









### The Argus 2021 - 5782

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 implementing constructive programs for the Jewish and general communities 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.

#### **GREETINGS FROM THE JCC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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.

Sincerely,

**Executive Director** 

#### 2020-2021 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,

The warmest of welcomes to all of our new Scranton JCC members and a heartfelt thank you to our long-standing members for their continued support during these challenging times. As our membership rebounds to pre-pandemic numbers, we're excited to be able to offer more robust programming, community services, and innovative events that define who we are, set us apart, and reinforce that the Scranton JCC is "More Than Just a Gym."

Even as we implemented new guidelines and protocols to ensure the health and safety of our members, guests, and staff, our sense of community, bringing people together to discover, connect, and flourish never wavered:

- JCC programs and events were quickly and skillfully reimagined, keeping our community safe, but not isolated.
- Understanding that many of our members were experiencing social isolation and loneliness, our staff took the initiative to pick up the phone, reach out, and check in.
- When schools switched from in-person to virtual classrooms, the JCC quickly created and implemented the School's In! program to answer the question on most parents' minds, "who will watch my kids when I'm working."
- JCC Camp Daleville provided over 180 campers a safe, fun, positive, and memorable, in-person summer experience. There was so much interest from parents wanting to send their kids to our camp, we even had a waiting list!

I am beyond proud and grateful for the dedication of the JCC staff and volunteers. The above list is only a small glimpse into the extensive job that Dan Cardonick, executive director, and the entire JCC staff have done and continue to do to help care for a community facing multiple challenges. Please join me in congratulating them on their successes. It's a difficult job that they make look effortless.

To those who have contributed to our capital campaign, thank you! If you would like to make a donation, it's not too late! Please consider making a gift to help us complete our capital campaign. It's the generosity of you, our members, clients, and friends that ensures that the JCC is able to continue to provide vital programs and essential services in our community.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Novak
JCC President

#### 2021-2022 JCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### -BOARD OFFICERS-

Jennifer Novak, President Ann Monsky, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President Andrew Weinberger, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President Janice Cutler, Treasurer
Dan Cardonick, Secretary/Exec Director
Shelley Rosenberg, Assistant Secretary

#### -ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS-

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Jennie Knies
Robby Pollack
David Solfanelli
Michael Weinberg

Donald Douglass Cheryl Friedman Sara Levy Beth Rosenfeld Howard Spizer Rivky Stein-Weiss

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Harris Cutler Douglas Fink Seth Gross Sheila Nudelman-Abdo David Dickstein Dr. Jerry Fragin Joe Hollander Rabbi Miriam Spitzer



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Ann Monsky 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President



Andrew Weinberger 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President



Janice Cutler Treasurer



Dan Cardonick Secretary/Executive Director



**Shelley Rosenberg Assistant Secretary** 

#### **JCC STAFF**



DANIEL J. CARDONICK EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



VINCE KALINOSKI PROGRAM DIRECTOR



JESSICA BURCKHARDT DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION



MINDY VAN FLEET DIRECTOR OF FACILITY OPERATIONS



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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

#### ADDITIONAL KEY STAFF

CASSANDRA QUICK - FRONT DESK ASSOCIATE DEBORAH JOHNSON - FRONT DESK ASSOCIATE RIKA SCHAFFER - JEWISH EDUCATION CONSULTANT

#### **EARLY LEARNING SERVICES**

TRICIA KUNZ - CHILD CARE
ALEXIS GLAKA - CHILD CARE
AMANDA STOLTEN - CHILD CARE
DAYIVETTE PACHECO - CHILD CARE
GABRIELLE TROPEANO - CHILD CARE
JAILA WATTS - CHILD CARE
KELLY WATSON - CHILD CARE
KIM SCHLESSER - CHILD CARE
MACKENNA COLE - CHILD CARE
MELISSA YOUNG - CHILD CARE
TAYLER LORBER - CHILD CARE
JESS SMITH - PRE-SCHOOL
SHEENA CLARK - PRE-SCHOOL
CHANA HARKAVY - 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 Rosenstein Memorial Children's Benefit Golf Tournament

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, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Next year's tournament will be held on Monday, June 13th, 2022

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**



Members enjoyed some delicious food for our Pasta-To-Go fundraiser for JCC Camp Daleville!



JCC and Robert Spitz Foundation lead a ribbon cutting ceremony for our pool naming.



Rabbi Swartz leads Oneg Shabbat with campers at Camp Daleville summer 2021!



Jewish & Israeli cultural arts and crafts program for kids at the JCC!



Harris Cutler cooks fries at our Chanukah On-The-Go drive thru celebration.



JCC youth cooking class in action.



Sketching class for adults led by instructor Cassandra Quick.



Arts & crafts is a popular activity at JCC Camp Daleville.



Use of our swimming pool was in high demand this past year.



JCC Pre-school graduation and moving up celebration.



JCC Pre-school students celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel Independence Day.



Distributing fruits and nuts for our virtual community Tu'Bshevat seder.





