









The Argus 2020 - 5781

Annual Community Directory, Resource Guide & Yearbook







JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF SCRANTON

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JCC MISSION & VISION

The mission of the Jewish Community Center of Scranton is to promote an understanding of and commitment to Jewish beliefs and values by developing and in the enteresting constructive programs for their recreational, educational, cultural, emotional, physical health and social needs, while helping individuals appreciate their responsibilities as citizens of the community, state and the nation.

Our Vision: The JCC strives to be the Jewish and greater community's premiere center for family, health, wellness and educational programs, encouraging family togetherness and personal growth, while building community and encompassing Jewish values, Jewish/Israeli culture, celebrations and partnerships.

CORRECTINGSFROMFHELUCCEKKEUUINVOORRECTOBR

The Annual Argus is a business directory and resource for Jewish Community Center members and the Lackawanna County Jewish and greater community. It is the premiere resource that lists our community's Jewish agencies, organizations, congregations, as well as JCC activities, and includes advertisements from all of the businesses and friends who support the Jewish Community Center. I hope you will find the information useful, and I encourage you to support our supporters with your patronage. Special thanks to the many businesses and organizations who advertise with us. We appreciate your support.



For those of you who are JCC members, I thank you for your membership and invite your continued feedback so the JCC can continue to meet your needs. For those not currently members, I invite you to become a part of our family! From our outstanding child care and pre-school programs, to our fun filled summer day camp and youth sports & recreation programs, to our adult and senior adult activities, we invite you to join us. Our staff and board members promise a warm welcome to you and your family. During this difficult time, we are committed to making your experience as safe as possible.

Sincerely,

Executive Director

2019-2020 ARGUS DIRECTORY COMMITTEE

Jeff Leventhal Ann Nealon Dan Cardonick Jessica Burckhardt

Vince Kalinoski Mindy Van Fleet Mark Dolph

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A Message from the President Jennifer Novak



Dear Members,

2020 has been a challenging year, to say the least! The COVID-crisis has fundamentally reshaped our world. At the onset of the pandemic, the JCC wasted no time in setting policies and procedures to keep our community safe; the health and safety of our members, clients, and staff is paramount. In addition to following the CDC and Pennsylvania State Health Department guidelines, the Scranton JCC erred on the side of caution and went over and above by implementing the following:

- Reservations are required to use our facility
- Temperature checks are taken at the entrance.
- Masks are required.
- Social distancing is enforced.
- Hand sanitizer is available (in abundance).
- Cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting with professional grade disinfectants is done regularly.
- The HVAC system has been reset to allow the maximum amount of fresh airflow.
- HEPA air filtration, which efficiently captures particles to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 have been purchased and are located throughout the building.
- Group exercise classes are offered as both in-person as well as online for our members

There's a saying: People Make the Place. And, this couldn't be more accurate at the JCC. I'd be remiss in not recognizing the *incredible* job that Dan Cardonick, executive director, and the entire JCC staff has done and continues to do while navigating the challenges no one expected.

Thank you to those who have contributed to our capital campaign. The Scranton JCC as we know it wouldn't be possible without the generosity of our members, clients, and friends. If you haven't been able to give yet, it's not too late! Please consider making a gift to help us complete our capital campaign. Financial support from our community helps to ensure that the JCC is able to continue to provide vital programs and essential services in our community.

Be safe, be healthy, be at the Center,

Jennifer Novak
JCC President

2020-2021 JCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

-BOARD OFFICERS-

Jennifer Novak, President Ann Monsky, 1st Vice-President Andrew Weinberger, 2nd Vice-President

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Dan Cardonick, Secretary/Exec Director
Shelley Rosenberg, Assistant Secretary

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Ann Monsky 1st Vice-President



Andrew Weinberger 2nd Vice-President



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Shelley Rosenberg Assistant Secretary

JCC STAFF



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VINCE KALINOSKI PROGRAM DIRECTOR



JESSICA BURCKHARDT DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION



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CARLI KALINOSKI DIRECTOR OF YOUTH SERVICES



MAURA CAMPBELL MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR



DIANE REVIELLO TUES & THURS DAYTIME C/S ASSOCIATE



KATHY PINTO SUN, MON & THURS EVENING ASSOCIATE

---OTHER KEY JCC STAFF---

MAINTENANCE

DANIEL PUCKETT - SUPERVISOR OSCAR JEFFERSON - JANITORIAL ROBERT DOUMA - JANITORIAL OSMAR RODRIGUEZ - JANITORIAL KEIARA PARKER - JANITORIAL

ADDITIONAL KEY STAFF

CASSANDRA QUICK - FRONT DESK ASSOCIATE
DEV PATEL - FRONT DESK ASSOCIATE
LYNN RASALLA - FRONT DESK ASSOCIATE
RIKA SCHAFFER - JEWISH EDUCATION CONSULTANT

