Historical Society (IHS) Press, *Looking Forward, Giving Back: The Jewish Merchants of Downtown Indianapolis*, author Kenneth L. Turchi traces the 150-year history of the Jewish merchants in Indianapolis, Ind., offering a glimpse of a more genteel time when shopping downtown was a special experience.

Jewish business owners came to America from eastern and central Europe before the Civil War. Many started out as peddlers, selling pots and pans in the Jewish neighborhoods of Indianapolis. By 1900, these enterprising peddlers opened storefronts along Washington Street, and their businesses grew with the city.

From bargain-priced selections at the Star Store to the gleaming marble arcade at Block's, downtown offered something for everyone.

At the same time, the city's Jewish merchants – Gustave A. Efroymsen, Louis P. Wolf, Leopold Strauss, William Herman

Block and others – never forgot their gratitude to the people of the city that made them successful. The stores they owned have faded into history, but their founders' generosity lives on in the 21st century.

Looking Forward, Giving Back: The Jewish Merchants of Downtown Indianapolis is available through IHS's Basile History Market and other places books are sold. Pages: 176; Size: 9 x 12; Cover: Hardcover; Publication Date: December 2021; Cost: \$29.95; ISBN: 978-0-87195-458-9. For more information about the book or the IHS Press, call (317) 232-1882 or visit www.indianahistory.org.

About the Author

Kenneth L. Turchi developed an interest in retailing while working for a clothing

store in his hometown of Crawfordsville, Ind. He worked for L. S. Ayres & Company while attending Wabash College and later earned a law degree. He spent most of his career in marketing and management in banking and higher education. He is also the author of the books, *L. S. Ayres & Company: The Store at the Crossroads of America* and *Indiana University Auditorium: 1941–2016*.

IHS's Newest Exhibit

In addition, IHS's newest exhibit, *Jewish Merchants of Downtown Indianapolis*, opened January 15, 2022, at the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, located at 450 W. Ohio St. in downtown Indianapolis. The exhibit expands on the history of Jewish merchants and how their stores played a significant role in offering Indianapolis an innovative shopping experience on par with some of the largest department stores around the world.

Jewish Merchants of Downtown Indianapolis Exhibit

Jan. 15, 2022 – Apr. 24, 2022
from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Indiana History Center

Presented by Walter and Joan Wolf

(see IHS, page IN 10)



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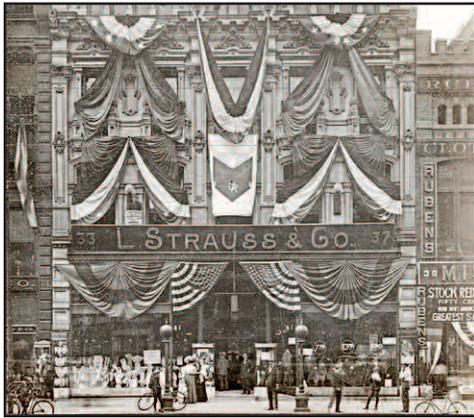
 CONSCIENCE DISPLAY

The Pezars Foundation | The Louis Franklin Smith Foundation
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IHS

(continued from page IN 9)

Indianapolis had its own grand department stores, many of which were established and/or operated by Jewish business owners, including Wasson's, Block's and L. Strauss. These business owners contributed to Indianapolis through their successful companies that bolstered the city's economy and their legacy as generous citizens who gave back to the community through actions like organizing welfare associations and providing trust funds for charitable organizations. Jewish Merchants of Downtown Indianapolis exhibit expands on the history of these



Jewish merchants. The stores played a significant role in offering Indianapolis an innovative shopping experience on par with some of the world's largest department stores.

About the Indiana Historical Society (IHS)

The Indiana Historical Society collects and preserves Indiana's unique stories; brings Hoosiers together in remembering and sharing the past; and inspires a future grounded in our state's unifying values and principles. IHS is a Smithsonian Affiliate and a member of the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience.

For more information about this exhibit and other IHS offerings, call (317) 232-1882 or visit www.indianahistory.org. ✨

PURIM

(continued from page IN 4)

Jews. She devises a dinner party strategy to guarantee success for her petition. Esther's bravery is grounded in the king's lust for her. Only after she flirts and feeds the king and points out that satisfaction of his lust for her is in jeopardy, does she reveal Haman's plot.

In comparison to Vashti, Esther's act of bravery pales, because Esther waits until she is assured of success before taking a risk. Esther's primary qualities include beauty, obedience, courage, and feminine manipulation. Vashti's qualities, according to the feminist perspective, are dignity, pride, independence, and disobedience.

Little girls should be given as many roles to play as little boys, so that they, too, can try on a variety of identities. My son can be a king, a villain, or a hero. My daughter is bored with Esther, and disenchanted with Vashti as the rabbis have defined her. Restoring Vashti to her rightful place in the *Megillat Esther* gives our daughters another positive role from which to choose. A dignified, independent Vashti is a valuable model that releases those qualities in all of us.

(Reprinted from the front page of our March 11, 1987 edition.) ✨

EVA KOR

FROM

AUSCHWITZ TO INDIANA



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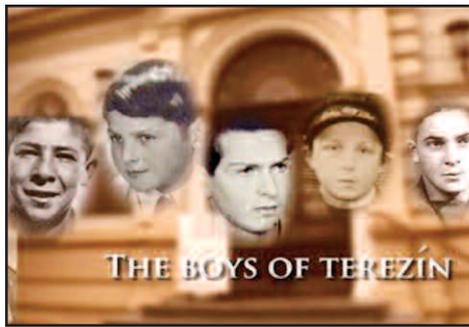
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Indianapolis Opera Presents *Brundibar* and *Vedem* in March

Indianapolis Opera continues its season with the historic world premiere double bill of *Brundibar* and *Vedem*, presented at “The Toby” Theater at Newfields on March 18-20, which marks the first collaboration between the Opera and the Indianapolis Children’s Choir. This project is presented in remembrance of the Holocaust and the 77th anniversary of the liberation of concentration camps across Europe. These magnificent works revolve around the Terezin (TEH-ruh-zeen) camp and the children’s lives affected therein.

Written by Jewish Czech composer Hans Krása and librettist Adolf Hoffmeister in 1938 in the ghettos of Prague, the children’s opera *Brundibar* is a parable of hope and justice. The opera was performed 55 times by the children of the Nazi concentration camp Terezin, under the direction of Jewish music teachers. The story focuses on children Annette and Little Joe, as they struggle to help their sick mother. To raise money, they decide to sing in the marketplace, but Brundibar, the evil organ grinder, chases them away. With the help of a dog, a cat, a sparrow, and



other children, they overcome Brundibar and return home in victory.