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

**PA Key Stars Program** 

Safety is our priority















# ALL KIDS DESERVE A SUPER SUMMER!



#### **REGISTER TODAY!**





















1<sup>st</sup> Session: June 20th–July 15th

2<sup>nd</sup> Session: July 18th –Aug 12th

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- Group Exercise Classes





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- 4,000 Square Foot Fitness Center
- Indoor Pool
- 2 Racquetball/Handball Courts
- Health Clubs & Locker Rooms
- We accept Silver Sneakers

#### **YOUTH & TEEN SERVICES**

BBYO is a Jewish youth group, with the Scranton chapter associated with Liberty Region, which is made up of chapter/cities in Eastern PA & parts of upstate NY. 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.



















#### **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 Jewish Community Center of Scranton.



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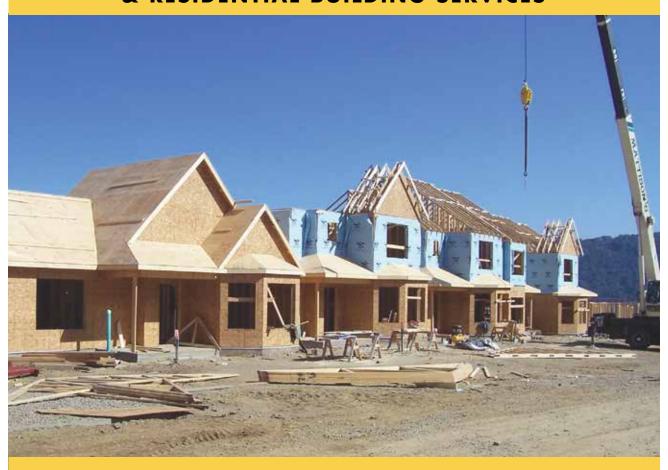
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# BEST WISHES for a Happy and Healthy New Year!

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!



#### 20% OFF BUSINESS GROUP PLAN



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 next to 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.



Scranton JCC membership gives you 12 months of exciting and varied activities: indoor swimming pool, gymnasium, fitness center, racquet sports and exercise 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: 1<sup>st</sup> year is a 12 month contract (Early termination fee applies)

Annual Dues	Monthly Dues
\$734	N/A
\$684	\$57
\$984	\$82
\$630	\$52.50
\$918	\$76.50
\$480	\$40
\$723	\$60.25
\$627	\$52.25
\$155	N/A
\$155	N/A
\$240	\$20
	\$734 \$684 \$984 \$630 \$918 \$480 \$723 \$627 \$155

\*\*For new members, a 5% discount is applied if you pay in full. Current members receive a 5% discount if they pay in full prior to their renewal date.

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

#### JCC of Scranton 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 | EXERCISE 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)
\$1,500 PLATINUM Benefactor
\$1,400 GOLD Benefactor
\$1,300 SILVER Benefactor
\$1,200 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) \$15,000



#### JCC BENEFACTORS

#### 2020 - 2021

#### "The Past We Inherit. The Future We Create" **MEMBERS IN PERPETUITY**

Anonymous

\*Mr. & \*Mrs. Arthur Abrams

\*Mr. & \*Mrs. Paul Alamar

\*Mr. & Mrs. Irwin Alperin

\*Mr. & \*Mrs. Myer Alperin

\*Ms. Anna Cohen Altschuler

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Mr. & Mrs. Harris Cutler

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\*Mr. & \*Mrs. Benjamin Freedman

\*Mr. & Mrs. Wesley Freedman

\*Mr. Leon Friedman

\*Ms. Louise T. Frey

#### **CHAI LIFE MEMBERSHIP** \$1,800

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\*Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Glassman

Mr. & Mrs. Ken Green

\*Mr. & Mrs. Burton Greenwald

\*Mr. Joseph Harris

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\$1,500

Mr. & Mrs. David Dickstein Mr. & Mrs. Jay Rosenstein

#### SILVER BENEFACTOR \$1,300

#### **BRONZE BENEFACTOR** \$1,200

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#### **GOLD BENEFACTOR** \$1,400

\*Of Blessed Memory



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#### **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 TRAVEL 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.

**ED BASAN MEMORIAL FUND** - Fund established in memory of the former JCC Executive Director from 1991-2010. Funds support the general operations of the JCC.

**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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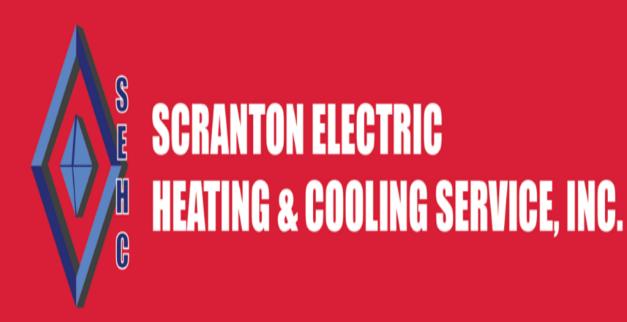
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#### **JEWISH HOLIDAY GUIDE**

**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 7-8, 2021) 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 16, 2021) 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 (September 21-27, 2021)** 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 (September 28, 2021)** 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 (September 29, 2021)** 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 (November 29-December 6, 2021) 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 (March 17, 2022)** 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) (April 16-23, 2022)** 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 (June 5-6, 2022) 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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HAPPY CHANUKAH





In honor of my favorite cousin of all time.