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GABRIELLE TROPEANO - CHILD CARE
KIM SCHLESSER - CHILD CARE
MELISSA YOUNG - CHILD CARE
AMANDA STOLTEN - CHILD CARE
LEYVINA LEON - CHILD CARE
KELLY WATSON - CHILD CARE
KELLI DIXON - CHILD CARE
JANAI BRIONES - CHILD CARE
JESS SMITH - PRE-SCHOOL
SHEENA CLARK - PRE-SCHOOL

JCC HOURS OF OPERATION

OFFICE HEALTH CLUBS FITNESS CENTER GYM & COURTS POOL Sunday 9:00am-5:00pm 5:30am-5:00pm 5:30am-5:00pm 5:30am-5:00pm 7:30am-5:00pm Monday-Thursday 8:30am-8:45pm 5:30am-9:00pm 5:30am-9:00pm 5:30am-9:00pm 6:30am-8:30pm

*Friday 8:30am-4:30pm 5:30am-6:00pm 5:30am-6:00pm 5:30am-4:45pm ***Saturday CLOSED 7:00pm-9:00pm 7:00pm-9:00pm 7:00pm-9:00pm 7:00pm-8:45pm

*Friday Sabbath closings; varies in the winter with sunset

***Open Saturday nights; winter only, November through March

JCC Eugene & Dorothy Reseats is iM Memiorial Cities of the Color of th

Established in memory of Eugene & Dorothy Rosenstein, the proceeds from the *Children's Benefit Golf Tournament* are used to help provide children scholarships for day camp, day care and pre-school at the JCC.









The Eugene & Dorothy Rosenstein Memorial Children's Benefit Golf Tournament

held at the Glen Oak Country Club in Clarks Summit, PA on Monday, October 5th, 2020

Next year's tournament will be held on Monday, June 7th, 2020

A fabulous day of golf with a kosher hot dog lunch served all day long. Following the days golf play there is an open bar reception with great hor d'oeuvres, followed by dinner, where prizes, awards and special gifts are distributed.



SCENES FROM THE JCC



Our annual Pre-school sukkot celebration with the Cader family!



Members enjoying summer outdoor exercise classes during July 2020.



Rabbi Daniel Swartz leads Oneg Shabbat at JCC Camp Daleville during summer 2020!



JCC youth enjoy snacks during a camp reunion event in fall of 2019.



Over 220 people attended the JCC Chanukah Extravaganza in December 2019.



JCC Youth Basketball League in action in December 2019.



Kids focusing in class during our "School's In!" virtual learning pods in October 2020.



Remembering the victims on the anniversary of the Tree of Life synagogue terror attack (October 2019).



Our Pre-school enjoyed a virtual program with children's author Matthew Van Fleet.



Thanks to a generous grant, the JCC officially names our swimming area the Robert H. Spitz Aquatics Center.



JCC youth show their art projects during a "School's Out!" program in November 2019.



Drive-by ice cream sundae event during Shavuot 2020!





Ask about our summer Kindergarten Readiness Program for 5 year olds!

The JCC Pre-school Weekdays 9:00am-3:00pm Part or full day options

Optional Pre-school Plus Wellness Classes 11:45am-1:00pm

For children 3-5 years old

Experienced & caring teachers



Child Care Open weekdays 6:30am-6:00pm

Serving 6 weeks old to kindergarten

Full & Part-Time Availability

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1st Session: June 21st-July 16th

2nd Session: July 19th -Aug 13th

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- Personal Training
- Massage Therapy
- Group Exercise Classes