For the first time ever *Brundibar* will be framed by another historic work, *Vedem*, a theatrical oratorio that directly describes the events experienced at Terezin during the Holocaust, the exact location of *Brundibar*’s propagandized history. The story centers on a group of boys living in Terezin and their underground newspaper of poetry and essays called “*Vedem*,” Czech for “In the Lead.” To integrate these two works, the Opera has placed *Brundibar* in the middle of the oratorio after the mention of “a model ghetto” where “the happy Jews performed an opera,” and the boys exhort the visiting Red Cross dignitaries not to leave before they learn the awful truth about life in the camp. In using *Vedem* to frame the children’s opera,

the audience is provided the literal context in which *Brundibar* was originally performed. Written by Lori Laitman, an American composer of Jewish heritage, *Vedem* is the first piece composed by a female composer to be performed with the company.

In conjunction with *Brundibar & Vedem*, the Opera has partnered with the Jewish Community Center and Indianapolis Arts Council to bring an evening of music and discussion to the Indianapolis Artsgarden on Wednesday, March 2, from 6–8 p.m. The panel (featuring local Holocaust survivor Frank Grunwald, Director Matt Cooksey, Maestro Alfred Savia, and General Director David Craig Starkey) will discuss the music and historical context of *Brundibar & Vedem*. The event will also feature a brief film screening, a traveling art exhibit of children’s artwork from Terezin, and Eva Kor virtual reality headsets from the Indiana Historical Society.

For more information about the *Brundibar & Vedem* Project with Indianapolis Opera, please visit: www.indyopera.org/brundibarvedem, or contact Education Director, Lyndsay Moy, at moy@indyopera.org. Artsgarden reservations can be made and tickets for performances can be purchased online at indyopera.org or by calling 317-283-3531. ✨

Brundibar & Vedem
Theresienstadt 1943

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Holocaust Educator

BY MIRIAM ZIMMERMAN, Ed.D.



Is Race Only Skin Deep? Don't Ask Whoopi

Actress, talk show moderator, comedian, author, media executive, and award winner Whoopi Goldberg inspires so many. I was smitten by Goldberg's talents after watching her in the 1990 movie, *Ghost*, followed by her portrayal of a pretend nun in 1992's *Sister Act*. Her comic timing, charisma, characterizations, and charm transformed me into a life-long fan. Sadly, I read the hoopla in the media regarding her recent ill-chosen remarks about the Holocaust and race.



Ms. Goldberg

I believe Ms. Goldberg got a bad rap for statements made on ABC's *The View*, on Jan. 31, 2022. Her comments are readily available on YouTube and other media outlets. The following, from print media, isn't verbatim, but summarizes what she said, "Let's be truthful about it, because the Holocaust isn't about race. No. It's not about race; it's about man's inhumanity to man. That's what it's about."

On that fateful Jan. 31, *The View* discussed the controversial banning of Art Spiegelman's *Maus* by a Tennessee school district. The McMinn County School Board voted 10-0 to remove the Pulitzer-prize winning graphic Holocaust novel from its Eighth-grade curriculum. The Board felt that *Maus* was not appropriate for their students. Apparently, they wanted to substitute a different book to teach about the Holocaust. Ms. Goldberg's controversial comments arose from that discussion. Whether or not *Maus* was "banned" or "removed" remains an unimportant controversial topic on Twitter and other social media. Such semantic arguments deflect attention from more important issues.

Her subsequent two-week suspension from *The View*, in my opinion, was overkill. As a Holocaust educator, I would like to point out that we do not punish students for their lack of knowledge; we have teachers to fill in information gaps. By suspending Goldberg from *The View*, executives missed this teaching opportunity. Perhaps the threat to ratings and loss of advertising revenue motivated ABC and

The View to suspend her.

Even though Jonathan Greenblatt, executive director of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) appeared on *The View* the next day, it wasn't enough. There should have been a week of such guests, to hone in on the nuances that this controversy encompassed. Audiences should be able to see and hear Goldberg asking questions of Holocaust experts and digesting the new information. Watching this process, Ms. Goldberg's viewers would vicariously learn. To put Ms. Goldberg on the defensive and require a hasty apology, without the necessary understanding, is a disservice to Ms. Goldberg, to her audience, and to the memory of the Holocaust. In my experience, students do not learn when they feel they must defend themselves.

A course in "Holocaust 101" would enable Ms. Goldberg to understand how the Nazis saw Jews as a race. She would learn about the rapid identification and segregation of Jews begun by the Nuremberg Laws. A plethora of additional laws and edicts ousted Jews from the economic, political, educational, social, and physical domains of their gentile neighbors. Among other restrictions, Jews had to give up their radios, wear the yellow star, and crowd into ghettos. Finally, the *Judenrate* (Jewish Councils) of the ghettos drew up lists of those to be deported to extermination camps. The Nazi high command determined the schedule and how many Jews per deportment, but it was Jews who named their fellow Jews. A good discussion point for students: "Were the *Judenrate* victims or collaborators?"

This is some of the missing information that would help Ms. Goldberg avoid such gaffes. Her need for a Holocaust educator cries out. The Holocaust has been a life-long professional and personal focus of mine. For 25 years, I taught the Holocaust course at Notre Dame de Namur University (NDNU) in Belmont, Calif. Unfortunately, NDNU closed its doors as an undergraduate university in 2021, permanently ending my class.

"Ms. Goldberg, are you listening? I'm available."

Your first assignment, a research question: "How did the Nazis know who was Jewish?" Ideally, you would find the World Jewish Congress (WJC) website, with its succinct explanation. The Nazis "identified Jews residing in Germany through the normal records created by a modern state. They used census records, tax returns, synagogue membership lists, parish records (for converted Jews), routine but mandatory police registration forms, the questioning of relatives, and from information provided by neighbors

and municipal officials."

The WJC explains how "Germany's racial laws identified a 'Jew' as anyone with three or more Jewish grandparents, regardless of their religious identity or practice. Conversions to Christianity were pronounced illegitimate going back two generations, formalizing and instituting Nazi racial theories." There can be no dispute that the Nazis saw Jews as a race, and that they knew who was Jewish.

The ADL almost immediately broadened its definition of "race," one of the best outcomes of this controversy. Seen as an interim definition, the ADL invited users to post feedback about the changes. Too bad ADL's old and new definitions weren't discussed on *The View* in the aftermath of this controversy.

On Feb. 9, 2022, in a "Classrooms without Borders" webinar, noted Holocaust scholar and rabbi Dr. Michael Berenbaum pointed out that Goldberg got it half right. "Jews are not [just] a race. They are multiracial and interracial; they allow conversion, and some Jews even encourage conversion." Being Jewish is a "voluntary association," he continued, citing the Book of Ruth, 1:16-17.