#### **DAVID DICKSTEIN**

Thank you for introducing our family to the GCC of Scranton

Your many achievements at our JCC have made it an absolutely amazing place. You are the most polite gentleman in the city.

Janice and I are so grateful to be so close to you and Gail.

Thanks Cuz, love you Gail.

-Harris and Janice

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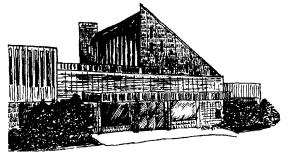
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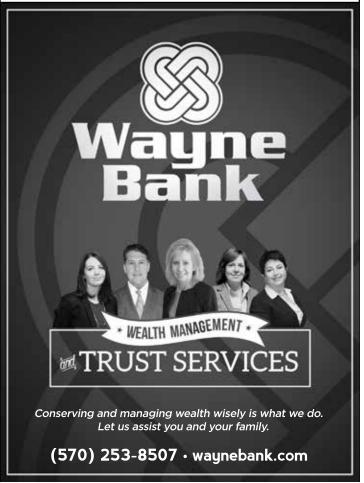
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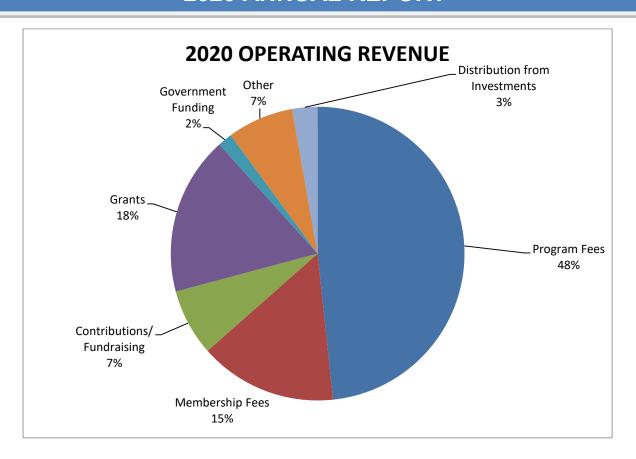
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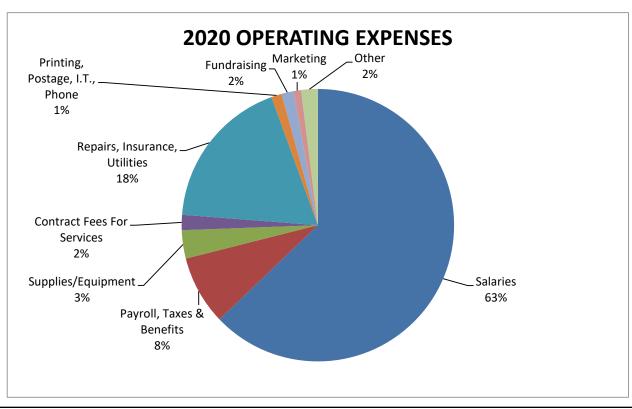
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> rabbi@jewishheritageconnection.org www.jewishheritageconnection.org



Telephone 570-341-8800 / Facsimile 570-341-8801 E-mail: rufberg@ufberglaw.com

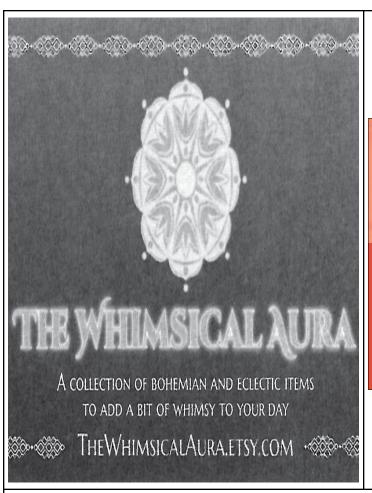
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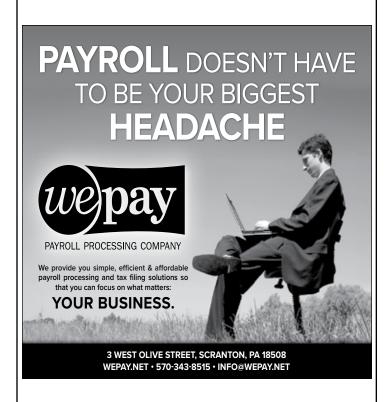
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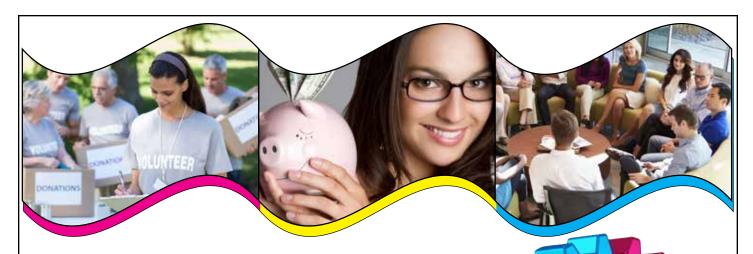


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