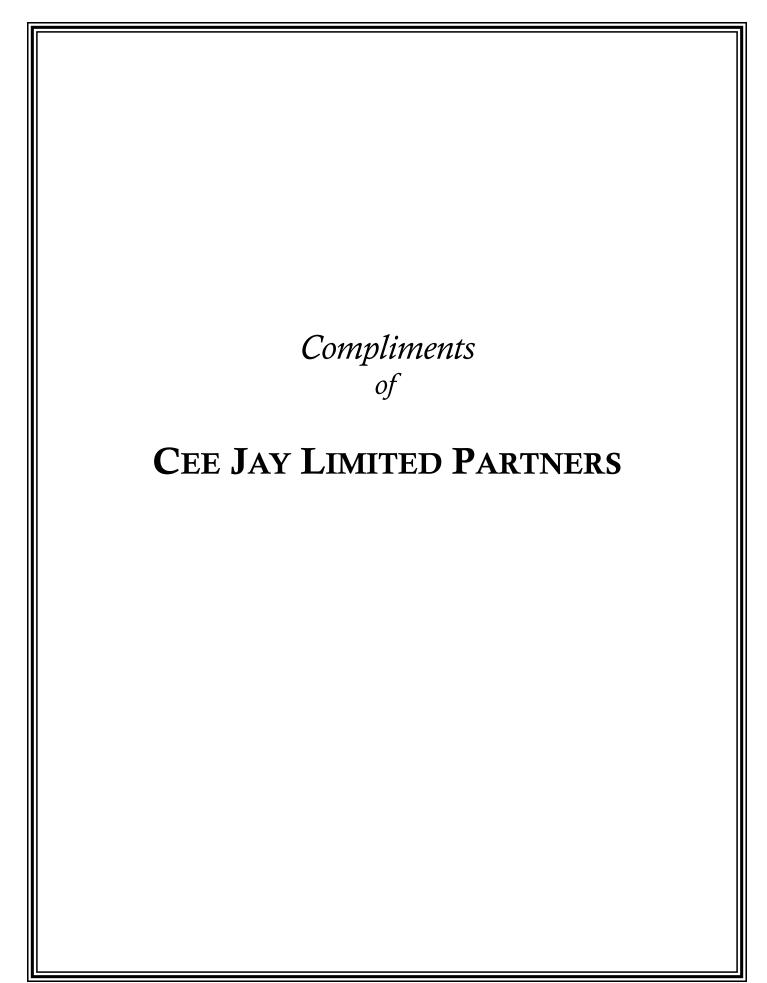
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YOUTH & TEEN SERVICES

BBYO is a Jewish youth group, with the Scranton chapter associated with Central Region East, which is made up of eleven chapter/cities. Activities include regional conventions, each with a program theme. The themes include leadership training, social action, sports and socialization. Along with the conventions are a variety of local programs and out-of-town special events such as shabbatonim, leadership training events, winter trips to Israel and recreational trips. Additionally, BBYO members participate in local community service projects and enjoy evenings of fun social, educational and cultural activities. BBYO is available to all Jewish high school aged JCC members.















ISRAEL TEEN LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES Attention all 14-18 year olds! Interested in visiting Israel with the JCC? Join our mailing list for more information, info@scrantonjcc.org



CHILDREN & PRE-TEENS



"School's Out!" Programs- During holidays when school is out, the JCC offers programs for kindergarten through eighth graders, complete with recreational activities and selected field trips. "School's Out!" programs include Winter Camp, Pre & Post Camp, spring vacation programs among others.

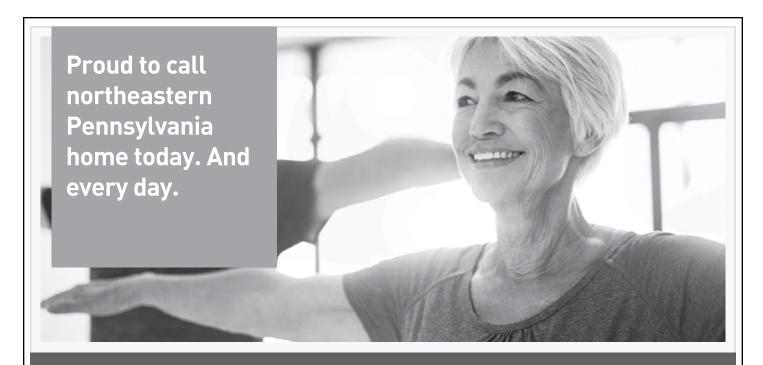
Birthday Parties - We want to make your next birthday celebration a piece of cake! Let the JCC party professional handle all the arrangements. You select the theme and we'll do the rest including setup, supervision, entertainment, games, pizza and more!

Pre-teens - Activities are offered for JCC members specifically in fifth through eighth grades. Activities include sports, science, dancercise, yoga, arts and crafts, cooking, local field trips and anything else you can imagine!

Jr. NBA Basketball Leagues - The JCC offers leagues for several age groupings, starting in late November and running until mid-March. The JCC divides all the kids into teams with volunteer parent/college student coaches. The teams play a regular schedule of games with a referee and a score clock. Each team and player gets a numbered team jersey.

Children - A variety of activities are offered regularly. Activities include local field trips, sports, science, art, cooking, exercise classes and more! We offer innovative programs that meet the interests and desires of our members.





We're proud to support the JCC. And proud of what you are doing to make our community a great place to call home.