Ruth says to her mother-in-law Naomi, "...wherever you go, I will go, and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people and your God my God," (translation from Chabad.org). Rabbi Berenbaum used Ruth's speech as an example of the choices one can make to become Jewish. In Dr. Berenbaum's words, one answer to the question, "What is a Jew?" is "an affiliation issue, not a race issue."

Motivated by her experience of racism in this country, Ms. Goldberg cited what it was like to grow up Black in the United States. In her experience, race was a matter of skin color, what one sees: black vs. white. Flashback to childhood conversations with my father, of blessed memory, Werner L. Loewenstein, M.D. He was a 1937 Jewish refugee from Nazi Germany. In one of our many discussions about his experiences growing up, I asked why, unlike him, I never experienced anti-semitism, growing up in Terre Haute, Ind.

Dad pointed out to me that in this country, "We have the Negro [a term of respect at the time]. They are easily identifiable targets of hate." In Nazi Germany, he explained, Jews became scapegoats because they were different from the Germans. From subsequent discussions, I learned the importance of scapegoating for those in power. By blaming innocent others for societal problems, political leaders could more easily maintain control of power and absolve themselves of responsibility for the ills of society. He

(see Zimmerman, page IN 14)

ZIMMERMAN

(continued from page IN 13)

asserted that “If there were no Negroes in the U.S., there would be much more antisemitism.”

I believe Dad would agree with Ms. Goldberg that in the United States, in the 1950’s and ‘60’s, racism was a matter of color. As a woman of color, she was an easily identifiable target. She spoke the truth from her experience, the pervasiveness of anti-Black discrimination, while growing up in America.

Her heartfelt delivery of “the Holocaust is about man’s inhumanity to man” and not about race, indicated to me she was not being antisemitic, nor was she downplaying the enormity of the Holocaust. In fact, I believe she was striving to do the opposite. On a continuum between “prejudice” and “genocide”, with racism being somewhere in between, the Holocaust was worse than racism by being an example of “man’s inhumanity to man.” Her language broadened the scope of the Holocaust, making it *more* than a racial issue.

So where did Ms. Goldberg miss the mark? From her perspective, it was a logical, albeit false, conclusion, that the Holocaust was not about race. Her mistake was to compare being Black in America to being Jewish in Nazi Germany, concluding that the Nazis couldn’t “see” race, as she defined race, by skin color.

Flashback again to my childhood. Many people, both Jews and non-Jews, asked my father, “How could the Holocaust have happened in such an advanced, cultured country like Germany?” In heavily German-accented English he would reply, “It isn’t widely known, but the Nazis had a racist ideology which required extermination of people they didn’t like. They had very effective propaganda to convince the people that it [elimination of Jews from society] was necessary. Finally, they had doctors to carry it out.” I heard my dad deliver this speech in social settings like *Onegs* (reception after religious services) or other casual encounters, many times while growing up.

Instead of a complicated lecture, he provided a clear and succinct answer, appropriate for social occasions. His “unholy trinity” of racist ideology, propaganda, and medical murder, was easy for people to retain. His trilogy infused my Holocaust class.

In addition, I followed the official Holocaust curriculum as taught by Yad Vashem, in partnership with the National Catholic Center for Holocaust Education at Seton Hill University, near Pittsburgh, Pa. To clarify, Yad Vashem is the Israeli institution devoted to all things Holocaust: education, research, commem-

oration, and memory.

Because I taught at a Catholic University, very early in the semester I began with historical Church-sanctioned anti-Judaism. In Christian Europe, anti-Judaism was the norm, a context that enabled the Holocaust to happen. It is important to state that no reputable scholar today would assert that the Church is antisemitic.

Christianity once taught that “Jews were Christ-killers,” painting the Jews as pariahs and deserving of ill-treatment. The anti-Judaism of Christianity enabled otherwise good Christians to look the other way when their Jewish neighbors were harassed in the streets or carted away. The Nazis used that slogan as effective anti-Jewish propaganda, with deadly results.

The Nazis inherited the Enlightenment emphasis on scientific reasoning and the concomitant erosion of religion. Darwin, the “father” of evolution; and Eugenics, the “science” of race, ascended while religious dogma receded. The Nazis wanted to “subvert and destroy German Christianity” as “an integral part of the National Socialist scheme of world conquest.” The strategy is delineated in the Nuremberg Project, a collaboration between Cornell and Rutgers University Law Schools. This Project is a collection of papers from the 1945-46 Nuremberg Trials that are subject to contemporary scholarly analysis.

If Ms. Goldberg gleans only one thing from my article, I would choose the following for her. *The Nazis ingeniously transformed historical religious anti-Judaism into contemporary racial antisemitism. For European Christians, it was a seamless transition from hating Jews because of their religion, to hating Jews because of their race.*

The teaching of Eugenics or “racial hygiene” was mandatory in high schools and medical schools. Robert Proctor, author of *Racial Hygiene: Medicine Under the Nazis*, discovered no fewer than 22 medical journals devoted to racial science in Nazi Germany. Doctors became “Soldiers of the Gene,” responsible for safeguarding the “germ plasm” of the Aryan race.

The Nazi science of Eugenics placed Aryans at the top. Nazi doctors conducted research and biomedical experiments to prove and maintain Aryan supremacy. Eugenics justified the extermination of people, mainly Jews, whose genes threatened to undermine Aryan purity.

Nazi racial ideology also required war, to expand available “living space” (*Lebensraum*) for Aryans. A baby boom after World War I created a land crunch. Annexing countries peacefully (Austria) or by war (Poland and much of Europe) would provide the necessary living space

for Aryans. Hitler promised to make Germany great again, by eliminating the Jewish economic and genetic threat and by creating a new world order, with Aryans at the top.

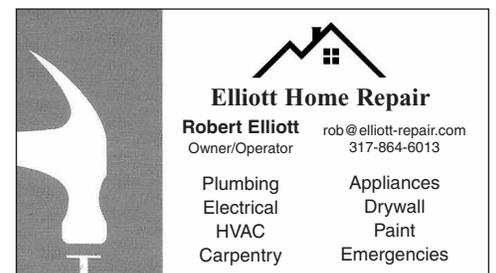
Dad pointed out another difference between the United States and Christian Europe. We enjoy the Constitutional doctrine of the separation of church and state. For example, when I was growing up, people did not wear their religion on their sleeves. A more important issue, that we should be talking about, is the current erosion of that doctrine.

