



Judge William Levy

As the youngest son of Isaac and Grace Levy, William has carried on the tradition of leadership in the Sephardic community in Indianapolis. The synagogue that Isaac Levy helped to found, Etz Chaim Sephardic Congregation, is still going strong with Judge Levy as one of its pillars. In 1991 he worked with Rabbi Dennis Sasso to organize a continuing education course at IUPUI on the history and cul-ture of Sephardic Jews. Like his father, Judge Levy also serves as a member of the Rochessim, the Sephardic Burial Society. He often tells people he has a unique burial obligation that, “when we take the casket to the cemetery, I open the cas-ket and I put sand in their eyes and I touch their forehead then shut the casket. I’m the last person to touch them. This is the greatest mitzvah because it is an act that can never be reciprocated.”

In his preface to the Neighborhood of Saturdays book, Judge Levy wrote, “Finally and most importantly, let the message of this book be: If this entire world could live in the same spirit of understanding and tolerance that this old Southside neighborhood enjoyed for all of those years, what a wonderful place it would be, could be, and should be. It is doable and takes some effort, but it is always worth a try. It is never too late. Thank you, Southside neighbors, for all the lessons learned.