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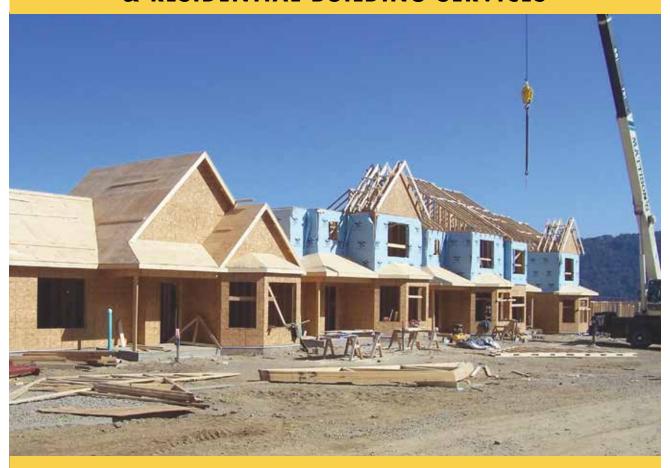
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BEST WISHES for a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Alan and Laurel Glassman



Jewish Community Center 601 Jefferson Avenue Scranton, PA 18510 (570) 346-6595 www.scrantonjcc.org

Corporate/Group Membership Plan

Offer your employees an important *perk* that appeals to health-conscious adults, parents and senior adults!







Each employee of any business that has 3 or more JCC members will receive a 20% annual membership discount!



EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

- *4000 sq. ft. state-of-the-art fitness center
- *Heated indoor swimming pool
- *Full court gymnasium
- *Racquetball/Handball courts
- *Group exercise room for fitness classes
- *Men's and Women's Locker Rooms
- *Men's Health Club locker room area including sauna, whirlpool, steam room and lounge
- *Women's Health Club locker room area including whirlpool and lounge
- *Activity and meeting rooms

- *Free training session on all fitness machines
- *Water exercise classes & swimming lessons
- *Sports leagues and tournaments
- *Free exercise classes for JCC members including yoga, pilates, aerobics, spinning, zumba and more!
- *100 acre summer day camp in the Poconos
- *Outstanding child care
- *Excellent child development pre-school
- *"School's Out" vacation day programs
- *Age appropriate trips
- *Senior Adult programs and lunches

Look at all the organizations who have already taken advantage of this plan:

United Way, University of Scranton, Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine, City of Scranton, Lackawanna County, Regional Hospital of Scranton, Moses Taylor Hospital/Physicians Health Alliance, North Pocono School District, Scranton Cultural Center, Scranton School District, Times-Tribune, Yeshivath Beth Moshe

Centrally located in Scranton between the Red Cross & Regional Hospital of Scranton with free parking. For corporate/group information contact Maura Campbell, JCC Membership Coordinator at 570-346-6595 ext. 101 or email maura@scrantonjcc.org.



You Belong Here at the Center!

Scranton JCC membership gives you 12 months of exciting and varied activities: indoor swimming pool, gymnasium, fitness center, racquet sports and fitness classes - all included at no extra fee. In addition, day camp, child care, preschool, cultural programs, recreation programs and more are offered.

JCC MEMBERSHIP TYPES:
1st year is a 12-month contract

Annual Dues	Monthly Dues	*Early Pay-Pay in Full 5% Discount
\$710	N/A	N/A
\$684	\$57	\$649.80
\$984	\$82	\$949.50
\$630	\$52.50	\$598.50
\$918	\$76.50	\$886.50
\$480	\$40	\$456
\$720	\$60	\$696.15
\$624	\$52	\$600.15
\$155	N/A	N/A
\$155	N/A	N/A
\$240	\$20	\$228
	\$710 \$684 \$984 \$630 \$918 \$480 \$720 \$624 \$155	Dues Dues \$710 N/A \$684 \$57 \$984 \$82 \$630 \$52.50 \$918 \$76.50 \$480 \$40 \$720 \$60 \$624 \$52 \$155 N/A \$155 N/A

**Early Pay/Pay in Full 5% discount is applied to Membership Dues only, it does not include Health
Club fees. All Memberships are a 12 month contract. All fees are subject to change.

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOT REFUNDABLE or TRANSFERABLE

Scranton JCC Hours of Operation:

MONDAY-THURSDAY 5:30 AM-9:00PM
FRIDAY 5:30 AM-6:00PM
SATURDAY CLOSED*
*(NOV-MARCH Saturdays Open 7:00PM-9:00 PM)
SUNDAY 5:30 AM-5:00 PM
POOL OPENS 6:30 AM, M-F and 8:00 AM Sunday



JCC Membership

A Scranton JCC Membership Offers You 12 Months of Exciting and Varied Activities
- All Included with No Extra Fees

INDOOR SWIMMING POOL | FITNESS CENTER | FITNESS CLASSES | RACQUET SPORTS | GYMNASIUM

Benefits of a JCC membership:

- Unlimited use of group exercise classes
- Use of indoor swimming pool
- 4000 sq. ft. state of the art Wellness Center
- Member only programs
- Use of racquetball courts
- Use of basketball courts/gymnasium

Benefits of Health Club Locker Room

- (Membership Dues + Health Club Locker Room Fee)
- Private Locker Room
- Toiletries
- Towel service
- Use of steam room (men's)
- Use of sauna (men's)
- Use of whirlpool (men's & women's)
- Lounge area with DirecTV