Example: On Feb. 2, students in Huntington High School in W.Va., were locked in the auditorium and forced to participate in a Christian revival ceremony. School authorities revealed that two teachers made a mistake by bringing their classes to the session, not realizing that it was voluntary, per student signup. Disturbing questions arise. Why was a sectarian, religious group allowed to proselytize students in a public school, whether voluntarily on the part of students or not? Isn’t this a violation of the separation of church and state, and thus an abrogation of the Constitution? Shouldn’t the school authorities be prosecuted?

From racism to antisemitism to the separation of church and state, Whoopi Goldberg’s comments encompass many topics for meaningful discussion, learning, and understanding. We should not punish her for speaking from her lived experience, nor make her a whipping girl for her lack of knowledge, nor blame her as a catalyst for additional antisemitism.

The vitriol dumped on Whoopi Goldberg from the Jewish community is enough to engender in her a backlash. I wouldn’t blame her. Instead, treating her with the respect to which she is entitled, and providing her with learning opportunities should be the goal of all who profess to have knowledge about race and the Holocaust.

Dr. Miriam Zimmerman is professor emerita at Notre Dame de Namur University (NDNU) in Belmont, Calif., where she taught the Holocaust course for 25 years. She can be reached at mimzim@aol.com. One can read many of her columns in the JPO going back to 1985 by searching her name at this link: <https://go.usa.gov/xn7ay>. ✨



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Obituaries

Ruth Coble Fogel, 97, of Indianapolis, passed away on Dec. 2, 2021. She was born in Brooklyn and married Gerald Fogel in 1947. They were married 70 years. Ruth and Jerry enjoyed traveling across the world. She was an avid reader and bridge player. She and Jerry moved to Hoosier Village in Zionsville in 2017 to be closer to family, and being with family was her greatest joy. She enjoyed her many friendships throughout her full, beautiful life, and will be deeply missed by those that knew and loved her.

She is survived by her sons, Stuart Fogel and Dr. Richard (Christine) Fogel; grandchildren, Lauren, Jenna and Joshua; and her great grandson, Lane Borges. Funeral services were held December 6th at the **Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Funeral Home** and burial occurred later in the week at the Wellwood Cemetery in New York. Memorial contributions may be made to B'nai B'rith or to Congregation Beth-El Zedeck, www.bez613.org.

Dr. Frida (Schkolnik) Kagan, 95, beloved mother of Alex Kagan, passed away Dec. 5, 2021. She was born Jan. 22, 1926. Frida survived the Holocaust and went on to become a medical doctor. She practiced family medicine in St. Petersburg Russia for over 4 years. She will be remembered for her courage, strength and kindness. Services were private.

Alex Star "Papa", 95, passed away at peace on Dec. 9, 2021. He was born in a small town in Hungary (Szil) on Feb. 20, 1926. He endured the Holocaust, where he lost a number of family members, and escaped to France. There he learned the electronics trade in Paris. After five years, Papa emigrated to the U.S. with nothing more than the shirt on his back. With the help of his Uncle Joe Singer, he started a new life in Indianapolis where he worked as a tool and dye maker.



He met the love of his life, Regina with whom he had three children, Eugene, Louie and Tish. He was a tireless worker, going to school, working and managing apartment houses to provide for his family.

Personal relationships were important to him. He was affectionately known as the "Mayor of SoBro" where he lived for the past 50 years. He was active at Beth-El Zedeck synagogue where he was an ex-officio member of the temple "sisterhood", helping in the kitchen and doing whatever he could to help out.

Papa had a "green thumb", growing an

assortment of fruits and vegetables in his backyard to share with family, friends and minyan, alike. Papa was not impressed by money or social status. His legacy is his family and he valued his relationships with each of them.

He is survived by two children, Louie (Janie) Star and Tish (Ben) Doochin; eight grandchildren, Jennifer Colburn (Russel), Michael Star (Ariel), Brett Star, Jordan Star (Jordan Szwed), Cole Star, Justin Doochin, Olivia Heller (Daniel), and Rebekah Doochin; and six great-grandchildren, Yossi, Amichai, Pe'er, Yael, Remy and Ansley. Papa was preceded in death by his wife, Regina; and son, Eugene (Rickie).

Graveside services were held in Congregation Beth-El Zedeck Cemetery North on December 12th. Memorial contributions may be made to the Congregation Beth-El Zedeck *minyan* fund, 600 W 70th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46260.

Anne (Melvina) Laikin 87, passed away on Dec. 9, 2021 at Hooverwood Living. She was born June 27, 1934, and was a beloved mother, sister, grandmother and great grandmother.

Anne is survived by her brother, Sidney (Judy) Laikin; her children, Janice Salaman, Cheri (Larry) Lemieux, Steven (Alyce) Kaplan, Jeff Kaplan, Jay Greenberg and 12 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. She will be deeply missed by her friends and family who loved her dearly. Memorial contributions may be made to Hooverwood Guild or **Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Hospice at Hooverwood Living**.

Jay M. Goldman, 94, of Indianapolis, passed away on Dec. 15, 2021. He was born on Nov. 2, 1927 to Morris and Anna Goldman in Philadelphia. He was a 1951 graduate of Temple University. The Naval Station in Florida where he proudly served his country from 1946 to 1948 later became part of



NASA's Cape Canaveral facility.

Jay spent the early years of his career selling wholesale hosiery with his father, later sold insurance with Metropolitan Life (see photo) and Mutual of Omaha, and then became a residential Realtor® in the brokerage led by Miriam Einhorn in Elkins Park, Pa. He greatly enjoyed catching, collecting, and displaying butterflies, moths, and other insects. He was a genius at finding bargain *tchotchkes* and built a real estate empire of miniature houses. He loved to cook and feed his family and he collected a wide variety of kitchen timers.

More than anything else, Jay was proud of raising his three children. He is survived by Ellen (Don) Chernoff of Indianapolis, Daryl (Jeanette Nichols) Goldman of Oakland, Calif, and Jonathan Goldman of Indianapolis. Jay was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Claire, in 2008.

Jay's pride was mirrored by his children's appreciation. His honesty, integrity and determination in business served as a blueprint for his children's success in scientific research, psychology, and business. He was always there when his children needed him, no matter when or how far he had to travel to reach them. His mind was sharp, and he maintained his optimism even as his body was failing. All who knew Jay miss him deeply. Graveside services were held on December 20th at Beth-El Zedeck North Cemetery.

Helen K. (Klein) Smith, 88, a wonderful and devoted wife, mother, and grandmother passed away on Dec. 20, 2021. Family was always first and foremost. Helen was born to Rose and Max Klein Sept. 3, 1933 and grew up on the Southside of Indianapolis along with her sisters, Sylvia and Annette.



