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Local community leaders receive awards at JCC Annual Meeting

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (June 15, 2015) – At the JCC Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 11 three new members were elected to the board of directors and four community awards were given. The three new members added to the JCC Board of Directors: Carli Bolotin, Stacy Bunes and Willaine St. Pierre Sandy. The following awards were presented:

- **Leon Mallah Mordoh** received the Ivan M. Chalfie Award for his contribution to the community and to promoting healthy Jewish family life.
- **Amy Pomeranz Essley** and **Mark Sniderman** won the Martin L. Lerner Award for their service on a Jewish Community Center board or committee and a commendable record of community service with recognized potential for further leadership.
- **Rebecca Schankerman** received the Wolf/Birnbaum Jewish Community Teen Leadership Award for contributions by a high school senior to the Jewish community in service, participation and leadership.
- **Erin Mills** and **Erica Johnson** received the Marks Levy Award for outstanding service by a JCC staff member.

New JCC Board Members

Three new members were added to the JCC Board of Directors:

- **Carli Bolotin:** Born and raised in the Chicago area, Bolotin is a graduate of Indiana University. She is currently the Director of Chapter Services for Sigma Delta Tau Sorority and volunteers as the local advisor to the chapter at IU.
- **Stacey Bunes:** A graduate of North Central High School, Bunes attended the University of Evansville. She serves on the board of directors and as the PTO representative for Hasten Hebrew Academy. She volunteers for BBYO, North Central show choir, Special Olympics and a local food pantry.
- **Willaine St. Pierre Sandy:** Sandy is a human services professional, writer and researcher, serving clients as a life coach, wellness consultant and employment consultant.

Ivan M. Chalfie Award

This is the 35th year for the Ivan M. Chalfie award. Chalfie was an All-American swimmer in 1948 before competing for Indiana University. The award recognizes a member of the Jewish community for his/her contribution to promoting Jewish community and healthy Jewish family life. In presenting the award to this year's recipient, **Leon Mallah Mordoh**, Ivan Chalfie said, "Leon personifies the word 'mensch,' which in Yiddish means 'a person of integrity.' A mensch is someone who is responsible, has a profound sense of right and wrong and is the sort of person that other people look up to. But we know it means so much more when it defines Leon."

Mordoh's parents came to the United States from Saloniki, Greece. More than 50 years ago, Mordoh began his career selling copiers for HPS, eventually buying the company in 2000. He sold the company to Toshiba in 2006 and still lends his expertise to the company he grew. Mordoh has been president of Broadmoor Country Club twice. He has served on the boards of the Albert and Sarah Reuben Senior Resource Center, the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis, the Rotary Club of Indianapolis, Etz Chaim Synagogue and the JCC.

The Martin L. Larner Award

Amy Pomeranz Essley and **Mark Sniderman** received the Larner Leadership Award in recognition of their years of service to the JCC, a commendable record of community service and recognized potential for further leadership.

Essley graduated from Indiana University and the University of North Carolina, joining Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Indiana in 2002 as the director of site-based programs. She is currently chief program officer (since 2013). She is a JCC board member and vice president and a graduate of the United Way of Central Indiana's Executive Women's Leadership program.

Sniderman is a civil rights trial lawyer and partner with Sniderman Nguyen LLP. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin - Madison and I.U. School of Law and was a coxswain for the Men's Rowing Team in the 1990 National Collegiate Rowing Championship.

Wolf/Birnbaum Jewish Community Teen Leadership Award

The recipient of the Wolf/Birnbaum Jewish Community Teen Leadership Award for contributions by a high school senior to the Jewish community in service, participation and leadership is **Rebecca Schankerman**. A student at Carmel High School, she is a member of the National Society of High School Scholars, an international finalist for DECA competition, a member of the student government, a scholar athlete and has an academic honors diploma from Carmel Clay School System.

She has been involved in the Jewish youth group B'nai B'rith, earning recognition as a Regional B'nai B'rith Girl of the Year (2012) and receiving the Gold Order of the Star of Deborah at the 2013 International convention for recruiting the highest number of new members for her chapter. She serves on six regional steering committees for B'nai B'rith Youth Organization (BBYO) and participated in nine international programs. Rebecca will be attending Indiana University in Bloomington, IN. in the fall. She plans on majoring in advertising or marketing at the Kelley School of Business with a possible minor in Jewish studies.

Marks Levy Award

Two JCC staffers, **Erin Mills** and **Erica Johnson** of the JCC's Early Childhood Education program, received the Marks Levy Award in recognition of their outstanding service.

Under Mills' leadership as director, the JCC's Early Childhood Education program has a wait list at almost every age level. She has helped develop important relationships with state licensing consultants through the Family Social Services Administration, United Way of Central Indiana, the Department of Homeland Security, and Indiana's child care rating and improvement system, Paths to Quality. She was recently selected as one of 24 participants from across North America for the JCC Association of North America's Leadership Enrichment and Advancement Program.

Johnson is assistant director of early childhood education at the JCC. She is also a Girl Scout leader, assists in coaching youth volleyball and cheerleading, and volunteers in the nursery at her church.

About the Arthur M. Glick JCC

The mission of JCC Indianapolis is to enrich the community by perpetuating Jewish tradition and heritage while celebrating diversity of beliefs through arts, education, health and wellness programs. Celebrating its 100-year anniversary, the JCC is located at Arthur M. Glick JCC, 6701 Hoover Road and is a beneficiary agency of the United Way of Central Indiana and the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis, and an affiliate member of the JCC Association of North America.

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