Supporting the JCC

BENEFACTORS

Annual Family Health Club Locker Room Membership

plus a partial tax deductible contribution.
(Includes children that are full-time students up to the age of 23)
\$1,800 CHAI Benefactor
\$1,300 PLATINUM Benefactor
\$1,200 GOLD Benefactor
\$1,100 SILVER Benefactor
\$1,000 BRONZE Benefactor

MEMBERSHIP IN PERPETUITY

Life-time Family Health Club Locker Room Membership

Plus a partial tax-deductible contribution.
(Includes children that are full-time students up to the age of 23)
\$10,000



JEE BENEFACTORS

2019 - 2020

"The Past We Inherit, The Future We Create" MEMBERS IN PERPETUITY

Anonymous

Anonymous

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*Mr. & Mrs. Paul Alamar

*Mr. & Mrs. Irwin Alperin

*Mr. & *Mrs. Myer Alperin

*Ms. Anna Cohen Altschuler

*Mr. & *Mrs. Milton Aronsohn

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*Mr. & Mrs. Wesley Freedman

*Mr. Leon Friedman

*Ms. Louise T. Frey

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*Attv. & *Mrs. Morris Gelb

*Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Glassman

Mr. & Mrs. Ken Green

*Mr. & Mrs. Burton Greenwald

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\$1,300

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BRONZE BENEFACTOR \$1,000

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*Of Blessed Memory





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> A comprehensive cancer wellness and rehabilitation program that addresses the uniqueness of each person's capability.

> > For more information contact Vince Kalinoski At 570-346-6595, ext. 115, or vkal3@scrantonjcc.org



Best wishes for a

Happy & Healthy New Year

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Philadelphia

Scrantor

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LIVE UNITED United Way



JCC ENDOWMENTS & CONTRIBUTION CARDS

The JCC Endowment Funds provide appropriate and thoughtful living memorials. A special message, without mention of a contribution amount is sent to the person or family in whose honor the gift is made. The following funds offer a wide range of meaningful ways to remember special people and occasions:

STEVEN BRUCE ARENBERG JEWISH CULTURAL YOUTH TRAVELS MEMORIAL FUND - Honors the cherished memory of a young man by offering financial assistance to young people who desire the experience of traveling to Israel. A special card has been designed for contributions of \$25 or more.

BEATRICE AND MILTON ARONSOHN FUND - Established by daughter Joanne and her husband Fergus T. Monahan to help the JCC meet its diverse building and program needs.

LILLIAN AND FANNY BLUME MEMORIAL FUND - Established to honor the memory of Lillian, a valued member of the staff for many years, and her beloved mother. The Fund's income is used to support the JCC's youth programs.

ANNA AND MICHAEL BRANDT, EARLY CHILDHOOD CHANUKAH FUND - Honors the memory of Anna & Michael Brandt. The fund was established to make possible annual Pre-School Chanukah celebrations. This fund will help assure that Chanukah will always be a very meaningful part of the lives of our youngsters who will, someday, become adults and parents of their own children.

JCC BUILDING FUND - Income is used for the upkeep of the JCC.

CAMP DALEVILLE ENDOWMENT FUND - Provides funds to assist in the operations of the infrastructure and for new programming of the Camp Daleville Day Camp.

CANCER WELLNESS & EXERCISE CENTER FUND - Contributions are used in support of low fees for cancer patients and survivors in this JCC program.

DAY CAMP FUND - Contributions are used to further the development of the physical facilities of the JCC's Camp Daleville, day camp site.

EARL J. & ESTHER BIRNBAUM EARLY CHILDHOOD FUND - Established in loving memory of this dedicated volunteer to provide special equipment needs for the Early Childhood Department by his sons and their family.

BRUCE EISENSTAT ENDOWMENT FUND - Honors the memory of a beloved son and brother by providing scholarships to the JCC Day Camp.

THE JAMES F. ELLENBOGEN MEMORIAL FUND- Honors the memory of this dedicated volunteer and community leader to support JCC general operations.

MOSES FRAGIN AND HELEN FRAGIN ENDOWMENT FUND - Established in a bequest by Moses Fragin to meet the needs of the JCC Senior Adult program.

BRUCE LEWIS GELB ENDOWMENT FUND - Created in memory of a loving son, brother, husband and father. The purpose of the fund is to assist children, preteens and teenagers who could not otherwise afford to participate in programs and activities at the Jewish Community Center.

AARON GLASSMAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP FUND - In memory of beloved husband, father, grandfather and community leader by providing financial assistance for Jewish youth to participate in leadership training opportunities.

ABRAHAM A. GOTTESMAN PRESCHOOL FUND - Honors the memory of a beloved man who transported youngsters to and from school with loving care for more than two decades. Income is used to purchase equipment for the JCC's preschool program.