Helen graduated from Shortridge High School in 1951 and shortly thereafter went to work as an administrative assistant for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(see Obituaries, page IN 16)



**Aaron
Ruben
Nelson**

The Jewish Funeral Home of Greater Indianapolis

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OBITUARIES

(continued from page IN 15)

She met her husband, Joseph, at a dance at the Kirschbaum J.C.C. and they married in March 1953. While dating, they enjoyed many evenings dancing under the stars at the Indiana Roof Ballroom.

She was a longtime member of Congregation Beth-El Zedeck, an avid golfer and 9-hole champion at Broadmoor Country Club. Helen was a yoga and fitness enthusiast and enjoyed spending winters in Florida with her family and friends. She loved travel, fashion and gourmet cooking. She will be deeply missed by everyone who knew and loved her.

Helen is survived by her son, Karl (Ilene) Smith, her daughter, Marla (Douglas) Etkin and grandchildren, Andrea Schneider, Jason Schneider, and Gabriella Smith. Her husband, Joe, preceded her in death in 2015.

Graveside funeral services were held on December 22, 2021, in Beth-El Zedeck North Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Family Program Enrichment Fund c/o Congregation Beth-El Zedeck, 600 W. 70th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46260.

Stephen J. Cohen, 77, life resident of Indianapolis, passed away suddenly on Dec. 22, 2021. He was the son of the late Morris and Evelyn Cohen born Sept. 7, 1944. He is survived by his sister, Beverly Gross. Stephen proudly served his country in the US Army. Services were private.

JoAnn Rubin, 82, passed away from COVID complications on Dec. 25, 2021. She was born in Indianapolis on Feb. 2, 1939 to the late Harry and Mae Lockman. She was a 1956 graduate of Shortridge High School where she was a member of the girls C.O.Y group and the B.B.Y.O, where she met her future husband, Aaron.



JoAnn started working at Lockman's Meats stand in the City Market that was owned by her father and uncle. After selling Lockman's Meats, JoAnn went to work for Libby's Delicatessen for many years. She was highly involved in the City Market during those years.

JoAnn later worked for O'Malia's Food Market at both their 86th St. and 56th St. stores where she was the Deli Manager. Her next position was as an Administrative Assistant/Receptionist for Omnisource Marketing Group, Inc. and most recently helped her brother-in-law with computer data entry at RWS, Inc. JoAnn also volunteered with the Dak Foundation, Inc. She and Aaron also worked as a driving team

shuttling people to appointments and to the airport even before the larger driving groups became so popular. Her family affectionately referred to them as Jew-ber!

JoAnn was a member of Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation (IHC), Hadassah, and the Hooverwood Guild. She was also a volunteer in the IHC gift shop. JoAnn was an avid bowler and card player. She was involved in several groups playing poker, Kalooki, Canasta, and Euchre. JoAnn also dealt Blackjack at Casino entertainment events.

Graveside services were held December 30, 2021 at B'nai Torah Cemetery, located at 2305 South West Street, Indianapolis, IN 46225.

JoAnn was the widow of **Aaron Rubin** who passed away at his home Feb. 3, 2021. He was born June 26, 1935 in Indianapolis to the late Joseph and Bertha Rubin. He served in the Air National Guard. Aaron worked in sales, most recently in the furniture industry. After retirement, he was a porter for Hare Pontiac GMC. Private graveside services were held for him on Feb. 5, 2021 at B'nai Torah Cemetery.



JoAnn and Aaron are survived by their daughter, Sheryl (Christine Fedenko) Rubin; daughter-in-law, Jamie Rubin; step grandchildren, Bill (Amber) Humphrey, Angie Humphrey and Nathan Humphrey; 5 step great-grandchildren; brother-in-law, Arnie (wife, Diane, deceased) Goldberg; nieces, Amy Goldberg, Lori Goldberg-Zimmerman (Karen Zimmerman); nephews, Greg Rubin (Shari Ragan Rubin), Brent Rubin (Cindy). They were preceded in death by their son, Mark.

Anne Calderon, 98, life-long resident of Indianapolis, beloved aunt, community volunteer, special friend and matriarch of the Jewish community, passed away Dec. 29, 2021 just two weeks prior to her 99th birthday. She was born Jan. 15, 1923.



Annie was a life member of Etz Chaim Sephardic Synagogue. She was past president of its Sisterhood and a life member of Hadassah. She was a graduate of Manuel High School and then went to work for her family's department store located at 21st and Illinois, the Illinois Street Department Store, where she served in management and co-owner.

Annie was preceded in death by her parents, Gabriel and Estrya Calderon and her brothers, Morris, Jack and Hy Calderon. Although she had no biological children of her own, her nieces and nephews were given her love and devo-

tion. She is survived by Elaine Glanzman, Gary Calderon, Jerry Calderon and Dori Calderon and many great nieces and nephews who will all miss her deeply.

Private family funeral services were held and friends may join virtually by visiting her obituary on the **ARN Mortuary** website www.arnmortuary.com. Memorial contributions may be made to Etz Chaim (EtzChaimIndy.org) in her memory.

David Sambursky, 92, of Indianapolis passed away on Dec. 29, 2021 surrounded by his closest family members. He was born on April 24, 1929 to Idel Sambursky and Klara Krizelburd in Pervomayisk, Ukraine.



He started his career as a line worker in an Electrical company, and worked his way up to become head of the company. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, son, brother, and uncle. He was widely respected and committed to helping anyone who asked. The word "no" was not a part of his vocabulary and he would go above and beyond to assist anyone who needed it.

More than anything else, David was proud of raising his two children and three grandchildren. He is survived by his children, Michael (Svetlana) Sambursky of Rockaway, N.Y., and Claudia (Yuriy) Perelmutter of Indianapolis; and his grandchildren, Nik Sambursky, Jenny (Paul) Spranger, and Gabrielle Perelmutter. David was preceded in death by his beloved wife Bella in 2004. Graveside services were held on Dec. 31, 2021 at the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation North Cemetery.

Harrison Scott Ball, 35 – you can take the boy out of Texas, but you can't take Texas out of the boy – was born in Dallas on Dec. 17, 1986. Harrison, son of Andrew and Lorraine Ball died on Jan. 4, 2022. A lifelong Dallas Cowboy fan, he would stubbornly wear shorts and flip flops long into the late fall, hoping the snow would never come.



Active in the Boy Scouts and ROTC in high school, it seemed natural for Harrison to join the Navy (even though he hated fish). He loved sharing stories of his adventures in Japan and throughout Southeast Asia.

