

they formed The Five Studios. com. "Unfortunately, this hasn't brought about a big impact on sales, but that's because we were all caught in the same economic downturn that has affected other businesses," said Goldenberg.

"But we're optimistic about going in the right direction, as long as we provide high-quality images," said Lieberman, whose father is retired photographer Chuck Lieberman.

Lieberman Photography has become the "family photographer" for Dana and Jonathan Abrahams of West Bloomfield, having shot their wedding 16 years ago, other family functions and, in May, a bat mitzvah party for their daughter Lindsay at the newly renovated Book Cadillac Hotel in Detroit. Lieberman and his assistant, Matt Amster of West Bloomfield, handled the assignment.

"They're terrific and very professional; they don't push you too hard; they're not intrusive, and they keep up just the right pace," said Dana Abrahams. "As a result, they come up with perfect images. In three years, we hope to use them for our daughter Carly's bat mitzvah."

Getting together to pose for their own group photo, the photographers regaled each other with anecdotes about past assignments. "I knocked over a flower arrangement while backing up to take a photo in my first bat mitzvah party, but clicked the shutter at the same time and got some great, startled expressions on faces," said Gorbach.

Lieberman survived a fall over a flower pot at a synagogue.

Gorbach and Goldenberg were surprised to learn they both were called separately by a woman to photograph her dead cat before it was taken away. "The woman even propped open the cat's eyes for the photo," said Goldenberg.

The photographers all belong to professional associations, donate a lot of their photographic time to local non-profit organizations and charities, and make sure they steer clear of any possible anti-trust violations by not discussing pricing among themselves.

"We're together, but we haven't lost our independence," quipped Goldenberg. □

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