EDWARD JACOBS MEMORIAL FUND - Honors the memory of a young child by providing a partial camp scholarship for a needy child. In 1977, the fund established an Oneg Shabbat pavilion for day campers.

CLAIRE AND HOWARD JACOBSON BEAUTIFICATION FUND - Established in honor of David Dickstein being named the JCC *Community Service Man of the Year*, and Shelley Jacobson being named the recipient of the *Lillian Blume Memorial Award*. The purpose of the fund is to provide financial support for the beautification to the exterior (front) of the JCC building.

GEORGE JOEL LEADERSHIP FUND - In memory of George Joel, past Executive Director of the Jewish Community Center and Scranton-Lackawanna Jewish Federation. This fund will help subsidize individuals who express interest in participating in such leadership programs as Leadership Lackawanna, the Marywood U. Board Training Institute, JCCA Biennial and the United Jewish Appeal Bi-Annual Young Leadership Conference. In addition, any other Young Leadership Training Program that may develop within our community or elsewhere, that would be of help to young people within our community as they come back to Scranton to enhance its services and quality of life.

LEON KAPLAN PARENTING CENTER FUND - Honors the memory of a fallen hero of World War II in whose honor the JCC's Parenting Center Room takes its name and is used to acquire materials, equipment and furnishings.

DAVID KAUFMAN "SIMCHA FUND" - Established by the children of David Kaufman to honor his love of life. Welcomes contributions in celebration of *simchas*. Donations are used to provide refreshments for senior adult programs and special events.

ROSEBUD LEVENTHAL "PROJECT JOY" FUND - Honors the memory of Rosebud Leventhal, who founded Project Joy, whose purpose is to provide toys for needy children in the community.

JCC ENDOWMENTS & CONTRIBUTION CARDS

PAUL LEVY AND ANNE BRONSKY LEVY ENDOWMENT FUND - Honors the memory of this wonderful couple.

MARCIA LYNNE LONSTEIN ENDOWMENT FUND: Honors the memory of a beloved young person. The income is used in connection with young adult and teen programming.

ALBERT & ANN MARGOLIES FITNESS & WELLNESS CENTER FUND – Established by Bernice Dinner in memory of her parents to provide capital improvements and equipment to the fitness & wellness center. **NIVERT ENDOWMENT FUND** - Established by the Nivert family in memory of Harry Nivert, to provide for Senior Adult programs at the JCC.

HENRY AND EUGENE NOGI SCHOLARSHIP FUND - Honors the memory of two outstanding community citizens with proceeds used for Day camp Scholarships.

EUGENE AND DOROTHY ROSENSTEIN MEMORIAL CHILDREN'S BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT ENDOWMENT FUND - Established by the Rosenstein family in memory of Eugene and Dorothy Rosenstein and in support of the *Children's Benefit Golf Tournament*.

ROSENTEIN FUND - Established by the Rosenstein family in support of Physical Fitness equipment and programs for the JCC.

BRUCE SCHOENBERG FUND-Established by Elliot, Jason & Scott Schoenberg in support of day camp scholarships, senior adult programs & JCC building projects.

SENIOR ADULT FUND - Established to provide needed equipment and materials to enlarge the program for the senior adult members of the JCC.

BEN SPIZER MEMORIAL FUND - Honors the memory of a beloved and respected JCC member and volunteer and established a remembrance in his honor at our Day Camp.

SCOTT AND STEVEN TEPPER EDUCATIONAL FUND - Honors the memory of these beloved young men by utilizing proceeds from the fund to provide annual partial scholarships for college to graduating high school seniors.

THIER FUND – Established from a bequest from Sally Thier for general JCC projects & programs. **THE LEONARD AND MIKI TROY DAY CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND** - The fund was created in loving memory of Leonard & Miki Troy by their family. Mr. Troy helped find and develop the Daleville camp site. The fund is to be used for children's scholarships at the JCC Day Camp.

GUS AND LENA WEINBERGER ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP FUND - A charitable memorial intended to encourage a love of education and provide a means for deserving students to attain academic learning. **RONALD A. WILLENSKY FITNESS CENTER FUND** - Honors the memory of a beloved husband and father, who was a dedicated and respected JCC member. This fund is used to acquire material, equipment and furnishings for the Fitness Center.

EDWARD YANOVER FUND - Established to provide adult programming of the kind the donor would have participated.

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JEWISH HOLIDAY GUIDE

SHABBAT (Sabbath) Shabbat is a period of set off from the week, when our moving, frantic activities come to a slow halt and a sense of peace, calm and tranquility can be felt. This period from before sunset on Friday to Saturday evening gives us the opportunity to feel intense love and joy and appreciate that which we are often too busy to notice during the week. Much work is done Erev Shabbat. The house is cleaned and the food cooked. Challah is baked or bought, along with other special Shabbat foods. The table is set and the candlesticks are polished and set up. Finally, toward evening it is time to put on fresh Shabbat clothes, to unwind and enjoy the Shabbat meals.