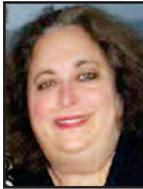
He was a good cook, though he often added too much hot sauce for the rest of us, and had a love of music, learning to play both trumpet and guitar. From an early age, he seemed to have a knack for computers, finishing a program curriculum at Eleven Fifty academy. Harrison was (see Obituaries, page IN 17)

OBITUARIES*(continued from page IN 16)*

fiercely loyal to the people he loved, with an offbeat sense of humor that would bring a smile to those who knew him best.

He is survived by his parents; his sister, Michelle Ball; grandmother, Kitzi Ball; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins. Funeral services were held at **Aaron Ruben Nelson Mortuary** on January 7th and burial followed in Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation North Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions be made to AFSP at this link: supporting.afsp.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donate.event&eventID=2078&lanague=en

Ellen Rose Goldberg, 60, passed away on Jan. 7, 2022. Ellie was born in Indianapolis on May 17, 1961 to the late Harriet Pintchuck Goldberg and Robert T. Goldberg. She graduated from North Central High School and attended Arizona State University and Indiana Wesleyan in Business Management. She later became an Executive Recruiter for Dotson Benefield and Associates and Accounts Executive Search. She was employed by the Dress Barn for many years and at Trader Point AMC.



Ellie had a way of touching so many people with her infectious enthusiasm for life. She was a volunteer in many organizations, helped the homeless at Wheeler Mission, networking to bring people together and a successful fundraiser. She had a zest of learning and had a deep spiritual side that kept her centered.

She will be deeply missed by her beloved family. She is survived by her sister, Julie Goldberg Herman (Shabtai) of Jerusalem, her uncle Louis Pintchuck (Maxine) of Sarasota, Fla., and her aunt, Terry Pintchuck G. Ney of Atlanta. Ellie was preceded in death by her parents, sister, Beth Goldberg and cousin, Scott Pintchuck of Sarasota. She will be fondly remembered by her many nieces and nephews and cousins. Ellie had so many friends. She never met a stranger. She is also survived by the love of her life, Charlie, her little dog.

Early in life, Ellen was challenged with health issues that cycled throughout her life. Her family wants to thank those professionals and physicians who helped her achieve a life worth living. It was a huge challenge to her and those she loved. Through it all, she was always looking to a brighter future, helping and gifting others.

Contributions in Ellen's memory can be made to Indiana Jewish Discovery Center,

Chabad Luvabitch of Carmel, Indiana, The Schottenstein Kollel of Jerusalem, Israel. The funeral was graveside at the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation Cemetery South (S. Meridian Street and Kelly Street) on January 10, 2022. For anyone not able to attend, but wishing to view the service, it will be available at <https://www.arnmortuary.com/obituary/EllenEllie-Goldberg>. Friends are welcome to place a memory of Ellie or a message of condolence to her family on the tribute page at www.arnmortuary.com.

Donald C. Fisher, 88, passed away peacefully in the company of his family on Jan. 10, 2022. Don was born to Samuel and Beatrice Fisher in 1933 and grew up in the Brightwood neighborhood of Indianapolis. He graduated from Shortridge in 1951 and Indiana University in 1954 with a degree in Business. He was an active member of Zeta Beta Tau fraternity.



After serving in the US Air Force in England, he took over his father's clothing store, Cohen Bros., which later became the internationally famous Cash Bargain Center. Throughout his life he dedicated himself to his business, his family, his friends, and his community. He was an active member of Beth El Zedek synagogue and Bat Yam Temple of the Islands in Sanibel, Fla.

Don really valued a close-knit family and worked to keep the extended family together through family gatherings, emails and Zoom calls. He was a big cheerleader for his kids and grandkids. He loved parties, dancing and sporting the latest fashion. Don loved to travel with his wife Myra and toured the globe seeing new places, catching up with old friends and making new ones. They spent most winters in Florida.

He stayed close to his ZBT brothers, keeping everyone updated on the latest news and organizing get-togethers and reunions. He also loved sports and was a die-hard fan of the IU Hoosiers, the Indianapolis Pacers and the Colts. He enjoyed golfing and playing tennis.

Over the years, Don touched many people's lives, sponsoring Washington DC, New York and Chicago trips for the Brightwood Community Center youth, serving his Jewish community, and mentoring High School students.

Don lived his life to the fullest, he will be missed. Besides his loving wife of 67 years, Myra, he is survived by his sister, Devera Cooler, his daughter Lori (Elliott), his son Jeff (Edie) and was Papa Don to his 5 grandchildren Eric (Paige), Emily, Elise, Greg and Annie.

A graveside memorial service was held at Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation North Cemetery on January 13th. Please direct any memorial donations to the Starfish Initiative (starfishinitiative.org) or Popsie's Pantry at Jewish Family Services (jewishindianapolis.org/jfs).

Gloria Dorson, 90, actress, mother, and friend, died Jan. 19, 2022 in Indianapolis. She was born May 25, 1931. Gloria's sparkling blue eyes and deep dimples lit up the stage, the screen, and the tennis court. A theater major and graduate of Michigan State University, Gloria met Dick when she took his class and her grade kept her off the Dean's List. Love triumphed and she married him nonetheless.



Gloria put acting on hold when she took on her favorite role: mom to Roland, Jeffrey, and Linda. Still, she employed her theater chops by teaching creative dramatics to children in Bloomington, Ind., where she thrived when Dick became a professor at IU.

After the children were grown, Gloria renewed her acting dream in regional theater productions including the Actors Theatre of Louisville, Chanhassen Dinner Theatre in Minnesota, and others. Perhaps you saw her in one of her seven plays at the Indiana Repertory Theatre in Indianapolis.

In 1985, Gloria was cast as the wife of the Hickory High principal in the movie *Hoosiers*. With two contacts and no agent or manager, Gloria set out at age 55 to conquer Hollywood. And conquer she did. Gloria appeared in *Golden Girls*, *LA Law*, *Home Improvement*, *General Hospital*, and many other TV shows. In addition to television, Gloria cussed out Arnold Schwarzenegger as the woman in the phone booth in *Total Recall*, a scene that sent her young grandsons into gales of laughter.

Gloria also pursued live theatre, appearing in plays at the Geffen Theatre, the Pasadena Playhouse, Seattle ACT, the Alaska Repertory Theatre, and other theaters on the west coast. At the same time, she perfected her tennis game, culminating in a national tournament win in Indian Wells, California at 75.

Later in life, Gloria frequently traveled the world with niece Mary Scott, nephew Kevin Saunders, and grandniece Molly Saunders-Scott. Last summer, she was delighted to meet her great-grandniece, Moira.