ROSH HASHANAH (New Year) (September 19-20, 2020) In the month of Tishrei, the first month of the New Year, the first ten days are set aside as the Days of Penitence. They begin with Rosh Hashanah (New Year) and end with Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement). Reform Jews celebrate Rosh Hashanah one day, while Conservative and Orthodox Jews celebrate it two days. Rosh Hashanah is the Day of Judgment - a solemn time of reconciliation and confronting the year past. It is also New Year's Day - the Birthday of the World - a joyous and grateful remembrance of the creation. The High Holy Days and the days in between are a time for gentleness, for reflection and for personal stock-taking. It is a time, too, for religious rededication. The shofar (ram's horn) sounds in the synagogue at midnight. The woman of the house ushers in the Holy Days by lighting the festive candles as she recites the blessings special to the occasion. The table is set for the Sabbath with many additional features including a plate of apples and a dish of honey, symbolic of the hope that "the year may be a sweet one."

YOM KIPPUR (September 28, 2020) Yom Kippur, the tenth day of Tishrei, is the holiest day of the year. It is a day completely devoted to spiritual needs. Before the holidays, it is good to give tzedakah (charity), but is it particularly important to do so before Yom Kippur. The meal immediately preceding Yom Kippur should be big and joyous. In fact, it is considered an obligation. During Yom Kippur, no food or drink is to be taken. Fasting helps us concentrate on our prayers and self-examination. The Mahzor (High Holiday prayer book) urges us to reflect on G-d's majesty and on human weakness, and to reflect frankly on our personal shortcomings. What is stressed is our capacity to improve our conduct and live a better life. Following the closing service a festive "break the fast" meal is eaten. Friends and family often visit. In many homes, at this time, the first nail is driven into the sukkah in preparation for Sukkot.

SUKKOT (October 3-9, 2020) Sukkot is actually a composite of several holidays. It begins two weeks after Rosh Hashanah on the same day of the week and lasts nine days (eight for Reform Jews and in Israel.) This festival falls on the 15-22 of Tishrei. As with many holidays, Sukkot has dual origins - being both a historical and agricultural festival. Historically, it represents the journey of Israel through the desert after the exodus from Egypt - during which time the people lived in booths (Sukkots) of an impermanent nature. Agriculturally, the holiday celebrates the final gathering of fruit and produce of the year. During Sukkot we make use of four species of Biblical vegetation - the etrog, the lemon-like fruit of the citron tree; the lulav, the long and stiff palm branch; the haddassim, the three multi-leaved twigs of the myrtle branch; and the avarot, two twigs of the willow tree. The rabbis offer many explanations for the four species. The etrog is Abraham, beautiful yet wrinkled; the lulav is Isaac, as both are bound; the haddassim are Jacob, thick with leaves as he was with children; and the avarot are Joseph - they dry up quickly as Joseph died before his eleven brothers.

SHEMINI ATZERET (October 10, 2020) Shemini Atzeret is a holiday in itself. Having lived through the past year, we are able to rejoice. About to live another year, we begin to face the fear, uncertainty and hope for the future.

SIMCHAT TORAH (October 11, 2020) Simchat Torah, the Rejoicing with the Torah, is associated with Sukkot. On Simchat Torah, we conclude the cycle of the reading of the Torah and immediately begin again. During the synagogue service, all the Torah scrolls are taken out and carried around the synagogue in a series of processions - Hakkafot - accompanied by singing and dancing with the scrolls.

CHANUKAH (December 11-18, 2020) Chanukah, the Hebrew word for dedication, reminds us of the cleaning of the Temple, and the rededication to the religious and moral principles of Judaism. The holiday is also called the Festival of Lights. It usually begins in December, and continues for eight days. The Chanukah story: Judah the Maccabee led a revolt against the Hellenistic Syrians who occupied the land of Israel around 165 B.C.E. Some say that when the Temple was to be rededicated only one cruse of sacramental oil was found. Although only supposed to burn one day, it miraculously lasted for eight full days, during which time other oil was prepared. The central motif of Hanukkah is light. There are nine places on the menorah - one candle for each night, plus the shamas (the work candle) which is used to light the others. The candles are placed in the menorah beginning from the right side and moving to the left each day. However, the candles are lit from left to right so we can light the new candles first.

PURIM (February 26, 2021) The Purim story, as written in Megillat Esther - the Scroll of Esther - involves a plot by wicked Haman against the Jews and his eventual defeat and demise through the efforts of that great uncle-niece team of Mordecai and Esther. The Jews were saved, wrong was righted and everyone joined together in jubilation. In commemoration of this event, we gather to read the story and to celebrate.

PESACH (PASSOVER) (March 28-April 4, 2021) As with all major festivals, Pesach has both agricultural and historical origins. Agriculturally, spring was the time of grain harvest in Palestine. Historically, Pesach commemorates the Exodus from Egypt and the release from slavery. This inspiring festival, lasting eight days, is unique in a number of ways. Its principal ceremony, the family seder, belongs to the home rather than the synagogue: its effect on the household is greatest because of the special Passover food requirements (the absence of leaven). And so the preparations for this festival are more elaborate than any other. The Seder (and by extension, the whole Pesach holiday) is a time when the entire extended family and other guests come together. The story of the Exodus is explained in detail in the Haggadah, the text for the seder. The feast is given religious and spiritual significance by the intriguing symbols on the table. The symbols are: Matzot, Roasted Bone, Roasted Egg, Morar, Karpas, Salt Water, Haroset, Wine and Cup of Elijah.

SHAVUOT (May 17-18, 2021) This festival occurs exactly seven weeks after the second day of Passover; hence its name, Shavuot, which is the Hebrew term for "weeks". Jews of Israel celebrate Shavuot only one day, while others observe two days as holy days. Shavuot is the time that G-d gave the Torah to the Jewish people. It is customary to stay up an entire night of Shavuot, studying and discussing Torah. To remind us of the agricultural meaning of Shavuot, it is customary to decorate the home or synagogue with plants, flowers and foliage for the festival. This is an expression of our gratitude for the beauties and bounties of nature. Honey and milk are also Shavuot symbols. According to the rabbis, the Torah is as sweet as honey and as nourishing as milk to those who study it.

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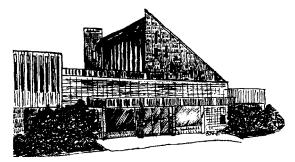
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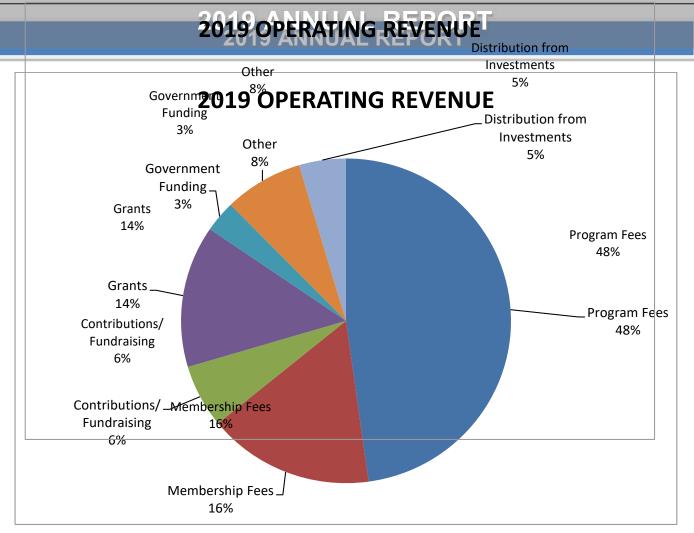
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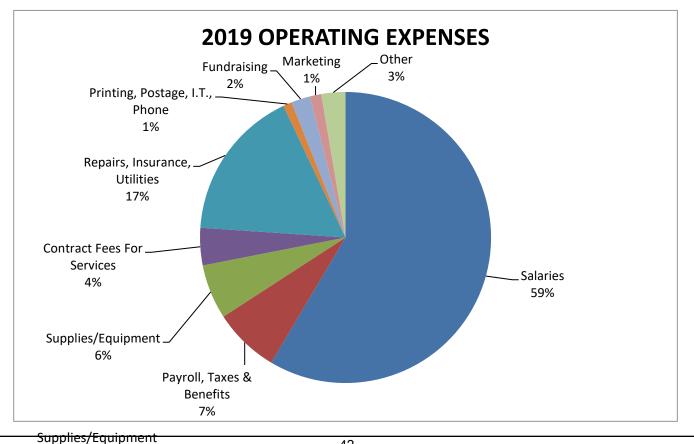


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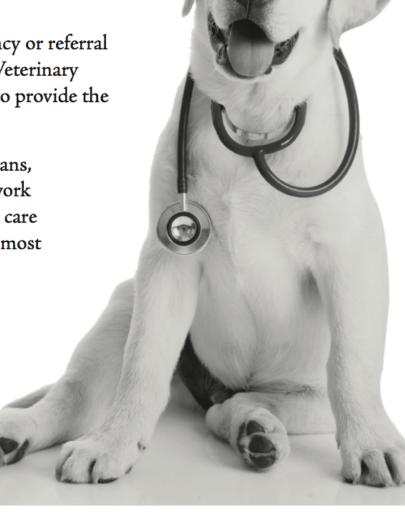
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