Gloria (a.k.a. Moudly/Grandmoudly) is survived by sons Roland and Jeffrey, daughter-in-law Patti, adored grandsons Ben and Daniel, beloved nieces and nephews, and her adopted Indianapolis family. She was preceded in death by her

(see Obituaries, page IN 18)

OBITUARIES

(continued from page IN 17)

husband, Richard M. Dorson, and her daughter, Linda Marie Dorson.

The family thanks the staff at Marquette Senior Living for all the loving care and comfort they provided to Gloria. A celebration of Gloria's life will take place in May. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a memorial donation to the Humane Society of Louisiana, (humanela.org/donate/) or Planned Parenthood Action (plannedparenthoodaction.org), or a nonprofit of your choice.

Edward G. Cohen, 90, died Jan. 22, 2022 in Indianapolis. He was born to Harry and Sarah Segal Cohen on Oct. 25, 1931 in Cincinnati.

Edward was a graduate of the University of Cincinnati and chapter president of the Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity for 2 years, and served proudly in the US Army and a member of the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation (IHC).

Edward spent his career in manufacturing. He enjoyed music, art, traveling, reading, cross word puzzles and most of all spending time with his wife and family.

Edward was the beloved husband to Rochelle Miller Cohen; and was a wonderful father to his four children, Deborah (Peter) Oren, Cynthia Ann Cohen, Shelley Sue Wood, and Bradley Allen (Elizabeth) Cohen; and two step children, Anthony Kroot and Ann Kroot; four grandchildren, Joshua Oren, Emily Wolfe, Zachary Cohen, and Maxwell Wood; two great-grandchildren, Avery Wolfe and Jade Wolfe; and nephew, Abe Benson (Olivia). He was preceded in death by his parents Harry and Sarah Cohen and brothers, Ralph Cohen and Jerry Cohen. He was survived by his sister, Elaine Freedman of California.

Services were held January 24th. Memorial Contributions may be made to the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation.

Dr. Jack M. Kamen, 96, of

Indianapolis, passed away on January 20, 2022. He was born on February 17, 1925 in Chicago. In 1943, he joined the Navy, where he trained to become a radar equipment specialist. After military service, he attended Chicago Medical School on the G.I. Bill.



In 1951, Jack began his career as a general practitioner in East Chicago, Ind. In the early 1960s, after completing fellowship in anesthesiology, he began what he always described as the work he was "meant to do." He went to work for the St. Mary Mercy hospital system in Gary, Ind., where he opened the state's

first intensive care unit, and the hospital's first coronary care unit.

He was an assistant Professor of Medicine at Northwestern University Hospital in Chicago, where he was on-staff as an anesthesiologist. In the early 1970s, Dr. Kamen (along with researcher Dr. Nancy Wilkinson) developed the first foam-cuff intubation tube which revolutionized anesthesia worldwide.

Jack was a member of Congregation B'nai Torah and Congregation Sharey Tefilla. He was preceded in death by his wife, Shirley D. Kamen, and his daughter, Suzanne Friedman (Howard).

He is survived by his children, Joyce Kamen (Fred Wagshul), David Kamen (Lisa), and Daniel Kamen (Sharon); grandchildren, Ari Wise (Jessica), Bryan Micon (Martha), Alissa Wise (Stefan Lynch), Jennifer Einberger (Scott), Jeffrey Kamen, Gary Kamen (Bridget), Hillary Ramaswamy (Raja), Kevin Kamen, Jamie Baroff (Ben), Eric Kamen, Allie Kamen, and Sara Kamen; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Memorials can be sent to Congregation Shaarey Tefilla at shaareytefilla.org; or to the Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science (formerly Chicago Medical School, Dr. Kamen's alma mater) at rosalindfranklin.edu. A private graveside funeral was held.

JoAnne Margarite Koplw, 93, beloved

wife, mother, grandmother, and aunt passed away on Saturday, Jan. 29, 2022. Born on Oct. 3, 1928, in Cleveland, she was the last of eight children born to Harry and Hermina Jacobs. She attended Cleveland Heights High School and studied at The Ohio State University before meeting the love of her life, Roland T. Koplw. They were married in 1951 and soon after moved to Indianapolis. She raised their two children, taught pre-school for 17 years at the Bureau of Jewish Education, and later formed the backbone to her husband's new business, Raleigh Ltd.



As the youngest of eight, and the last surviving sibling, JoAnne was the glue that kept her large family together – a role that came to her naturally. She was generous, loving, and caring, especially towards the ones who were lucky enough to call her family.

To say that JoAnne was outgoing is an understatement. She was fast friends with everyone and never shied away from starting up a conversation with a stranger. Well into her ninth decade, she sustained a demanding social calendar and was constantly on the go. She had impeccable manners, an incredible sense of style, and loved to entertain. And even without her

Raleigh by her side for the last 21 years, she honored his legacy by finding joy in the life that they had created together.

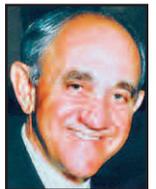
JoJo, as her grandchildren called her, loved to "tell it like it is" and while her opinions could be strong, she was a confidante to so many because of how fearlessly she spoke her truth. JoJo's passing leaves a void in her loved ones' hearts, but they are filled with the comfort of so many beautiful memories. Her zest for life was rare and enviable and it is the family's fervent hope that her memory continues to inspire those who knew her.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Raleigh; and all seven of her older siblings. Survivors include her son, Mark (Cindi) Koplw; daughter, Cheryl (James) Greenberg; grandchildren, Hayden and Taylor Koplw, and Michael and Caroline Greenberg; as well as many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A graveside service was held on February 6th in Beth El Zedeck North Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, you may honor JoAnne's memory by making your next drink a Dewar's on the rocks with a splash of water in a large stem glass. In addition, memorial contributions may be made to a charity of your choice.

Ronald Erwin Rosenberg, 86,

passed away suddenly on Jan. 31, 2022. He was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. Ron's passion for life, energy, enthusiasm, optimism and positivity was his trademark. He was most proud of his family and the importance they placed on one another.



Ron was a Pharmacist by academic background, graduating from Fordham University. In the late 1950's Ron proudly served in the United States Army in Germany. Ron's Executive career spanned over 35 years with his retirement from Anthem in 1995. Multiple Board assignments continued through his retirement years. Ron also gave a tremendous amount of his time to charity and community development, including the Diabetes Youth Foundation of Indiana.

His loss will be deeply mourned by his wife of 63 years, Susan Maerz Rosenberg, and by his children, Robert (Karen) Rosenberg and Melissa (Scott) Saunders and his grandchildren, Haley Kline, Lindsay Kline, Lauren Rosenberg, Daniel Rosenberg, Alexa Saunders, Carli Saunders, and Lyza Saunders who affectionately called him Poppy. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Amy Kline.

Private graveside services were held in Beth-El Zedeck North Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made in Ron's memory to the Parkinson's Foundation. ✨

Hamantaschen with a Yeast Dough



BY HENYA CHAIET, Z"l

I made this recipe for *Hamantashen* for more than 60 years. My family did not make a cookie dough, but rather a yeast roll. When I was a child growing up in Chicago in the 1930s, the bakeries also made them this way.

1 cup scalded milk
1 stick butter
1/2 cup sugar
2 cakes of yeast
4 cups flour
1 teaspoon salt
1 egg beaten with 1 tablespoon of water

Preheat your oven to 375°. Add 1 stick of butter and 1/2 cup sugar to the 1 cup scalded milk. When this is lukewarm, add 2 cakes of yeast. Then sift 4 cups of flour and 1 teaspoon salt. Add this to the milk mixture and mix well. Cover and allow to rise in a nice warm place until double in size.

The dough will be a bit sticky so flour your board well and turn your dough out on it. Just add enough flour so that you can work with it. Divide the dough into 4 pieces. Now tear off about 5 equal size pieces from one of these 4 pieces, roll each piece into a ball and then flatten them into a circles of about 3 inches diameter. (We would use the canned Solo brand of poppy seed or prune filling.) Place about 1 teaspoon in the center of each circle. Then lift the edges of your circle to create a triangle.

Cover a jelly roll pan with parchment paper and place each triangle on the pan leaving enough room for them to raise again before baking them. The second rising should take about 45 minutes to 1 hour. Before baking them make an egg wash (1 egg beaten with 1 tablespoon of water) and lightly brush each roll. Bake for 20-25 minutes until they are golden brown.

Henya Chaiet is the Yiddish name for Mrs. A. Helen Feinn. Born April 7, 1924 in Chicago, her parents had come to America one year prior. They spoke only Yiddish at home so that is all she spoke until age five when she started kindergarten. She then learned English, but always loved Yiddish and spoke it whenever possible. She was raised in Chicago with her four sisters and one brother. She lived in La Porte and Michigan City, Ind., from 1952 to 1978, and then resided in Walnut Creek, Calif., until her passing on May 13, 2016. She wrote a "Yiddish for Everyday" column from 2012-2014. ☆

Why the Poppy Seeds and the Groggers?



BY SYBIL KAPLAN

Purim has its share of food customs, as it is observed by most of the Jewish communities around the world, however, some ask, why the poppy seeds—particularly in hamantaschen?

A little research indicates Esther ate seeds which were healthy in order to maintain a *kosher* diet.

They are also said to have been the only food Esther ate during the three-day fast before she went to see the king.

Another interpretation indicates that poppy seeds symbolize the promise G-d made to Abraham, Genesis 22:17, "I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the seashore..." because this is the antithesis of the annihilation planned by Haman.

Mohn, the Yiddish word for poppy seed, was combined with milk, sugar or honey and sometimes raisins and nuts and used as a filling as early as Medieval times. *Tasch* is German for pocket, so the original name was *mohntaschen*, pockets filled with poppy seeds. Why pockets? Because of Haman's coat pockets where he carried the lots (*purim*) he cast to determine on which day the Jews would be killed.

When Jews fled Germany for Eastern Europe, in the Middle Ages, they took the poppy seed pastry with them and added the Yiddish prefix, "ha," thus making it *hamohntaschen*.

By the way, if you plant poppy seeds, you end up with poppy flowers. Their unripe seed capsules, when processed, are the source of heroin, opium and morphine,

It is said that if you consume poppy-seed-flavored cake or pastry or *hamantashen*, you could test positive on a drug test! Many years ago, a State Police Crime Lab in Oregon tested driving ability of subjects who had consumed 25 grams of poppy seeds baked into a bundt cake and found that their driving ability was not impaired, however, they did test positive for opium. Another bit of research indicated eating two poppy seed bagels could cause failure of a drug test!

Poppy seeds contain high amounts of oil and are best refrigerated when not being used. They are also an excellent source of calcium. However, a 50-gram *hamantash* may have 200 calories.

Speaking of poppy seeds, poppy seed cookies or *mohn kichel*, are also popular for *Purim* as well as *mohn torte* or poppy seed cake where two layers of pastry dough are

filled with a mixture of poppy seeds, sugar or honey, ground almonds and raisins.

Rash, Rash, Rash! Why the Groggers?

One of the most popular customs for *Purim* is to drown out the name of the villain, Haman, with a noisemaker. In Hebrew, it is called a *ra'ashan*; in Yiddish, it is a *grogger*.

The origin of this custom comes from the Book of Exodus 17:4: "For I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under the Heavens." Haman's ancestors were Amalekites.

Around the 9th century, it was customary for European Jews to take flat stones or wooden paddles on which Haman's name was inscribed and beat them together when Haman's name was mentioned, in the reading of the *Megillat Esther*. It was also popular to write Haman's name on the soles of their shoes and then stamp their feet when his name was read, thus erasing his name.

Some form of *grogger* has been used since the Middle Ages, primarily among Ashkenazic Jews. Today, the traditional *grogger* looks like the Hebrew letter *dalet*, a horizontal piece made of wood or metal with a rotating cylinder or tongue attached to a vertical handle, which, when turned, makes noise.

The custom of using a noisemaker during the reading of the *Megillah* is more recent among Sephardic Jews.

One also finds *groggers* decorated with illustrations from the Book of Esther, plastic with clapping hands, and designs in wood and metal. School children often make other containers of paper or metal and fill them with beans, so when they are shaken, they make noise.

Whatever *grogger* you use for *Purim*, just make sure you do it loud and often, for in each generation, a Haman has risen up against us!

Sybil Kaplan, see her bio on page IN 8. ☆

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The Joy of Tzedakah Can Start at Any Age

Almost two years ago, near the beginning of the pandemic, Cantor Aviva Marer of Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation and her son Ben, age six at the time, had an idea to do a fundraiser for No Kid Hungry. He would draw and color a picture and they would sell it on Facebook for between \$1 and \$2.50, which they would donate to the organization. Well, they could never have imagined what happened! Ben drew 90 pictures and raised \$1,700! Aviva and Ben's father, James Marer, were so proud of him as we are. Below are three of his favorites. ✨

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This Queen Esther drawing was colored by Ben this week from a drawing by Ann Koffsky (www.annkoffsky.com). One can find drawings of different Jewish holiday illustrations to download for free and ready to be colored. Ann is the author and illustrator of more than 30 Jewish books for kids which can be found on her website and on Instagram at JewishArtbyAnn.

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